

2023 EU PRO Plus Calendar Competition

"Shaping a Greener Future"

Background

The European Union for Local Development Programme - EU PRO Plus as its predecessor Programmes – PRO 1 and 2, EU PROGRES and European PROGRES and EU PRO organises an annual art competition for high school students in 99 cities and municipalities of Šumadija, Western, Southern and Eastern Serbia. The competition intends to encourage students to learn about, consider and promote different aspects of longstanding relationships between Serbia and the European Union and explore their common goals and values.

The competition is also an opportunity to recognise, encourage and award artistic talent of socially engaged high school students, as well as schools in the Programmes area which most prominently and systematically supports creative growth of its students.

Objectives

1. To motivate the youth in the 99 cities and municipalities to cultivate and uphold social awareness, engagement, and proactiveness concerning their rights and needs;
2. To inspire high school students to take action on the issues that matter to them and actively work on developing and/or contributing to initiatives that positively impact their lives and lives of the their community as a whole;
3. To inspire secondary school students to nurture and pursue their artistic talents;
4. To improve the learning environment in the school awarded for its outstanding engagement.

Competition Theme

In 2023 and 2024, the European Commission (EC) celebrates the 'European Years of Skills,' focusing on adapting to the fast-changing job market and enhancing professional education to upskill the European workforce. The theme aligns with the circular economy's core values, emphasising skills crucial for sustainability and efficient resource use.

In line with this the Competition calls on young artists to unleash their creativity, delving into the circular economy concept and showcasing their involvement. The theme revolves around illustrating the skills, potential careers, and jobs they aspire to within the circular economy framework. Artworks should highlight personal actions in sustainable practices and innovative solutions related to circularity in their communities. It encourages students to critically analyse environmental issues and

envision their future professions as drivers of positive global change, emphasising waste reduction, recycling, upcycling, and sustainability. Through their artwork, participants demonstrate both their artistic talents and their commitment to shaping a more sustainable and circular future for all.

Talking points for discussion with students

What is the Circular Economy?

The circular economy is about rethinking how we can fix or reuse things to make them last longer while making smart choices that benefit both us and our planet. Imagine a world where nothing goes to waste, where products and materials are used wisely and kept in circulation for as long as possible. This means designing products to endure, recycling materials, and finding creative ways to repurpose items. It is a way of life that is kind to the environment and holds a promising future for our planet. Remember the three magical words: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. They encourage us to use less whenever we can, to think twice before buying new things, and to find inventive ways to give old items a new lease on life. And when something cannot be reused, it often transforms into something entirely new, like old newspapers becoming fresh paper, or how old trainers are transformed in sports courts.

Feeling inspired? You could become an eco-entrepreneur, crafting incredible products from recycled materials and sharing them with the world. Upcycling old items into something even better or organising swap parties with friends to exchange clothes, books, or games you no longer need? You might explore fixing things like bicycles or kickstart a Green Club to promote eco-friendly actions, such as clean-up drives, tree plantings, or recycling programmes. Dive into sustainable gardening, digital recycling, environmental art or think up your own business - the possibilities are endless!


Format of Expression

Artworks submitted for the calendar competition should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Format: A3 (42 x 29.7 cm).
- Acceptable mediums: Illustrations, drawings, paintings, or collages.
- **On the reverse side of the artwork**, please provide the following information:
 - A concise paragraph (approximately 30 words / 100 characters) describing the artwork;
 - Full name of the student with their contact phone number and email address;
 - Year and class of the student;
 - Full name of the supervising teacher with their contact phone number and email address;
 - Name and address of the school.

Please note that submissions lacking a textual explanation will not be considered. The explanations should effectively convey the essence of the artwork.

Example of the explanation to be written or glued at the back of the work for one of the artworks submitted for the previous competition

	<p>Example of the paragraph (around 30 words) that explains the work: Engaging the youth in defining their own future through initiating the actions to solve the current issues in the community is crucial for the future of all the citizens in Niš. (this sample paragraph has 31 words)</p> <p>Name, surname, contact phone and email address of the student: Anđela Bučić, 060 000 000, email@email</p> <p>Grade and year the student is attending: III2</p> <p>Name, surname, contact phone and email address of the teacher: Danijela Davidović, 060 000 000, email@email</p> <p>Name and address of the school: Niš Art School, Prvomajska 6, Niš</p>
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Responsibilities of the Participating Schools

Participating secondary schools in the calendar competition must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Organise an internal contest open to all pupils and select up to ten (10) of the best artworks for submission to the competition;
- Encourage teachers to initiate discussions and engage with students on the competition's designated topic;
- Each pupil is allowed to submit only one artwork for the EU PRO Plus Calendar Competition;
- The submission deadline for artworks is November 17, 2023, by 16:00.
- Artworks selected for entry must be sent by mail to the EU PRO Plus Belgrade office at the following address:

UNOPS/EU PRO Plus
Attn: "Art Competition"
Skrelićeva 4,
11000 Beograd

- Additionally, apart from the individual artwork competition, schools can earn recognition and awards based on the quality of their organisation of internal school competitions. To qualify for this award, the internal school competition should be documented and submitted in the form of a brief written description, accompanied by photographs and/or videos. These materials should be sent alongside the artworks.

Programme is financed by the European Union, implemented by UNOPS in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Selection Process

- Only submitted artworks that fully adhere to the competition rules will qualify for the initial round of evaluation;
- The top 20 artworks from this round will be showcased on the official EU PRO Plus website and become eligible for online voting;
- Online voting will be open for five days and accessible to all citizens of Serbia;
- After the conclusion of the online voting period, all votes will be tallied. The artwork with the highest number of likes will receive one vote from the audience, equivalent to one vote from other members of the jury;
- The EU PRO Plus' Selection Committee, comprising at least four members, with at least one member possessing an artistic background, will oversee the next phase;
- From the 12 shortlisted works, the Selection Committee will declare the third best, the second best, and the best artwork;
- **It's important to note that only one artwork per school can be selected among the top 12, irrespective of its ranking after the online vote.**

General Competition Rules

- EU PRO Plus will not cover the costs associated with creating and submitting artworks;
- Participation in the competition is free of charge, and applications can be submitted by individual pupils or as part of a group (school) submission;
- Entries that do not align with the theme or meet the technical and authorship requirements will be disqualified;
- Only unpublished artworks are eligible for submission;
- Artworks with inappropriate titles or messages will be disqualified;
- It is imperative to avoid stereotypes, mockery, offensive or inappropriate depictions of vulnerable groups, their societal positions, lifestyles, and cultures. Artworks containing such content will be automatically disqualified;
- Authors and schools must ensure that all elements of the submitted artworks are original and not copied from other sources;
- All images used in artworks must comply with the existing Law on Copyright and Related Rights of the Republic of Serbia;
- By participating in the competition, authors and schools grant EU PRO Plus and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia (DEU) the right to use the artworks for promotional, publicity, news, educational workshops, information campaigns, and campaigns related to the competition's theme without requiring prior permission from the author;
- Authors of the top artworks will receive credit on the EU PRO Plus 2024 calendar;
- Previous holders of the first three places are not eligible for top ranking. However, they can still participate and compete for any of the remaining nine places;

Prizes for Pupils and Teachers

The following awards will be presented for 12 best works:

- The first prize – laptop computer
- The second and the third prize – tablet computers
- Nine consolation prizes – mobile phones
- Tablet computers will be awarded to the teachers from the three best schools.

Prize for the Winning School

The Selection Committee will also evaluate the school's dedication to organising the internal school competition. One secondary school that demonstrates exceptional commitment, both in terms of the quantity and quality of submitted works, will receive a special prize.

This winning school will be granted a valuable package, including a laptop computer, a projector, and associated equipment. These resources are intended to enhance the learning environment and educational opportunities for their students.

Prize Awards Ceremony

EU PRO Plus will host an awards ceremony in December 2023, with the format depending on the prevailing epidemiological conditions at that time. Participants will receive timely notifications regarding the event's specifics. The ceremony will include an exhibition showcasing the best submitted artworks, along with the presentation of the EU PRO Plus calendar for 2024.

Who is eligible?

Students from all secondary schools, irrespective of their grade level, across the 99 cities and municipalities covered by EU PRO Plus are eligible to participate in the competition. For more details, you can visit: <https://euproplus.org.rs/gderadimo>.