

HELIOS FOTOKLUB KOMÁRNO – REGIONÁLNE OSVETOVÉ STREDISKO KOMÁRNO SLOVENSKO



V4 - International photography competition 2026



Fotografia nepozná hranice – A fotográfia nem ismer határokat Fotografia nie zna granic – Fotografie nezná hranice

The “Photography Without Borders” competition is an international photography contest which, starting from 2026, brings together eight photo clubs from the Central European region. The project was originally established as a joint initiative of clubs from the V4 countries and has gradually developed into a broader platform for international cooperation.

The expansion of participating clubs represents an important step in the further development of the competition. Its aim is to strengthen both the professional and artistic confrontation of photographic work, support the international exchange of experience among photographers, and create a stable platform for presenting high-quality club photography.

The competition is held annually and aims to systematically develop cooperation between photo clubs, promote artistic photography without thematic limitations, and present the most successful works through a joint exhibition.

Organizers:

Helios Photo Club Komárno – Civic Association (Zichy Palace, Župná 1044, 945 01 Komárno), **Contact:** Martin Kučera, v4fotocontest@gmail.com, +421 905 627 616

Regional Cultural Centre Komárno – Regionális Művelődési Központ Komárom (P. O.

Box 159, Petófiho 2, 945 01 Komárno), **Contact:** Jana Mačicová, osveta.vff@gmail.com,
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Partners:

Nitra Self-Governing Region (NSK), City of Komárno

Participating Photo Clubs

Czech Republic

FotoKrumlov – Český Krumlov

Fotoklub Praha – Prague

Hungary

Duna Fotóklub – Baja

Óbuda Fotóklub Egyesület – Budapest

Poland

Lubelskie Towarzystwo Fotograficzne im. Edwarda Hartwiga – Lublin

Myślenicka Grupa Fotograficzna mgFoto – Myślenice

Slovakia

Helios Photo Club Komárno – Komárno

Fotoklub Hexagon – Nové Zámky

What's New from 2026

Starting from 2026, the competition is conducted exclusively through the official V4 – International Photography Competition web application. Photographs are no longer submitted via external storage services or email.

Submission of entries, author management, and the judging process itself are all handled directly within the system. Clubs no longer receive external links to judging forms – scoring is carried out exclusively through the competition application, which also ensures fair evaluation (including automatic exclusion of a club's own photographs from scoring).

The web application is in English. We believe this will not be an issue, as most similar international photography competitions also operate in English.

Competition Rules

Participation in the competition is free of charge.

The competition is conducted electronically via the official V4 – International Photography Competition web application.

Each participating photo club uploads photographs directly into the competition system according to the following rules:

- each photo club may submit a maximum of **30 photographs**
- a maximum of **3 photographs per author**
- the theme **is open**
- photographs may be **color or black and white**
- series and photo sets are not allowed

By submitting a photograph to the competition, each author declares that:

- they hold all rights related to the submitted work, in particular copyright
- the work does not infringe upon the rights or legally protected interests of third parties

At the same time, the author grants the organizers a free license to use the submitted works for the purposes of:

- judging
- archiving in the competition database
- presentation of results
- promotion of the competition and exhibition

The organizer reserves the right to exclude from the competition any photographs that:

- depict violence, vandalism, or vulgarity in an inappropriate manner
- violate human dignity
- are generated using artificial intelligence (AI)

Technical Requirements for Photographs

- file format: **JPG / JPEG**
- resolution: longer side **min. 2400 px, max. 3000 px**
- resolution: **300 dpi**
- maximum file size: **5 MB**
- the photo title must be provided in **English** (e.g. *Beautiful sunset, Morning silence*)

The file name is generated automatically by the system; no specific naming is required from the club.

Judging

Each club evaluates photographs through the competition application.

Photographs are made available to each club in randomly generated collections composed of all submitted works from all participating clubs.

Each photograph is rated on a scale from **1 to 10 points**, where:

- **1 point** = lowest rating
- **10 points** = highest rating

The total score and final evaluation are calculated by the organizer through the competition application. In the case of equal scores, multiple first, second, or third places may be awarded.

Competition Schedule 2026

- **Opening of the photo submission system:** May 1, 2026
(Login credentials and a user guide will be sent to the contact person of each club shortly before this date.)
 - **Submission deadline:** May 30, 2026
 - **Collections available for judging:** June 10, 2026
 - **Judging period:** until July 31, 2026
 - **Announcement of results:** August 30, 2026
 - **Exhibition:** September / October 2026
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Awards

Multilingual diplomas are awarded by the organizer to the winning photographs (individual ranking) as well as to participating clubs.

Exhibition

The **top 5 photographs from each club** (a total of 40 photographs) will be presented at the exhibition.

Printing of the 40 most successful photographs will be provided by the organizer of the competition.

In the following years, the organization of the exhibition will be arranged either by agreement between the participating clubs or by drawing lots.

