

## National Operator Guidance - YRE International Competition 2024/2025

### The topic of the YRE International Competition will be Ecosystem Restoration

The Young Reporters for the Environment International Competition is for winners of the YRE National Competition in countries running the YRE programme. Young people who are participating in the YRE programme in each country and students from International Schools or Scout Groups in countries where Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) has no member, have a right to participate in the competition. Young reporters must compete and be selected as the first-place national winner before being submitted to the International Competition by National Operators.

### 2024-2025 Key Dates for International Competition

| Task   | Date   |
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| YRE National Operator training for 2024/2025 competition categories<br><i>(National Operators only, please attend)</i><br>Link to Register:<br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUvceqoqDlpGtW0htYG9XZUvvpfHoO-MsnlL">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvceqoqDlpGtW0htYG9XZUvvpfHoO-MsnlL</a> | Wednesday<br>18 <sup>th</sup><br>September<br>2024 |
| <i>Suggested deadline for schools to submit their entries to National Operator.</i>  | Monday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> March<br>2025           |
| Deadline for National Operators to submit all national entries to FEE via Podio and Exposure. Note that submissions AFTER the deadline will not be accepted.   | Tuesday<br>30 <sup>th</sup> April<br>2025          |
| International Jury meeting to pick International Competition winners   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> June<br>2025     |
| Announcement of the 2024-2025 International Competition winners  | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup><br>June 2025                |



## Participation Requirements and Registration

The YRE competition is open to those aged 11-25 participating as individuals or groups of young people through their school, college, university, Scout Group, or youth group. The YRE programme is run by FEE's national member organisation, who runs the programme and/ or National Competition. All the entries to the YRE International Competition must first be submitted through the National Competition in each YRE member country. Students may submit more than one type of submission to different media categories.

## Age Categories

There are three age categories in the YRE International Competition: 11-14, 15-18 and 19-25. It is the participant's age on the day they submit their entry to the National Competition (or on the day of submission deadline for International Schools or Scout Groups without a YRE National Manager) that must be given and defines which age category they enter. Those sending a group project must submit in the age category of the oldest member of their team. Photo entries for all three subcategories are submitted within the one age category 11-25.

## Submission to YRE International Competition

National Operators are allowed to submit the following number of entries to the International Competition:

- **Article** – max 3 entries (1 for each age group: 11-14 years, 15-18 years, 19-25 years).
- **One Take Photo** – 1 entry, regardless of the age.
- **Staged Campaign Photo** – 1 entry, regardless of the age.
- **Photo Story of 3-5 Photos** – 1 entry, regardless of the age.
- **Long-form Reportage Video** – 3 entries (1 for each age group: 11-14 years, 15-18 years, 19-25 years), regardless of the type of video.
- **Short-form Campaign Video** - 3 entries (1 for each age group: 11-14 years, 15-18 years, 19-25 years), regardless of the type of video.
- **International Collaboration** – Open only for Article and Long-form Reportage categories. All entries are welcome, simply make sure that only one country uploads the submission.
- **Podcasting** (audio or visual/ audio) - 1 entry, regardless of the age. All entries submitted to FEE will each receive the Gosia Luszczyk International Podcasting Award.



## Submission Requirements

All submissions **must**:

1. Include the following information:
  - Name of author(s).
  - Age of author(s) on day of submission to the National Competition.
  - Name of registered school or group.
  - Country of residence
  - Title of entry
  - Link(s) to dissemination
2. **Fulfil the Format & Structure and the Dissemination criteria for its category.**
3. Be in written and/ or spoken English or must have English subtitles.
4. Focus on real and current local issues with links to the global context.
5. Present possible and constructive solutions supported by credible sources e.g., local stakeholders, experts, academic research, etc.
6. Include a credit role, footnotes, **or** a bibliography with the sources of images, video footage, music and information not created by students.
7. Identify and provide a brief explanation of how the submission is related to one or more Sustainable Development Goals. Submissions can focus on any of the Sustainable Development Goals, but an *environmental lens is always needed*.

## YRE International Competition Criteria

Judges may assign a score of 0-5 based on how well the submission meets the five criteria within each entry category listed below. Points are: 5=Excellent, 4=Very Well, 3=Well, 2=Well, 1=Qualifies and 0=Does Not Qualify. Participants are strongly encouraged to meet as many of the criteria as possible to submit quality work and improve their chances of getting maximum points.

The International Jury assesses the entries on the [YRE Competition Exposure](#) page. It is therefore particularly important that the National Operators ensure that the entries are correctly presented on Exposure.

In addition, the International Jury is at liberty to **not** award in the case of too few submissions and to give more than one award in the case of exceptional entries in one or more age categories. The International Jury may also award or deduct two points for any journalistic and environmental features of submissions based on their professional backgrounds.



## Dissemination

A core part of the YRE programme is Step 4 - Dissemination. This is because YRE's mission is to encourage youth to use their voices to draw attention to environmental issues they see in their communities.

The following four levels and assessment scores are where we think young people's voices need to be heard and will be used to assess all types of entries:

- Personal (disseminate through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, X, Tik Tok, Snap Chat, You Tube or through a blog/ reel) - 1 Point.
- School/ Scout Community (disseminate through setting newspaper, website, or as a poster or flyer in the meeting building) - 1 Point.
- National Operator Organisation (disseminate through the national website or social media platforms of your country's National Operator) - 1 Point.
- Local and National Media (disseminate through local and national media channels such as the radio, TV, or newspapers) - 2 Points.

## Citing Sources

The YRE programme values academic honesty and the use of credible sources. Any facts, statistics, images, etc. that a student uses in their entry (article, photo, or video) should be listed in a 'Reference' list at the end of the entry and in-text footnotes are encouraged.

*Remember: Even when citing sources, that this is not an academic essay, but a newspaper article. One of its characteristic features is the statements of competent persons, and therefore we recommend that you go to the persons in person or contact them by e-mail or telephone and get information directly from them. It will increase not only the dynamics of the article, but also its credibility.*

The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools:

- **Article** – use of AI will not be accepted. National Operators to indicate upon submission to FEE if the article has been translated through an online application, translation AI is allowed in this instance.
- **One Take Photo** – use of AI will not be accepted.
- **Staged Campaign Photo** – use of AI and other editing applications is welcomed and encouraged.
- **Photo Story of 3-5 Photos** – use of AI will not be accepted.
- **Long-form Reportage Video** – use of AI to generate content will not be accepted. Editing programmes will be accepted.
- **Short-form Campaign Video** - use of AI and other editing applications is welcomed and encouraged.
- **International Collaboration** – Only open for Article and Long-form Reportage categories, therefore the use of AI is will not be accepted.

**For all assessment criteria please adhere to the word counts, character counts and video timings outlined below. Any national submissions sent to FEE that exceed these criteria limits will not be considered for shortlisting to the International Jury**

| Article  |   |
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| Expanded dissemination options have been introduced to this category that not only include print or traditional media but also new online publishing platforms such as Blogposts and Extended Facebook Posts to help expand the reach of the article. Please note whether the article is disseminated via the traditional format, blog or extended Facebook post all the assessment criteria below will be applied to the content of the article.  |   |
| Format & Structure   |   |
|  | No more than 1,000 words (after translation into English).  |
|  | Must include a title of no more than 140 characters.  |
|  | Must be submitted to the National Operator in Microsoft Word format for traditional article or as a link for a blogpost or extended Facebook post if this is how the article has been disseminated.   |
|  | Must include 1-3 images (photographs, illustrations, diagrams, etc.), each with captions of no more than 20 words. Sources for all images must be given.  |
|  | Must include an introduction, body (supporting paragraphs), and conclusion and answer the questions of who, what, where, why, when, and how.  |
| Honest & Unbiased Reporting  |   |
|  | Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.  |
|  | Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.   |
|  | Sources used in the article must be cited using footnotes and a 'References' list for a traditional article, in the attribution tag for a blog or Facebook post. This includes citing the original author/ source of any images (photographs, illustrations, diagrams, etc.) used in the article. |
| <i><b>Remember:</b> Even when citing sources, remember that this is not an academic essay, but a newspaper article. One of its characteristic features is the statements of competent persons, and therefore we recommend that you go to the persons in person or contact them by e-mail or telephone and get information directly from them. It will increase not only the dynamics of the article but also its credibility: <a href="#">Guidance for Social media article citing of sources.</a></i> |   |
| Constructive & Well-Rounded Perspective  |   |
|  | Articles should be balanced and fair in terms of representing different sides of an argument before suggesting possible solutions.  |
|  | Article should explore the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.  |
|  | The article should show the link between local and global events, issues, and/ or phenomena.  |
|  | The article should include relevant, feasible, and constructive solutions to environmental issues presented in the article.   |
| Originality & Independence   |   |
|  | The article is original in content and/ or scope. The author has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has approached a topic in a different and/ or creative way.   |
|  | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research and interviews (either in-person or over the phone) outside of their school grounds.  |

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| Dissemination | <p>A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the article and published on Exposure below the article.</p>  |
| <b>NOTES</b>  | <p><b>Use of any form of AI will not be accepted in this category. Points should be deducted should the use of AI be detected.</b></p> <p>The quality of the article should not be lessened if a young person has chosen to disseminate their article as a blog or extended Facebook post</p> <p>Please indicate when submitting on Podio if the article has been translated into English using a tool such as Google Translate.</p> <p>Articles can also be included as entries as part of the international collaboration category</p> <p>Original one take photos included in the article could be considered by the International Jury for the Photo of the Year. Original staged campaign photos included in the article could be considered by the International Jury for Image of the Year.</p> |

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| <b>One Take Photo (previously called single reportage photo)</b>   |  |
| <p>The purpose of the <b>one take photo</b> is to tell a story through a photograph that truthfully and accurately captures the reality of a situation, event, or issue at one point in time. The photograph should be candid, i.e., <b>not be posed or manipulated</b>. An environmental lens or perspective is needed.</p> |  |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>  | <p>A single photograph must be submitted to the National Operator in .JPEG or .PNG format with a resolution of no less than 150-300 DPI.</p> <p>Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.</p> <p>Must have a description of no more than 100 words and a caption of no more than 20 words OR <i>only</i> a description of maximum 120 words in total.</p> <p>The description and caption should explain the environmental link and/ or solutions to the issue presented in the photograph.</p> <p>Must be technically and artistically of good quality. This includes composition, lighting, color, sharpness, and subject.</p>  |
| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>   | <p>The photograph is a fair and truthful representation of reality, and the subject and/ or scene has not been significantly manipulated or altered. Editorial alterations to photos (e. g. colour, contrast, definition, shadows, highlights, cropping, levelling, etc.) are permissible, if these alternations do NOT alter the reality of the subject or object of the photo.</p> <p>Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.</p> <p>Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.</p> <p>Sources used in the description and/ or caption must be cited using footnotes and a 'References' list.</p> <p><b>Remember:</b> Even when citing sources, remember that this is not an academic essay, but a newspaper article. One of its characteristic features is the statements of competent persons, and therefore we recommend that you go to the persons in person</p> |

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|  | <i>or contact them by e-mail or telephone and get information directly from them. It will increase not only the dynamics of the article, but also its credibility.</i>  |
| <b>Constructive &amp; Well-Rounded Perspective</b> | Photograph should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.   |
|  | The photograph and/ or description/ caption should show the link between local and global events, issues and/ or phenomena.   |
|  | The description and/ or caption should include relevant and feasible solutions to environmental issues presented in the photo.  |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>              | The photograph is original in subject and/ or scope. The photographer has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and/ or creative way.  |
|  | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research for the photograph outside of their school grounds.   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>                               | A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points.</li> </ul> |
|  | Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the photograph and published on Exposure below the photo.  |
| <b>NOTES</b>                                       | <b>Use of any form of AI, photo editing (filters etc) will not be accepted in this category. Points should be deducted should the use of AI be detected.</b><br><br><b>Original one take photos could in addition be considered by the International Jury for the Photo of the Year.</b>                                  |

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| <b>Staged Campaign Photo (previously called single environmental campaign photo)</b>  |   |
| <i>The purpose of <b>Staged Campaign Photo</b> is to raise awareness of an issue, promote certain values, and/ or inspire positive action through a photograph. There must be a clear environmental campaign message and call to action included in the image. <b>The photograph must be original however can be staged with the intention of sending a message to the viewers. The photo can be edited, include AI alterations and text. An environmental lens or perspective is needed.</b></i> |   |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>   | A single photograph must be submitted to the National Operator in .JPEG or .PNG format with a resolution of no less than 150-300 DPI.   |
|   | Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.   |
|   | Description (only optional) of no more than 100 words.  |
|   | The description should explain the environmental link and/ or solutions to issue presented in the photograph.   |
|   | Must be technically and artistically of good quality. This includes composition, lighting, color, sharpness, and subject.   |
| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>  | Editorial alterations to the photo (e. g. AI manipulation, colour, contrast, definition, shadows, highlights, cropping, text, etc.) are permissible if they are relevant to the environmental campaign message that is being portrayed. |
|   | The original photo should be the original work of the student and cannot change the reality of the object.  |

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|  | Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.   |
|  | Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.  |
|  | Sources used in the description and/ or caption must be cited using footnotes and a 'References' list.  |
|  | <b>Remember:</b> Even when citing sources, remember that this is not an academic essay, but a newspaper article. One of its characteristic features is the statements of competent persons, and therefore we recommend that you go to the persons in person or contact them by e-mail or telephone and get information directly from them. It will increase not only the dynamics of the article, but also its credibility. |
| <b>1.</b>  |   |
| <b>Constructive &amp; Well-Rounded Perspective</b> | Photograph should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.   |
|  | The photograph and/ or description should show the link between local and global events, issues and/ or phenomena.  |
|  | The description should include relevant and feasible solutions to environmental issues identified in photo.   |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>              | The photograph is original in subject and/ or scope. The photographer has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and/ or creative way.  |
|  | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research for the photograph outside of their school grounds.   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>                               | A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points</li> </ul>  |
|  | Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the photograph and published on Exposure below the photograph.   |
| <b>NOTES</b>                                       | <b>The staged campaign photo could in addition be considered by the International Jury for Image of the Year</b>  |

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| <b>Photo Story (3-5 Photographs)</b>   |   |
| <i>The purpose of a Photo Story (3-5 Photographs) is to tell a story through a series of photographs to help the viewer better understand environmental issues, events, or phenomena. All photos must be original aiming to tell a truthful and accurate story through a series of candid photographs i.e., not be posed or manipulated.</i> |   |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>  | A maximum of 3 to 5 photographs must be submitted to the National Operator in .JPEG or .PNG format with a resolution of no less than 150-300 DPI. |
|  | Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.   |
|  | Must have a description of no more than 100 words. Each photograph must have a caption of no more than 20 words.                                  |
|  | The description and captions should explain the environmental link and/ or solutions to issue shown in the photos.                                |
|  | Must be technically and artistically of good quality. This includes composition, lighting, color, sharpness, and subject.                         |



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| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>             | The photograph is a fair and truthful representation of reality, and the subject and/ or scene has not been manipulated, altered or include AI. Basic editorial alterations to photos (e.g. colour, contrast, definition, shadows, highlights, cropping, levelling, etc.) are permissible, if these alternations do NOT alter the reality of the subject or object of the photo.   |
|  | Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.  |
|  | Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.   |
|  | Sources used in the description and/ or caption must be cited using footnotes and a 'References' list.<br><br><i><b>Remember:</b> Even when citing sources, remember that this is not an academic essay, but a newspaper article. One of its characteristic features is the statements of competent persons, and therefore we recommend that you go to the persons in person or contact them by e-mail or telephone and get information directly from them. It will increase not only the dynamics of the article, but also its credibility.</i> |
| <b>Constructive &amp; Well-Rounded Perspective</b> | Photographs should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.   |
|  | The photographs and/ or description/ captions should show the link between local and global events, issues and/ or phenomena.  |
|  | The description and/ or captions should include relevant and feasible solutions to environmental issues presented in the photos.   |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>              | The photograph is original in subject and/ or scope. The photographer has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and/ or creative way.   |
|  | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research for the photo story outside of their school grounds.   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>                               | A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points</li> </ul>   |
|  | Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the photographs and published on Exposure below the photographs.  |
| <b>NOTES</b>                                       | <b>Use of any form of AI, excessive photo editing will not be accepted in this category. Points should be deducted should the use of AI be detected.</b><br><br><b>An individual photo included in a Photo Story could addition be considered by the International Jury for the Photo of the Year.</b>   |

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| <b>Long-Form Reportage Video (previously Reportage Video)</b>   |  |
| <i>Long-form reportage videos are like mini documentaries, TV news reports. They are based on news, events, history, facts etc., and use elements of direct observation, research, interviews, and documentation.</i> |  |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>   | Video must be no longer than 3 minutes. This does NOT include credit roll. <b>Filmed in landscape.</b> |
|   | Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.  |

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|  | <p>Must be submitted to the National Operator in a file format supported on <a href="#">YouTube</a>.</p> <p>Must be technically and artistically of good quality. This includes composition, lighting, color, sharpness, and subject.</p> <p>Recommended to have an introduction and conclusion, use a documentary or reporter/ interview style and answer the questions of who, what, where, when why and how. <i>Music is not recommended.</i></p>  |
| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>             | <p>Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.</p> <p>Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.</p> <p>Sources used in the video must be cited either in a credit roll at the end of the video or with a separate 'References' list.</p> <p>It is recommended that approximately 70% of the final video should be made up of students' own original images, video footage and audio. If additional images (photographs, illustrations, diagrams, etc.), video footage or audio is used, the original author/ source must be cited.</p> <p>The video is a fair and truthful representation of reality and the subject(s) and/ or scene(s) have not been manipulated or altered.</p> |
| <b>Constructive &amp; Well-Rounded Perspective</b> | <p>Video should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.</p> <p>The video should show the link between local and global events, issues and/ or phenomena.</p> <p>The video should identify relevant and feasible solutions to the environmental issue(s) depicted in the video.</p>  |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>              | <p>The video is original in subject and/ or scope. The student has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and/ or creative way.</p> <p>The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research and interviews (either in-person or over the phone) outside of their school grounds.</p>   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>                               | <p>A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the video and published on Exposure below the video.</p>  |
| <b>NOTES</b>                                       | <p><b>Use of any form of AI will not be accepted in this category. Points should be deducted should the use of AI be detected.</b></p> <p><b>Long-form reporting video should be recorded in landscape.</b></p> <p><b>Long-form reporting videos can also be included as entries as part of the international collaboration category.</b></p>   |

| <b>Short-Form Campaign Video (previously Environmental Campaign Video)</b>   |  |
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| <i>Short-form campaign videos aim to raise awareness of an issue, promote certain values, and/ or inspire positive action through live images. The campaign story can be staged with the intention of sending a clear message to the viewers. These can include reels, Tik-Toks and vlogs.</i> |  |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>  | Video must be no longer than 1 minute. This does NOT include credit roll.<br><b>Filmed in portrait.</b>  |
|  | Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.  |
|  | Must be submitted to the National Operator in a file format supported on <a href="https://www.youtube.com">YouTube</a> .   |
|  | Must be technically and artistically of good quality. This includes composition, lighting, color, sharpness, and subject.  |
|  | There must be a very clear call to action for the audience at the end of the short-form video.   |
| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>   | Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.   |
|  | Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.  |
|  | Sources used in the video must be cited on a separate 'References' list.   |
|  | It is recommended that approximately 70% of the final video should be made up of students' own original images, video footage and audio. If additional images (photographs, illustrations, diagrams, etc.), video footage or audio is used, the original author/ source must be cited.                                   |
| <b>Well-Rounded/Holistic Perspective/Local-Global Connection</b>   | Video should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.   |
|  | The video should show the link between local and global events, issues and /or phenomena.  |
|  | The video should identify relevant and feasible solutions to the environmental issue(s) depicted in the video <b>OR</b> raise awareness about an environmental issue(s), promote certain lifestyle and/ or positive actions.   |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>  | The video is original in subject and/ or scope. The student has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and/ or creative way.   |
|  | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research on the chosen topic outside of their school grounds.   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>   | A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points</li> </ul> |
|  | Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the video and published on Exposure below the video.  |
| <b>NOTES</b>   | <b>Short-form campaign video should be recorded in portrait.</b>   |

| <b>NEW: Podcasting</b>  |  |
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| <i>Podcasts are like mini documentaries and could take the form of audio or audio/ video. They are based on news, events, history, facts etc., and use elements of direct observation, research, interviews, and documentation. For the International Competition Award only a 5-minute segment of the full podcast needs to be submitted to FEE.</i> |  |
| <b>Format &amp; Structure</b>   | Link to segment of the podcast must be no longer than 5 minutes.   |
|   | Must have a title of no more than 140 characters.  |
|   | Link to the full podcast alongside 5-minute segment must be submitted to the National Operator.  |
|   | Must be technically of good quality. This includes sound quality.  |
|   | Recommended that the 5-minute segment of a podcast that is sent to the National Operator is succinct and direct. Highlighting the focus and solutions posed in the full podcast.   |
| <b>Honest &amp; Unbiased Reporting</b>  | Facts, statistics, and scientific information must be supported by credible sources.   |
|   | Any quotes used must be from real and credible sources.  |
|   | Sources used in the podcast must be cited on a separate 'References' list.   |
|   | It is recommended that approximately 70% of the final podcast segment should be made up of students' own original voice recording and audio. If additional external audio is used (music, sounds effects, soundbites), the original author or source must be cited in the 'References' list.                             |
|   | The podcast is a fair and truthful representation of reality, and the sound or recording has not been edited   |
| <b>Constructive &amp; Well-Rounded Perspective</b>  | Podcast segment should address the historical, economic, social, and/ or political implications of the chosen topic through an environmental lens.   |
|   | Podcast segment should show the link between local and global events, issues, and/ or phenomena.   |
|   | Podcast segment should identify relevant and feasible solutions to the environmental issue(s) depicted full podcast.   |
| <b>Originality &amp; Independence</b>   | The podcast is original in subject and/ or scope. The student has picked a challenging and/ or creative topic or has depicted a topic in a different and /or creative way.   |
|   | The participant has engaged in fieldwork and conducted research and interviews (either in-person or over the phone) outside of their school grounds.   |
| <b>Dissemination</b>  | A total of 5 points may be awarded for dissemination through the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Sphere = 1 Point</li> <li>• School Community = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Operator Organization = 1 Point</li> <li>• National Media (Newspaper, TV, radio) = 2 Points</li> </ul> |
|   | Evidence of dissemination must be submitted with the video and published on Exposure below the video.  |
| <b>NOTES</b>  | <b>2024/2025: All national winning podcast segments submitted to FEE will each be awarded the Gosia Luszczyk International Podcasting Award.</b>   |



## Ethical Journalism & Plagiarism

Legal matters are especially important in today's media. It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules and regulations relating to media content (text, photos, and music) when you work on your submission. Any submissions that FEE finds to be of dubious legal standing will be ineligible to win the International Competition. If you have any doubts on this matter, please contact the National Operator in your country or YRE International head office.

Plagiarism, or using someone else's ideas, words, images, videos, and/ or music and representing it as your own original work, is a serious offense. Therefore, it is especially important that you properly cite any ideas, text or other media that are not your own. You can cite your sources using footnotes, credit rolls for videos, or a bibliography. There are several online sources where you can check your written work, such as articles, for plagiarism. As previously stated in the criteria, all photos, articles, and videos should be your own original work, and in the case of videos a minimum of 70 percent of the video should be your own video footage, images, etc. When reporting on issues and events, it is likely you will conduct additional research on your topic – and we encourage this! Just make sure that you can show where you found your information by citing it.

## *Use of Music for Video Entries*

It is illegal to copy or otherwise infringe upon the rights of copyright-protected music, photos, and text, without the written permission of the copyright rights-holder. Obtaining music licences to permit the use of copyright-protected material, even for a not-for-profit video, can be problematic. As such, it is strongly recommended that you do not use copyright protected music in a video entry.

Please note that many platforms currently review whether uploaded videos use copyright-protected work. Work found to be using copyright-protected material is usually detected by copyright bots and suspended from the platform. In some countries, infringement of copyright law is enforced, and punishable by hefty fines and a criminal record. Please be aware of your national copyright laws. TIP: Young Reporters might know some young musicians who can create their own original musical score.

As an alternative, you can resort to the **YouTube Audio Library**, which offers royalty-free tracks made available for any not-for-profit creative purpose, and do not require written permission from the rights-holder.

Music may also be published under an open content licensing scheme, such as the Creative Commons licence. There are still terms, conditions, and restrictions applicable for music taken from the above sources, so please ensure these are fully observed and there is no copyright infringement in your video entry.



## **Ethics for Visual Journalism**

The National Press Photographers Association is a professional society that promotes the highest standards in visual journalism. They have created a Code of Ethics that is very relevant for YRE students who report through photography and videography in particular: [Code of Ethics for Visual Journalists \(nppa.org\)](http://nppa.org)

## **Use of Images in Articles and Video**

When using images in articles or videos, it is important to ensure that they can legally be used and shared by others. [Open source](#) and [Creative Commons](#) licensed images may be used, if attribution and/ or the source is provided through footnotes or a bibliography.

## **Consent**

When conducting interviews or taking photographs of people, it is important to receive informed consent from your subject. Therefore, make sure to explain why you would like to interview or photograph them beforehand. You should explain what their interview or photo will be used for (National or International YRE Competition), and where you plan to share your final work.

## **DECLARATION OF CONSENT FOR PROCESSING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION AND USE OF VIDEO/ PHOTO/ ARTICLE SUBMITTED**

When signing up to this competition, you agree that we can process your personal data provided in the submission form and given to us during the competition. We process the data so that we can register your participation, judge the submission, save what you have submitted and publish your submission on the international level throughout the FEE network and its partners if you are chosen as a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner. Necessary permission, e. g., for photographing children's faces are the responsibility of the author and must, therefore, be sought. All 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be saved in our archives and used by the FEE network to promote the winners and the programme.

You always have the option to withdraw your consent and your submission to the competition.

The Data Controller is:  
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+45 70 22 24 27  
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