

Selection criteria and process

Sphera Podcast contest - second selection round

Updated 15 July 2021

This contest's overarching goals are:

- to offer young and talented podcast producers an inclusive platform to inform other young Europeans and express their ideas
- to offer training in podcast production
- to encourage pan-European and cross-border perspectives
- to promote racial and gender diversity, media pluralism, and social inclusion

Eligibility criteria

- Candidates must be aged between 16 and 30 (on 15 September 2021)
- Candidates must be EU citizens, living in the EU
- Candidates must submit their application in English, with the exception of the audio trailer (which should be in the language of the project, i.e. English, French, German, Italian, Polish or Spanish)
- Both individuals and teams (2-5 members) are welcome to submit their applications
- Proposed projects must touch upon one or more of the following pan-European topics: 1. Climate, 2. Future of work, 3. Inequality and discrimination, 4. Economy, 5. Mobility, 6. Culture, 7. Digital technology
- Only complete applications will be considered. Each application form must contain:
 - contact details (including CVs of applicants)
 - description of podcast series
 - a work plan and budget proposal (dedicated form)
 - an audio trailer in the language of the project - 60 seconds max

Selection process

- After the submission deadline, the applications are collected by Bulle Media, which runs a preliminary screening. Only applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria are considered for the following phase of the selection process.
- The jury is made up of members of the following media partners: El Salto, Linkiesta, Metropole, Streetpress, Outriders. The jury is chaired by the Senior podcast editor of Bulle Media.
- All eligible proposals are evaluated and scored according to the following selection criteria:
 1. relevance to the contest's thematic areas and approach
 2. originality (ideas, concept)
 3. impactfulness (outreach strategy, potential impact on the public debate)
 4. overall coherence (series' structure, feasibility, clarity of the work plan)
 5. adherence to Sphera's values (in particular diversity, plurality, social inclusion) and to fundamental journalism deontology principles
 6. previous relevant experience and skills

- The jury scores each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (half point scores may be given), for a maximum score of 30. Only projects scoring a minimum of 15 points are considered.
- Based on the jury's assessment, the chair of the jury declares up to 6 winning projects and notifies the winners.

Award allocation

- Only winners will be contacted. Winners will be announced on the Sphera website by the end of September 2021.
- Each selected project is awarded an amount of up to EUR 8,300 (the prize, plus duly budgeted and justified expenses, if approved by the organisers).
- By participating in the call, applicants pledge to accept the conditions of this contest, and if they win, to participate in the online masterclass at the end of September - beginning of October 2021 with Bulle Media, to conduct the foreseen work during the 3 months of the implementation of the project, to respond to feedback provided, to respect deadlines and to deliver all what agreed upon the acceptance of the prize.
- Selected applicants will be requested to sign a document confirming this agreement, which will also contain the necessary licenses to Bulle Media to edit and use their content for the Sphera project.
- For transparency reasons, the winners of the contest will be announced on Sphera's website and social media account with their first name, last name and their nationality. Pictures or a video statement may be requested from them.
- Applicants are also required to participate in a meeting in Brussels at the beginning of January 2021 with Bulle Media and the other selected teams to launch the promotion of the series (more information will be given to the selected applicants).
- Pictures of this visit will be posted on websites and social media. You agree to transfer all rights necessary for distribution and public display of these images, or other intellectual property rights that may arise from participation in this contest.
- Half of the prize is allocated at the beginning of the production phase following the masterclass and the written agreement, the remaining part (second half of the prize, plus proven production expenses) is allocated following delivery of the complete project which must include:
 - a complete podcast series of 6 episodes
 - 30 seconds audio teaser introducing the series
 - a squared logo (3000x3000pixels at 72ppi)
 - and for each episode:
 - a title and a presentation text
 - a short introductory article (500 words)
 - proof of expenses (original receipts)
- The final products must reflect the quality and workload of the initial proposal and the subsequent agreements. If this is not the case, organisers will suggest improvements. Contest winners that don't deliver the completed projects in line with the proposal or within the deadlines are neither awarded the second part of the prize nor reimbursed the production expenses.

Transparency and ethical standards

- The selection process is carried out in accordance with [Sphera's Editorial Guidelines](#) and to the fundamental principles of journalism deontology.

Privacy standards

- Your personal details will be treated confidentially. Bulle Media collects and uses the personal data indicated by you in the application form only for the purpose of organising this contest.
- Your personal data will not be shared with third parties. It is collected through Google Forms and saved on a password protected server at Bulle Media. Only Bulle Media, the jury members and the European Commission's DG Connect Unit I3 (the grant giver) have access to the data, to ensure a proper understanding of the types of participants reached.
- All personal data will be anonymised one year after the winners have been selected.
- According to the GDPR (Regulation EU 2016/67), you are entitled to access your personal data and rectify, block or delete it in case the data is inaccurate or incomplete, by writing to contest@bullemedia.eu.