



# JOIN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

**NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US -  
A SHOT TOWARDS THE FUTURE**

[YOUTH-AL@OSCE.ORG](mailto:YOUTH-AL@OSCE.ORG)

APPLY  
UNTIL 01  
APRIL

**20  
22**

# BACKGROUND

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Young people play a vital role in contributing to secure and peaceful societies. At OSCE, in line with our Framework to Strengthen our Efforts on Youth and Security and in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2250, we seek to promote the potential of youth as positive agents for peacebuilding, security, and democratization.

Trust between government and society is a critical aspect of social cohesion and peace. However, across the Western Balkans, young people show relatively low levels of trust in their governments, decision-makers, parliaments, judiciary, police, or media.[1] A consolidated democracy has proven to have a positive impact on safety, security, and social cohesion[2] while providing enabling mechanisms for citizens to participate in decision-making and influence policy outcomes.

Young people across the Western Balkan want to improve the societies in which they live, but do not always feel the agency to influence change. Although young people in the region, including Albania, show interest and recognize their role in influencing policy-making processes, holding public institutions accountable, shaping cultural norms and practices while complementing the government's delivery of goods and services, only 19.5% of youth actively participate in civic activities.[3].

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[1] UNDP, UNFPA, RYCO (2021). Shared Futures: Youth Perceptions on Peace in the Western Balkans

[2] Social cohesion is the capacity of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, minimizing disparities and avoiding marginalization. <https://www.coe.int/t/dg3/> (Report of the High-Level Task Force on Social Cohesion in the 21st century)

[3] UNDP, UNFPA, RYCO (2021). Shared Futures: Youth Perceptions on Peace in the Western Balkans

Freedom of speech and tolerance are basic human rights and prerequisites for democracy and citizens to live in peace, be safe and participate freely in the political, civic, and cultural life of the community. Studies show that the potential for self-expression is a strong predictor of a society's readiness to function as an effective democracy[4]. Art and culture are expressions that build society; through artistic creation and cultural expressions we raise the awareness of society on concerns and challenges of young people, providing young citizens a space and way to express those in creative ways. Therefore, we use art as a medium to create shared experiences of Albanian youth to convey important messages and raise awareness about matters that concern them the most.

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[4] <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/insight-articles/cultural-evolution-democracy>

Through the photography contest 'NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US: A SHOT TOWARDS THE FUTURE' we aim to encourage young people in Albania to capture various aspects and current practices of democratic participation and active citizenship that are promising and motivate, inspire them to influence policy outcomes and bring a change to their communities. The goal is to promote the role and the inclusion of youth in promoting democratic values through an artistic lens.

From promoting the works of young photographers, amateurs, students, and activists to aspiring visual arts and creative processes, our mission is to provide a platform for Albanian youth to display their work and convey to the whole society **their message, ideas, opinions, or concerns related to democratic participation and active citizenship.**

The Photography Contest is organized in the framework of the project "Youth in Focus II: Promoting the Role of Youth in Peace and Security in Albania" – a project funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Embassy of Greece in Albania, and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE.

## **Theme**

Youth and Democratic Participation

## **Prizes**

1st prize – Apple iPhone 13 Pro

2nd prize – Action Camera: GoPro HERO10

3rd prize – Instant Camera: Fujifilm Instax Mini 11 Instant Camera

## **Eligibility**

The photography contest is open to those aged between 15 to 29 and residing in Albania. Entries are open to professionals, amateurs, student photographers and activists at country level. The competition is open to all forms of photography taken since 1 January 2020. Entries must not glorify acts of violence, forms of abuse or celebrate the suffering or humiliation of others. Timely submission of an entry meeting the eligibility requirements as stated herein ensures that an entrant's work will be reviewed and considered for recognition.

## **Technical requirements**

The contest is open for submissions from **15 March to 1 April 2022**. Both color and black and white photos will be accepted. Participants can enter up to three photos of which only one can be awarded. The photographs to be submitted in the competition must be in high-resolution for printing and display. Contest photographs must be saved in the jpg/jpeg format, 150-300 dpi and 7-12 compression quality, with a short edge of minimum 1920 pixels and a long edge of maximum 3200 pixels, and the size of the files should not be less than 2 Mb and more than 4 Mb. Mobile photographs are exempt from this size requirement, but must be submitted at their highest resolution.

Participants must submit their photos via email at [youth-al@osce.org](mailto:youth-al@osce.org), including the following information: full name, phone number, date of birth and title of the photo/s in English or Albanian. For each of the submitted photo, indicate the title of each of the photos. Subject of the email should be “NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US”. Entries that do not include the above information will be deemed invalid and excluded from the competition.

In the case the size of the files is above the limit the participants can send via email, the participants can upload the photographs via Wetransfer and send the link through their own email address (not directly from Wetransfer), including full name, phone number, date of birth and title of the photo/s.

### **Selection and awards**

A three-judge panel will be appointed by the OSCE Presence in Albania to assess the entries and select three winning photos. The assessment for each of the photos will be based on the following pillars: creativity, inspiration, originality and reliability.

An award ceremony and an exhibition of the selected photos will be held following the competition during the 'Peace Week' organized by UNAA (United Nations Association Albania) between 26-30 April 2022. The dates of the exhibition will be announced at the closure of the competition. All results will be published at the website of the OSCE Presence: [www.osce.org/albania](http://www.osce.org/albania).

The prizes will be made available to the winners within two months from the awarding ceremony day, following the OSCE rules and regulations and upon successful completion of all the internal procedures for handover of the awards.

If an entrant's submission receives an award, the manner and details of announcing such nomination and award is strictly within the discretion of the OSCE Presence in Albania. The Entrant understands that any or all awards may not be given or publicized in the same manner or form.

### **Copyrights and usage rights[5]**

By entering the competition, you agree and acknowledge that the OSCE Presence in Albania is permitted to receive and utilize the required personal information and registration data.

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[5] The separate disclaimer of copyrights and usage rights for the MUSE Photography Awards is available here: <https://photocontestdeadlines.com/photo-contest-list/muse-photography-awards-2022/>

The OSCE Presence in Albania assumes all entries are original and the entrant either owns the submission or has permission from a client or other appropriate party to enter the work, with all rights granted therein. Accordingly, upon submission the entrant certifies and warrants that the submitted photo(s) do not violate the rights or copyright of any third parties. In the event that an entrant without such rights submits an entry, the entrant will not be eligible for the competition. The OSCE in Albania is not liable for any copyright infringement on the part of the entrant. Photos containing images of individuals under the age of 18 require the written consent of their parents. For photos taken in public spaces and places prior permission/consent from the people displayed in the photo is not required, unless the photos are being used in such a way it invades their privacy.

Through the submission of any photo entry, participants agree to grant the OSCE Presence in Albania the right to utilize it free of charge in any manner and media, including, without limitation, the right to publish, adapt, distribute, copy, display or translate in printed or electronic media even if they are not the winning entries. Work entered into the competition can waive this right upon the submission of a written request from the entrant and written acceptance of the OSCE Presence in Albania. Copyright and all other rights remain that of the entrant.