

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE ARTICLE COMPETITION OF THE NATO ENERGY SECURITY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE JOURNAL AND AWARD OF THE PRIZE**

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Regulations for the article competition of the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence journal (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition") and award of the prize (hereinafter referred to as the "Prize") regulate the procedure for organizing this competition, the requirements for the submitted works, the provision of works, evaluation, the procedure for the announcement of winners and the award.
2. The purpose of the Competition is to select the best article submitted by competition entrants, which are to be published in the Energy Highlights journal (published in print and online by NATO ENSEC COE).
3. The aim of the Competition is to educate and inform the public on relevant issues of energy security, particularly regarding the long-term outlook for supply and demand across energy vectors amongst Allies; to examine the most important potential problems in this area; to highlight supply chain and security risks; and to promote energy efficiency in the military.
4. The Competition Prize is established by NATO ENSEC COE after Steering Committee approval.
5. The winner shall be awarded a prize and letter of commendation from the NATO ENSEC COE. The amount of the bonus is awarded in accordance with the approved prize amounts:
  - 5.1. A prize for the best article published in the magazine 500 €;
  - 5.2. NATO ENSEC COE Gift Bags to the next 5 best articles.
6. In addition to this general category (Category 1), the 2026 edition of the competition will include two new age-based categories for Generation Z participants, as part of a project requested by the Federal Ministry of Defence of Germany:
  - 6.1. Category 2 - Ages 14-20;
  - 6.2. Category 3 - Ages 21-29.
7. The winners of the Generation Z categories shall be awarded a prize and letter of commendation from the NATO ENSEC COE. The amount of the bonus, which is awarded in accordance with the approved prize amounts:
  - 7.1. First prize in both age categories 300€;
  - 7.2. Second prize in both age categories 150€;
  - 7.3. NATO ENSEC COE Gift Bags to the next 5 best articles in both age categories.
8. The selection and evaluation of the works submitted to the competition shall be carried out by the Competition Jury (hereinafter referred to as the Commission).
9. Eligibility for authors: entrants must be nationals of NATO nations or active partner nations, or affiliated with an educational institution within these nations. Participants aged 14-29 may choose to compete in the general competition instead of the Generation Z category. However, those entering the general competition will no longer be eligible for the Generation Z prize. Each entrant may submit one article.
10. Guidelines – term for submission of the articles will be outlined in the Guidelines, published on the NATO ENSEC COE website. Results will be announced in February 2027.

## **II. THE COMMISSION'S WORK AND THE PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING THE PRIZE**

11. All the articles submitted for the publication in Energy Highlights journal are checked in accordance with publication procedures established by NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence administrative regulation. Each article goes through reviewing process, and if decided to be winners and accepted - copyright agreement, acceptance of work, publishing, which includes editing, typesetting and proofreading.
12. All submitted articles in relation to the Competition shall be evaluated by the Commission, composed of the Chief of Staff, the Head of Division for Research and Lessons Learned, Managing Editor of the Journal and the Project Lead of the Generation Z project.
13. The Commission shall evaluate and select the best works no later 14 December 2026.
14. The cash prizes are awarded from the funds of the NATO ENSEC COE.
15. The winners of the competition shall be announced and the cash prizes approved under these Regulations shall be awarded digitally by a representative of the Commission. Winners will be informed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.
16. Tenderers shall submit to the Commission, Courtesy of the Managing Editor of Energy Highlights, (in writing or recorded on an electronic copy) before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.
17. A maximum of 1 (one) entry may be submitted per participant for the competition. Jointly authored papers are allowed; the prize amount will be divided equally among co-authors.
18. The contestant (the author of the works submitted to the Competition) grants the organizers of the Competition a non-exclusive right to publish the copyrighted works submitted to the Competition in publications and media related to the Competition. This right is transferred free of charge.

## **III. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKS**

19. Entries must be in English and between 1500-3000 words. The main articles' evaluation criteria are:
  - 19.1. Relevance: How well does the article address topics related to energy security, particularly in military or civil-military contexts?
  - 19.2. Originality and Insight: Does the article present unique insights, innovative solutions, or a new perspective on current challenges?
  - 19.3. Clarity and Structure: Is the article well-organized, logically structured, and clear in its arguments?
  - 19.4. Depth of Research: Does the article demonstrate thorough research, with credible sources and data to support its claims?
20. Guiding research topics for submissions to Category 1:
  - 20.1. Energy Resilience and Supply Security: Trends, risks, and dependencies affecting military and allied energy.
  - 20.2. Infrastructure Protection: Vulnerabilities of critical energy infrastructure and measures to strengthen resilience.
  - 20.3. Technology and Innovation: Emerging technologies and digital solutions for military energy systems.
  - 20.4. Civil-Military Cooperation: Coordination between civilian and military actors on energy.
  - 20.5. Energy Systems and Strategic Implications: Changes in energy systems and their impact on defence and security.
  - 20.6. Energy Efficiency: Improving efficiency while maintaining operational capability.
  - 20.7. Climate security: Implications for defence planning.
21. Entries for participants in the Generation Z categories shall follow the topics:
  - 21.1. Category 2: Ages 14–20: “Securing Tomorrow's Power: How I Can Shape the Future of Energy Security?” Suggested areas of focus include:
    - 21.1.1. Personal perspectives on energy security

- 21.1.2. How global challenges connect to local action
- 21.1.3. Innovation, education, and responsible energy use
- 21.1.4. Why energy security matters for society and stability
- 21.2. Category 3: Ages 21–29: “Energy Security and NATO: From National Responsibility to Collective Challenge.” Suggest areas of focus include:
  - 21.2.1. NATO's role in protecting critical infrastructure
  - 21.2.2. Hybrid threats and energy coercion
  - 21.2.3. The climate-security nexus
  - 21.2.4. Collective preparedness and resilience
  - 21.2.5. Geopolitics and energy supply chains
  - 21.2.6. Strategic energy considerations for military capability
- 21.3. Entries will be evaluated according to criteria similar to those applied in the general competition, as described in point 19.

#### **IV. CATEGORIES OF PRIZES AND THE PROCEDURE FOR THEIR ALLOCATION**

- 22. The Commission, having assessed the works in accordance with the criteria listed in point 19 of the Regulations, shall distribute the cash prizes to the winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class prizes, and the non-monetary prizes of the next 5 thereafter.
  - 23. The Commission shall have the right to reallocate bonuses in a different order.
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