



ALAI European Authors' Right Award – supported by GESAC

Guidelines for the 9th edition / 2026-2027

ALAI, a worldwide network of academics and copyright experts, wants to encourage young researchers to participate in academic work and provide them the opportunity to showcase their views and research on authors' right/copyright by entering an essay competition. The award is supported by **GESAC**, the European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers, which serves as an umbrella organisation of authors' societies in Europe and advocates for adequate protection of authors' rights and interests.

Prize

The author of the winning essay receives an amount of 2.000,00 Euros. If the jury decides to award a second essay, the second winner will receive 1.000,00 Euros.

The winner(s) will also receive:

- a free registration to attend the international ALAI Congress, that of the year of the award or the following year (no travel or lodging expenses are included) ;
- a free membership registration in a national ALAI group during the year following the award (the winner(s) home country group or the national group of the country where the winner(s) studies or resides).

ALAI and GESAC may organise an award ceremony. In this case, the winner(s) will be reimbursed for travel and lodging costs to a maximum of 500,00 EUR.

The winning essay(s) will be published on the websites of ALAI and GESAC and announced on their social media profile (LinkedIn-Instagram). ALAI and GESAC can make further suggestions as to legal reviews which might be appropriate and willing to publish the winning essay(s).

Subject

The essay must:

- be related to authors' rights/copyright ;
- have a European dimension (this may include a comparison of third-country systems with those of the EU) ;
- include aspects that could be of interest to the collective management of authors' rights/copyright.

Within this framework, the applicants will be free to select the specific issue for which they submit their applications.

Eligibility

- master's students or newly master's graduates (academic year 2025-2026) from any university in the world (minimum 4th year tertiary, master's level, LL.M, pre-doctoral or doctoral level students/researchers) ;

- candidates must be under the age of 35 on 13 November 2026 ;
- candidates must have been recommended to apply by at least one IP professor at a recognised university / faculty ;
- essays submitted for the competition may be either newly written specifically for the competition or based on an academic work that is currently in progress, or on a completed work that has been presented at an academic institution in 2025 or later.

Format

Eligible students wishing to participate in the competition must provide:

- a completed and signed application form ;
- an abstract of the essay they wish to submit (maximum one-page summary, approximately 2000 characters) ;
- if their abstract is selected, the essay should be between fifteen and twenty pages long (approximately 30,000–40,000 characters, excluding spaces, annexes, and bibliography) ;
- abstracts and essays in Word format in either English or French.

Jury

The jury for the 2026 edition of the award is chaired by Professor Frank Gotzen, President of ALAI and is further composed of two ALAI representatives:

- Paul Torremans, Professor of Intellectual Property Law, University of Nottingham,
- Yves Gaubiac, Lawyer, Lecturer at Panthéon-Assas University, Paris 2,

and two representatives of GESAC:

- Caroline Bonin, General Counsel, SACEM,
- Gábor Faludi, outside Counsel for Artisjus, Associate Professor ELTE Law School Civil Law Department.

Selection procedure/Key dates

- the candidates must submit their **application form** and an abstract of the essay (see the part on Format) they intend to present, at the latest by **November 13, 2026** ;
- the jury will make a first selection based on the abstracts submitted by the candidates. The result of this preliminary selection will be communicated to candidates on **December 16, 2026** ;
- the short-listed candidates will need to submit their completed essay (see the part on Format) at the latest by: **February 12, 2027** ;
- the jury will select the winner(s) and the results will be communicated to the candidates **mid-April 2027**.

The jury reserves the right not to name a winner if the quality of the essays is deemed insufficient.

Contact:

Questions, application forms, abstracts, and essays are to be sent to: alai.award@gesac.org