SPROUT IN ARMENIAN
2026

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Tsil Project serves as the cornerstone of our Language Pillar.

Implemented by the Amrots National Development Foundation, our mission is to forge deep, lasting connections among Armenian youth worldwide—empowering them to proudly embrace their heritage and pass it on to future generations.

The initiative is built on three core pillars:

- **Sprout in Armenian Pan-Armenian Youth Creative Competition: A global creative showcase for teenagers**
- **Tsil workshops: An immersive environment designed for intensive training, skill-building, and creative collaboration**
- **The Tsil community: A vibrant, growing network connecting over 50 dynamic young creators**

Tsil is a dedicated launchpad for Armenian youth, engineered to ignite a passion for the Armenian language, sharpen creative thinking, and cultivate a global network of next-generation creators.

Thinking in Armenian, Speaking to the World

The overarching theme for the 2026 Sprout in Armenian competition is: Thinking in Armenian, Speaking to the World. Participants are encouraged to create original works based on the thematic areas and sample titles below. They may also submit works under their own original titles, provided they align with the core philosophy of the chosen theme.

LANGUAGE (ԼԵԶՈՒ)

Sample titles:

- The Word That Lives Within Me
- The Language of My Dreams
- My Thoughts, Aloud to the World

VALUES (ԱՐԺԵՔՆԵՐ)

Sample titles:

- A Decision That Changed Me
- An Act I Will Never Forget
- The Deep Roots of My Ancestors' Memory

HOMELAND (ՀԱՅՐԵՆԻՔ)

Sample titles:

- The Scent of the Earth I Carry With Me
- Voices From My City / Village / Backyard
- How My Armenian Inner Voice Connects With the World Around Me

FAITH (ՀԱՎԱՏՔ)

Sample titles:

- The Prayer I Never Spoke
- The Sound of Silence
- The Word That Lives On

This theme invites youth to articulate their inner world, emotions, and perspectives in Armenian—communicating globally and using the Armenian language as a vibrant medium for universal values.

Who Can Participate?

- **Age Requirement:** Teenagers aged 14 to 17
- **Location:** Open to youth residing in Armenia and throughout the global Diaspora
- Past participants who have not previously won a prize are highly encouraged to submit again.

Submission Categories

1) Creative Writing

- Original works of prose or poetry, including poems, legends, fairy tales, and short stories.
- *Please note: Essays are academic and are not eligible for this creative writing category.*

2) Visual Arts:

- Poster Design
- Comics & Graphic Storytelling

3) **Foreign Language (Incentive Category):**

- Creative literary works written in languages other than Armenian. This special category is dedicated to youth who are still on the journey of learning and exploring their linguistic heritage

Important Dates & Timeline

- **May 15 – October 20, 2026:** Submissions Open (Call for Applications)
- **October 20 – November 20, 2026:** Jury Evaluation
- **February 2027:** Official Award Ceremony

Category Criteria

Prose	Poetry	Poster Design	Comics and Graphic Storytelling
• Length: Up to 2,000 words. • Literary Format: Accepted formats include short stories, fairy tales, legends, and poems. Please note: Academic or school essays will not be accepted. • File Format: Submissions must be uploaded as a single PDF document. • Language: Works may be submitted in Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, or any regional Armenian dialect. • AI Policy: Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) may only be used as a supplementary aid for brainstorming or proofreading, and must not account for more than 20% of the final text. All submissions must be substantially original.	• Quantity: 1 to 3 poems. • Length: Minimum 12 lines per poem; total maximum of 500 words. • File Format: Submissions must be uploaded as a single PDF document. • Language: Works may be submitted in Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, or any regional Armenian dialect. • AI Policy: Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) may only be used as a supplementary aid for brainstorming or proofreading, and must not account for more than 20% of the final text. All submissions must be substantially original.	• Quantity: 1–3 posters. • Originality Requirement: All artwork must be 100% original. The use of stock graphics, pre-made stickers, clipart, or any third-party elements is strictly prohibited. • File Format & Size: Submissions must be uploaded as a PDF or JPEG file, with a maximum file size of 3 MB. • Language: Any text included in the design must be in Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, or a regional dialect. • AI Policy: Generative AI tools must not account for more than 20% of the final design.	• Length: Maximum 15 pages. • File Format: Submissions must be uploaded as a single PDF document. • Colors: Open format; there are no color restrictions (black & white, grayscale, and full-color submissions are all welcome). • Language: All text, dialogue, and narration must be in Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, or a regional dialect. • AI Policy: Generative AI tools more than 20% of the final project. The core character design, layouts, and storytelling must be the participant's original work.

Awards

- Monetary Awards: Cash prizes designated for educational, cultural, or creative development purposes.
- Language & Heritage Fellowships: Exclusive language-immersion and development opportunities designed to enhance Armenian proficiency for winners of the Exploring Roots category.

General Provisions

1. Participation Flexibility

- Participants are welcome to compete in one or multiple categories. This includes submitting distinct entries to different sub-categories within the same field (for example, entering both Poster Design and Comics & Graphic Storytelling).

2. Submission Agreement

- By submitting an entry, the participant acknowledges and agrees to the following terms:
  - Authorship & AI Compliance: The submitted work must be created entirely by the participant. For literary submissions, outside assistance is permitted strictly for spelling and punctuation proofreading. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage must not exceed the specified 20% limit.
  - Originality: The work must be completely original, created specifically for the "Bloom in Armenian" competition, and must not have been previously submitted to any other contests or publications.
  - Intellectual Property & Publication Rights: The Amrots National Development Foundation reserves the right to showcase, publish, or feature submitted works on its website, social media, or other promotional platforms (including thematic exhibitions) for non-profit and educational purposes. The participant retains full moral rights and authorship credit. Winning participants are free to publish or use their work elsewhere once it has been officially published by the Foundation.
  - Application Integrity: Incomplete, careless, or improperly formatted applications will be automatically disqualified. Participants must strictly adhere to all specified deadlines, file formats, and length limits.

Evaluation Process

Jury Panel Composition

- A professional evaluation panel is assembled for each submission category. Industry experts may serve on multiple panels, and each committee will include a designated representative from the Amrots National Development Foundation.

Blind Judging

- To ensure a completely objective and unbiased assessment, all submissions will undergo a blind review process. All personal identifying information is removed from the entries before they are delivered to the jury panel.

Scoring System

- Based on predefined evaluation criteria, each jury member will select their top 10 choices within their designated category. Selected entries will be scored on a 1-to-10 scale (with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). Judges are permitted to award identical scores to multiple participants if their work is of equal merit.

Weighted Scoring & Final Interviews

- Initial Benchmarking: Individual judge scores are averaged to determine each participant's preliminary grade.
- The Interview Stage: The highest-scoring participants will advance to a virtual interview stage conducted by Amrots Foundation representatives and select jury members.
- The Final Calculation: The final ranking is determined using a weighted combination: the jury panel's average score accounts for 90% of the final grade, and the Amrots Foundation evaluation accounts for the remaining 10%.

Selection of Winners

- Final placements are decided by cumulative scores within each competitive track. The top three highest-scoring participants in each category will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place honors, respectively.

Evaluation Criteria by Category

Prose	Poetry	Comics & Graphic Storytelling	Poster Design
• Originality & Creative Concept: The strength, uniqueness, and artistic imagination of the underlying idea. • Narrative Structure & Plot Development: The structural integrity of the piece and the logical flow and pacing of the plot. • Command of Language & Imagery: The masterful, creative, and figurative use of the Armenian language to evoke vivid imagery and depth. • Stylistic Cohesion: The harmony between the chosen artistic voice, style, and the overall content. • Grammatical & Technical Accuracy: Precision in grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation. • Emotional Resonance & Engagement: The work's power to captivate the reader, evoke emotion, and leave a lasting impression.	• Conceptual Depth & Originality: The profundity, uniqueness, and intellectual or emotional weight of the core idea. • Imaginative Vision & Vivid Imagery: The use of fresh, inventive metaphors and striking poetic imagery that avoids clichés. • Meter, Rhythm, & Cadence: The structural cadence, internal rhythm, and musicality of the verse. • Linguistic Richness & Stylistic Cohesion: The depth of vocabulary and the seamless integration of poetic style with the theme. • Technical & Mechanics Precision: Accuracy in spelling, formatting, and purposeful punctuation. • Emotional Resonance & Lasting Impression: The poem's capacity to evoke deep emotion, captivate the reader, and linger in the mind.	• Narrative Clarity & Conceptual Integrity: The structural clarity of the plot and the strength, coherence, and originality of the core concept. • Visual-Textual Harmony: The seamless integration and synergy between the artwork and the accompanying text or dialogue. • Creative Graphic Execution: Innovation in panel layouts, framing, pacing, and overall visual storytelling solutions. • Technical Illustration Skill: Draftsmanship, anatomical consistency, background depth, and overall artistic craftsmanship. • Linguistic & Typographic Precision: The grammatically correct, natural, and highly legible use of the Armenian language in dialogue and lettering. • Overall Impact & Resonance: The comprehensive impression of the piece and the clarity, power, and effectiveness of its central message.	• Conceptual Relevance & Innovation: How effectively the underlying idea addresses the prompt, combined with the creativity and originality of the visual solution. • Design Quality & Compositional Balance: Technical excellence in graphic design, layout structure, use of negative space, and visual hierarchy. • Color Theory & Palette Execution: The deliberate choice, harmony, and effective psychological or aesthetic combination of colors. • Linguistic & Typographic Precision: The accuracy of the textual components, proper grammar, and the impactful integration of language into the design. • Clarity of Message & Public Resonance: The immediate readability of the poster's central message and its power to engage, inform, and impact the audience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. How do I submit my work?
All submissions must be uploaded directly through the respective official application form in PDF format. To ensure a completely fair, blind judging process, your uploaded file must not contain your name, contact details, or any other personal identifying information.

2. What is the difference between the theme and the title?
The overarching theme for 2026 is "Thinking in Armenian, Speaking to the World." This is the creative umbrella for the entire contest. Within this framework, you are completely free to invent your own unique title and choose your specific creative direction.

3. Can I participate as a team?
No. To keep the evaluation fair, all submissions must be entirely individual. Group or team projects are not accepted.

4. What if I am not fully fluent in Armenian?
We want you to share your voice anyway! If you are still building your Armenian language skills, you are highly encouraged to enter our "Exploring Roots" incentive category. This track allows you to submit your creative work in whatever language you feel most fluent in.

5. What happens if my submission does not win?
A non-winning submission doesn't mean your work wasn't excellent! Many of our favorite high-scoring, non-winning entries will be selected for publication and featured across the Tsil Community platform or in our partner literary and art magazines.

6. Can I enter more than one category?
Absolutely. You are welcome to submit entries to up to two categories, even across completely different artistic disciplines (for example, entering both the Creative Writing track and the Visual Arts track).

7. Is there a participation fee?
No. Participation in the competition is 100% free of charge.

For any other questions, please contact us at: Info@amrots.foundation