



LIAISON OFFICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
BUREAU DE LIAISON EN RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA
OFICIUL DE LEGĂTURĂ ÎN REPUBLICA MOLDOVA

Essay competition

Please read carefully the full terms of reference below.

Context: On the occasion of NATO's 75th anniversary and 30 years of the NATO – the Republic of Moldova partnership, the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova (NLO) is launching an essay competition.

Objective: The purpose of the competition is to raise awareness and better understanding of the Alliance, its mission, core values and principles, together with its longstanding partnership with the Republic of Moldova, and the ways in which NATO and Allies assist Moldova in achieving its European aspirations.

Theme: “How does NATO-Moldova cooperation contributes to your country's security and European future?”

Award: The selection committee will announce three best essays. The winners will be have the possibility to benefit from a sponsored trip and visit of NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, to meet and discuss with NATO experts enabling the partnership and cooperation.

Terms of reference (ToR)

Eligibility criteria: Who can participate?

There is no participation fee.

The essay competition is open to any citizen of the Republic of Moldova enrolled in an undergraduate degree program of an accredited university in Moldova.

Each applicant may submit *one essay only* to participate in the competition.

Timelines:

The essay competition starts on **2 September 2024**.

The submission deadline is **15 October 2024**, at 00:00 EET. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The result of the contest will be communicated on **4 November 2024** via:

- NATO Liaison Office Facebook Page - [NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova](#)
- Follow our page already today to stay informed on NLO's activities!

- The winners will be also notified by email and/or phone.

The awards will be presented to the winners at a special ceremony in **November**.

The period of the information visit to NATO HQ and its duration will be determined by the organisers and will be communicated to the winners of the essay contest in due time.

Requirements for essay writing

The essay must be written either in English or French, the two official languages of the Alliance. The length of the essay has to be between 2,000 – 2,500 words. The format of the essay has to be in Word, Times New Roman, size 12.

The essay must be an original piece of work and the sole creation of the applicant.

Quotations are acceptable, but shall not exceed 20 % of the entire text, and must be properly referenced in footnotes. The content will be verified by a specialised anti-plagiarism software.

Any use of artificial intelligence (AI)s is prohibited and will be subject to strict verification.

The submissions that fail to comply with these requirements will be automatically disqualified from the competition.

The essay front page will contain the following information:

- Name and surname of the author;
- Date of birth;
- University, faculty, and the year of study of the author.

For sending, the document will be saved under the name: “essay_name_surname”.

How to participate

The essay must be submitted electronically, in the format and by the deadline indicated, at office@nlo-moldova.hq.nato.int

Evaluation criteria and assessment of proposals

The submitted proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Board, composed of experts in the field concerned, and consideration will be given, but not limited, to:

- Relevance of the essay to the established theme;
- Coherence and a well-defined line of argument;
- Originality of research and evidence of independent thinking on essay-topic.

The essay evaluation committee will be composed of five members: three representatives of the NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova and two representative of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, NATO HQ.

The decisions of the organisers, the members of the evaluation panel, regarding the conduct of the competition and the determination of the winners are definitive and therefore, not subject to any forms of appeal.

Contest prizes

Three fully sponsored information visits for one person each, to NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium.

The period of the information visit to NATO HQ and its duration will be determined by the organisers and will be communicated to the winners of the contest in due time. The decision of the organisers cannot be subject to appeal or revision.

Other

By entering the competition, i.e. by sending the essay to the address of the organizer (NLO), participants hereby consent to allow the organizers to use their personal data for the following purposes:

- processing their applications;
- assessing their eligibility under the competition rules;
- contacting participants;
- for communication, publicity or promotional purposes.

Prizes may not be exchanged for any other prize or cash value.

Contact:

NATO Liaison Office in the Republic of Moldova

office@nlo-moldova.hq.nato.int

DISCLAIMER:

Participation in the essay competition takes place on a voluntary basis and NATO is not liable for any expenses incurred as a result of participation.

Participation in the competition does not constitute any form of endorsement by NATO of the ideas presented. The NLO shall not be liable for any failure or delay in delivering the winners package to the extent that such failure or delays is caused by a Force Majeure Event.

The NLO reserves the right to modify the terms of reference of the essay competition at any time.

Good luck!