

General rules for the European stage of the European Statistics Competition (ESC) 2026

1. Registration

The European stage of the European Statistics Competition (ESC) 2026 is open to teams that were winners or finalists in their national ESC stage and nominated by their country to participate in the European stage.

There are two categories of participation: A and B. As a reference, category A comprises students in the final two years of secondary education (students aged approx. 16-18) and category B includes all other students in secondary education (students aged approx. 14-16 years). All students of the team must be from the same school and category.

Each country may nominate up to **two** teams per category to participate in the European stage.

The national organizers of each country handle registration for the European stage.

2. Assignment

Participating teams must **create a video** in which they will have to select, present and reference official statistics to support their message on a given topic.

The **topic** of the video will be published in December 2025.

There is no limitation in the **format** of the video.

The **audio** of the video can be in English or **any national language**.

The language used in the audio is not considered when assessing the videos, so it is highly advisable teams prepare their videos in a language they feel comfortable with.

For accessibility reasons, in any case, the use of **subtitles in English** is mandatory.

Any written text in the video must be in English.

Videos should not exceed a total **length** of **2:10 minutes**, distributed as **2:00 minutes maximum of content + 10 seconds maximum of sources**.

Along with the videos, participants must also submit a **“making-of” pdf document in English**, explaining the creation process of the video, including the users they would like to reach, the techniques used (and the reasons to use them), the decision making process, etc. Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be properly disclosed.

Participating teams will receive a template to be followed for the pdf document as well as a guide containing instructions on how to elaborate the pdf accompanying the video. The pdf document must contain a maximum of two pages of content plus one page of sources. Longer pdf documents will be penalized during the evaluation process.

Teams must include **references for all data sources and other materials used in their video (such as music, images, etc.)**, both at the end of the video and in the accompanying pdf document.

In the video, references can be summarized at the end, including a final screen showing all general sources used across the video.

In the pdf document, references must be presented in full detail, following the rules provided in the guide accompanying the pdf template. The use of Artificial Intelligence is allowed but the teams must always be aware of potential violation of intellectual property rights: a disclaimer must always be added indicating that the content/image/video/etc. has been created using AI.

In addition, each graph/figure in the video must mention the data source.

Teams should deliver **one final compressed file** (7z, zip, etc.) containing the video and the pdf document through an online platform. A detailed guide will be provided with instructions on how to compress files.

The online platform will be made available for the teams at <https://www.statscompetition.eu/>

3. Evaluation Criteria

When evaluating the selected videos, the jury of the European stage of the ESC will take into account:

- The style and creativity of the video
- The clarity of the message of the video and the effectiveness of the video to get its message across
- The selection, use and presentation of appropriate statistical data to support the message
- The “making-of” pdf document
- Proper referencing of data sources, proper disclosure of AI use, and proper crediting of other materials used (music, images, etc.) at the end of the video and in the pdf document itself.

4. Awards

The jury will select and rank five finalists per category (1st to 5th).

Each member and the tutor of the two winning teams of the European stage (categories A and B) will receive the following prizes:

- A gift card (400€)

- A set of promotional material from Eurostat
- A winner diploma
- A trophy

Trophies are also awarded to second and third place teams.

All finalists receive custom diplomas mentioning the place they obtained. Other participants receive diplomas of participation.

The award ceremony may be virtual or in-person. The arrangements will be announced at a later stage.

In case of an in-person award ceremony, the expenses of the trip and the accommodation, for the tutors and the students of the two winning teams, will be covered by the organizers of the ESC.

For students under 18 in the winning team at the time of the trip to the ceremony, the tutor must act as an approved guardian of the minors of her / his team and will take full responsibility of the minor students during the trip and the stay in the place of the award ceremony.

The award ceremony may be live-streamed and the recording of the ceremony may be published.

In case there are two or more winning teams with the same tutor, the latter will only receive one prize.

5. Calendar

Each country will set and communicate the calendar for the European stage.

Final deadline to submit the videos: **6 May 2026**.

Announcement of winning teams: 5 June 2026.

Award ceremony: date and location to be announced later.

6. Publication of videos

The awarded videos will be announced on <https://www.statscompetition.eu/>. By their participation in the European stage of the ESC the participants consent to publication of their names and videos. They may at any time revoke their consent to the processing of their personal data derived from their participation in this contest, without prejudice to any other right that assists them, in accordance with the applicable law.

Videos must not infringe any third party copyright or trademark, or violate the rights of any person or entity. Teams need to be sure to only use content in their video that they are authorised to use, including, without limitation, music,

images, film clips and other intellectual property. Organizers might ask teams at a later stage for clarifications concerning copyright issues.

The inclusion of advertising or promotion of companies or products in the videos is not accepted. The appearance of watermarks as a result of the use of free software to create the video is not considered advertising or promotion.

For minors who appear in the video, the team must send to the organization of the ESC, along with the video and the pdf document, authorizations to appear in the film signed by the legal guardian of each minor. Lack of authorizations will disqualify the video. Teams can ask the organization in their countries to provide them with an authorization form.

Teams must sign a video license agreement in order to allow Eurostat to use the videos in the winners' announcements and other ESC promotion activities.

All the materials presented at the European stage of the ESC may be published by the European Statistical System (ESS).

It is important to note that the winner and finalist videos in the European Statistics Competition are produced by secondary school students in the context of a school contest. Minor inaccuracies in the use of data cannot be excluded.

7. Reservation of rights

The organization of the European stage of the ESC reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of the European stage of the ESC, in particular the dates announced in the calendar, or even its possible cancellation, when there is a justified cause. Any changes will be announced at <https://www.statscompetition.eu/>

8. Acceptance of the rules of the European stage of the ESC

Participation in the European stage of the European Statistics Competition (ESC) assumes the acceptance of the above-mentioned rules.