

GREEN LIVING AREAS

PHOTO AWARDS 2026

SHOW US

HOW YOUR COMMUNITY IS BECOMING GREENER
ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

SHARE YOUR STORY • LEARN MORE



PLACES



MOBILITY



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NATURE



Submit by 16 September 2026



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Terms of Reference

Green Living Areas Mission Photo Awards 2026

“Green Living Areas Through Your Lens”

The Interreg Euro-MED Green Living Area Mission, through the Community4LivingAreas governance project, is pleased to announce the launch of the **Green Living Areas Mission Photo Awards 2026**.

The competition aims to celebrate the values of the Green Living Areas Mission by collecting powerful visual stories from projects and citizens across the [Interreg Euro-MED programme area](#). Through photography, participants are invited to show how communities are becoming greener, healthier, more resilient, more sustainable, and more enjoyable places to live.

The competition is coordinated by **RCDC Albania**, with the support of the full C4LA partnership. Winning photographs will be presented during the Interreg Euro-MED Mid-Term Event, “**A Mediterranean Journey – Walk the Euro-MED latitude!**”, taking place on **25–26 November 2026 in Marseille, France**, and will be promoted through the Green Living Area Mission's communication channels.

- **Who Can Participate?**

The competition is open to two groups of participants from the Interreg Euro-MED programme area:

- **Group A. Partners of Green Living Areas Mission Thematic Projects**

This group is open to Partners of thematic projects involved in implementing activities linked to the Green Living Area Mission. Project teams, partners, and beneficiaries may submit photographs that illustrate their actions, results, pilot activities, local engagement, or contribution to greener and more sustainable living areas, linked to their project.

- **Group B. Citizens**

This group is open to any citizen aged **18 years or above** who wishes to express their personal vision of Green Living Areas through photography.

Citizens may submit photographs showing local initiatives, public spaces, sustainable mobility, nature-based solutions, energy transition, community action, or other visible examples of greener, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Participation is **free of charge** and open to all eligible applicants living within the **Interreg Euro-MED programme area**.

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- **Competition Categories**

Participants are invited to submit their photographs under one of the following 4 categories. The categories have been designed to be clear and accessible for the general public, while remaining aligned with the key topics of the Green Living Area Mission.

- **CATEGORY 1: Better Places, Better Lives**

Show how your community is becoming greener, healthier, and more enjoyable for everyone.

Participants may capture parks, public spaces, neighborhood initiatives, urban or territorial improvements, community activities, or places that bring people together and improve the quality of life.

This category reflects the importance of sustainable urban planning, territorial governance, public spaces, and community-oriented solutions that make places more liveable and inclusive.

- **CATEGORY 2: Moving Differently**

Capture sustainable ways of moving that make our communities cleaner, safer, and more connected.

Participants may capture walking, cycling, public transport, shared mobility, low-emission transport, urban logistics, or any initiative that helps reduce the environmental footprint of mobility and improve accessibility.

- **CATEGORY 3: Powering a Sustainable Future**

Show the technologies, buildings, and solutions helping communities transition towards a low-carbon future.

Participants may capture renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, innovative infrastructure, clean technologies, or solutions that help tackle climate change and support the energy transition.

- **CATEGORY 4: Nature at the Heart of Our Communities**

Capture the ways nature enhances our neighborhoods, supports biodiversity, and improves well-being.

Participants may capture green spaces, biodiversity, nature-based solutions, urban gardens, restored natural areas, or moments where nature makes communities healthier and more resilient.

This category reflects the importance of climate adaptation, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions in building resilient territories and improving people's well-being.

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Photographs will be assessed on their relevance to the chosen theme, their visual and creative quality, and the strength of the story conveyed through both the image and its accompanying description.

- **Submission Rules and Technical Requirements**

To ensure a fair and smooth process, all participants must comply with the following submission rules.

- **Number of photographs:** Each participant may submit a maximum of **3 photographs**.
- **File size:** Due to the file size limit of the application platform, each photograph submitted at the application stage must not exceed 1 MB. Participants whose photographs are selected for an award or for promotional purposes may be asked to provide a higher-resolution version. Please keep a copy of the original photograph at its highest available resolution until the competition has concluded.
- **Format:** Photographs must be submitted in **JPEG (.jpg/.jpeg)** or **PNG (.png)** format, suitable for online publication, social media use and communication materials.
- **Watermarks and logos:** Photographs must not contain signatures, logos, watermarks, authorship marks, or any other visual element that could identify the author during the judging process.
- **Authenticity:** All submitted photographs must be the original work of the participant. Photographs created or substantially modified with the assistance of artificial intelligence will not be accepted.
Basic editing, such as cropping, brightness, contrast, and colour correction, is allowed, provided that the photograph remains truthful to the original scene.
- **Short description or testimonial:** Each photograph must be accompanied by a short description or testimonial explaining the story behind the image.
The description should briefly explain:
 - where the photograph was taken;
 - what the photograph represents;
 - how it relates to the selected category;
 - what message the participant wishes to communicate.

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This description will help the jury better understand the meaning, context, and communication value of the submitted photograph.

- **Third-party rights:** Participants are responsible for ensuring that their photographs do not infringe copyright, image rights, privacy rights, or any other rights of third parties.

When people are clearly visible and identifiable in a photograph, the participant must ensure that the necessary consent has been obtained before submission.

- **How to Submit**

Submissions will be collected exclusively through the official **EU Survey** form:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/GreenLivingAreasMission_PhotoCompetition_ApplicationForm

To submit photographs, participants must complete the following steps:

1. Access the EU Survey form through the link.
2. Complete all mandatory fields in the application form.
3. Select the participant group: **Projects** or **Citizens**.
4. Select the competition category under which each photograph is submitted.
5. Upload up to 3 photographs, each no larger than 1 MB.
6. Provide a short description or testimonial for each submitted photograph.
7. Confirm acceptance of the competition terms and conditions.
8. Confirm the authenticity of the submitted work and the participant's responsibility regarding third-party rights.

Only complete submissions received through the official EU Survey form will be considered eligible.

- **Jury and Judging Process**

All eligible photographs will be reviewed and evaluated by a dedicated jury.

The jury will be composed of four representatives:

- one professional photographer;
- one representative from EMEA (in charge of the C4LA communication - Green Living Areas Mission);
- one representative from the POLIS (In charge of D4LA communication – Green Living Areas Mission);
- one host partner representative.

The judging process will be anonymous.

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Photographs will be presented to the jury without identifying the author, participant name, organization, or project, where applicable.

The jury will assess each submission according to the following criteria:

- **Relevance to the selected category:** The photograph should clearly reflect the selected category and contribute to the overall message of the Green Living Areas Mission.
- **Visual and creative quality:** The photograph should demonstrate visual strength, creativity, clarity, composition, and the capacity to attract attention.
- **Communication impact:** The photograph should communicate a clear message and inspire awareness, reflection, or action around greener and more sustainable living areas.
- **Storytelling value:** The short description or testimony should strengthen the photograph's communication value.

The jury's decision will be final. All participants will be notified of the results through the email address provided in the application form. Results will also be published through Green Living Areas Mission communication channels.

- **Awards and Prizes**

- **Overall Grand Prize:** One photograph will be selected as the overall winner of the **Green Living Areas Through Your Lens – Photo Awards 2026**, regardless of participant group or category. The winner will receive a **digital photo frame**.
- **Category Prizes for Projects & Citizens:** One winning photograph will be selected in **each category** for both participant groups (**Projects** and **Citizens**), resulting in a total of **8 winners** (2 per category)

The categories are:

- Better Places, Better Lives
- Moving Differently
- Powering a Sustainable Future
- Nature at the Heart of Our Communities

Each category winner will receive a **selfie stick with integrated light**.

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To ensure broad recognition of participants, **each participant may receive only one award**. If the Overall Grand Prize-winning photograph is also the highest-ranked entry in its category, the corresponding Category Award will be presented to the next highest-ranked eligible photograph.

The winning photographs will be presented publicly at the Interreg Euro-MED Mid-Term Event, **“A Mediterranean Journey – Walk the Euro-MED latitude!”**, on 25–26 November 2026 in Marseille, France.

- **Competition Calendar**

The indicative calendar of the competition is as follows:

- **Launch of the competition:** 1st July 2026;
- **Submission deadline:** 16 September 2026;
- **Jury evaluation period:** October 2026;
- **Announcement of winners:** 1st week of November 2026;
- **Presentation of winning photographs:** Interreg Euro-MED Mid-Term Event, 25–26 November 2026, Marseille, France.

- **Use of Submitted Works, Communication, and Visibility**

By submitting photographs, participants grant the Green Living Area Mission and the Community4LivingAreas partnership the right to use submitted works for non-commercial communication, visibility, and promotional purposes — including publication on websites and social media, inclusion in newsletters, presentations, reports, and other materials, and use by partners for mission-related communication activities. Photographs will be credited to the author where possible.

Participants retain copyright. Submission does not transfer ownership, and no financial compensation is provided. The organisers are not responsible for third-party rights infringements arising from a participant's submission.

- **Data Protection and Consent**

Personal data collected through the EU Survey form will be used only for managing the competition, contacting participants, evaluating submissions, announcing results, and conducting communication activities related to the competition.

Additional data protection provisions may be added before publication, in accordance with applicable Interreg Euro-MED programme requirements and EU data protection rules.

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- **Final Provisions**

The organisers reserve the right to amend the rules of the competition before its official launch. Any changes will be communicated through the official Green Living Areas Mission channels before the opening of the submission period.

The organisers also reserve the right to reject submissions that are incomplete, technically unsuitable, offensive, discriminatory, misleading, in breach of third-party rights, or not aligned with the objectives and values of the Green Living Area Mission.

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of these Terms of Reference.

- **Contact**

For any questions regarding the competition or the application process, please contact **RCDC Albania**, acting as the focal point for this activity:

info@rcdcalbania.org

cc: community4livingareas@interreg-euro-med.eu

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