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Waiting for  
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# BREAKING BARRIERS

EPYG-LI INTERNATIONAL PHOTO AWARD

## 1. Introduction

The EPYG – Legacy Initiative of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) is part of a broader set of initiatives aimed at promoting Paralympic sport and strengthening the inclusion of people with disabilities within European society. Through educational programmes, development actions, and awareness-raising projects, the EPYG Project contributes to building more inclusive communities. In this context, sport is understood as a fundamental tool for social participation and personal development, as for many people with disabilities, engaging in sport creates spaces for connection, shared effort, and the overcoming of barriers.

## 2. Topic

The central focus is: **the inclusion of people with disabilities through sport.** The competition aims to highlight sport as a tool that contributes to inclusion and improves the lives of people with disabilities. Therefore, submitted pho-

tographs should reflect how the practice of sport—at any level, whether professional or amateur—can create opportunities for inclusion, personal development, empowerment, and the improvement of everyday life.

The call invites participants to highlight values such as effort, teamwork, perseverance, personal growth, fulfilment, self-esteem, social inclusion, co-existence, and the capacity of sport to improve lives. Photos will be judged on the following:

- Sensitivity and respect toward the reality represented
- Relevance to the proposed theme
- Visual impact and expressive strength
- Technical and formal quality of the image

## 3. Participants

Participation in the competition is free. Individuals of any nationality may take part, whether professionals or ama-



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teurs, with no restrictions on place of residence, age, or background. Participants under 18 must provide a signed authorization from a parent or legal guardian. Individuals involved in the organization, the team responsible for the call, or the competition jury are not eligible to participate. Their immediate family members are also excluded.

#### 4. Submission Guidelines

Photographs must be submitted in digital format (.jpg or .tiff), with a minimum of 3000 pixels on the longest side. Each participant may submit up to five photographs, in color or black and white. Images may be created using any photographic device. Submissions do not need to be unpublished, but they must be original and authored by the participant.

A text document with the following information must be included with each submission:

- Full name of the author
- Age
- Country of residence
- Email address
- Contact phone number
- Title of the work (optional)
- Brief description of the image (optional)

Submissions must be sent by email to the following address:

**[EPYG-legacy@europaralympic.org](mailto:EPYG-legacy@europaralympic.org)**  
with the subject **“Breaking Barriers Photo Award”**.

Images generated wholly or partially using artificial intelligence will not be accepted. Submissions that include artificially created elements or manipulations altering the essential documenta-

ry or visual content of the photograph are also not permitted. This approach follows international standards of visual integrity, allowing only basic technical adjustments—such as exposure, contrast, color, density, sharpness, cropping, or conversion to black and white— as long as they do not change the content of the image.

In case of doubt, the organization may request the original file or additional information to verify the authenticity of the submitted photograph.

#### 5. Timeline

- Call opens: April 30, 2026
- Submission deadline: June 15, 2026
- Jury decision and announcement of results: Before October 1, 2026
- Exhibition of selected works: From October 20, 2026 onward

The organization reserves the right to modify these dates if necessary, with any changes announced in advance through its official channels.

#### 6. Jury

The jury will be composed of professionals from the fields of photography, culture, sport, disability, social inclusion, and the organizing entity.

- Teodora Malavenda (Visual Editor and Creative Consultant).
- Carlos Folgoso Sueiro (Photographer).
- Rubén Bahamonde Delgado (Legacy Initiative Representative).
- Two representatives of the European Paralympic Committee.

The jury reserves the right to withhold the award. The jury’s decision is final.



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## 7. Awards

- First prize: €600
- Second prize: €300
- Third prize: €100

Applicable legal tax withholdings will be applied to these amounts. To receive the monetary prize, winners must provide the necessary tax information in accordance with current legislation. In addition to the financial awards, the jury will select a group of finalist photographs to be included in a collective exhibition organized by the hosting entity.

## 8. Exhibition

Photographs selected by the jury will be included in a collective exhibition during the Final Forum of the European Para Youth Games Legacy Initiative, to be held in Istanbul in October (exact dates to be confirmed). Participation in the exhibition will not entail any additional financial compensation. The organization may use the awarded and selected works for dissemination, communication, cultural, educational, or institutional purposes related to the project, always on a non-profit basis and with proper credit given to the author.

## 9. Copyright and Image Rights

Each participant guarantees that they hold the rights to the submitted photographs and that their exhibition or dissemination within the framework of the competition does not infringe on any third-party rights. By entering the competition, participants grant the organizing entity a non-exclusive license to reproduce, display, and share the submitted works for purposes related to the promotion of the project, always with proper credit to the author.

If identifiable individuals appear in the images, participants are responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions for their capture and use. The organization shall not be held liable for any claims related to image rights, privacy, or data protection. The participant will be responsible for any claims that may arise regarding the authorship of the submitted work or any rights that may belong to third parties.

## 10. Liability and acceptance of rules

Participation in this competition implies full acceptance of these rules and of any decisions made by the organization. The organization reserves the right to exclude any submission that does not comply with these rules, shows signs of unauthorized manipulation, infringes third-party rights, or may be considered harmful to the dignity of the people depicted. The organization will also address any matters not covered in these rules in accordance with principles of legality, transparency, and the proper conduct of the competition.

## 11. Data Protection

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (GDPR), the personal data provided by participants will be used solely for the purposes of administering this photography competition. These data may be used to contact participants if they are selected as winners, finalists, or chosen to take part in the exhibition or related activities. They will not be used for any other purposes or shared with third parties, except where required by law.



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