



REGULATIONS

EUREMAP 2026 International Storytelling Contest

“Hidden in the Blue: Stories of Marine
Bioprospecting”

Legal Disclaimer



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1. Background	2
2. Objectives	2
3. Recipients and Eligibility	3
4. Category and Theme	3
5. Format and Characteristics of Work	4
6. Submission Process	5
7. Evaluation Criteria	5
8. Jury	6
9. Awards and Incentives	6
10. Contest Schedule	6
11. Terms of Use	6
12. Data Protection	7
13. Translation and National Adaptation	7
14. Final Provisions	7

1. Background

The EUREMAP 2026 International Storytelling Contest is organized by CCMAR – Centro de Ciências do Mar do Algarve - in partnership with the members of the EUREMAP (European Research Infrastructures for Marine Bioprospecting) consortium, as part of the project’s outreach and communication activities, funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe framework program.

The competition is part of EUREMAP's science communication strategy, which aims to bring marine research closer to society by raising awareness among young Europeans about the potential of marine bioprospecting to discover innovative solutions to challenges in the fields of health, food, agriculture, aquaculture, and sustainability.

The initiative also aims to highlight the role of European Research Infrastructures (RIs) in marine bioprospecting research and to encourage science communication through creative, rigorous, and accessible formats for the general public, thereby contributing to European goals of scientific literacy and active citizenship regarding the oceans.

2. Objectives

The contest aims to:

- Raise awareness among students and the school community about the potential of marine bioprospecting in discovering innovative solutions to societal challenges in the areas of health, food, agriculture, aquaculture, and sustainability;
- Promote literacy regarding marine biodiversity and the importance of its conservation and sustainable use;
- To highlight the role of European Research Infrastructures (RIs) in marine bioprospecting research and in transforming scientific knowledge into innovation;
- To promote digital storytelling and science communication skills, encouraging the use of clear, accurate, and accessible language;
- Stimulate critical thinking about science's contribution to contemporary global challenges;
- Encourage young people's active participation in science communication and in valuing the ocean as a source of knowledge and innovation;
- Strengthen the connection between schools, researchers, and scientific institutions partnering with the EUREMAP consortium, within a framework of European cooperation.

3. Recipients and Eligibility

Students between the ages of 15 and 18 as of the application submission date may participate if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Enrolled in high school;
- Enrolled in vocational education or its equivalent; or
- Homeschooled, provided that this is in accordance with the applicable laws in the participant's country of residence.

Participation is open to students residing in European countries.

Participation may be:

- Individual; or
- In a group of up to 5 members.
- Each participant or group may submit only one video.

Applications from participants enrolled in an educational institution must be submitted through a designated teacher from that institution, who will serve as the point of contact with the national organizing body of the contest.

Applications from homeschooled participants must be submitted through the responsible parent, who will act as the person in charge of the application and as the point of contact with the contest's national organizing body.

Groups of participants must consist exclusively of students from the same educational institution or, in the case of homeschooled participants, exclusively of students enrolled in that educational modality. Groups combining participants from different institutions are not permitted.

4. Category and Theme

The contest is held in a single category, common to all participating countries, with no distinction by age group or type of education for students aged 15–18.

The theme of the competition is:

“Hidden in the Blue: Stories of Marine Bioprospecting”

Participants are invited to creatively explore the concept of marine bioprospecting, understood as the process of discovering, identifying, and studying organisms, genes, molecules, and other marine-derived resources with the potential to lead to the development of new products, processes, or technologies with applications in society.

Videos should focus on the potential of marine bioprospecting while promoting both the sustainable use and conservation of marine ecosystems. They may address, among others, the following topics:

- The concept of marine bioprospecting: what it is, how it is carried out, and its importance for science and society;
- Potential and conservation of marine environments: marine biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable use of marine resources, and the importance of ocean conservation;

- Applications of marine bioprospecting: development of new medicines, food and nutrition, agriculture and aquaculture, blue biotechnology, cosmetics, biomaterials, energy, and other innovative applications;
- Research infrastructure: the role of European Research Infrastructures and other scientific infrastructures in the study, preservation, and sustainable use of marine resources;
- Various narrative approaches are accepted, including fiction, documentary, news reporting, animation (including stop-motion), personal accounts, experimental video, or other forms of digital storytelling.

5. Format and Characteristics of work

Entries must meet the following technical requirements:

Requirement	Specifications
Video format	Original
Duration	Minimum: 30 seconds Maximum: 5 minutes
File type	MP4 ou MOV
Recommended minimum resolution	Full HD (1080p)
Orientation	Horizontal (16:9)
Language	The official language of the participating country, with mandatory English subtitles or a video entirely in English

Participants are responsible for ensuring that all content used (images, videos, music, voice recordings, and other multimedia elements) complies with the relevant copyright and licensing requirements and, whenever applicable, must use content that is in the public domain or licensed for this purpose.

- Entries will be disqualified if they:

- Are not related to the contest theme;
- Do not meet the defined technical requirements;
- Contain offensive or discriminatory language or inappropriate content;
- Infringe on the intellectual property rights of third parties;
- Are submitted after the established deadline.

6. Submission Process

Applications must be submitted via **WeTransfer** to ccmaroceaneducation@ualg.pt.

Each application must include the following:

1. A video that complies with the technical requirements outlined in Section 5. If the submitted video is too large to send via email, it must be shared via Google Drive to this same address;
2. A completed registration form;
3. A statement of authorship and transfer of rights for non-commercial dissemination;
4. Authorization for use of image;
5. Informed consent from the parent or legal guardian, whenever the participant is a minor, in accordance with the national legislation applicable to the country from which the application is submitted.

In the case of homeschooled participants, the consent and other required declarations must be provided by the responsible adult, who also assumes responsibility for submitting the application and ensuring compliance with the requirements applicable to the participant.

The submission period runs from the launch of the call for applications through November 15, 2026, as per the detailed schedule in Section 10. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered for evaluation.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Entries will be evaluated according to the following criteria, each of which will be given equal weight:

Criteria	Weighting
Creativity and originality	20%
Quality of Narrative and Storytelling	25%

Scientific accuracy and clarity of communication	25%
Impact on raising awareness of marine bioprospecting and the role of research infrastructures	30%

8. Jury

Submitted entries will be evaluated by an International Jury composed of representatives from the partner institutions of the EUREMAP consortium.

The jury will include researchers and experts in the fields of marine bioprospecting, science communication, education, and/or audiovisual production, ensuring a multidisciplinary and balanced evaluation.

Entries will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria defined in Section 7 of these rules.

The International Jury will select the winning entry. The decisions of the International Jury are final, based on the established evaluation criteria, and are not subject to appeal.

9. Awards and Incentives

The international winner will receive:

- An international winner's certificate;
- Prominent promotion of the video on the EUREMAP project's official channels;
- A kit for creating audiovisual content (ring light, smartphone image stabilizer, lapel microphone)—each group member will receive one kit.

10. Contest Schedule

Phase	Period
Announcement of the Contest and Opening of Applications	September 15, 2026
Application Period	September 15 to November 15, 2026
Evaluation	November 15 through December 10, 2026
Announcement of the International Winner	December 11, 2026

The final schedule, including the exact dates for each phase, will be published on the contest's landing page and communicated to schools and national partners well in advance.

11. Terms of Use

Participants retain the intellectual property rights to their submitted works.

By participating in the contest and signing the declaration of authorship and transfer of rights, participants and, where applicable, their legal guardians or responsible adults—in the case of homeschooled participants—authorize CCMAR and the EUREMAP project partners to use the videos for educational, scientific, institutional, and project promotion purposes, on a non-commercial basis, always crediting the respective authorship.

12. Data Protection

The personal data collected will be processed exclusively for the purposes of managing the contest, publishing the results, and carrying out related activities, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Data Protection Regulation—GDPR) and other applicable national legislation.

Legal guardians of underage participants have the right to access, correct, and delete their child's personal data, in accordance with the law, by contacting the organizing entity, CCMAR, at ccmaroceaneducation@ualg.pt.

13. Translation and National Adaptation

This regulation will be translated into the official languages of the countries participating in the EUREMAP consortium, and the English version shall be considered the authoritative version in the event of any discrepancy in interpretation.

14. Final Provisions

Participation in the EUREMAP 2026 International Storytelling Contest implies full acceptance of these rules.

Any matters not covered herein will be reviewed and decided by the organizing entity, CCMAR, in coordination with the EUREMAP consortium partners.