

UPDATE | April 2024:

UNICA, together with its partners in this competition, agreed on the extension of the deadline for submissions of videos to the UNICA Video Competition. Changes to the regulation include:

- ***Extension of the deadline until May 19th 2024;***
- ***Possibility to participate in the competition on an individual basis.***

The regulation below has been updated to reflect these changes. Participants who submitted videos before the deadline extension will be offered the chance to revisit their entries and re-submit them, should they find it necessary to do so.

UNICA "Vote for Europe" Student Video Competition 2024

Participation in the UNICA "Vote for Europe" Video Competition 2024 implies compliance with the requirements described in the present regulation.

1- The initiative

UNICA is organising a video competition to highlight the ideas and voices of students ahead of the European elections on 6 - 9 June 2024. The initiative will play a key role in the realisation of UNICA's commitment to **foster youth democratic engagement and civic awareness** within the university community.

The video competition aims to provide an opportunity and a platform for students to take the lead in sharing their views on what the European elections mean to them and what they hope to see for the future of the EU.

The initiative's overall objective is to raise awareness and interest among students, and the wider academic community, for the democratic processes that have the potential to reshape the societal impact of students and universities in Europe.

2- The organiser

The video competition is organised by UNICA, Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, currently made up of 53 universities from 40 capital cities of Europe, combining over 150.000 university staff and 1.500,000 students.

The initiative is supported by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), the European Students' Union (ESU), and the Directorate General for Communication, Youth Outreach Unit of the European Parliament (EP), with representatives from these organisations integrating the jury.

3- Theme

The European elections on 6 – 9 June 2024 will represent an important moment for millions of European citizens. Students will also have their chance to shape our common future, with many of them voting for the first time. Yet the vital contribution of young citizens to our democracy remains underappreciated and their unique ideas are too often underheard. The "Vote for Europe" initiative will strive to give students a visible and impactful opportunity to share their ideas ahead of the elections.

Since the first European elections in 1979, voter turnout has declined with every successive election until it rose for the first time to just over 50% in 2019. Independent surveys have shown that Europe's youth were at the forefront of this important change. As the EU political environment hopes for the trend of growing engagement to continue, it is more important than ever to listen to the students that share their reasons for voting, their ideas for change, and their hopes for the future.

UNICA encourages students from all member universities across the network to join the "Vote for Europe" initiative and share their voice at this critical moment for our democracy.

4- Conditions of participation

4.1- Participants

The contest is **open to all students from [UNICA member universities](#)**, regardless of their level (Bachelor, Master, Doctoral) or age. Students enrolled at **UNICA member universities based in non-EU countries are welcome to participate**. Students can participate in the competition **individually or in groups, with a maximum of 5 students**. Groups of participants can include students from different UNICA universities either based on the same or different countries.

Eligible participants must be enrolled at their university at the time of the competition's deadline (31 March 2024) or have graduated after 1 January 2024.

Participation is free of charge.

4.2- Content

Videos created for the competition should share their authors' reasons and ideas on the European elections. Students who wish to submit a video are recommended to address one or more of the below guiding questions:

- *What the European elections mean to you?*

- *Why should students vote and engage with the European elections?*
- *What do you hope to see for the future of the EU come from the elections?*
- *If you’re a national of a non-EU country, how do the actions of the EU resonate with you?*

Authors are encouraged to focus on themes or topics that matter to them. UNICA also welcomes videos that focus on the authors’ perspectives on the elections as university students. This provides authors with the opportunity to lend their voice to a wider effort to speak up for Europe's student community. Once again, we remind that students enrolled at UNICA member universities based in non-EU countries are also welcome to participate.

Learn more about the elections and get inspired:

- General information about the European Elections: <https://elections.europa.eu/en/>
- Democracy in Action: Parliament's priorities and achievements 2023: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/press-tool-kit/1/democracy-in-action-parliament-s-priorities-and-achievements>
- Erasmus Generation in Action: ESN's flagship initiative for the European Elections 2024: <https://www.esn.org/news/erasmus-generation-in-action-launch>
- ESU's BM83: Resolution on Student Manifesto – 24 proposals for the 2024 European Elections: <https://esu-online.org/policies/bm83-resolution-on-student-manifesto-24-proposals-for-the-2024-european-elections/>

Videos submitted for consideration should conform with the following requirements on their content:

- The names of the authors and of their respective university(ies) must be included in the video, either at the beginning or the end of the video;
- All kind of films are accepted, including animation;
- Videos that contain defamatory, violent, racist, sexist, homophobic, and/ or pornographic content, or are likely to harm the physical or moral integrity of anyone, will be automatically excluded from consideration.

4.3- Length of the video

The length of the video must not exceed 2 minutes (120 seconds), including credits.

4.3- Language of the video

The audio in the videos can be presented in any official language of a country where a UNICA member is based. Subtitles in English are mandatory for all videos, even the ones with audio in English.

4.4- Recording devices

Participants are permitted to employ recording devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or video cameras for capturing content. Participants are also allowed to express creativity through animation.

4.5- Application

- Participation in the video competition must be formalised by duly completing the application form available on the UNICA website;
- In the registration form, participants must submit a short description of the video (max. 500 characters) in English;
- Videos must be sent via a transfer link on WeTransfer (less than 2GB), in .mp4 format. The link to the video must be included in the application form;
- Within the registration form, participants are required to affirm their agreement to the competition's terms and conditions, as well as verify the accuracy of the information provided.

4.6- Deadline

The videos (together with the registration form) must be submitted by **19 May 2024**, at 23h59 (CEST).

4.7- Property rights, publication and dissemination

- Participants must guarantee that the videos are their own, being responsible for their content, and that their publication and exhibition do not infringe any copyright, related rights or industrial property rights of third parties;
- UNICA and the other partners are not responsible for any copyright violations or other violations committed by participants within the scope of this competition;
- UNICA and the other partners in this competition are granted the right to publish, partially or in full, all submitted videos, as part of the communication of the competition. Videos will be publicly disseminated on UNICA’s YouTube channel as applications are submitted, and further distributed across various UNICA platforms and channels, including the website, social media networks, newsletters, etc. This strategic dissemination aims to build momentum and highlight the significance of voting in the lead-up to the European elections;

- Participants grant the organizers of the contest permission to broadcast the videos without any compensation and without any time constraints.

5- Prizes

- Winner 1st place: 600€
- Winner 2nd place: 400€
- Winner 3rd place: 200€
- 3 honourable mentions: 100€ each

Winners are responsible for ensuring that they comply with all the applicable tax laws and filing requirements in their respective countries.

6- Evaluation and jury

- Applications will be reviewed by a jury, which will select three winners and three honourable mentions.
- The jury reserves the right, if it so decided, not to award all the expected prizes;
- The jury will pay special attention to the quality of the narrative in relation to the theme, aesthetic values, and the technical quality demonstrated by the work;
- The originality of the approach to the subject, its singularity or its universality, are equally decisive when making the final selection;
- The jury's decision is final;
- The jury is made of the following representatives:
 - 2 representatives from UNICA
 - Up to 2 representatives from European institutions or organisations
 - 1 representative from the Erasmus Student Network
 - 1 representative from the European Students Union

7- Personal data

- In compliance with the GDPR rules, participants consent that UNICA will process their personal data. The sensitive data you provide to UNICA by submitting the application form, will be stored in UNICA database and accessible only by the jury of the competition and will not be transferred to other parties;

- Participants agree that personal, including but not limited to name and e-mail address - may be:
 - collected, processed, stored and otherwise used by UNICA, or any party authorized by them for the purposes of conducting and administering the competition or the prize(s);
 - used by UNICA and the partners in this competition, to verify a participant's identity in the event a Participant qualifies for the prize as well as to deliver the prize;
 - used to fulfil additional terms of the Competition or to contact a Participant;
 - shared by the organiser and the partners in the competition to comply with the law or in the good faith belief that such action is necessary to conform to the requirements of law.
- Participants data (name and institution) will be shared publicly, across the several channels of UNICA, and its members and partners.

8- Contact

In case of any questions, please contact office@unica-network.eu, with the subject “UNICA Video Competition: question_*[Name]*, *[Institution]*”.