



## Essay-writing competition for students of military secondary schools in the EU

### RULES OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION

The ESDC European Union Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSSF) invites students from military secondary schools across the EU and associated members to participate in an essay competition. The EUMSSF has launched the essay-writing contest to encourage students to share their views on the following topics:

1. The future European Union – what would you like it to be (what are your own goals and dreams for the EU?)?
2. How can European citizens strengthen the democratic image of the EU? Do you believe that the European Parliament should take on more responsibilities in order to exercise the mandate given to it by the citizens of the EU?
3. The future of the European Union and the role of the active citizen in shaping it.
4. The Europe of today – what is not working and what is not being communicated well?
5. What does a united Europe mean to you?
6. What I wish to be taught about the EU and how.

### Participants

The essay competition is open to students (in the penultimate year of school) from military secondary schools across the EU and associated members.

### Essay requirements

- Essays must be written in English.
- Essays must be a minimum of 750 words and a maximum of 1 000 words.
- Essays must be typed in Word and also sent as a pdf.
- Essays must not have been previously published or considered for publication.
- Students must write the essay themselves with no assistance.
- Each student may only submit one essay.

- Essays must be accompanied by a cover page indicating the student's full name, age, contact details and school class, and the name and address of the school.

### **Evaluation criteria**

- Introduction to the topic (10%)
- Clear elaboration on the topic (15%)
- Clarity/robustness of the argument (15%)
- Writing style, including language & grammar (30%) - main points, sub-points, elaboration on sub-points
- Concise and clear conclusion (15%)
- Originality (15%)

### **Selection process/awards**

#### **The essays will be evaluated in three stages**

#### **I. First stage (school level)**

The principal or an authorised representative of the institution will:

- 1) announce the essay competition to the students;
- 2) explain the rules of the essay competition to the students;
- 3) collect the essays **by Friday 20 November 2020**;
- 4) select the essays based on the above selection criteria;
- 5) submit the three best essays to the ESDC/EUMSSF secretariat by **Friday 18 December 2020**; essays that are not submitted to the ESDC by this date will not be considered.

The three best essays submitted by the school to the ESDC should bear the school's stamp and the signature of the principal or an authorised representative of the school at the end of each essay as confirmation that the writer is a student of the school in the class indicated and that the essay is the entrant's original, unaided work.

#### **Second stage (EU level)**

A jury comprised of EUMSSF representatives and representatives of the broader ESDC network will evaluate the submitted essays, and select and rank three winners by **Monday 1 February 2021**.

The three winners of the EU-level competition will receive trophies, in-kind awards and certificates at a special ceremony to be held in May 2021. The ESDC will cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

In addition, the best essays will be published by the EUMSSF in a booklet and/or on online communication platforms with the names of the respective writers.

### **Other provisions**

- Submission of an essay and/or participation in the organisation of the competition/jury implies acceptance of the conditions of the competition.
- The results of the competition may not be appealed. The jury's decisions will be final.
- Each participating institution shall also provide two evaluators in order to evaluate the essays at the second stage (EU level).
- The ESDC/EUMSSF will keep all essays submitted to it by the relevant schools.
- The ESDC/EUMSSF will retain the copyright for the winning essays and may publish them.
- The ESDC/EUMSSF may amend the timeline for essay submissions and the selection process.
- The ESDC/EUMSSF bears no responsibility in the event that the competition must be modified or cancelled.

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