



"Love without Borders" Competition

Rules for participation

1. Theme of the Competition

The European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy hereby invites you to participate in the "Love without Borders" Competition, which aims to gather true-life stories of relationships between people living in different European countries and the obstacles that they have had to overcome. The Competition aims to raise awareness about how the European Union is supporting [cross-border cooperation in Europe](#).

2. How to enter

Participants may enter the Competition by submitting a brief description of their story (maximum 100 words) together with a photo to the following email address: REGIO-EULWB-COMPETITION@ec.europa.eu .

Submissions should briefly explain what obstacles the couple faced (linguistic, cultural, administrative, legal, etc.) and how they overcame them as a key part of their story. Entries may be submitted in any official EU language.

The participating couple will be invited to answer 3 to 5 questions during one short video /chat interview via Skype, hangout, facetime, etc. about their story, should they be shortlisted.

Eligible entries will be uploaded, in one batch when the submission period ends, in a photo album on the <https://www.facebook.com/EUinmyregion>.

3. Eligibility

The Competition is open to residents aged 18 or above of European Union Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway, plus the countries covered by the EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession¹.

¹ Non-member states eligible to IPA CBC programmes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey

Entries may be submitted by couples made up of two residents of different EU Member States, or one resident of an EU Member State and a resident of one of these countries.

Employees and immediate relatives of the European Institutions or any other person connected with this competition can participate but are not eligible to win the prize.

4. Selection of winners

a. Popular vote

A shortlist of 20 stories will be selected on the basis of a popular vote on the Europe in [My Region Facebook page](#) using the "like" function.

b. Jury selection

The jury will consist of 3 people selected by the European Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy.

The 20 stories which have received the most votes will be entered into the jury selection, alongside a further 5 "wildcard" stories from the competition chosen by the jury. The participants who submitted these 25 entries will be invited for a short video/chat interview to provide a more detailed version of their story, which will be translated into English, if necessary. From this pool of 25 stories, the jury will select one winning couple.

The selection will be based on the following criteria: originality of the story, creativity and relevance to the competition theme. The jury's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into on its decision. At the end of the jury selection period, the jury winner will be notified by email. Each photo that enters the final selection should be made available in high resolution, otherwise it may be disqualified.

5. Timeline

- Submission of entries: 14 February – 15 March 2015, 12:00am (midnight) Central Europe Time (CET)
- Public vote: 16 March – 3 April 2015, 12:00am (midnight) CET
- Announcement of the winners: 9 May 2015

6. Prizes

The winning couple will receive a two night trip for two persons, including travel and accommodation in the Luxembourg - German border region along the Moselle, between June and September 2015.

7. Copyright

All entries must be original work and the participant must either be the sole owner or the transferee of the copyright.

By entering the competition, participants retain full copyright of their images. By entering the competition, participants also agree to be bound by Facebook legal terms (<https://www.facebook.com/legal/terms>); and they grant the European Commission the right to publish and exhibit uploaded photographs on the Europa website and the European Commission's different social media platforms (incl. e.g. Facebook and Twitter). No fee will be payable by the European Commission for this use.

Participants (or parents/guardian where relevant) will be asked to complete a consent form if any individuals under 18 or any third person are identifiable in the photograph they submit for the competition. It is the participants' responsibility to ensure that the necessary consent has been obtained. Participants must retain any consent forms as they may be asked to prove that consent has been given. These forms will be asked for before publishing the photos on Facebook.

Participants should retain the original digital file/negative of their entry as they may be asked to prove ownership of the work, as well as providing the promoter with the photo in the highest possible resolution.

8. Moderation

All photos and information submitted are checked to make sure that they meet the competition rules before being accepted. Once a photo has been reviewed, participants will receive an email with notification of the outcome of this check. Entries that are offensive, defamatory or obscene will be rejected from the competition.

9. Cheating

Please compete fairly and respect your fellow participants. Any participant reasonably suspected of cheating, including but not limited to the unfair acquisition of votes, will be disqualified from the competition and their entries removed. No correspondence will be entered into on this matter.

10. Acceptance of Competition Rules

By entering the competition, the participants agree to be bound by the Competition Rules.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/interreg25years/