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UNESCO International Literacy Prizes

Call for applications and nominations

Deadline: 1 June 2026

Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity

Every year, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes reward excellence and innovation in the field of literacy around the world to promote effective and innovative practices and encourage dynamic literate societies.

This year, the Prizes focuses on literacy for people, the planet and prosperity.

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes



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UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize

Supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Prize rewards activities that promote mother language-based literacy development.



© DR Confucius Cultural Week for Confucius

UNESCO Confucius Prize For Literacy

Supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Prize rewards activities that promote literacy, including functional literacy, leveraging technological environments, in support of adults in rural areas and out-of-school youth.

The process is composed of an application and a nomination:

Deadline for applications:

18 May 2026

Deadline for nominations:

1 June 2026

Who can apply?

- Individuals, institutions and organizations promoting literacy.
- Programmes must be still in operation and have a proven record of innovative work in the field of literacy for at least 2 years.
- Programmes that have not been awarded the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes in the past five years.

How to apply?

- Request your user account through this link <https://unesco.org/illp-account>. You will then be able to proceed to the online application form.
- Fill in and submit the electronic application form in English or French to UNESCO's Secretariat via the concerned Member States through the National Commission for UNESCO by **18 May 2026** (midnight, Paris time). If applying through an International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), which maintains official relations with UNESCO, please provide project information and request a nomination letter directly from the NGO, to be attached to the electronic application form by **1 June 2026**.

For Member States and NGOs: How to nominate?

National Commissions: You will receive a notification by email (associated to your UNESCO account) every time applicants wish you to nominate their applications. Please review the submissions received, and nominate up to three applications for the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy and up to three applications for the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize. Submit the nominations with written recommendations to UNESCO by **1 June 2026** (midnight, Paris time), using the link in the notification email.

NGOs: If solicited, review the candidature(s) and send a letter of nomination to the chosen applicant(s) directly, which they can attach to the electronic application form.

Contact us

✉ literacyprizes@unesco.org



<https://www.unesco.org/en/prizes/literacy>



@UNESCO #LiteracyDay

