EPA/40(2026)1 3 November 2026

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

SHORT VIDEO COMPETITION

FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

INTRODUCTION

In 2027, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme will be 40 years old. To celebrate this milestone, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) are organising a video competition inviting filmmakers to apply their creativity and diverse experiences in short videos that reflect the Programme's history, beauty and impact.

The competition will highlight and exemplify how the Routes shape or have shaped communities and territories over the past 40 years, what they mean to people today, how they connect people through shared cultural heritage across borders, and how they help interpret the diversity of present-day Europe.

The EICR was set up in 1998 as part of a political agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and is located in Luxembourg City. Upon the entry into force of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA) in 2010, an agreement establishing the seat of the EPA at the EICR was signed.

The 52 Cultural Routes are grass-roots networks promoting the principles which underlie all the work and values of the Council of Europe: peace, human rights, democracy, rule of law, cultural diversity, mutual understanding and exchanges across boundaries. They act as

channels for intercultural dialogue and promote a better knowledge and understanding of European history.

This competition will support the celebrations about the Programme's achievements, increase awareness of the Cultural Routes' role in communities, and create audiovisual material that will help share the Programme's story beyond the anniversary year.

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the competition, and of issuing videos, is to support the visibility of the programme, its values and the diversity of Cultural Routes that make it unique, while at the same time encouraging wider participation of cultural routes in celebration of our shared anniversary. Other objectives include:

- To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme;
- To explore how the Programme has impacted the territories and places where routes are present and what it means to people and communities today;
- To portray the Programme's role in connecting people and cultures across borders through shared heritage, contributing to peace, dialogue and cooperation;
- To show how the Programme contribute to the interpretation of the diversity of present-day Europe;
- To inspire other creators, video makers and the cultural routes to produce content for social media and web posting about the programme and their route.

The videos will be posted on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe social media channels and website and featured at relevant events. All Cultural Routes with their individual members and networks, related European institutions and partners will be encouraged to share the videos with the aim to support the visibility of the project.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Eligibility

The competition is open to individual filmmakers and filmmaking teams. The video must be submitted by people or entities based in one or more member states of the Council of Europe or of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

Video requirements

- **Length:** maximum 3 minutes, including opening and end titles.
- **Language:** All entries must include English and/or French subtitles for dialogue and narration.
- **Originality:** Films must be original works created for the competition. Entrants must have permission to use all footage, music and other copyright protected material included in their films;

- **Intercultural dimension:** the videos must reflect the reality of more than one route and one country, even if focused on a local context, site or experience.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)

All AI use must be disclosed in the submission form.

AI tools may be used for support tasks such as research, planning, editing assistance, image or sound clean-up, translation and subtitle preparation and generation.

AI-generated or substantially AI-altered footage, images, documents, voices, music or scripts may not be used.

The organisers may request further information about AI use and may disqualify an entry that breaches these requirements.

Rights, permissions and consent

Entrants retain ownership of their films. By entering, they grant the Council of Europe and the EPA a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to screen, publish, promote and archive the videos, in connection with the competition, the anniversary and the Cultural Routes Programme. The licence should be limited to these purposes and should not transfer ownership to the organisers.

Entrants are responsible for obtaining any required permissions, including music licences, location permissions and consent from identifiable people appearing in the film.

Submission

To submit the work, send an email to chiara.sattin@coe.int cc contact@culture-routes.lu with the following:

- Video file or a secure link.
- The completed Submission form.

TIMELINE

Deadline for submission of videos for the competition: **30 November 2026**, 23:59:59 CET

Notification of Winners: 4 January 2027

AWARD AND PRIZES

Prizes:

First prize: €1,500

Second prize: €750

Third prize: €500

The jury may also award special mentions to videos outside the 3 prizes in cases of outstanding quality, creativity or relevance to the 40th anniversary.

The winners may be invited to contribute with other videos or communication to the 40th anniversary programme.

All entrants whose videos respect the general guidelines will be acknowledged.

SELECTION

Videos will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Representation of the Programme' s role in fostering European values and cultural diversity;
- Creativity and originality;
- Storytelling and emotional impact;
- Diversity of routes and realities of the programme;
- Technical quality and accessibility.

The jury of the competition is composed of a selected group of representatives of member states, cultural routes and content managers of web sites and social media.

The decisions of the jury are final and cannot be appealed.

For additional information, please contact: chiara.sattin@coe.int; contact@culture-routes.lu

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR PARTICIPATING!