

Blue Europe 2024-2025 “Denis de Rougemont” Contest Official Rules

Blue Europe, a think tank focused on fostering connections between Western, Central and Eastern Europe, is pleased to announce the “2024-2025 Denis de Rougemont contest.” This year’s competition honours Denis de Rougemont (1906-1985), a Swiss writer, cultural theorist, and thinker who was a pivotal advocate for European unity and integration, promoting a vision of Europe grounded in cultural diversity, shared values, and federal cooperation. His work *Le Paysan du Danube*, through the fictional journey of a peasant from the Danube region who travels across Europe, explores the continent’s rich diversity of languages, traditions, and identities while highlighting the common values that bind Europeans together. *Le Paysan du Danube* serves as an important reminder that true European unity can only be achieved by valuing both shared heritage and cultural diversity, promoting dialogue and cooperation between the West and East.

In the spirit of de Rougemont’s legacy, the contest aims to encourage scholarly exchanges and deepen understanding between Western and Central-Eastern Europe (CEE). **This contest is open to all EU/EEA Bachelor, Master and Doctoral students, as well as recent graduates who obtained their degree in 2024. The contest is also open to citizens and residents of the United Kingdom, Andorra, Monaco, Vatican City, San Marino, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.**

While not compulsory, we invite scholars from Western Europe to submit articles that explore the dynamic relationships between European regions – particularly with CEE – focusing on industrial, technological, political, or cultural exchanges. Scholars from Central and Eastern Europe are encouraged to write about any aspect of CEE itself, reflecting on its unique identity, challenges, and contributions to the broader European project. Selected works will be featured on Blue Europe’s website.

Contest process

The competition begins **September 1, 2024**.

All entries (full article) must be received by **May 31, 2025**, and finalists will be announced on **July 31, 2025**. 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 **January 31, 2025**, by sending an email to contest24@blue-europe.eu with “Registration for 2024-2025 competition” in the subject line, including a brief 250-500-word abstract, a provisional title for the paper, a brief 150-word biography 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 with a document to sign as a contestant. Refusal 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 **January 31, 2025**.
4. On **May 31, 2025**, when the submission of the final papers will close, 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 **June 30, 2025**. 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 2025**. The Jury will then decide the winner/s of the award/s.
8. The winning paper/s will be announced on **August 31, 2025**. 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 price.
9. Cash prize winners will be paid by check by **September 30, 2025**. 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 1000€ 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 and Belarus 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 (2024) at an accredited university or higher learning institution (ECTS delivering school) inside the EU/EAA or one of the following countries: 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 opened 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) Articles must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx), or as OpenDocument format (.odt)

- b) An Article 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, Literature and Cultural Studies, Political Science and Governance, International Relations, Sociology, Law and Human Rights, Environmental Studies and Climate Policy, Innovation and Technology, Energy and Sustainability, Education and Research Collaboration, Migration and Demographic Studies, Public Policy and Administration, Regional Development and Urban Planning, Security Studies and Geopolitics. 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. 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.
 7. **Individuals may submit more than one article to the competition, and each will be considered separately.** The participant, however, agrees that only one article 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).

8. You will be requested to provide a biography which will become part of your profile, and accessible from the article(s) you write. It is important that care is taken with grammar and spelling in your bio, as it is considered part of your submission in the review process. The biography should be around 150 words. It should be written third person, present tense, and include the following:
 - a) Name and surname
 - b) Year of study
 - c) Degree focus
 - d) Research and research Mentor (if any)
 - e) Awards/Recognition (i.e., funding, research, honours, leadership roles)
 - f) Future goals
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. If you have any inquiries, contact us at: **contest24@blue-europe.eu**.



Signature of the Contest Rules, officially named: ***Blue Europe 2024-2025 “Denis de Rougemont” contest – Official rules.***

I understand and acknowledge the rules of the ***Blue Europe 2024-2025 “Denis de Rougemont” contest.***

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Blue Europe non-profit Association publication consent for 2024-2025 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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