



SO(U)LO COMPETITION

THINKING ABOUT THE EARTH: THE IMPORTANCE OF SOILS

Introduction

So(U)lo — Thinking about the Earth: The Importance of Soils competition is part of the “Soil! I see you!, Unveiling Urban Soil Threats Through Art” project, coordinated by APECV in partnership with RdA Climate Solutions and Quinta Oficina, and funded by the European mega-project [Soil Tribes](#) as a response to the European Union’s [‘Soil Mission’](#).

Through this theme, we invite students, teachers and the general public to explore methodologies, media, and technologies from visual arts, design, performance, creative writing and multimedia to deepen their relationship with soils, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Life on Earth depends on healthy soils. Soil is the foundation of our food systems and cultural heritage; it provides drinking water and habitats for biodiversity while simultaneously contributing to climate resilience. However, it is estimated that more than 60% of EU soils are not healthy, largely due to erosion, contamination, and increasing soil sealing in urban areas. Soil is a fragile resource that must be carefully managed and safeguarded for future generations: one centimeter of soil can take hundreds of years to form, yet it can be lost in a single storm or industrial incident (in Soil Deal for Europe). Through this topic, we aim not only to raise urgent awareness but also to call for the transformation of everyday habits, bringing the issue of soils and their sealing to the center of society, schools, and the arts, where new images and narratives can make visible what today remains hidden.

Participation

The competition is open to people of different age groups and nationalities, in the following categories:

- Early childhood education, 1st cycle: 3 to 9 years old;
- Elementary school (2nd and 3rd cycles): 10 to 14 years old;
- High school; vocational/specialized education: 15 to 17 years old;

- Higher education (polytechnic and/or university): 18 years , and more....

The contest is open to individuals or groups. In case of group participation, the group will be represented by only one of its members.

In case the participants are under 18 years old (individuals or in groups), they must be represented by an adult (responsible for the idea and the application, e.g., the legal tutor or a teacher).

Participation is free of charge and implies full and unreserved acceptance by the applicant of the rules set out in these regulations.

The pre-selected proposals from the categories: high school; vocational/specialized education: 15 to 17 years old; higher education (polytechnic and/or university): 18 to 25 years old, must be presented in a webinar on June 19th before the competition committee.

The winners, while signing the work and being its legitimate author, renounce his or her commercial rights, the works will, not be commercialized and will be publicly visible under the license Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 4.0. Works will be stored in APECV archives for an indefinite period of time.

Applications

Applications may be submitted to the competition in different formats, such as: photography, installation, multimedia, videos, performance proposals, creative writing or posters.

In addition to the usual materials in the visual arts, other supports and materials may be used, such as: Natural materials (recycled wood, leaves, seeds, branches, stones, clay, vegetable fibers, etc.); Temporary organic elements (ice, fresh flowers or fruits, etc.) exploring the ephemeral; waste (plastic, glass, metal, etc.); natural pigments from plants, soils or minerals; and others. Innovative technologies may also be used, such as: interactive sensors; augmented reality (AR); projections and video mapping; 3D printing with bioplastics; kinetic objects using solar, wind or hydraulic energy.

Applications must be submitted online by the applicants or by their tutor through the registration form.

The contest secretariat will assign an "entry code" to each candidate proposal, thus maintaining the anonymity of the authors before the jury members.

Each applicant may submit a maximum of 5 different proposals.

Each application must contain the following information:

- title of the idea, identification of the author (or authors), nationality, place of birth, residence, contacts (email and phone contact);
- description of the proposal (explicitly detailing the concept, technologies, materials, dimensions, visualization characteristics, etc.)
- in the case of group participation, or if the author is a minor, the responsible person must be identified and the respective personal data must be provided;

All submitted works must be original and unpublished, with the risk of disqualification if there is sufficient evidence to the contrary. If AI is used in the design of the proposal it must be clearly stated.

Applicants will be responsible for the originality of the proposed works and will assume all legal responsibility arising from third-party claims regarding copyright and related rights.

Pre-selected works can be mailed by post or delivered in person at

Quinta da Cruz – Centro de Arte Contemporânea,
Estrada de São Salvador,
3510-784 São Salvador, Viseu, PORTUGAL.

Pre-selected works will be exhibited from September until December 2026 at Quinta da Cruz – Centro de Arte Contemporânea, Viseu, Portugal or in a digital exhibition in case the authors will not be able to send the original works.

Awards

All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

A prize will be awarded for each category. For the first categories (up to 17 years old) the prize will be drawing materials and for the teachers of the winning students, a free registration in a training course at the Almada Negreiros Training Center, APECV. In the Higher Education/Youth category (up to 18) the author of the winning work will receive a trip to the Experimenta Biennale 2027 - <https://www.experimenta.fr/> in February 2027.

In addition to these awards, honorable mentions may be granted if the jury deems it appropriate.

Participation in the competition and consequent acceptance of these regulations validate all contractual terms with the selected contestant.

Composition of the jury

The jury will be composed of: A representative of the APECV, a representative of the Quinta Oficina Association. *a representative of the RdA Climate Solutions*, A representative of the City Council of Viseu; epresentative of Centro de Arte Contemporânea Quinta da Cruz.

Competition calendar

1. Launch of the contest- February 21, 2026.
2. Deadline for participation - June 1st, 2026.
3. Communication of the results - June 15th, 2026.
4. Exhibition - Between 26 September and 31 December 2026.

Selection process

The organizer is solely responsible for the approval of applications. The assessment criteria will be:

- a. Originality of the idea, support and technologies.
- b. Critical perspectives on the topic.
- c. Aesthetic quality.

There will be no appeal from the jury's decisions.

The organizing entity reserves the right not to select winners under the terms of this contest if the submitted works do not have the expected characteristics, considering the objectives and assessment criteria outlined in this regulation.

Announcement of the results

The announcement of the results will be made on June 15th, 2026, on the websites: www.apecv.pt and www.quintaoficina.pt and on the respective social networks.

The winner will be contacted by email, followed by a phone call. If the winner does not respond within 72 hours, they will be automatically disqualified, and the author of the second-best classified idea will be contacted.

The authors of the participating ideas authorize their disclosure, including information about the idea, title, photographs, as well as the disclosure of their name or pseudonym.

EXHIBITION

The works submitted to the competition that can be exhibited will be part of an exhibition at the Quinta da Cruz Contemporary Art Center, in Viseu, integrated into the “SO(U)LO” Festival, from September 25, 26 and 27, and which will be on display from September 26 until December 31, 2026.

Data Privacy

The personal data collected in the registration form is processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on Data Protection. The data will only be used by the Contest Organizing Team to contact participants in matters relating to the contest.

Participation in this competition implies acceptance, by the candidates and their respective legal tutor, educator or teacher in case of applicants less than 18 years old, of all the rules of this competition.

Other matters

The contest organizers reserve the right to reduce, extend, modify, or cancel this contest if circumstances so require.

Any questions or clarifications should be sent to the following email address: apecvisual@gmail.com. Similarly, other information regarding the competition will be communicated to the email address of the professor associated with the registration of the respective educational institution or to the individual candidates.

Violation of any provision of the regulations will result in the immediate exclusion of the contestant.

Organisation

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE PROFESSORES DE EXPRESSÃO E COMUNICAÇÃO VISUAL (APECV)

Quinta da Cruz. Estrada de São Salvador,

3510-784 São Salvador

(+351) 232 098 350 ou (+351) 962476169

E Mails: apecv@apecv.pt ou apecvisual@gmail.com

www.apecv.pt/

ASSOCIAÇÃO QUINTA OFICINA

Largo das Figueiras n1, Tarva – Mosteirinho.

3510-584 Coutos de Viseu

(+351) 963218860

E Mails: tiomanel@quintaoficina.pt ou aquintaoficina@gmail.com

www.quintaoficina.pt/

RDA CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Rua Antero de Quental, N.º. 10
3880-148 Ovar

(+351) 256 592 192

Email: rda@rda.pt

www.rda.pt/