Brussels, 1 October 2026

YOUNG INTERPRETERS AWARD 2026

LEOPOLDO COSTA PRIZE

Call for submissions to the 2026 edition of the Young Interpreters Award (YIA)

The Directorate-General for Interpretation of the European Commission is pleased to announce the launch of the **2026 Young Interpreters Award (YIA).**

The award is an invitation to reflect on a specific interpretation-related topic.

In the framework of the Interpreting Europe Conference 2026, the **theme** of this year's edition is:

"Human voices, smart technologies: Rethinking multilingual communication"

1. Who can apply?

For this edition of the award, the YIA is open to **students** who:

- were enrolled in a master's degree in a conference interpreting during the academic year 2025-2026.
- are in their final year of their master's degree in conference interpreting during the academic year 2026-2027, are nationals of one of the member states of the European Union or a candidate country to the European Union, and
- haven't participated in the Young Interpreters Award contest before.

2. How to apply?

1) To participate in the competition, students must submit the following documents in either **English, French or German:**

   - A **written speech** (max. 10-minute delivery time) that meets the following criteria:
     - **relevance to the theme**: clearly engages with and reflects the central theme of the contest;
     - **forward-thinking perspective:** demonstrates an innovative, modern, and open approach to the interpreting profession, particularly in the context of ongoing changes and challenges;
     - **personal insight**: incorporates personal perspective, experience or reflection that adds authenticity and originality to the speech.

Please note that the submissions should be drafted for **oral delivery** to the audience of the Interpreting Europe Conference 2026, which will include simultaneous interpretation in several languages. Authors should consider this while drafting their speeches.

- A **summary of the speech** (max. 800 characters without spaces)
- A **proof of registration** for your master's degree course
- A **copy of your passport or national ID** as proof of your nationality
- A **self-declaration** of first language(s)

Send the documents by e-mail to SCIC-INTERPRETING-EUROPE-CONFERENCE@ec.europa.eu by **Monday 19 October 2026 at noon (Brussels time).**

3. What does the award consist of?

The award for the three winning authors consists of an **invitation to Brussels from 25 to 27 November 2026**. Travel and accommodation will be covered by the European Commission.

DG Interpretation's Selection Committee will evaluate all eligible submissions and select the three most promising entries, awarding **first, second, and third place.**

Selected participants (one winner and two runners-up) will be invited to an exclusive visit during which they will be given the opportunity to:

- Experience first-hand the world's largest interpreting service at work,
- Practise interpreting at a meeting of the European Union environment (dummy booth),
- Take part in a dedicated masterclass and workshop on communication and presentation skills,
- Attend DG Interpretation's Interpreting Europe Conference on 26 & 27 November 2026, where all three participants will receive their award certificates.

The first prize winner will be given the opportunity to deliver their speech live to the conference audience.

4. How are the speeches assessed, and when will the results be published?

DG Interpretation's Selection Committee will evaluate all eligible submissions and select the three most promising entries, awarding **first, second, and third place.**

The selection committee will assess the speeches based on the criteria listed in section 5.

Each participant will be informed of the outcome by e-mail in the first half of November 2026.

5. General conditions

- Entrants agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the contest.
- The decisions of the organisers (DG Interpretation) and of the jury are final with regards to all aspects of the contest.
- The organisers appoint the members of the jury.
- The jury establishes its evaluation criteria and internal procedures autonomously.
- The proceedings from the jury are confidential.
- Each competitor can only submit one contribution, and all submitted texts should be their own work and exclusive property. Any incomplete or late entries will be automatically rejected.
- The organisers will use the participants' e-mail addresses from which the entries are sent to contact them for the purposes of the contest.
- The text of the winning entry as well as the names and pictures of the winners may be published on relevant corporate websites of the European Commission.
- DG Interpretation reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel the contest, in the event of anything occurring that could compromise or affect the normal operation of the contest or if the jury concludes that none of the entries satisfies its criteria.

6. Background

The award was established in honour of **Leopoldo Costa** (1945-2000), a senior interpreter at DG Interpretation and one of the most outstanding interpreters of his generation.

Over and above having an extraordinary array of working languages, he was known for an unflagging commitment to quality, tempered by unassuming modesty and a dry sense of humour.

These qualities made him an invaluable source of advice and assistance to less experienced interpreters and particularly to students, to whom he gave unstinting support throughout his career.