



## **Rules of contest**

### **SALVADOR DE MADARIAGA PRIZE FOR EUROPEAN JOURNALISM 2025**

**Ref.: COMM/MAD/2025/01**

#### **Preamble**

The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the "Salvador de Madariaga" Prize for European Journalism is organised by the Representation of the European Commission in Spain, in collaboration with the Association of European Journalists and the support of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Spain.

The aim of the 'Salvador de Madariaga' Prize is to recognise the work of media journalists in Spain who, in the five years preceding the date of publication of this call, have contributed – within one of the following three categories: written press, radio and television – to improve knowledge of European integration and European policies, taking into account the following criteria, which are set out in point 2 of these contest rules:

- The promotion of the European Union's fundamental values;
- The capacity to communicate clearly the EU's current situation, the challenges it faces internationally, its priorities and policies;
- The journalistic quality of the work;
- The impact of the work at national level and the audience reached.

The purpose of this prize is to encourage and promote journalistic creation and reflection on the process of European integration or on European policies.

### **ELIGIBILITY, EXCLUSION AND AWARD CRITERIA**

#### **1. PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS**

##### **1.1. General Admissibility Requirements**

- The entry can be submitted by a person either working for or representing journalist associations, media organisations, journalism faculties and schools, as well as experts in humanities and social sciences, whether employed or self-employed. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of third parties.
- Applications must be received no later than the deadline for submission of entries referred to in Section 3.
- Entries must be submitted in writing using the Contest Entry Form (Annex I), together with a sample of journalistic work justifying the proposal and a summary of the professional career/record of the proposed candidate.

- Each entry will have to specify the category (written press, radio or television) for which the participant is presented. A candidate may apply for one or more categories.
- Applications must be drafted in one of the official languages of Spain.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the rejection of the entry.

## **1.2. Specific Eligibility Criteria<sup>1</sup>**

### *1.2.1. Eligible candidates*

To be eligible for a prize, candidates must be able to demonstrate that they are a natural person.

Natural person(s) that have already received the Salvador de Madariaga prize in the past cannot receive a second prize and will be excluded from the competition.

### *1.2.2. Eligible works (articles or programmes)*

The journalistic work must fulfil the following four criteria:

- The article must have been published in written press (printed or digital form) or the programme must have been broadcasted on radio or television, in one of Spain's official languages. For the written press category, a minimum of 3 published articles must be submitted; for radio or television, 1 programme.
- The article or programme must have been published or broadcasted in the Spanish media during the last five years prior to the day of publication of this call.
- The article or programme must contribute to any of the objectives specified in the preamble.
- The article or programme must be publically available. Where the article or programme is not publicly available, upon request, the participants must be able to demonstrate that they are properly entitled to share the article(s)/programme(s), either because they are the owners of the copyright or because they have acquired the necessary authorisation from the relevant intellectual property right holder.

If the programme is the result of the work of a team, the Jury will take into account the importance of the work of the nominated person within the team and his or her influence on the work of the team.

If two or more entries/applications for one category propose the same candidate, they will all be assessed as one proposal.

A joint application may be submitted for the work of two authors. If the prize is awarded to that application, the amount of the prize shall be shared among the candidates in equal shares.

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<sup>1</sup> See Article 200 of [Regulation 2024/2509 on the financial rules](#), OJ L 26.9.2024.

### **1.3. Exclusion Criteria from prize award**

The winners of the prize must sign, before receiving it, a declaration on their honour (see annex II) certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 138 and 143 of the Financial Regulation<sup>2</sup>. Participants or nominators should check that the criteria are met before the submission of entries.

### **1.4. Sole liability of participants**

The Commission shall not be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by any of the participants, including any damage caused to third parties as a consequence of, or during the implementation of the activities related to the contest.

### **1.5. Publicity**

In order to guarantee the maximum transparency of the prize, the Representation of the European Commission and the Association of European Journalists, which participates in the organization of the "Salvador de Madariaga" prize, will publicise the present Rules of contest on their websites.

With the exception of scholarships paid to natural persons and other direct support paid to natural persons in most need, all information relating to prizes awarded in the course of a financial year is published on an internet site of the EU institutions no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> of June of the year following the financial year in which the prizes were awarded.

The Commission will publish the following information:

- name and surname of the beneficiary,
- region,
- subject of the prize,
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

### **1.6. Applicable law and competent jurisdiction**

The contest is governed by the applicable EU law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Spain. The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the EU, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the EU and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

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<sup>2</sup> See Articles 138 and 143 of [Regulation 2024/2509 on the financial rules](#), OJ L 26.9.2024.

## 1.7. Other provisions

The participants accept that, if they are awarded a prize, the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks and audits in relation to the contest and the received prize.

## 2. AWARD CRITERIA<sup>3</sup>

The Representation of the European Commission in agreement with the Association of European Journalists and the European Parliament Office in Spain will appoint a Jury consisting of a panel of at least three experts from media related fields and representatives of the EU Institutions.

Eligible candidates will be ranked by the Jury on the basis of the following criteria (total of 100 points):

- The promotion of the EU's fundamental values and notably: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men. The Jury will take account of the promotion of EU values by the proposed work(s) itself and also by the author as demonstrated by his/her body of other works (50 points).
- The candidate's profile, the potential of the work and the capacity of the candidate to clearly communicate the EU's current situation, the challenges it faces internationally, its priorities and policies. This criteria includes as well adherence to facts, depth of reporting, focus, fairness and balance (20 points).
- The journalistic quality of the work, including its creativity and expressiveness, and the rigour of the information reported. Attention will also be given to the candidate's record and reputation for his/her journalistic qualities, rigour of his/her works and professional ethics (15 points).
- The impact the work has at national level and the audience reached. Multiplier effect (audience or readers reached) shall be assessed on the basis of an estimate of the average circulation of the media in which the work was published or broadcast in its various formats (both physical and/or digital), taking into account the frequency of dissemination/ publication of the work (15 points).

In accordance to these criteria, the Jury will award one prize for each category –written press, radio and television– to the participant who receives the greatest number of points from the Jury.

The Jury may declare the prize null and void if none of the candidates reaches a minimum threshold of 60 points in total. In case of a tie, the President of the Jury will have the casting vote, which he/she is obliged to use.

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<sup>3</sup> See Articles 202 and 210 of [Regulation 2024/2509 on the financial rules](#), OJ L 26.9.2024.

### **3. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

Entries must be submitted in accordance with the formal requirements as stated under point 1.1 above and by the established deadline.

No modification to the entry is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects, or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the participant for this purpose during the evaluation process.

Participants will be informed in writing at their address about the results of the selection process.

The relevant documents for the "Salvador de Madariaga" prize 2025 and, in particular, the entry form, are available at:

[https://spain.representation.ec.europa.eu/noticias-eventos/noticias-0/convocatoria-xxxi-edicion-del-premio-de-periodismo-salvador-de-madariaga-2025-01-23\\_es](https://spain.representation.ec.europa.eu/noticias-eventos/noticias-0/convocatoria-xxxi-edicion-del-premio-de-periodismo-salvador-de-madariaga-2025-01-23_es)

Entries shall be submitted on the appropriate form, duly completed, dated and signed with a handwritten or electronic signature, in a sealed envelope, and submitted in 2 copies.

The deadline for submission of entries for any type of delivery is:

**24.2.2025**

**For hand deliveries: no later than 20:00, Madrid local time**

Entries must be sent by post or courier service or hand-delivered to the following address:

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN SPAIN**

**Press Department  
Paseo de la Castellana 46  
28046 Madrid, Spain**

**Ref.: "Salvador de Madariaga" Prize for European Journalism 2025  
COMM/MAD/2025/01**

- By post, the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be constituted by the postmark;
- By courier service, the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be constituted by the date of the deposit slip;
- For hand deliveries, a dated and signed receipt must be obtained as proof of submission.

**Entries sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.**

Contact details for this call:

Email: COMM-REP-ES-GRANTS@ec.europa.eu

#### **4. AMOUNT OF THE PRIZES AND MODALITIES OF PAYMENT**

The "Salvador de Madariaga" Prize for European Journalism consists of a financial award of EUR 15.000 for each of the following categories:

- Written Press
- Radio
- Television

Payment of prizes will be carried out in one instalment by bank transfer after notification to the winners and after receiving their declarations of honour, as well as duly completed legal entity and financial identification forms<sup>4</sup>. The payment will be made within 30 days after receipt of these forms.

The Commission has the right to decide not to award any prize if no participants meet the criteria set out in these "Rules of contest".

#### **5. TIMETABLE**

	<b>Stages</b>	<b>Date and time</b>
a)	Publication of the Rules of contest	23.1.2025
b)	Deadline for submission of entries	24.2.2025 (20:00)
c)	Evaluation period	March-April 2025 (indicative period)
d)	Information to participants	May 2025 (indicative period)

#### **6. DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Submission to any prize involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the Rules of contest will be processed solely for that purpose by the Representation. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available on the privacy statement at: [Data Protection Officer - European Commission](#)

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<sup>4</sup> The forms may be downloaded at the following links:  
[Legal entities - European Commission](#)  
[Financial identification - European Commission](#)

Once the Commission has opened the application, the documents shall become the property of the Commission and they shall be treated confidentially. Members of the Jury will have full access to the files. Under no circumstance shall any documents received be returned.

## **7. ANNEXES**

- Annex I. Contest Entry Form.
- Annex II. Declaration on honour (*to be submitted if awarded*).