

IAI Prize - 2019 Edition

Young Talents for Italy, Europe and the World

Democracy in Europe: On the edge of a precipice or a New Beginning?

Essay Competition Announcement and Rules

The Istituto Affari Internazionali announces the second edition of the “IAI Prize”.

The topic selected for this edition of the essay competition is *“Democracy in Europe: On the edge of a precipice or a New Beginning?”*.

We kicked off our flagship initiative last year, concentrating on the relaunch of the European project. As the Institute founded by Altiero Spinelli it was an apt choice. Europe is and remains at the heart of our concerns this year, as we head towards crucial European elections. But precisely because of these, and more broadly because of the key dilemmas facing democracies in Europe and beyond, we have chosen to focus on democracy, and more precisely on the nexus between our democratic systems and the digital age. Digitalization has greatly expanded opportunities for political mobilization and participation. Yet it has also exacerbated political polarization, the simplification of political messages and the attack on expertise, presenting fundamental challenges to our open societies. How can liberal democracies survive and thrive in the digital age? Not only is this an existential question for younger generations, but it is also one that young women and men are fittest to answer.

Who can participate

The competition is open to:

- **Students of all universities** located on Italian territory, **and** those who **graduated** not more than a year ago, with birthdates from 1993 onward; or Italian students enrolled in degree programs abroad (EU)
- **High school students:** students of the last two years of Italian high school (4th and 5th years). For underage students, parental authorization is required (attached form)

Participants may choose to respond to one of the following questions:

- **University students or recent graduates:**
 - What is the relationship between direct democracy and representative democracy?
 - What impact do digital technologies and social media have on democracy today?
 - What impact do authoritarianism and the strongman appeal have on Italy and the rest of Europe?
 - How to ensure that digital technologies contribute to strengthening our European democracies?

- **High school students:**

- How can digital technologies best be used in the service of democracy?

How to participate

By submitting an unpublished essay on the chosen topic. The essay must be between 1000 and 1500 words, excluding notes and bibliography. It must be submitted in both Word and PDF formats, and may contain images and/or graphics. The author's name must not appear on the essay.

The essay files must be submitted with the completed Registration Form (below) and, in the case of underage participants, a signed Parental Authorization Form (below).

A video clip addressing the competition's question is welcome (*see: instructions**).

Languages accepted: Italian and English.

Essays must be submitted premio@iai.it **no later than 12:00 midnight of 2 June 2019.**

Selection of winners

Essays will be reviewed by a committee of judges made up of international policy and relations experts and chaired by the IAI Director. The committee will select six finalists for each of the two categories (university students/recent graduates and high school students). Three winners will then be selected for each category.

The IAI Director's decision on the winners is final.

The finalists will be notified in writing and their names published on the Institute's website and various social media platforms. The finalists will have to produce evidence of having the previously indicated requirements (see § "Who can participate").

The prize

The top three essays selected by the jury from each category of short-listed participants will be published in one of IAI's publication series. The authors will be invited to discuss their work with prominent figures during a public event organized by the Institute in autumn.

The author of the first prize essay of the university students category will be given the opportunity to undertake a 3-month paid internship at the Institute.

The 1st prize winner in the category of "High School Students" will be awarded a check for €400.00 and free admission to one of the IAI training courses upon reaching the age of 18.

All the finalists, including the winners, will be able to publish an extract of their essays (900 words, in Italian) in the Institute's online magazine *AffarInternazionali*.

All finalists in each category will be issued a certificate of merit.

Certificates will be issued to the institutions attended by the high school students.

Additional prizes and acknowledgements may be made available by external organizations and sponsors.

Release

By participating in this competition, all authors authorize the total or partial publication of their essays and their citation in the Institute's various publications, and give their consent to be photographed or filmed during award events organized by IAI.

Participation in the essay competition implies acceptance of these rules, and anything not expressly established by the rules will be subject to the jury's final decision.

The above rules are subject to possible variation: In the case of eventual unforeseen circumstances, the Institute may make changes or additions in the interests of upholding the quality of the Prize, while nevertheless maintaining the spirit of its aims.

In accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679, the organizing secretariat declares that treatment of the personal data of all participants will be solely for the purposes of conducting this competition.

**Video-clip instructions:*

An amateur video-clip can be shot using a smartphone or tablet (video quality will not be a criterion in judging the essay).

The video must:

- address the competition question (Democracy in Europe: On the edge of a precipice or a New Beginning?)
- be 40 seconds -1 minute in length
- have a landscape setting.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name and surname _____

University/High School

City _____

Living address
_____ Tel. _____

Email _____

Teacher (only for high school students)
_____ Tel. _____ Email _____

In accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 – General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), I declare that I have been informed of the means and purposes of processing the personal data I have provided in the present document, and I authorize their storage in the organizers' databases.

I hereby declare that I have read and accept the "Young Talents for Italy, Europe and the World" competition rules.

Date _____ Signature _____

PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

The undersigned.....

Born in (date)

Residing at (address)..... (zip code),

Telephone n°..... e-mail.....

having full and complete custody of:

..... who is.....years old

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that:

- I have read the IAI Prize 2019 “Young Talents for Italy, Europe and the World” competition announcement and accept the stated terms and conditions, and
- **Grant my son/daughter permission to participate in the IAI Prize 2019 “Young Talents for Italy, Europe and the World”.**

Place and Date

.....

Parent Signature

.....

IN THE CASE OF VIDEOS OR IMAGES DEPICTING YOUR SON/DAUGHTER**I consent to the use, free of charge, of the images of son/daughter**

..... who is..... years old,

in contexts that do not compromise his/her dignity.

Place and Date

.....

Parent Signature

.....

Declaration in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 – General Regulation on Data Protection (GRDP)

The data herein collected in paper or digital form will be handled by the administration itself in a legal and discreet manner in the interest of protecting their owners' privacy and for the exclusive purpose of conducting the IAI Prize 2019 “Young Talents for Italy, Europe and the World”. All data requested on the form are obligatory. In accordance with article 15 of the GRDP, all persons providing data are ensured their right to update, correct or supplement their data, and to cancel or impede their use in the case of violation of the law. The Data Controller is the Istituito Affari Internazionali – via Angelo Brunetti - Rome.