

Drawing and Essay Competition

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Let's bring JUSTICE closer to the citizens!

This year, the **European Day of Justice** will be marked with organisation of a drawing and essay competition titled "**Let's bring justice closer to the citizens**"

We are inviting the public from all the regions in North Macedonia to be part of this competition which aims to raise awareness about the importance of the ensuring equal access to justice for all without discrimination, in line with European standards.

The **European Day of Justice** is celebrated each year around 25 October. It aims to bring **justice** closer to citizens, to inform them on their rights and to promote the work of the European Union and Council of Europe in the field of access to **justice**.

Since 2020, the European Day of Justice is marked in North Macedonia with public events and other activities that are organised with the support of the joint EU and Council of Europe programme "Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Türkiye".

LET'S BRING JUSTICE CLOSER TO THE CITIZENS

Drawing and Essay Competition
to mark the European Day of Justice
in North Macedonia

Apply: 29 September - 25 October 2025



ИНФОРМИРАЈ СЕ
ЗА БЕСПЛАТНА
ПРАВНА ПОМОШ



Rules and description of the drawing competition

Applying Date: from **29 September 2025 to 25 October 2025.**

Rules: Original and **creative drawings/paintings** should depict the benefits and advantages that equal access to justice can bring to everyone's life. All drawings should be submitted with an explanatory caption in Macedonian as well as in any of the languages spoken by the communities in North Macedonia, explaining the artwork and how it relates to the theme.

Ages: The drawing competition will be open to children and young artists aged **6-18** years from North Macedonia. They will compete in two categories:

Category 1: Ages 6-12

Category 2: Ages 13-18

Description: The drawing competition encourages young artists to express their vision of **justice, equality, fairness and human rights, as well as combating hatred and intolerance** through their drawings. The drawings will be evaluated based on their creative interpretation of children and youngsters regarding justice, human rights, equality and diversity. The technical skills and artistic quality of the drawings will be considered. Participants who convey positive and empowering messages in their artwork are particularly encouraged to participate. The drawings will be also evaluated on the basis of the pertinence of their message and their artistic merits.

Participants may use pencils, ink, charcoal, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, or any other traditional medium. However, digital and AI-generated artwork will not be accepted. Artwork must be on paper or canvas and can range in size from A4 to A2.

Selection: The evaluation process will be conducted by an assessment team composed by Council of Europe representatives, representatives from the team of Young European Ambassadors in North Macedonia, as well as independent professionals with relevant background.

How to apply? - "Submissions can be made either by delivering the physical artwork to the Council of Europe Programme Office in Skopje (Soravia Center, Filip Vtori Makedonski br. 3, 1000 Skopje) or by emailing a high-resolution scan or photograph of the artwork to DG1.FLA.NM@coe.int. Each submission must include the artist's name, surname, age, a brief description or caption of the artwork, and contact information. Participants may submit up to three (3) drawings."

Rules and description of the essay competition

Applying Date: 29 September 2025 to 25 October 2025

Rules: Original and **creative essays** should depict the benefits and advantages that equal access to justice can bring to everyone's life. The essays should be submitted in Macedonian as well as in any of the languages spoken by the communities in North Macedonia. The ones submitting essays in a language which is not Macedonian, should also submit a translation of the essay in Macedonian. If selected, essays written in a language other than Macedonian will be published both in their original language alongside a Macedonian translation.

Ages: The essay competition will be open to all young people aged **15-28** years from North Macedonia. They will compete in two categories:

Category 1: Ages 15-19

Category 2: Ages 20-28

Description: The essay competition encourages young people to express themselves and their vision through a short essay on how they imagine justice, equality, diversity and what do human rights mean to them, as well as why is important to combat hatred and intolerance in society.

Each participant may submit only one essay, and the title and the topic can be freely chosen by the participants, encouraging some topics such as: equal access to justice for all, promoting inclusivity and diversity, fight against discrimination and hate speech, stop trafficking in children for begging, Roma women as agents of change in their communities, given as examples, but not limited to them. **Use of AI tools and chats are forbidden and the essays generated or written through AI will be disqualified.**

The essay should contain maximum 900 words (excluding the title and the name and surname of the participant). The essays must be submitted in Word or PDF document format (*.doc) or (*.pdf), using Times New Roman, size 12, with 1.5 spacing for formatting. At the bottom of the document on a separate page, the participant must write the title of the essay, name and surname of the participant, age, city and contact e-mail address and phone number.

Selection: The evaluation process will be conducted by an assessment team composed by Council of Europe representatives, representatives from the team of Young European Ambassadors in North Macedonia, as well as independent professionals with relevant background.

How to apply? Submissions can be made either by delivering the essays to the Council of Europe Programme Office in Skopje (Soravia Center, Filip Vtori Makedonski br. 3, 1000 Skopje) or by emailing them to DG1.FLA.NM@coe.int. Participants may submit up to one (1) essay.

General rules for the drawing and essay competition

Exhibition: All qualified drawings will be exhibited to the public on 20 November 2025. The qualified essays will be published in a booklet, which will be distributed to the qualified contestants and also made available online. During the exhibition, the winners in all categories will be announced, and certificates awarded. The winners of the drawing and essay competition will be promoted on the Council of Europe channels, and the winning drawings will be printed out as posters and disseminated in the framework of the awareness raising initiative on FLA and further utilised on the Council of Europe materials (reports/leaflets/studies).

Intellectual Property Rights: By submitting the Artwork, the author (parent/legal guardian to author under the age of 18) confirms that is the sole owner of the intellectual property rights over that artwork. The author confirms that they have complied with the applicable legislation in terms of obtaining the consent for the use of the photos from the persons featured in them and has the right to submit this Artwork.

By submitting the Artwork, the author (parent/legal guardian to author under the age of 18) grants to the Council of Europe a non-exclusive and free licence for the entire world and for the entire period of protection by the applicable intellectual property rights law for the use of the Artworks as follows:

- The Artworks may be exhibited in the Council of Europe and in the framework of relevant Council of Europe events, such as, but not limited to, the International Human Rights Day, in any format, to feature the participants and their respective Artworks;
- The Artworks may be used for awareness-raising purposes for the work of the Council of Europe in the form of visibility materials (brochures, posters, flyers...) and for online communication (including social media). When the Works are on display, proper reference to the authors shall be made, as well as the reference to the competition "Let's bring justice closer to the citizens".
- The Council of Europe reserves the right not to display the Artworks.

The Council of Europe shall immediately notify the author in writing giving full particulars if any of the following matters come to its attention:

- any actual, suspected or threatened infringement of the intellectual property rights; or
- any claim made or threatened that the Works infringe the rights of any third party; or
- any other form of attack, charge or claim to which the intellectual property rights may be subject.

In respect of these matters:

- the author shall, at his absolute discretion, decide what action to take, if any;
- the author shall have exclusive control over, and conduct of, all claims and proceedings;
- the Council of Europe shall not make any admissions other than to the author and shall provide the author with all assistance that the author may reasonably require in the conduct of any claims or proceedings; and
- the author shall bear the cost of any proceedings and shall be entitled to retain all sums recovered in any action for his own account.

Data protection rights: Processing of author's personal data is governed by the [Council of Europe Regulations on the Protection of Personal Data](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 June 2022.

This initiative is conducted with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe.