



# INTERGRAF YOUNG TALENT AWARD 2026.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PRINT WITH THE NEXT GENERATION.

Are you ready to make a mark in the graphic industry? Do you have innovative ideas on how print companies can attract and engage the next generation in this dynamic field?

The Intergraf Young Talent Award 2026 invites young talents to explore this important question, share their insights with industry leaders across Europe, and compete for a prize of €3,000.

## the challenge.

The 2026 award theme explores a key question: *“What opportunities do you see for print in a hyper-personalised future?”*

In your written submission, we invite you to:

- Identify the challenges the graphic industry faces as communication becomes increasingly, personalised, automated, and data-driven.
- Examine strategic opportunities, considering the roles of innovation, data-enabled print solutions, cross-media integration, privacy and ethics, customer experience, and evolving market expectations.



# why participate?

Since 2017, Intergraf has provided a voice for young print professionals, offering a platform for ideas that shape the future. This award is a unique opportunity to present your vision to industry leaders, gain valuable exposure at national and European level, and contribute to making the print industry a welcoming space for young talent.

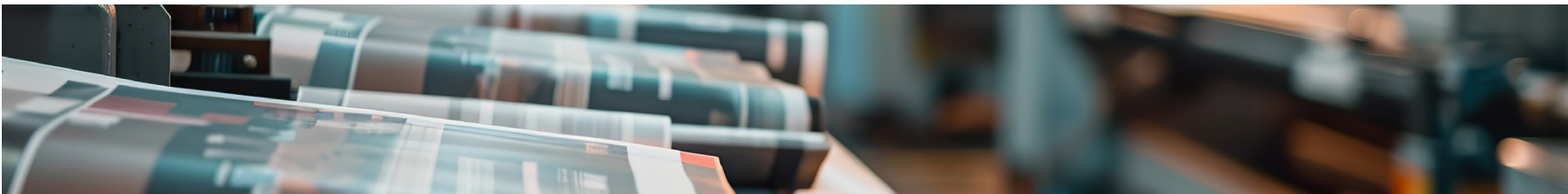
## eligibility & submission guidelines.

- **WHO CAN APPLY?** Young students, apprentices, or professionals in the graphical industry (maximum age 25) from Intergraf member countries.\*
- **SUBMISSION FORMAT:** 3-5 pages written in English. Visual aids are welcome to support your ideas.
- **CV REQUIREMENT:** A brief CV (maximum 2 pages).

\* Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

## prize.

- **€3,000 AWARD:** The first-place winner will receive a prize of €3,000.
- **PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITY:** The first-place winner will be invited to present their ideas at the “Print Matters” conference in Budapest on June 5, 2026. Attendance is highly encouraged but not required to receive the award. Accommodation and travel expenses will be covered.
- **PROMOTION AND EXPOSURE:** The top three participants and their work will be highlighted across the pan-European print industry and to key stakeholders.



# join a legacy of excellence.

Employers, educators, and print leaders eagerly await your insights! Curious about where past winners are now?

- **SARAH SCHUMACHER (DE)**, winner of the 2025 Young Talent Award, provided thoughtful insights on how print companies can effectively attract and engage younger generations to pursue careers in the print industry. A four-time World and European Minigolf Champion, she began her Bachelor of Engineering in Print Media Technologies at Hochschule der Medien after completing an 800-km Camino de Santiago journey. She recently completed her degree, writing her bachelor's thesis at **Tetra Pak** in Lund, Sweden. Alongside her studies, Sarah founded a business as a public speaker and team-building coach, offering a unique minigolf-based programme for companies.
- **PIEN HAKS (NL)**, winner of the 2024 Young Talent Award, provided compelling insights on *"How might artificial intelligence affect the print industry, and what are the associated risks and opportunities?"* Pien currently works as a Sustainable Employability Advisor and Project Coordinator for training at GOC, where she supports graphic companies in promoting employee well-being and skills. Since her award win, Pien has presented at notable events hosted by KVGO and Intergraf, including the Print Matters conference in Bucharest in 2024. Her thoughts have also been featured in *KVGO Magazine*, where she shared her journey and perspectives.
- **MANON LASSAIGNE (FR)**, winner of the 2023 competition, presented her submission, *What is Print's Place in a Digital World?*, at Print Matters in Riga, Latvia. Since then, she has secured an exciting role in communications and marketing and has been featured in *Paper Magazine #7*, a leading industry publication that highlights print innovators.



SARAH SCHUMACHER



MANON LASSAIGNE



PIEN HAKS





# ready to apply?

The Intergraf Young Talent Award is your opportunity to be recognised as a future leader in print. Submit your entry today and help shape the print industry for future generations!

To ensure fairness and depth of reflection, the use of AI tools for the core critical thinking and creative development of your submission is strongly discouraged. Entries must reflect your own original ideas, analysis and perspectives. The jury will prioritise unique, substantial and genuinely personal submissions, and may disadvantage or exclude entries that appear generic or predominantly AI-generated.

Send your application in English to Sergejs Mikaeljans, Communications & Events Officer at Intergraf, by email ([smikaeljans@intergraf.eu](mailto:smikaeljans@intergraf.eu)) or post (Avenue Louise 130A, 1050 Brussels, Belgium) **before the submission deadline of 8 March 2026.**



Intergraf is the trade association representing the graphic industry at European level.  
We represent 22 member federations from 21 countries in Europe.

