

YPEF VIII edition rules

YPEF 2017/2018

International Contest "Young People in European Forests"

Rules of the Contest

Participants

1. The Contest is open to young people from European countries in the age group determined by the National Commissions, but not less than 15 and not more than 19 years at the beginning of the school year 2017/2018.
2. Participants take part in teams of three. All participants are expected to speak English.

Contest Commissions

3. Each organization participating in the YPEF contest 2017/2018 may be represented in the YPEF International Commission.
4. The YPEF International Commission and YPEF National Commissions will supervise the course of the contest directly.
5. The YPEF International Commission may, if necessary, make changes in its composition.
6. YPEF National Commissions may, if necessary, make changes in their compositions.
7. Participants of the former YPEF European (Final) stage may support the work of the YPEF International Commission in the field of promotional and organizational activities concerning the YPEF contest.
8. Participants of the former YPEF national stages may support the work of the YPEF National Commission of their own country in the field of promotional and organizational activities concerning the YPEF contest's national stages.

Goals

9. Important basic goals of the YPEF Contest are:
 - Development of youth activity and integration by education;
 - Promotion of young people's knowledge about forests and forestry in Europe;
 - Familiarizing young people with the concepts of forest and the various relationships between biotic and abiotic components;
 - Promotion of understanding of the value of forest ecosystems in different European countries;
 - Raising the awareness about sustainable management of ecosystems among young people .

10. The teams get the necessary knowledge by themselves (non-formal education), share this knowledge and present results to their colleagues participating in the contest during preparations for national stages and during the European Final. The course and organization of the workshop during the final stage will train the participants to cooperate and discuss the problems of nature and environment above state borders and barriers as well.

Stage 1 – National

11. The national organizations represented in the YPEF International Commission from a given country will be jointly responsible for the organization of the National Stage Contest.
12. National stages are based on:
- The official YPEF booklet – published on www.ypef.eu website – that refers to the nature, forests and forestry of the countries participating and Europe.
 - Other additional materials – digital (online) or analogue publications – about the nature, forests and forestry of the country organizing the national stage provided of the YPEF National Commission and made available to the participants as standard learning material.
 - Multiple choice questions, designed to test for general knowledge on forests and environmental issues. For each question four answers are prepared and there is only one correct solution. The YPEF National Commission independently prepares the list of national stage questions. Each team of participants in the national stage of one country shall answer the same list of questions.
 - The National Commission may supplement the questions by other activities: e.g.
 - Multimedia presentations (.ppt, .pptx, .pdf) or posters prepared by teams of participants. Topic of the presentation is the same for all the teams and concerns the European forests and forestry
 - An outdoor team parcours with several different activity places in the forest, where the teams have to solve tasks related to forestry.
13. The YPEF National Commission independently prepares the list of YPEF national stage tasks that can be different in different phases of national stage.
14. The National Commission may prepare new questions for the National Stage test. The new questions must correspond with the text of the official YPEF booklet or additional materials provided by the YPEF International Commission or the YPEF National Commission and made available to the participants as standard learning material.
15. Participation in the Contest is voluntary and does not need to cover all the members of an institution. (e.g. school, youth club, etc.)
16. The YPEF National Commission of each country may organize a national final. However, this is not mandatory. The National Commission qualifies the best teams to the national final (if there is one organized). The criteria of promotion to the national final as well as the number of teams/finalists are up to the decision of the YPEF National Commission.
17. The National Stage Contest will be held in each country on a convenient day between the 1st of December 2017 and the 1 th of August 2018.

18. In case it is necessary, a run-off contest may be organized to select the winning team of a national final. YPEF National Commission will appoint the place and time for the run-off. The list of test questions for the run-off will be selected by the YPEF National Commission.
19. The team with the highest total score in the National Stage will be invited to represent their country at the European (Final) Stage.
20. The detailed rules of the National Stage Contests will be established by the YPEF National Commission in each country.
21. The International Commission may accept national forest contests organized in a different way as an YPEF national stage.

Stage 2 – European Final

22. The national teams from all countries meet in the host country - Lithuania.
23. The participants of the European Final Stage Contest are expected to represent the knowledge and promotion of the nature of their home countries.
24. After the national final the YPEF National Commission sends the names and e-mail addresses of the winning team members to the YPEF Office and to the host country.
25. The participants of the international final have the opportunity to contact with each other and get additional information via e-mail list and/or in special FaceBook group.
26. From the participants international teams will be arranged on the day of the arrival in the host country. These international teams are selected by drawing. The teams consist of three members; each member of the team has to be from a different country. These international teams will do parts of the European Contest.
27. In the European Contest the following tasks are to be solved:
 - Task 1.: Test consisting of at least 40 multiple choice questions. The questions will be selected by the YPEF National Commission of the host country and remain confidential to anyone else until the final test taking place. The questions are based on the official YPEF booklet – available on www.ypef.eu website – that refers to the nature, forests and forestry of the countries participating and Europe as a whole.
Task 1. is to be solved by the national teams on the spot of the international final.
 - Task 2.: Outdoor activities with several different activity places in the forest. The tasks to be solved are relating to forestry. The essence of the tasks is presented by the host country at least one week earlier than the International final. Written aids to the tasks which may be required should be provided to the participants in English.
Task 2. is to be solved by the international teams on the spot of the international final.
 - Task 3.: Preparation and giving a scientific PowerPoint presentation (max. 10 minutes) on a special topic:

“Forest harvesting in the team’s country” (Positive and negative aspects. Current trends.)

Task 3. is to be solved by the national teams. Presentation is to be made in advance at home and presented on the spot of the international final.

The teams have to send their presentation to the IC one week before the European stage. During the European stage, after the presentation, 1-3 questions will be posed to the teams (3-5 minutes).

28. The evaluation will be based on the following rules:

- The points to be obtained are as follows:
 - 50 points can be scored for the paper test
 - 50 points can be scored for the presentation
 - 100 points can be scored for the outdoor activities
- The presentation is evaluated by both the YPEF International Commission (weight of 75% of the marks) and the national teams of the European final stage (weight of 25% of the marks). The following criteria are to be used:
 - content (understanding of the topic, personal statement, explanation of the topic, relevance of information)
 - creativity (structure, illustration)
 - delivery of the presentation (audibility, speed, contribution by all group members)

29. The winners of the YPEF European Final Contest 2018 are

- the national team which gets the highest total score from the test and the presentation, (In case two or more teams get the same total number of points, the score from the presentation shall decide about the winner.)
- the international team which gets the highest total score from the outdoor activities.

30. The national teams are invited to give a presentations (the style of the performance is free) about a *forest-related folks customs in their country*.

31. The host country for the YPEF European Final Contest 2018 is Lithuania. The Final Contest will take place at the end of September or beginning of October 2018.

Support

32. National Stages and the European Final may be supported (in financial or participation form) by other institutions from a given country.