



INTERNATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PHOTO AWARDS 2026



COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. About the Terms and Conditions

By submitting an application, you agree to the terms and conditions outlined in this document. This document was originally prepared in Turkish and translated into English. In case of any misunderstandings arising from the translation, the original text shall prevail.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to promote and document handicrafts worldwide, present cultural values visually, support artisans and art, strengthen intercultural communication, support photography artists, organize a photography contest to create permanent works, award prizes to winning entries, and arrange catalogs and exhibitions.

3. About the Competition

International Handicrafts Photo Awards 2026 is organized within the scope of the International Handicrafts project, which is carried out under the Erasmus+ Program. The objective of the competition is to document and promote handicrafts through the art of photography.

4. About the Project

This project is organized under the European Union, Erasmus+ Program, and is supported by the Turkish National Agency. The official name of the International Handicrafts project is 'Acquiring a Profession through Handicrafts'. The project numbered 2024-1-TR01-KA220-VET-000248507 is under the KA220 International Strategic Partnership type. The project coordinator is ESDER – Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Derneği (Artisans and Craftsmen Association / Türkiye), and the project partners are: MUSIAD Nederland (Netherlands) and Köprü Kültür Sanat ve Eğitim Derneği (D.K.U.O. MOST) (North Macedonia).

5. Organization

The coordination of the competition is managed by ESDER. All official announcements will be made via the competition website (handicraftsphoto.com). All communication regarding the competition will be conducted exclusively via e-mail.

6. Competition Calendar

The application deadline is 31 August 2026, at 23:59 (GMT+3). Applications made after this date will not be accepted. The winners will be announced during the gala program, published on the competition website, and the award-winning participants will be informed via e-mail. Digital certificates will be sent to the winning contestants within a maximum of 30 days following the announcement.

7. Application

Applications can only be made through the competition website using the application form. Each participant can submit a maximum of 10 photographs. Mandatory fields in the application form must be filled out. The competition is open to participants from all recognized and unrecognized countries worldwide, and anyone over the age of 18 can participate free of charge. Photographs that have previously received awards or participated in other competitions may enter, provided there are no copyright obstacles. Each photograph file must be named with the applicant's name and surname, followed by a number. Example: Jackie.Chan.1, Jackie.Chan.2.

8. Technical Specifications

Photographs must be in JPEG (.jpg) format and must not contain watermarks, frames, signatures, or logos. The Organization may request RAW/original files if deemed necessary. Contestants may participate with vertical or horizontal, color, or black-and-white photographs. Images generated using artificial intelligence will not be accepted.

9. Competition Theme

Photographers participating in the competition are expected to submit photographs suitable for the name and theme of the competition. Photographs should include traditional or modern handicrafts, artisans, their production processes, workspaces, equipment, and materials. The photographs should reflect the labor, patience, ethics, quality, originality, and locality in handicrafts, and the art being performed must be clearly understandable. Photographs that fall outside the theme or violate law and morality will be disqualified.

10. Permissible Modifications in Photographs

Modifications may be made to cover certain flaws, adjust color, and improve sharpness to a certain extent. It is acceptable to alter areas such as company names, logos, or faces of unauthorized persons that should not appear in the photograph by blurring or applying different aesthetic interventions. The modifications to be made must not alter the original photograph excessively and must not create unfair competition; the decision

of the Competition Organization Commission and the jury on this matter shall be final and binding.

11. Evaluation

All photographs will first be reviewed and pre-eliminated by the Competition Organization Commission, and the eligible works will be submitted for jury evaluation. Jury decisions are final. Substitute rankings will be determined; if an issue arises regarding the winning entries, selections will be made from the substitute works.

12. Prizes

First Place: 2,000 €

Second Place: 1,500 €

Third Place: 1,000 €

All bank charges, transfer fees, and other payment-related expenses will be covered by ESDER. However, if a payment fails due to incorrect or incomplete banking information provided by the winner, the recipient's bank rejecting the transfer, or any other issue originating from the recipient's side, any bank charges or transfer fees incurred for subsequent payment attempts will be deducted from the prize amount. Prize payments will be made in Euro (€); therefore, winners must provide the details of a Euro bank account registered in their own name.

13. Exhibition

Apart from the cash prizes, 106 works will be selected for exhibition. No additional cash prize will be given for the works selected for exhibition. These works will be granted a digital certificate, the right to be included in the catalog, and the right to take part in the 3D virtual exhibition.

14. Photography Catalog

A total of 109 photographs, consisting of the top 3 winning entries and the 106 works selected for exhibition, will be featured in a physical and digital catalog prepared in Turkish and English. The catalog will be distributed free of charge but will not be sent to participants via mail. The digital version of the catalog can be downloaded free of charge from the competition website and esder.org.tr.

15. Photography Exhibition

The 109 works will be published in the 3D virtual exhibition on the competition's website. For each work, the photographer's name, the name of the handicraft, the artisan's name (if available), a short informative text about the handicraft, and the shooting location and

date will be included. The virtual exhibition will be experienced by participants using various devices during the gala program. Selected works will be exhibited physically in the foyer area of the gala program without specifying their rankings.

16. Digital Certificate

A digital certificate of achievement will be sent to the e-mail addresses provided by the participants who win an award or are selected for the exhibition during application.

17. Rights of the Organizer

ESDER reserves the right to postpone or cancel the competition, and to change the calendar, jury, prizes, and specifications without prior notice when deemed necessary.

18. Erasmus+ Statement

It is funded by the European Union. However, the views and opinions expressed belong solely to the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Turkish National Agency. The European Union or the Turkish National Agency cannot be held responsible for these views and opinions.

19. Copyrights and Scope

19.1. Scope of Transfer of Rights

The financial rights of a total of 109 works, including the winning entries (Top 3) and those awarded exhibition selection (106), specified in the Republic of Türkiye Law on Intellectual and Artistic Works No. 5846 regarding adaptation, reproduction, distribution, performance, and communication to the public by devices permitting the transmission of signs, sounds and/or images, as well as within the framework of Articles 1 to 6 of the Appendix of the international Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Rights of Reproduction, Distribution, and Communication to the Public of Cinematographic and Photographic Works), shall be deemed transferred to the Esnaf ve Sanatkarlar Derneği (ESDER) as unlimited, perpetual, without geographical limitation, and irrevocable. No copyright fee or additional payment will be made to the participants for these uses apart from the prize.

19.2. Areas of Use

ESDER has the right to use these 109 award-winning works for institutional or promotional purposes in calendars, agendas, books, magazines, posters, catalogs, and all kinds of promotional products, in digital/physical exhibitions, and on all social media platforms, to make collages, or to share them with third-party public/civil organizations. The works may be freely broadcast for commercial or non-commercial purposes on all

kinds of terrestrial, satellite, cable, or IP-based television broadcasting networks, closed-circuit television systems (CCTV / Indoor Broadcast Screens), video-on-demand (VOD) platforms, and all visual mass media broadcasting over the internet.

19.3. Photographer's (Right Holder's) Freedom of Use

Although all financial and legal copyrights of the works are exclusively transferred to ESDER, the association undertakes to protect the photographer's artistic connection with the work. In this regard, the photographer has the right to freely exhibit and use their award-winning and exhibition-selected works in their personal and artistic portfolio, on their personal website and social media accounts, and in non-commercial artistic exhibitions that do not aim for commercial gain. ESDER agrees not to prevent the photographer's artistic uses within this scope.

19.4. Participant's Declaration and Legal Responsibility

The participant declares and undertakes that the work submitted to the competition belongs entirely to them, does not violate the intellectual property rights of third parties, and that they have obtained all necessary legal permissions from the artisans, individuals, venues, or companies featured in the photograph in accordance with international personal data protection and Model Release principles. Any legal, criminal, and financial liability that may arise regarding the work belongs exclusively to the participant.