

Young Reporters for the Environment

YRE International Competition

2018/2019

The YRE International Competition is for winners of the YRE National Competition in countries running the YRE programme. Students who are participating in the YRE programme in each country have a right to participate in the competition. Students have to compete and be selected as a national winner before being sent onwards to the International Competition.

17 Sustainable Development Goals through the YRE Competition

We are in the process of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) into the YRE Competition. Therefore, participants are obliged to reflect on the link between their entry and one or more SDGs. This reflection can be included as a part of the journalistic piece or it can be a short additional text which is added to the registration form when uploading the entry. Remember that an environmental lens is always required, also when a social or economic SDG is chosen as a topic of investigation.

International Competition Categories

The YRE International Competition consists of three different categories.

**International Competition** – open to all countries and all themes, except for the litter theme for countries participating in the Litter Less Campaign. Countries that are not participating in the Campaign can still submit entries related to the litter problem.

**Litter Less Campaign** – the theme must be related to litter, open to countries that are involved in the Litter Less Campaign: New Zealand, China, India, Israel, Wales, Spain, Northern Ireland, and Ireland.

\* Please note that the submissions under the theme of Litter from Litter Less Campaign countries will be evaluated separately, and the winners will receive recognition with a certificate.

**International Collaboration** – open to all countries with three recommended themes from the 17 Sustainable Development Goals: **11-Sustainable Cities, 12-Responsible Consumption & Production, 13-Climate Action**. The submission must be in the form of one joint ”Article”, ”Photo Reportage of 3 photos”, or ”Video” and be a collaborative work between two countries. It is open for the age categories 11-14, 15-18, and 19-25 years.

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| Tips for International Collaboration articles   * An anchor person on either side should overview the entire research/writing/editing process, with a view to creating a seamless story. * The first paragraph of the entry should explain the take on the subject as a joint collaboration. * Students are not required to compare similar types of issues, but should rather “track” the problem (e.g. consumption somewhere can be connected with production somewhere else: cause-effect, start-end, production-consumption — track the problem through different countries). * Make the distance an advantage instead of a problem. * The story needs to be proof-read by an “editor” outside of the core team, to ensure the story holds as ONE story that makes sense. |

Participation Requirements and Registration

The competition is open to those aged 11-~25 participating as individuals or groups of students through their school, college, university or youth group. The YRE programme has to be run by FEE's national member organisation, who runs the programme and/or National Competition. All the entries to the competition need to be submitted through the National Competition in each YRE member country. Students may submit more than one type of submission to different media categories.

**Age Categories**

There are three age categories in the International Competition 11-14, 15-18 and 19-~25 (university level means approx. 25 years old). It is the participant's age on the day they submit their entry to the National Competition that must be given and defines which age category they enter. Those submitting a group project must submit in the age category of the oldest member of their team.

Acceptance Criteria

Not meeting the International Competition's acceptance criteria results in disqualification.

**Submissions must include:**

1. The name of the author(s)
2. Their age on the day of submission to the National Competition
3. The name of their registered school or group
4. Their country of residence and registration, which may differ
5. The submissions must also:

* be the correct length, size and format, etc. See specific guidelines for Articles, Photographs and Videos below.
* be submitted in written or spoken English, or have English subtitles in the case of a video.
* be focused on a pertinent (real and current) local issue.
* concentrate on possible solutions or present existing possible solutions, using the knowledge of different local stakeholders or experts.
* be disseminated to local audiences through at least three different outlets (the evidence (links or photos) has to be submitted below the entry on Exposure for reference).
* have accreditation and have permission for usage of the pictures and music which are not original and used in the Article and the Video.
* include information about chosen SDG(s), with explanation of how the submission addresses the link between the topic and the chosen Goal(s).

Rules

Article

* Written submissions must not exceed 1,000 words (after translation) in length and may include illustrations and photographs. The source of all non-original illustrations and photographs must be given.
* An article must be accompanied by a title of not more than 140 characters.
* Articles must be sent digitally in Microsoft Word or .pdf format with accompanying pictures following the photographic guidelines below.
* Original photographs should also be sent separately (see in what format under photographs below).
* Max. three pictures including infographics are allowed with captions of max. 20 words for each.

Photograph

Two subcategories: Reportage and Campaign. There will be separated winners in each subcategory.

* A single photograph must be submitted
* A photograph must be accompanied by a title of not more than 140 characters
* It is mandatory for Reportage photography to attach a short description of no more than 100 words to explain the link with environmental sustainability and/or a solution to the issue. The text attached must make sense of what the story is in relation to the photo. The text should give the context, the photo should tell the story.
* Photographs must be submitted digitally as .jpg or .png format with a preferable resolution of no less than 150-300 dpi.

**Reportage photography**, or what’s also known as documentary photography, is a photographic style that captures a moment or event in a narrative fashion, i.e., images that tell a story.

**Campaign photography,** or experimental photography described as using alternative techniques. A photographer who does experimental photography uses techniques that are not common with usual photography or digital photography. It is a type of staged photo. The image aims to associate the advertised product and/or firm with certain lifestyles or values.

Video

Two subcategories: Reportage and Campaign. There will be separated winners in each subcategory.

* Videos must be no more than 3 minutes long including credits roll\* and in documentary, reporter/interview style (recommended) or as a public service announcement (PSA).
* A video must be accompanied by a title (not more than 140 characters).
* The format must be compatible with supported [YouTube](https://support.google.com/youtube/troubleshooter/2888402?hl=en#ts=2888339) file formats.
* Background music is only recommended for the campaign type of video.

**Reportage** **videos** are based on news, events, history, etc., based on direct observation through research and documentation.

**Campaign videos** aim at the advertised product, and/or firm with certain lifestyle or values.

\*It is not mandatory to include credits roll.

Judging Criteria

Judges may assign a score of 0-5 based on how well the submission meets the five criteria listed below. Points are: 5, Excellent; 4, Very Well; 3, Well; 2, Fairly Well; 1, Qualified; and if it does not qualify 0 points. Participants are encouraged to meet as many of these additional criteria as possible to improve their work and chances of winning. It is not, however, compulsory to meet these criteria.

NB. The International Jury members assess the entries on the [YRE Competition Exposure](https://yrecompetition.exposure.co/) page. It is therefore important that the National Operators ensure that the entries are nicely presented on this page.

**1. Composition i.e. form, structure and quality**

* The submission has to be well structured and, in the case of articles and videos, cover who, what, where, why, when, and how.
* The article or video has to have a beginning, middle and end.
* In the case of photographs and video, the photo/video has to be well made technically and artistically i.e. is it well composed, of high quality and impactful.

**2. Fair, balanced and objective reporting**

* The piece (article or video) has to be balanced and fair in terms of representing different sides of an argument prior to offering a suggestion of potential solution.
* The quotes used have to be from real, credible, sources.
* Scientific or statistical reporting has to be accurate and supported by sources/footnotes.
* The photograph or video is a fair representation of reality, and the subject or object has not been manipulated. Editorial alternations to photos or videos (including but not limited to colour, contrast, definition, shadows, highlights, cropping, levelling, etc.) are permissible, as long as these alternations do NOT alter the reality of the subject or object of the photo/video.

**3. Informative and well researched**

* The submission has to cover relevant historical, economic, social and/or political implications and possible consequences.
* It has to make a link to the bigger global picture.
* The solution presented has to be thoroughly explained, well-argued and justified.
* The use of illustrations, pictures, supporting paragraphs, subtitles, etc., has to be thought through.

**4. Originality, style and independence**

* The piece is original in its scope or style i.e. has the participant picked a challenging topic or created an innovative or moving piece.
* The participants have to leave the school grounds i.e. engage in field work and interview people in person as well as on the telephone, not just use or quote online sources.

**5. Dissemination**

* Dissemination through minimum three media outlets/events including internal school channels.
* Participants need to state the dissemination (type of media outlet etc.) that has been done. (The evidence to the media channels has to be submitted below the entry on Exposure for reference).

**In addition**

The Jury is at liberty not to award in the case of too few submissions and to give more than one award in the case of exceptional entries in one or more age categories. The Jury will also give points to journalistic and environmental aspects of the submissions based on their professional backgrounds. It will be scored from -2 to +2 points.

Legal matter

Legal matter is particularly important in the society of today, especially in the field of media. It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules and regulations related to media creation when you work on your piece. Any submissions that FEE finds to be in legal doubt will be ineligible to win the International Competition. If you have any doubts on this matter, please contact the National Operator in your country or YRE International head office.

***Use of music for video entries***

It is illegal to copy or otherwise infringe upon the rights of copyright-protected music, without the written permission of the copyright rights-holder. Obtaining music licences to permit the use of copyright-protected material, even for a not-for-profit video, can be problematic. As such, it is strongly recommended that you do not use copyright protected music in your video.

Please note that many platforms currently scan uploaded videos for coincidences with copyright-protected work. Work found to be using copyright-protected material is usually detected by copyright bots, and suspended from the platform. In some countries, infringement of copyright law is enforced, and punishable by hefty fines and a criminal record. Please be aware of your national copyright laws.

As an alternative, you can resort to the [**YouTube Audio Library**](https://www.youtube.com/audiolibrary/music), which offers royalty-free tracks made available for any not-for-profit creative purpose, and do not require written permission from the rights-holder.

Music may also be published under an open content licensing scheme, such as the Creative Commons licence. There are still terms, conditions and restrictions applicable for music taken from the above sources, so please ensure these are fully observed and there is no copyright infringement in your video entry.

DECLARATION OF CONSENT FOR PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION AND USE OF VIDEO/PHOTO/ARTICLE SUBMITTED

When signing up to this competition, you agree that we can process your personal data provided in this submission form and given to us during the competition. We process the data so that we can register your participation, judge the submission and save what you have submitted and publish your submission if you are chosen as a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place winner on international level. Necessary permission, e.g., for  photographing children faces are the responsibility of the author and must, therefore, be sought. All 1st place winners will be saved in our archives.

You always have the option to withdraw your consent and your submission to the competition.

The Data Controller is:  
Foundation for Environmental Education  
Scandiagade 13, 2450 Copenhagen SV, DENMARK  
+45 70 22 24 27  
[info@fee.global](mailto:info@fee.global)

Calendar

* Participants can join YRE at any time of the year, but submissions to the International Competition must be translated into English (if applicable) and be received by 19 April 2019.
* If the entry needs to be translated by Rosetta Foundation, the entry has to be sent to YRE International by 29 March 2019.
* National Competitions are usually held in February to March.
* Countries that cannot run their jury prior to that may submit students' work to the following year’s International Competition.
* Submissions can only be entered once and in one age category.
* Late submissions to the International Competition will not be accepted.
* The International Jury will meet in May. Results are announced on, or no later than, World Environment Day, June 5.

Prizes

The winners of the International YRE Competition will be awarded with diplomas and the winning entries will be published internationally on the online platform Medium. The 1st place winners will also be published on the YRE International website.

Here you can see the winners from last year:   
<https://medium.com/@yre_int>  
<http://www.yre.global/1stplacewinners>