



**Interreg**



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**NEXT MED**

# Interreg NEXT MED Programme

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Rules for participation

“Find the Mediterranean in your city” Photo Contest

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“Find the Mediterranean in your city” is a photography contest organized by the EU-funded [Interreg NEXT MED](#) Programme to celebrate the third edition of the [Mediterranean Day](#) – promoted by the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) - which takes place every year on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

The rules contained in this document are fully applicable to any person interested in participating in the contest. The non-compliance with these rules may lead to the rejection of the participant.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any interested person may participate in the contest provided that **he/she is based in one of the 15 Mediterranean countries participating in the Interreg NEXT MED Programme**: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye. Participants must have their **residence** in any region/city of these 15 countries.

The participation of individuals having their residence in other countries will be rejected. The residence will be verified based on the information included in the Passport or National Identity Document submitted with the photographs.

Participants will participate **as individuals** and not as legal entities. However, they will be invited to indicate the organization they work for, as the case may be.

**Participants must be between 18 and 30 years old at the deadline** for sending the photographs.

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

### A maximum of 3 photographs by participant

Each person can participate to the contest **with a maximum of 3 photographs**. Should a participant send more than 3 pictures, all the pictures sent may be rejected. In no case will the Programme accept any further guidance from the participant on how to select the 3 photographs. Participants are therefore **strongly invited to respect the limit of 3 photographs**.

### Theme

The participant will send to the Interreg NEXT Programme a maximum of 3 pictures that “represent the Mediterranean in their city”. No specific thematic has to be showcased



provided that the picture shows a strong and clear connection between the selected city and the Mediterranean: this includes for instance, but not limited to, cultural and natural heritage, works of art, artifacts, monuments, markets, urban landscapes, etc.

More information on what is meant by “finding the Mediterranean in your city” can be found in the dedicated website of the [Mediterranean Day](#).

### Other participation criteria

The pictures **must** satisfy the following participation criteria:

- All pictures are to be an **original work** and must have been taken for the specific purpose of the contest, meaning starting for the day this contest has been launched. Pictures generated by Artificial Intelligence will be rejected.
- Ideally photographs should be taken in **vertical** (4:5 aspect ratio) or **square** (1:1 aspect ratio) and will be preferred to horizontal (landscape) photographs.
- Photographs can be taken in black and white or colour. Photograph(s) must be submitted in **JPEG or PNG** format in the **highest possible resolution** suitable for quality printing. Photo should not be smaller **than 3MB** with a minimum image resolution of **100 dpi**.
- The participant accepts the sole responsibility for ensuring that the work submitted **does not infringe not contain material that violates or infringes another's rights**, including but not limited to privacy, publicity or intellectual property rights, or anything that constitutes copyright infringement.
- The photo must not contain content that is inappropriate, indecent, obscene, hateful, tortuous, defamatory, slanderous, libelous or otherwise unlawful content.
- The phot must not contain any advertising or other commercial content.
- All photographs are **to be available for reproduction and/or publication** by the Interreg NEXT MED Programme with copyright being retained by the photographer. The participant will submit a dedicated **Release Form** together with the pictures.
- The Interreg NEXT MED Programme reserves the right to not to include all images in the competition. Photos deemed inappropriate or not relevant will be rejected.
- All photographs will capture **a city of one the 15 participating countries** indicated above. Photographs of other cities will be rejected.

At any moment of the competition, the non-compliance with one or several of these criteria will automatically lead to the rejection of the participant.



## Submission of photo entries

To participate in the contest, participants will have to submit a maximum of 3 pictures by **the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2023**. To do so, they will upload their pictures, the release form, the participation form and the identity document **using exclusively the specific [Google Form](#) created for the contest**.

The participants **must name the documents with the following system**:

Picture 1\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Picture 2\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Picture 3\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Participation Form\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Release Form\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Identity Document\_Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

The uploading of the pictures and documents with different names may lead to the rejection of the participant.

**Ideally, the participant is kindly requested to organize the pictures and documents within one folder with same name:** Name and Surname\_Country of Residence

Pictures sent by mail or by any other means, as well as picture uploaded after the deadline will be rejected. If the release form, the participation form or the identity document are not uploaded with the pictures, or, are not completed appropriately, the Interreg NEXT MED Programme may exclude the participant from the competition.

Questions on the contest can be addressed at Ms. Raquel Martinez ([martinez\\_raqsai@gva.es](mailto:martinez_raqsai@gva.es)) only. No questions on the contest will be answered by phone. Questions of the state of the selection process will not be answered neither by phone or my email.

## EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

### STEP 1

All photographs compliant with the rules contained in this document submitted by eligible participants **will be evaluated by a Selection Committee** composed of representatives from the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.



The Selection Committee will **preselect up to a maximum of 10 photographs for the Mediterranean Partner Countries** (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia and Türkiye) **and up to a maximum of 10 photographs for the European Union Mediterranean Countries** (Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain).

The results of this first step will be published on the website and relevant social media profiles ([Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)) of the Interreg NEXT MED Programme within a maximum of 7 days after the deadline for the submission of the pictures.

### Evaluation Criteria

The Selection Committee will assess the photographs against of the following **5 evaluation criteria**:

- **Relevance** with the topic of the 2023 Mediterranean Day: for more information on the theme of the year, see section “Theme” of this document.
- **Quality of the picture**: colour, contrast and lighting.
- **Visual and aesthetic appeal**: the selected pictures will be showed in media and exhibitions. Their aesthetic is therefore essential.
- **Impact**: the emotion and story it tells.
- **Originality** of the work (find less-obvious Mediterranean related element in your city, but also the photographic vision).

Each criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 points, 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the best score. The final scores of the pictures will be the arithmetical addition of the 5 sub-scores. Final scores obtained by each photograph will be available upon demand.

In case 2 or more photographs receive the same score and occupy the tenth (10) position of one ranking, the photographs will be reassessed by a different group of assessors (substitutes) on the same 5 evaluation criteria. Should the draw persist between the photographs, the photograph with the higher score in Relevance first, and, in Impact second, will be chosen.

Finally, if the photographs can't be untied after these specific procedures, the 2 or more photographs will be published on social media for public vote.



## STEP 2

The photographs pre-selected by the Selection Committee will be **published** on the relevant Programme social media profiles and **open to a public vote during a period of time of not less than 10 calendar days**.

The vote will be open to all persons regardless of their nationality or country of residence. The persons interested will have the option to cast a vote for both the pictures from the Mediterranean Partner Countries and from the EU Mediterranean Countries.

For each of these 2 categories, the **winner will be the photograph that has collected the highest number of votes**. Details on how to cast the votes will be given with the publication of the pre-selected photographs.

### Information to the winner

The winners as well as the final ranking **will be announced on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at 1 PM (European Central Time) on the different Programme communication platforms.

Moreover, winners will be informed by email using the address provided in the participation form. The winning participant will be given 3 calendar days to acknowledge receipt of the notification and explicitly accept the award. Failure to explicitly accept the award during the given deadline will be considered as a rejection of the award, and the Interreg NEXT MED Programme will automatically contact the following participant according to the final ranking lists.

The Programme cannot be held accountable for wrong emails submitted by the participants in the participation form.

By accepting the award, the winner accepts to undertake the travel indicated in the below section.

### Invitation to participate in an Interreg NEXT MED National event

The winner of each category (2 winners) will be invited **to participate and show their picture in the Interreg NEXT MED Information Event on the first call for proposals** that will take place indicatively between December 2023 and February 2024 in one of the Programme participating countries. Travel costs and accommodation will be covered by the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.



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## COPYRIGHTS

The photographer must be the author of the photograph(s) submitted in their name. They **retain the copyright to their photographs**. However, the Interreg NEXT MED Programme **reserves the right to use the photographs for promotional purposes** related with the contest and with the thematic priorities of the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, including publication on the website, social media, the media and in public exhibitions.

## PERSONAL DATA

The data collected in the Participation Form as well as any personal data that the Interreg NEXT MED Programme may collect at any time during or after the photograph contest will be used in conformity with the EU Regulation 2016/679 on General Data Protection and for the strict and only purpose of implementing the contest and disseminating its results.

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

By participating in the contest, participants agree to confirm that they have read and abide by the Rules and decisions of the Interreg NEXT MED Programme and the Selection Committee. The organizers reserve the right to modify the Rules (and then notify appropriately the modifications) or cancel the contest at any time without prior notice.

## CONTACTS

Interreg NEXT MED Programme  
Branch Office for the Western Mediterranean  
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