

INVIGORATEU

CONTEST



SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS ON
THE FUTURE OF
EUROPE!

DEADLINE: 24 JULY 2026





CONTEXT

WHAT FUTURE FOR THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT?

The map of the European Union is **changing**. Countries that once stood outside the EU are **now at its doorstep**, and the decisions made in the coming years will **shape the continent for generations**.

Yet, in some states, enlargement is framed as a charity, a risk, a burden, and that is the version being handed to people by those who **benefit from keeping the EU small and divided**. In others, it is not even a discussion point.

Either way, the average citizen is left with the same question: why should I want this, and what's in it for me?

TEPSA's contest **"What future for the European continent?"** is an invitation to change that. **Whatever your background, wherever you are from, if you have a vision for what Europe could become, we want to hear it.**



CONTEST

We welcome submissions in three categories:

WRITTEN ESSAYS

Original written essays (maximum 2000 words) should respond to **one** of the three guiding questions:



How can a wider European Union contribute to Europe's security and resilience?



How can enlargement help build a more competitive and self-sufficient European continent?



How can enlargement create tangible benefits for everyday citizens in both current and future Member States?

POETRY

Original poems should explore, **in your own voice, what a wider European Union could mean** for Europe's security, competitiveness, or its citizens.

Poems should not exceed 500 words, reflecting the author's own ideas and creativity.



CONTEST

AUDIOVISUAL

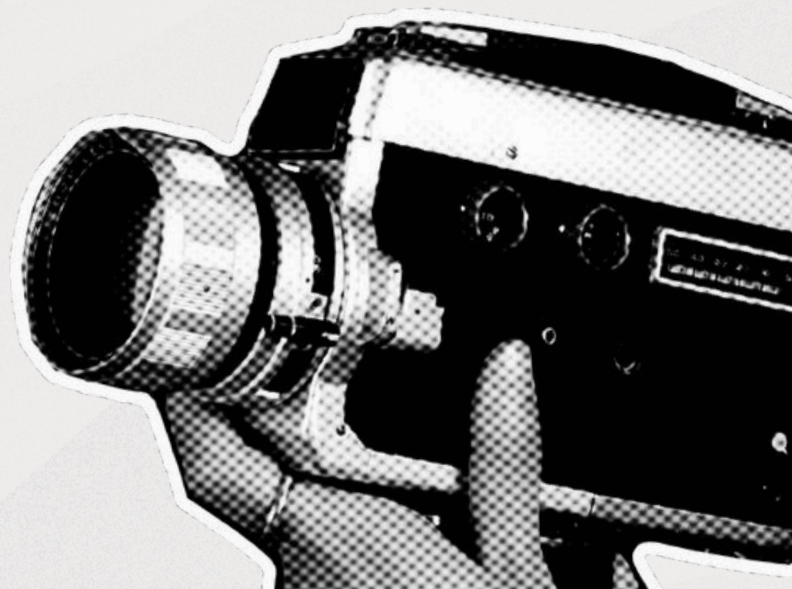
Original audiovisual pieces should be up to 2 minutes in length.

We welcome **all formats** (e.g. interviews, vlogs, animation, or other creative video formats), and submissions **can be recorded with any equipment** you have.

You may appear in the video yourself, feature other participants, or rely entirely on visuals, narration, or animation.

Videos should be submitted as a video file or via a downloadable link.

Your submission should engage with the theme of Europe's future and/or EU enlargement.



KEY INFO

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The contest is open to:



Students, young professionals, and anyone interested in the future of Europe and EU enlargement



Aged **18 or over**



All nationalities and residences are welcome to participate

HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?



Send your submission to:
communications@tepsa.eu



Subject line: "**InvigoratEU public contest_LAST NAME**"



Deadline: **24 July 2026**



For any questions, don't hesitate to reach out!

PRIZES



Win a trip to Brussels! Three winners of the contest will be invited to the **InvigoratEU final conference** on 4-5 November 2026, taking place in Brussels.



Travel and accommodation will be covered **up to €500**

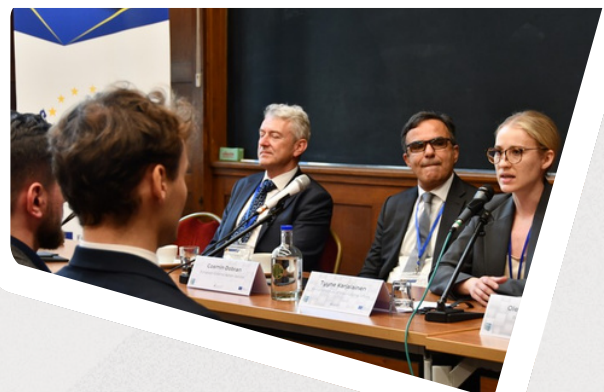


You will be invited to present your work in front of leading researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners **within the field of EU enlargement**. The winning submissions will be promoted by TEPSA online and during the Final Conference.



BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION

SEND US YOUR CONTRIBUTION NOW!



About InvigoratEU



How can the EU invigorate its enlargement and neighbourhood policy to enhance Europe's resilience?

Funded by Horizon Europe and led by the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Institut für Europäische Politik, InvigoratEU is on a mission to redefine how the EU engages with its Eastern neighbours and the Western Balkans. Through cutting-edge research and actionable policy recommendations, we're crafting a resilient Europe ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.

Our mission is to analyse EU enlargement strategies; leverage forward-thinking research to anticipate and address future challenges; and make an impact by providing operational recommendations for policymakers that will drive real-world change.

Find out more on the InvigoratEU website: <https://invigorat.eu/>

About TEPSA



The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first transnational research network in the field of EU affairs. It comprises leading research institutes throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. Its aim is to provide high-quality research on European integration to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe.

This is achieved by the interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community. TEPSA is active on a wide range of research topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.