

ARE YOU A COMIC STRIP ARTIST??!
THEN PROVE IT!
JOIN THE
COMIX4=
COMICS FOR EQUALITY AWARD
AND TELL US YOUR STORY.



3 CATEGORIES:
THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM
STORIES OF MIGRATION
STEREOTYPES

6 AWARDS OF 1,000 EURO EACH

DO YOU THINK WE ARE JOKING?
CHECK IT OUT!

WWW.COMIX4EQUALITY.EU

THE COMIX4= COMICS FOR EQUALITY AWARD IS A COMPETITION FOR THE BEST
UNPUBLISHED COMIC BY AUTHORS WITH MIGRANT BACKGROUNDS.

THE AWARD IS PART OF THE COMIX4= COMICS FOR EQUALITY PROJECT
FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION - EUROPEAN COMMISSION-DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JUSTICE-DIRECTORATE A-UNIT A4: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT IN 2012.



WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



“European Award for the Best Unpublished Comics by Authors with Migrant Backgrounds”

The ComiX4= Comics for Equality Award is a competition for the best unpublished comics by authors with migrant backgrounds. The Award is part of the ComiX4= - Comics for Equality project funded by the European Union - EUROPEAN COMMISSION-DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE-Directorate A-Unit A4: Programme Management in 2012.

The project is led by **Africa e Mediterraneo (Italy)**, in partnership with NGO Mondo (Estonia), Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (Bulgaria), ARCA (Romania) and Grafiskie stasti (Latvia).

The project aims to foster **intercultural dialogue to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination** in Europe, with a particular focus on Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania and Latvia. In order to achieve this aim, the project seeks to involve migrants and second-generation immigrants – often the subjects of discrimination – in the **creation of an artistic resource – the comic strip – to be used to combat racism and xenophobia**. It is for this reason that the award targets **artists from migrant backgrounds**.

The **ComiX4= Comics for Equality Award - European Award for the Best Unpublished Comics by Authors with Migrant Backgrounds** has three categories: *The fight against racism, stories of migration and stereotypes*.

- The fight against racism

E.g. stories about racism, people who have fought against racist behaviour or who experience racial discrimination, people who have helped others to overcome difficult situations, stories from day-to-day life of the best way to encourage anti-racist behaviour etc.

Racism is becoming increasingly common in European societies: discrimination on ethnic grounds is seen as the most widespread form of discrimination in the EU (61% according to *Special Eurobarometer 317*). In recent years, with the rise of the financial crisis, there has been a growing perception among migrants that local people are less welcoming towards them (*Migrant Integration, Eurobarometer 2011*).

-Stories of migration

E.g. stories examining the key stages of the migration process (plans to migrate, expectations, the journey, the integration process, successes and failures, etc.). What lies behind these stories of migration? Who are the protagonists in these stories? What are their hopes, dreams and goals?

International migration is having an ever greater impact upon EU countries, bringing with it both economic and social opportunities and challenges for



receiving countries. For this reason, immigration is now at the forefront of European and national policy agendas.

-Stereotypes

E.g. stories showing situations in which stereotypes are used to define individuals or groups. Stereotypes are qualities assigned to groups of people in relation to their race, nationality or sexual orientation, amongst other features, creating generalisations about groups of people that lead to discrimination and obscure the diversity that exists within these groups. Migration is often not represented in an impartial way by the media and public opinion: migrants are portrayed as those who “have come to steal our jobs” or simply as “criminals”. They are stereotyped and viewed with suspicion by the communities they enter. Neither mass media nor public opinion, therefore, do anything to help change these attitudes, the direct consequence being an increase in xenophobic and discriminatory behaviour.

The Award will be divided into two prizes: the Jury Award and the Audience Award. For each award there will be three winners, amounting to a total of six prizes.

- The Jury award: The jury will be made up of European experts and one representative from each project partner. The jury will select the three best comics, one for each category.
- The Audience award: the audience will consist of visitors to the **Comix4=** website who will vote online for their favourite comic. The comic receiving the most votes in each category will win the award.



Rules of the Award

1. Eligibility

This award is open to comic strip authors in all 27 EU member states, EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and the countries in the road to membership (Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, FYRM, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo). In order to be eligible, the comic strip author must:

1) have a migrant background. "Migrant background" is defined as follows:

the participant lives on a long-term basis in a country where s/he was **not** born (the citizenship in the country of the current residence is **not** mandatory);

AND/OR

at least one of the participant's parents lives in a country where s/he (the parent) was **not** born (the citizenship in the country of the current residence is **not** mandatory).

2) live on a long-term basis in one of the 27 EU member states, EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and the countries in the road to membership (Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, FYRM, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo) (the citizenship in the country of the current residence is **not** mandatory).

Africa e Mediterraneo reserves the right to request legal references, CVs, short biographies, identity cards, government-issued birth certificates, residence statements, passports etc. from candidates.

Africa e Mediterraneo reserves the right to verify the legitimacy and originality of any entry and the identity of any entrant, and to disqualify any entrant who submits an entry that is not in accordance with these official rules.

2. Contest Period

The competition will run from **1st January 2013** to **30th June 2013**. All entries must be received by 30th June 2013 in order to be eligible to win a prize. Any entry arriving after this date will not be considered.

Any extension of the deadline will be communicated and published online.

We strongly encourage all entrants to send in their comics as soon as they are able to. The sooner the comics are online, the greater their level of public exposure and their chances of winning a prize.





3. Prizes

Six prizes will be awarded as part of the competition: three prizes will be assigned by the jury and three prizes will be awarded by website users:

The Jury Award: the jury will select the three best comics, one in each category. The three best comics will receive €1,000 each.

The Audience Award: the 3 comics receiving the most votes (one in each category) will receive €1,000 each.

4. Submission rules

The Comix4= website will display all of the comics submitted.

In order to take part in the award, participants **must upload their comics and relative documents (see below) directly to the website www.comix4equality.eu** by 30th June 2013.

An author may submit a maximum of **three comic stories per category**.

The comic may be written in any one of the EU's 23 official languages.

However, in order to be eligible for the award, comic authors must also upload an **ENGLISH translation of the wording of the comic AND a 700-character (including spaces) English-language summary** of the comic.

Comics sent by regular post will not be accepted. However, Africa e Mediterraneo reserves the right to request the original copies of comics from selected comic strip authors.

The comic, in its entirety, must be original and unpublished material produced by the candidate.

By entering the award, candidates acknowledge that the comic strip they have submitted:

- is their own original work;
- that the comic strip does not infringe on the copyright, trademark, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any other person or entity;
- and that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the comic.





There is no cost associated with participating in the award.

5. Technical requirements

Each comic must consist of a **maximum of 6 pages**.

Each page of the comic must be of a **maximum of 3MB**.

Comics will only be accepted in JPG format.

6. Licence requirement

By submitting a comic, each candidate authorises Africa e Mediterraneo to reproduce, distribute or display the entry and create derivative works relating to the entry (along with author accreditation) in connection with the promotion of the award, or as part of any media or public events, without additional compensation.

By submitting a comic, each candidate authorises Africa e Mediterraneo to use the comic as part of a travelling exhibition to take place in 2014, along with author accreditation. By submitting a comic, each candidate authorises Africa e Mediterraneo to produce thumbnails and previews of the comic to be used in the promotion of the prize, along with author accreditation.

7. Selection and evaluation criteria

Candidates will receive acknowledgement of receipt of the comic. Candidates who are not eligible or who have sent comics that are not eligible will be informed of this.

For the Jury Award, members of the jury will select the three best comics based on the following criteria:

- * Pertinence and authenticity (essential);
- * Technical quality (33%);
- * Story-telling (33%);
- * Originality and artistic value (33%).

The jury's decisions are final and binding.

For the Audience Award, the three comics (one comic in each category) that receive the most "likes" from website users on www.comix4equality.eu (English version) will be declared the winners. In the case of a tie in a particular category, a grand final will take place involving a second-round voting procedure.

The results of the competition will be sent by email to all participants and will be published online on the website www.comix4equality.eu.





8. Right to cancel or suspend the award

If for any reason the award is unable to run as planned, Africa e Mediterraneo reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to modify or suspend the award. If Africa e Mediterraneo cancels or terminates the award, it will not retain any rights to the comics submitted.

9. Data privacy

Award entrants agree that their personal data, especially names and addresses, may be processed, shared, and otherwise used for the purposes of and within the context of the award. The data may also be used by Africa e Mediterraneo in order to verify the participant's identity, postal address and telephone number, or to verify the participant's eligibility to participate in the award. Participants have the right to access, review, rectify, or cancel any personal data held by Africa e Mediterraneo.

10. Further information

For further information please contact:

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