

APPROVED

by Order No. V-07 of the Director
of the Kaunas Students' Technical Creativity
Center
dated 30 January 2026

**18TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
“YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY 2026”**

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Regulations of the 18th International Youth Photography Contest “**YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY 2026**” (hereinafter referred to as the **Contest**) establish the objectives of the Contest, the requirements for participants, and the procedures for submission, evaluation, awarding, and public dissemination of works.

2. The organizer of the Contest is the **Kaunas Students' Technical Creativity Center** (hereinafter referred to as *Kaunas STCC*).
The partner of the Contest is the **Academy of Arts of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences**.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONTEST

3. To promote artistic photography among young people.
4. To encourage creativity and international cultural cooperation among young photographers.
5. To develop artistic and creative skills of students and young people.

III. PARTICIPANTS

6. Young people from Lithuania and other countries may participate in the Contest.
7. Participants are evaluated in three age groups:
 - 7.1. Age group I – 10–16 years;
 - 7.2. Age group II – 17–19 years;
 - 7.3. Age group – 20–29 years.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTED WORKS

8. One author may submit up to **three photographic series**. One series must consist of **3–7 photographs**.
9. Each photograph file must be named as follows:
first name_last name_age_series title_photo number
10. A short description or literary text (up to **500 characters**) may be submitted together with the series.

11. If photographs or images are created using **artificial intelligence (AI)**, the file name must end with the designation “**AI**”. The author confirms that AI tools were used legally and assumes full responsibility for any potential copyright or other intellectual property rights violations.

12. AI-generated images are accepted **only** in the separate nomination “**Young People: AI Interpretation.**”

13. **Works submitted in other Contest categories must correspond to the theme “Young People in the 21st Century.” Works that do not match the theme will not be evaluated.**

14. Technical requirements:

- format – JPG (JPEG);
- resolution – not less than 300 dpi;
- file size – not exceeding 3 MB;
- photos must not contain logos, watermarks, dates or other markings.

15. Evaluation criteria: originality, artistic quality, emotional impact, relevance to the theme and technical quality.

16. Works promoting violence, discrimination, religious or national hatred or violating the laws of the Republic of Lithuania will not be evaluated.

V. SUBMISSION OF WORKS

17. Application forms works must be submitted via „Google Forms“: <https://forms.gle/nUkVd3ZJLovAPq917>

18. The controller of personal data is the **Kaunas Students’ Technical Creativity Center**. Personal data are processed only for the purposes of organizing, administering, and publicizing the Contest, in compliance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.

19. Works are accepted **until 30 April 2026**.

20. Late submissions or works that do not meet technical or other requirements of these Regulations will not be evaluated.

VI. EVALUATION AND AWARDS

21. Works are evaluated by professional photographers, photography experts, and members of the **Lithuanian Photographers’ Association**.

22. In each age group, the following awards are granted:

- 1st place,
- 2nd place,
- 3rd place,
- 3 encouragement diplomas.

23. One **GRAND PRIX** winner is selected from all age groups.

24. A separate nomination “**Young People: AI Interpretation**” is awarded.

25. The **120 best works** are included in the digital photography catalogue “**YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE XXI CENTURY 2026.**”

26. Works by **30 authors** are exhibited in an international photography exhibition at **Kaunas Shopping Centre “Akropolis”** and other public spaces in Kaunas.

27. Winners are announced on the Kaunas STCC website (www.mtkc.lt) and on social media.

28. Awards are presented during the ceremony on **4 June 2026** at the **Academy of Arts of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences** (A. Mackevičiaus St. 27) during the conference.

29. All participants and their teachers are invited to attend additional events:

- an online seminar “**Photography Contest Guide: Young People in the 21st Century**” (April 2026);

- a conference and creative workshops “**The Path of Photography: Creation, Critique, Evaluation,**” to be held on **4 June 2026**, from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, at the Academy of Arts of Kaunas University of Applied Sciences (A. Mackevičiaus St. 27);

- an exhibition of the Contest’s best works held during the conference.

VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

30. The organizers may use submitted photographs **free of charge**, with attribution of authorship, **for non-commercial purposes only**, including promotion of the Contest and youth photography, exhibitions, publications, catalogues, online dissemination, and archiving. The organizers do not acquire exclusive economic rights and may not transfer photographs to third parties for commercial use.

31. By submitting works, the author confirms authorship, ownership of all necessary rights and consent of identifiable persons (or their legal representatives). The author is fully responsible for any violations of copyright, image rights or other legal regulations.

32. Submission of photographs and the participant application form constitutes acceptance of these Regulations. This consent is valid for an unlimited period in relation to promotion archiving and documentation of the Contest.

33. **Information about the Contest:**

Website www.mtkc.lt;

Email: youngpeoplexxi@gmail.com;

Contest coordinator Danguolė Čiurlionienė, tel. +370 699 31324.
