

Blue Europe 2025-2026 “Alexis de Tocqueville” Contest Official Rules

Blue Europe, a think tank focused on fostering connections between Western, Central and Eastern Europe, is pleased to announce the “2025-2026 Alexis de Tocqueville contest.” This year's competition honours **Alexis de Tocqueville** a French political thinker, historian, and statesman. He is mostly known for his most famous work, *De la démocratie en Amérique* (*Democracy in America*, 1835–1840), which remains one of the most influential studies of modern democracy. Based on his travels across the United States in the early 1830s, Tocqueville observed the workings of American democracy at the local, regional, and national levels. He highlighted both its strengths – civic engagement, local self-government, and the balance of liberty with equality – and its dangers, such as the “tyranny of the majority” and the potential erosion of individual freedoms. Tocqueville's analysis went far beyond America: he used the US experience as a lens to understand the broader future of democratic societies in Europe and beyond.

In the spirit of de Tocqueville's legacy, the contest will be opened to US and Canadian students for the first time. We aim to encourage scholarly exchanges and deepen understanding of Central-Eastern Europe (CEE). **This contest is open to all EU/EEA, UK, US and Canadian Bachelor, Master and Doctoral students, as well as recent graduates who obtained their degree in the last three years (up until 2023).** The contest is also open to citizens and residents of Andorra, Monaco, Vatican City, San Marino, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We invite scholars from the selected countries to submit papers that explore the dynamic relationships between European regions – particularly with CEE – focusing on industrial, technological, political, or cultural exchanges. Selected works will be featured on Blue Europe's website, contributing to our mission of enhancing public awareness of European issues and fostering dialogue and cooperation. We believe it is a great opportunity for scholars and young researchers to showcase their knowledge and increase their visibility.

Contest process

The competition begins **September 1, 2025**.

All entries (full papers) must be received by **June 31, 2026**, and winners will be announced on **August 31, 2026**. The organizing committee may extend the deadlines as it sees fit. The following are key dates of the Contest:

1. Registration must be completed before March **31, 2026**, by sending an email to **alexis2025[at]contest.blue-europe.eu** with “Registration for 2025-2026 competition” in the subject line, including a brief 250–500-word abstract and a provisional title for your paper, a brief presentation of yourself, and proof of academic enrolment/recent degree. The panel may reject any subject without explanation or due case. As a general indication, Blue Europe will refuse any partisan political article and subjects outside the work fields of Blue Europe.
2. Once, and if, your abstract is validated, you will receive a link to register online on our platform, with a document to accept as a contestant. Refusal to accept or failure to sign the rules and copyright waiver will mean automatic disqualification from the contest.
3. After validation of the abstract, the contestant may or may not send a complete draft to the committee for review so that the committee might suggest improvements before the submission deadline, this has to be done before **June 31, 2026**.
4. On **June 31, 2026**, when the submission of the final papers will be closed, the Organizing Committee will inform you, if it hasn't done it already, if the threshold submission (at least 50 final papers) has been reached. Should the threshold not been met at this time, the contest will be either considered void and cancelled or extended.
5. The Jury will consider all papers the following month. Authors will receive a notification of acceptance or rejection on **May 31, 2026**. Subsequently, the internal panel will start reviewing and assessing all submissions.
6. Finalists will be notified by email on **July 31, 2025**. Nevertheless, the organizing committee may extend this deadline.
7. Selected papers for the final will be chosen, up to 10 finalist papers. Authors of the selected papers **may** be invited to defend their work through a Zoom conference in front of the panel in the **final week of August 2026**. The Jury will then decide the winner/s of the award/s.

8. The winning paper/s will be announced on **August 31, 2026**. The awarding of the prize will happen in a mixed online-physical event that will be hosted in Warsaw in September 2025. The winner **does not** have to be present to the physical event to receive its cash prize.
9. Cash prize winners will be paid by check or bank transfer by **September 30, 2026**. The organizing committee may also extend the latter deadline or change the means of payment as it sees fit.

Award

Authors of papers that are successfully accepted into the competition will receive a certificate of participation, which will include the evaluation of their work. As mentioned above, selected papers will also be published on the Blue Europe website and will be eligible for a cash prize. This year, we are offering two cash prizes to the authors of the two best articles that receive the highest marks from the jury. We will award:

- A prize of 2000€ for the article with the highest score from the jury;
- A prize of 500€ for the article with the second highest score from the judges.

Articles will be evaluated by a panel of experts based on originality, clarity, depth of analysis, and relevance to the theme of the contest and the mission of Blue Europe. **Citizens and residents of Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Armenia may also apply but are not eligible to win the prize.**

Conditions

1. Participants must be currently enrolled as undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, or recently graduated student (2023-2026) at an accredited university or higher learning institution (ECTS delivering school) inside the EU/EAA or one of the following countries: USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. A certificate of scholarship will be requested to prove attendance. The contest is only open to full-time students (no exchange from outside Europe). Digital universities (without physical presence lessons) do qualify as universities only if they are able to deliver state accredited diplomas. Blue Europe may refuse candidacies on any basis that it may judge useful, without communicating the reason of refusal to the participant.

2. Contributions must have a **minimum of 3,000 words and a maximum of 30,000 words**. To be admitted to the contest and be eligible for the award, the submission must be presented in either English, French or Polish. Nevertheless, to have the paper published on the website, an English version is required. All contributions must also adhere to a formal academic style, with proper citations and references according to the Chicago Manual of Style (both Author-Date and Note-Bibliography styles are accepted).
3. Submissions should also comply to the following format rules:
 - a) Papers must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx), or as OpenDocument format (.odt)
 - b) Papers shall have a minimum of 3,000 words in its English, French or Polish version. This minimum **does not** include footnotes, endnotes, URL links and tables or graphics at the end of the work.
 - c) Font must be 12-point Times New Roman throughout the paper.
 - d) Article text must have a line spacing of 1.5 and paragraph spacing of 0pt. before and 6 after.
 - e) All pages must be numbered in the centre footer.
4. Original articles may be submitted on any subject among the following areas: Economy and Trade, Industry and Business, Political Science and Governance, International Relations and Cooperation, Geopolitics, Sociology, Law, Innovation and Technology, Energy and Sustainability, Demographic Studies, Public Policy and Administration, Regional Development and Urban Planning. Nevertheless, contributions must deal with – at least partially – Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, contributions must deal with – at least partially – Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, contributions must deal with – at least partially – Central and Eastern Europe. By “Central and Eastern Europe,” Blue Europe indicates these countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Georgia.
5. Submissions must cover topics within the aforementioned subjects and will be judged upon their clarity, accuracy, and relevance to the discipline under which they are submitted. Consideration will also be given to the contemporary nature

of the topic, the quality of the topic, the subject interest, the overall readability of the article, as well as the writing skill of the author.

6. Blue Europe reserves the absolute and sole discretion to accept, decline, disregard, or remove any Submission, in whole or in part, at any time and for any reason or for no reason whatsoever. Blue Europe shall have no obligation to review, consider, respond to, provide feedback on, or justify its decision regarding any Submission.
7. Submissions must be original, unpublished works that have not been submitted to other competitions or journals. Authors must ensure their submissions do not infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party. Any references made within the work to other studies or publications must be credited and noted. Submissions will not be considered and may be removed if they are primarily a collection of links to other articles.
8. **Individuals may submit more than one article to the competition, and each will be considered separately.** The participant, however, agrees that only one paper per person will be eligible to be promoted to the final round; selected at the discretion of the review panel. There can be only one author per submission (no submission with multiple authors), but there can be exceptions allowed by the Editorial board.
9. Winners will be determined by online voting by an internal Blue Europe jury, made up of up to 15 members chosen from the members of the associations of Blue Europe.
10. The prize will only be awarded if more than 50 submissions (full paper) will be done to the contest.
11. If you have any inquiries, contact us at: [alexis2025\[at\]contest.blue-europe.eu](mailto:alexis2025[at]contest.blue-europe.eu).

Signature of the Contest Rules, officially named: *Blue Europe 2025-2026 "Alexis de Tocqueville" contest – Official rules.*

I understand and acknowledge the rules of the *Blue Europe 2025-2026 "Alexis de Tocqueville" contest.*

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Blue Europe non-profit Association publication consent for 2025-2026 contest

The Association Alphonse de Lamartine (FR) Consent to Publish

The Association Alphonse de Lamartine (hereafter the “Publisher”), an association organized in France, representing the whole aggregation of Blue Europe for the mean of this contest, requires Authors of articles for the contest to provide a formal written Consent to Publish. The author of articles gives the consent for all future and present articles and submissions sent to Blue Europe. If there are multiple Authors of the material governed by this document, the term “Author” as used here refers to each and all of them, jointly and severally.

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