Juvenes Translatores contest rules

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2007 the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation (DG Translation) has been running *Juvenes Translatores*, **an annual online translation contest** for secondary schools in the European Union.

The **main stages of the contest** are:

1. contest launch
2. registration of schools
3. selection of schools
4. selection and registration of students
5. contest day
6. assessment of the translations
7. announcement of winners and special mention students
8. awards ceremony for winners, part of a 3-day visit to Brussels.

The detailed contest rules and instructions for each stage are set out below.

1. CONTEST LAUNCH

DG Translation launches the contest on its official Juvenes Translatores (JT) website, where it announces the date of the contest day and the exact start time for all participants.

Information is also published on social media:

- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/translatingforeurope
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/translatingforeurope

2. REGISTRATION OF SCHOOLS

If your school would like to take part, it must **register** on the **contest platform** within the registration period**.**

The link to the contest platform will be published on the official JT website and social media when registration is open. Incomplete or late registrations will not be accepted.

If your school wishes to take part, it must meet the conditions listed below.

Only **secondary schools** can participate.

The **contest is not open to**:

- schools teaching languages exclusively through evening classes;
- organisations providing any other kind of language courses that are not part of the secondary school curriculum.

Schools must:

- be located in an **EU Member State**;
- be recognised by the education authorities of one or more EU Member States;
- enter between **2 and 5 participants born in the year specified on the official JT website**;
- have **internet access**;

- have the necessary **IT equipment.**

Schools must be registered by a teacher, not by students. Before registering, the teacher responsible must have the **head teacher's (principal's) approval for the school to participate.** There can be **only 1 registration per school**.

When registering, the school must provide:

- the official name and address of the school;
- the name of the teacher responsible, and
- at least one valid email address.

As this **email address will be the only way for us to communicate** with the school, it is very important that you:

- check the mailbox regularly (and your junk mailbox occasionally), and
- make sure it is not full.

The school must create an account, with its own username and password, and fill in the fields required for registration. The username and password will be needed for all future logins to the contest platform, including access for the participants on the contest day.

The official name of your school must be entered in full, using initial capitals and any specific letters and diacritics required in the language of the school. Example: *Ukmergės Šilės Šilevičiaus gimnazija*. Do not use abbreviations.

By registering, your school commits to abiding by the rules and instructions for the contest and, if selected, to organising the contest at the school premises on the date specified on the official JT website.

This includes:

- selecting and entering **participants born in the year stated on the official JT website;**
- allowing students to take part in the contest;
- providing suitable facilities, IT equipment and staff for the contest;
- ensuring that participants and their parents or legal guardians are familiar with, and agree to, these rules and instructions;
- ensuring the contest is held under fair and impartial conditions, and
- if a participant from the school is one of the 27 winners, allowing them and their teacher time off from school to attend the award ceremony, as part of the 3-day visit to Brussels.

The school also agrees that, if selected for the contest, its name will appear on the official JT website.

The school must also ensure they have the necessary and properly working IT equipment:

- 1 computer per participant
- The correct keyboard for the target language
- All IT equipment ready in good time before the start of the contest

- Internet connection (at least 1Mbit/s)
- Technical requirements for computer:
  - ❖ Operating systems:
    - Windows 11 or later version
    - macOS 15 or later version
  - ❖ Browsers:
    - Chrome 149 or later version
    - Firefox 151 or later version
    - Safari 18 or later version
    - Edge 148 or later version
    - Opera 130 or later version

Browsers must not have any **additional plugins** such as ad blockers or spell checkers. JavaScript should be enabled.

The school must cover any local costs incurred by organising the contest.

A school that fails to honour these commitments may be excluded from the contest.

3. SELECTION OF SCHOOLS

After registration for schools closes, a **random electronic draw** will be held to select schools for the contest from among those that have registered.

The number of schools selected from each Member State corresponds to the number of seats the Member State has in the European Parliament:

Member State	Schools
Austria	20
Belgium	22
Bulgaria	17
Croatia	12
Cyprus	6
Czechia	21
Denmark	15
Estonia	7
Finland	15
France	81
Germany	96
Greece	21
Hungary	21
Ireland	14
Italy	76
Latvia	9
Lithuania	11
Luxembourg	6
Malta	6
The Netherlands	31
Poland	53
Portugal	21

Romania	33
Slovenia	9
Slovakia	15
Spain	61
Sweden	21
TOTAL	**720**

For the purposes of this selection, **schools will be counted towards the quota for the Member State where they are located**. For example, the Spanish school *IES Liceo español* 'Luis Buñuel' in France counts towards the quota for France.

The **list of selected schools** will be published on the official JT website by the end of **October** and teachers will be informed via email.

The selection is final and **cannot be contested**. However, if a selected school withdraws or is unable to participate, and if time and resources allow, their place may be filled following a second random draw among registered schools from the same Member State. In these cases, the list published on the website will not be updated, but the school will be informed directly.

4. SELECTION AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

If your school is selected in the random electronic draw, the teacher must register participants' names and their chosen language pairs (the language from and into which the participants intend to translate) on the contest platform **by the deadline specified on the official JT website**. Each selected school should **enter between 2 and 5 participants**.

If the school has not entered between 2 and 5 participants by the deadline, we will give its place to another school waiting to be selected. If for any reason your school cannot participate in the contest, please inform the organisers as soon as possible.

Neither participants nor language pairs can be changed after this deadline.

Each selected school should register, on the contest platform, **between 2 and 5 participants**, who must:

- have been **born in the year specified on the official JT website;**
- be permanently **enrolled in the school**.

The purpose of the year-of-birth rule is to create equal conditions, taking into account the differences in education systems in EU Member States.

The school must specify each participant's **language pair**, i.e. the languages from, and into which, they intend to translate:

- *source language* = language from which they translate;
- *target language* = language into which they translate.

Participants can choose to translate from any official EU language, into any other official EU language. The **official EU languages** are:

Bulgarian (BG)	Estonian (ET)	Irish (GA)	Portuguese (PT)
Croatian (HR)	Finnish (FI)	Italian (IT)	Romanian (RO)
Czech (CS)	French (FR)	Latvian (LV)	Slovak (SK)
Danish (DA)	German (DE)	Lithuanian (LT)	Slovenian (SL)

Dutch (NL)	Greek (EL)	Maltese (MT)	Spanish (ES
English (EN)	Hungarian (HU)	Polish (PL)	Swedish (SV)

Each participant's choice of language pair must be submitted during the registration period for participants on the contest platform. Please ensure that this information is correctly registered and contact the organiser immediately if there are any discrepancies.

We strongly recommend that participants translate *into* their native or strongest language. However, it must be one of the official EU languages listed above.

The school must inform each participant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of their participation in the contest.

Schools may establish their own criteria for selecting participants, provided that these are clear, fair and non-discriminatory. If DG Translation considers that a school has used unclear, unfair or discriminatory criteria, we may exclude the school from the contest.

Schools must not discriminate on any grounds, including against **students with a disability**. The JT team is aware that special arrangements may have to be made to allow participants with a disability to take part under fair and equal conditions. If such arrangements could conflict with these rules, please contact the JT team for prior approval, describing the situation and the proposed arrangements. For example, if a student's disability affects their speed of typing, so that extra time is required.

DG Translation will ensure that any personal data received in the context of Juvenes Translatores is treated in accordance with the applicable data protection rules. More detailed information on personal data protection is provided in the Juvenes Translatores privacy statement.

5. CONTEST DAY

The translation contest must be held on school premises, and it must take place simultaneously in all the schools taking part on the date and at the time specified on the official JT website.

Participants must log in simultaneously to the contest platform with their individual username and password (which the teacher responsible will have received by email after registering them for the contest).

Once participants are logged in, they will immediately see the source text in their chosen language on their computer screen. They can then type their translation in the box next to the source text. **While translating, they should remember to save their text at regular intervals.**

The school must ensure that the IT environment is working properly, and do everything possible to ensure the contest is carried out under fair and impartial conditions.

Schools are responsible for the physical organisation of the contests on their premises, including all the practical arrangements on the day of the contest, i.e.:

- assembling the participants at the contest location
- ensuring each participant is provided with the necessary IT equipment and internet connection

- providing participants with their individual username and password (assigned to each participant when they are registered) so they have access to the contest platform and can translate the text
- supervising participants during the contest, in particular to ensure that no translation aids/tools are used that are contrary to the rules, see below, and
- ensuring participants save and submit their translations at the end of the contest time.

Dictionaries are indispensable professional tools, so **participants are allowed to use paper and online dictionaries**. Both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries may be used.

The following must *not* be used:

- spell checkers
- computer-aided translation (CAT) tools
- machine translation (e.g. Google Translate, DeepL)
- Artificial intelligence (AI).

If any of these aids/tools are used, the translation concerned will be disqualified.

Participants must work individually (not in pairs or teams) and without help from their teachers.

The translations must be completed during the official time allocated for the contest.

Outside of the contest, schools are free to use the translation texts for educational purposes, for example, organising a parallel internal competition. Any translations produced outside of the contest should not be sent to DG Translation. The contest platform cannot be used for this purpose.

Before the contest time is up, participants must save and submit their translation on the contest platform. They will receive an automated message confirming that their translation was successfully submitted.

If they wish, participants can print the translation. The responsible teacher may also view the saved translations on the contest platform, on the participant overview page.

If, for reasons beyond the school's control, a participant is unable to submit their translation as set out above, please email DGT-TRANSLATORES@ec.europa.eu for instructions.

Each participant should have a full 2 hours for translation. If for technical reasons, a participant's login is delayed for up to 15 minutes, they should be allowed the corresponding length of time at the end.

However, if this delay is longer than 15 minutes, you will no longer be able to submit the translation on the contest platform – instead you must send it to us via email (see above) **immediately**.

In the event of a general technical issue at the start of contest time, of consistent problems logging in, or of other major blocking problems during the contest, please:

- **Stay calm**, we will find a solution;
- **Consult** our Facebook page for any updates;
- Start **translating in the alternative, backup way by**:
  - **downloading the source texts** that will have been published on our official JT website at the start of the contest time, and
  - **translating in Microsoft Word or similar applications (electronically, not with pen and paper).**

In this way, participants can either:

- **copy/paste their translation** into the contest platform when the technical issue is resolved, and submit the translation via the contest platform as normal; or
- if **the technical issue is not resolved before the contest officially ends,** the teacher can email us the electronic versions of the participants' translations and the JT team will upload them.

The JT team will answer questions and provide advice as promptly as possible by email (DGT-TRANSLATORES@ec.europa.eu) at all stages of the contest.

6. ASSESSMENT OF TRANSLATIONS

Each translation will be assessed by a panel of professional translators and revisers from DG Translation.

The panel will apply criteria used to evaluate professional translations in DG Translation, i.e.:

- accuracy of translation
- ability to write correctly (grammar and choice of expressions)
- ability to write fluently
- creativity of translation solutions.

The panel may disqualify any translation that it believes has not been produced under fair and impartial conditions – for example if it appears that tools not permitted in the contest have been used.

Following the assessment, a second panel chaired by the Director-General of DG Translation will choose **the best translation from each EU Member State**. The decisions of both panels are final.

The work and deliberations of the panels are confidential. No individual marks will be released and no comments for individual translations will be communicated.

Special mentions may be awarded to specific participants whose translations are of excellent quality. The teachers concerned will be informed by email after the announcement of the winners.

A **certificate of participation** can be downloaded for each participant who submitted a translation. A **certificate** can also be downloaded for the teacher who organised the contest for the school. An email with further instructions will be sent to all schools that participated in the contest.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS AND SPECIAL MENTION STUDENTS

Each year the contest takes place in **late November** and the **winners** are announced in **February the following year**. Their names and winning translations will be published on the official JT website, together with the list of participants whose outstanding translations were awarded **special mentions.**

There may be media coverage of the announcement.

8. AWARD CEREMONY AND 3-DAY TRIP TO BRUSSELS

In spring of the same year, the winners, together with a maximum of two parents/legal guardians and one teacher per winner, will be invited on a 3-day trip to Brussels.

Each winner attending must be accompanied by one or two parents or legal guardians, who must take full responsibility for the winner during their trip to Brussels. In exceptional cases, where an attending winner cannot be accompanied by parents or legal guardians, another adult authorised by the parents or legal guardians must accompany and take full responsibility for the winner. Any national travel rules and requirements of the relevant Member State(s) must be complied with.

The Commission will arrange and pay for travel[1], accommodation and certain meals. Apart from the general insurance that covers visitors when they are in Commission buildings, the Commission does not arrange or pay for any insurance for the trip or the stay in Brussels. The winner, teacher and accompanying parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must provide the requisite travel documents for the trip.

The JT team will email a release form to the winner's school, which the school must **print, have the student and others sign** (see below), **and return** to the JT team by the deadline, together with a copy of the student's valid ID.

The release form must be signed by:

- the student;
- their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) (*if the student will be under 18 at the time of the awards trip*).

In completing the form, the student and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree that:

- the translation is published on the official JT website and may be used internally by the EU institutions for future training sessions to evaluate translations;
- the student will be allowed to go to Brussels for the 3-day visit;
- photos and video recordings of the awards ceremony and the visit to Brussels may be published on the official JT website and on social media.

The Juvenes Translatores privacy statement specifies how personal data will be processed, in strict compliance with the applicable data protection rules.

9. INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

DG Translation's interpretation of these contest rules is final.

[1] The Commission will pay for travel from the winner's Member State of origin to their hotel in Brussels, but not for short transfers, such as taxis to and from the airport/train station in the winner's Member State of origin.

Need more information?

- Official Juvenes Translatores website: https://translation.ec.europa.eu/get-involved-european-language-activities-and-initiatives/juvenes-translatores_en
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/translatingforeurope
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/translatingforeurope/
- Contact email: DGT-TRANSLATORES@ec.europa.eu
- JT contact person in your home Member State: https://translation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us_en