



Finnova launches ART4FOREST, an international photo contest to raise awareness of the consequences of forest fires on the environment.

- *Organized with the support Casa Mediterráneo World Diplomatic Institute, Life Watch Eric, Mundo Arti, the contest is part of the NEXT FOREST Generation initiative, which aims to raise public awareness about the generation, control, and prevention of forest fires.*
- *The contest will be open from May 4 to August 19, 2023, World Photography Day.*

To raise awareness in civil society about the challenges of sustainability and the environmental damage caused by forest fires. This is the main objective of ART FOR FOREST, an international photography contest just launched by the Finnova Foundation in collaboration with Casa Mediterráneo, in the framework of the Next Forest Generation initiative and the CILIFO Project for the creation of the CILIFO Center, and under the Swedish Presidency of the EU. The contest will be open from May 4 to August 19, coinciding with World Photography Day. The winners will be announced on September 9, 2023.

The kick-off of this contest has taken place in the closing event of two Interreg Spain-Portugal (Interreg POCTEP) projects closely linked to forest fires: Firepocstep and Cilifo. Led by the Junta de Andalucía, and with the participation of Finnova, both projects aim to prevent and fight fires, the recovery of burned areas, and the protection of wetlands and biodiversity. The total budget of 32 million euros between the two projects makes the Junta de Andalucía a leading region in Europe in interregional cooperation projects in innovation for the prevention and fight against fires, recovery of burned areas, mitigation and fight against climate change, protection of wetlands and biodiversity.

Five main axes

The international photography contest ART4FOREST (trees, forests, fires, firefighters) is supported by an international alliance that opens today and in which members of the CILIFO and FIREPOCTEP consortia in Spain and Portugal (regions, universities,

ministries, foundations such as ONCE, Life Watch Eric, Diplomatic World Institute, Casa Mediterraneo, etc.) are invited to participate.

This contest is open to anyone who submits a maximum of three works in any photographic technique, in color or black and white. They must be original and unpublished; works that have been awarded prizes in other contests or exhibited publicly will not be admitted. The photographs must be submitted through the web page www.mundoarti.com, and must be related to one of these five main themes:

Prevention (development of bioeconomy) and the development of sustainable forestry and management,

2.- Firefighting, photos of forest firefighters, aerial environments.

3.- Recovery of burned areas

4.- The binomial forest management and wetlands and the impact on migratory birds and climate change mitigation.

5.- Devices, innovations, drones, and any innovative elements to meet these challenges

A jury will evaluate all the proposals submitted and will designate the winners on September 9, 2023. Twenty photographs will be selected and will be exhibited during the months of September and October at Casa Mediterráneo, under the Spanish Presidency of the EU. Subsequently, the exhibition will move to Brussels, in the second half of 2023, coinciding with the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council.

From among all the photographs, a winner will be selected, who will be awarded a trip to Brussels for two people.

Next Forest Generation

Art4Forest is a cultural and pro-European project promoted by the Finnova Foundation with the support of Startup Europe of the European Commission and the troika of the Presidency of the Council of the EU (Sweden, Spain, and Belgium), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hablamos Europa Program.

About MundoArti

Winner of the Startup Europe Awards, they received a prize consisting of an acceleration stay at the Finnova Foundation in Brussels and a grant from the SME Instrument of the Horizon 2020 Program.

MundoArti was born to create a virtual space where art and culture can be accessible to everyone. The main character, Arti, is the youngest of a family that grows up surrounded by the values and feelings that art and culture transmit. In his world, creativity is his flag and little by little he learns that art is inside each and every person and that it is only necessary to know oneself to shine in a different way. When someone finds his art, he finds his own happiness. At that moment, the "I can't" does not exist, in each act he improves himself, he becomes immersed in a world where time and his surroundings disappear, creating incredible things. When we see the result of their art, we can only admire it and it is at that moment when we really call them Artists.

About the Finnova Foundation

Finnova is the Spanish-Belgian non-profit foundation based in Brussels and Spain, working for the promotion and development of innovation and entrepreneurship in the

EU. Finnova's experience in leading communication and dissemination activities of European projects is combined with a solid proven track record in business creation and entrepreneurship support programs, such as accelerators, incubators and events, as well as its commitment to training and employability of young people.

FINNOVA FOUNDATION

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About Casa Mediterráneo

Founded in 2009, Casa Mediterráneo is a public institution that is configured as an instrument of public diplomacy whose main objective is to promote mutual knowledge and rapprochement between Spain and the rest of the countries of the Mediterranean basin, in areas as diverse as culture, economy, climate change, gender equality or scientific and technological innovation. It is based in Alicante, a city that both for its location and its historical, economic, cultural, and social ties is closely related to Mediterranean countries. Casa Mediterráneo is a public consortium made up of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation (MAUEC), the Generalitat Valenciana, the Alicante City Council, the Benidorm City Council, and the Provincial Council of Alicante. Therefore, it's part of the Network of Casas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation, together with Casa América, Casa Asia, Casa Africa, Casa Árabe and the Sefarad-Israel Center.

Life Watch ERIC

LifeWatch ERIC is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium providing e-Science research facilities to scientists investigating biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services to support society in addressing key planetary challenges.

LifeWatch ERIC was established as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium by the European Commission in 2017.

World Diplomatic Institute

Diplomatic World Institute is a sister organization of the Diplomatic World Group (Magazine). The Institute acts as an interface between industries, societies, and administrations by creating sustainable partnerships and forums with specific focus on hot-topic global issues such as the development of Africa, creating cultural conditions conducive to understanding, innovation or global transition. The creation and maintaining of a special economic zone with strong free trade and direct investment connections, is of prime concern to the institute. All actions of the Institute have the goal making an active contribution to protecting worldwide peace and prosperity. The global exchange of cultural and economic goods prevents armed conflicts and increases personal and social wealth. Therefore, the Diplomatic World Institute - among others - acts in close cooperation with FEMOZA - The World Free & Special Economic Zones Federation.

