



AER Photo Competition

Snapshot: Europe!

Do you want to express your views on Europe in an unconventional way?

Do you like taking photos?

Are you between 18 and 30 years old?

If so, this competition is for you -
AER is offering you an opportunity that should not be missed!

Choose a category, think of a topic, take a picture and participate in an international photo competition for youth from the European regions!

Introduction

AER is offering young people the chance to participate in an international photo competition that gives fresh viewpoints on European issues. The winners of this competition will have their photos to be on display at an international art-exhibition in **Brussels from September 17 – October 15 2009**.

If you are a young person, aged 18 to 30 years old, and you would like to express your viewpoints on various topics related to Europe through photos, this is your opportunity to do so.

Thanks to this project, you can give vent to your creativity, communicate your very personal perspective on contemporary topics and display your talent. Moreover, you have the possibility to present your region to other young people from Europe.

Aim of the competition

The aim of this competition is to involve young people in communicating Europe in an unconventional way, thus giving them space for showing their creativity.

Kodak


RÉGION WALLONNE

Young participants have the opportunity to express their views on Europe in one of three distinct thematic categories:

Category 1: Europe on the Move. Migration, Integration, Stereotypes.

The growth of the European Union over the last decades has coincided with an increase in mobility on behalf of its citizens. Many people look for a better life in a country that they have not been born in and many countries that have traditionally been associated with emigration are now experiencing the influx of migrants themselves.

Increasingly multinational societies provide great opportunities and potential to Europe since diversity is the basis for creativity and innovation. However, multinational societies also pose a new set of challenges, such as xenophobia and parallel societies. It seems that successful integration is the key to overcome these challenges and to tap the full potential of migration. Against this background, the first category of the AER photo competition focuses on the topic Migration and Integration. We want to get your view on how Europe or your region is dealing with migrants, hear about success-stories with regard to integration or know what you think should be improved.

The photo should capture the perception of migration background in the place where you live. How is integration perceived in your region? What are the stereotypes you are struggling with?

Category 2: European Identity? Values, Diversity and Cultural Dialogue.

The European Union is a pioneer in terms of creating a supranational political space for people from very different backgrounds, cultures and religions. This ambitious project seemed unthinkable only half a century ago – especially considering that most of Europe’s history has been dominated by rivalry, mistrust and conflict. Since then much has changed and cooperation rather than rivalry has become the underlying premise within Europe. But is the European integration more than an economic marriage of convenience? Does it also help to overcome old differences? Put differently: Are we engaged in a meaningful intercultural dialogue and exchange that leads to a shared identity based upon common values and principles or at least mutual understanding and respect or are these developments only hiding the fact that under the surface we are all still cultivating our preconceived ideas about each other?

We would like to find out what you think about this and encourage you to send us photos that illustrate your opinion on the state of values, diversity, cultural dialogue and respect in Europe today.

Category 3: Europe tomorrow. Sustainable Development, Ecology, Environment.

Industrialisation is merely one of the man-made factors that have led to environmental problems affecting people living in the 21st century - global warming being the one with the most tangible impact on our everyday lives. ‘Sustainability’, a term widely used nowadays, has been defined as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. Complicated as it may sound, in the realms of the 21st century the notion became widely applicable not only to the ways of tackling drought or deforestation, but also to a specifically modern means of protecting the environment, such as: sustainable architecture, cities, agriculture and renewable energies. Furthermore, sustainable development ties together concern for natural systems with the social challenges facing humanity and includes such things as responsible consumption, social equity and food security.

The third category, thus, gives you the opportunity to capture your idea of sustainability: How much do you and your friends contribute to this idea? What does ‘eco-friendly lifestyle’ mean to you?

Who can take part?

The competition is open to young people between 18 and 30 years old who are active at regional level in Europe or involved in AER youth activities such as the Youth Regional Network or Youth Team and who would like to express their views on various topics related to Europe through photos.

However, AER invites every young person who is resident of a European region and shows interest in this subject to take part in the competition.

How to apply?

Send your registration form (available online: http://www.aer.eu/photo_competition.html) to the AER Secretariat (j.hejman@aer.eu) until 31 July 2009.

How to submit your photos?

- You can either upload your photo on Picasaweb or send it on CD-Rom to AER secretariat:

Assembly of European Regions
6 Rue Oberlin
67000 Strasbourg
France

Picasaweb
<http://picasaweb.google.com/>
Login : snapshot.aer
Password : aerphoto2009

- A maximum of three photos can be submitted by each participant
- Deadline to submit photos is 31 July 2009
- Submit your photos with a title and a short paragraph describing briefly your picture.

Details of the project

Rules:

- Using a digital camera, every participant should try to capture images that reflect their opinion on the abovementioned issue
- Each participant can only submit 3 photos
- Each participant is asked to write a paragraph about the photos they have sent in
- The deadline for sending the photos and the registration form to the secretariat is 31 July 2009
- The jury will decide which photos have won and which will be displayed at the exhibition in Brussels

You can find the rules of the competition in a separate document (available under: http://www.aer.eu/photo_competition.html). Please read it carefully prior to entering the competition.