2024 Youth Photo Challenge for Disaster Risk Reduction

In the context of the Europe & Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, we are pleased to announce the launch of the “2024 Youth Photo Challenge for DRR”. Young and amateur photographers interested in documenting responses to climate challenges, particularly heat waves, wildfires, and floods, while highlighting the resilience and empowerment of communities are invited to participate in responding to this call by sharing their best photos. The top 10 selected photos will be exhibited at the 2024 Europe & Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Budva, Montenegro, scheduled for 6-8 November 2024, and will also be featured in UNDRR communication materials. In showcasing these images at the Regional Platform, the aim is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of resilience in the face of climate emergency, and to amplify the voices of youth and disability groups in Europe and Central Asia. The submission deadline is 15 September 2024.

Theme:
The theme of this challenge centers on the impact of heat waves, wildfires, and floods. In particular, we encourage participants to:

- Capture solutions, prevention measures, and mechanisms adopted by individuals, local communities, and national authorities to tackle these climate challenges
- Showcase the resilience and empowerment of communities in the face of climate challenges
- Reflect innovation and adaptation in the face of adversity

Target Audience:
We welcome the participation of young individuals and persons with disabilities, aged between 18 and 28, from across Europe and Central Asia. This initiative seeks to amplify their unique perspectives and experiences, recognizing their vital role in documenting and responding to climate challenges.

Reward:
The top 10 photos will be exhibited at the Regional Platform in Budva, Montenegro, scheduled for 6-8 November 2024, and will also feature in UNDRR communication materials. Additionally, the overall winner will receive an invitation to attend the Regional Platform, with travel and accommodation covered, and will be presented with a special award on 6th November during the event.

Judging Panel:
The judging panel comprises high-level representatives from UN agencies, the government of Montenegro, the European Commission, and the Council of Europe.

Timeline:
- **Submission Deadline:** 15 September 2024.
- **Announcement of selected photos:** The top 10 photos will be announced on 13 October 2024, aligning with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
Evaluation Criteria:
Photos will be evaluated based on four criteria:

1. **Relevance to Theme:** This criterion assesses how effectively the photograph captures the impact of heat waves or wildfires, as well as the response mechanisms employed to address these challenges.

2. **Impact and Storytelling:** This criterion evaluates the emotional and narrative strength of the photograph. Special consideration will be given to photos that compellingly portray stories of resilience and empowerment.

3. **Creativity and Originality:** This criterion focuses on the uniqueness of the perspective and the innovative portrayal of the themes. We seek photographs that offer fresh and distinctive viewpoints.

4. **Technical Quality:** This criterion examines the technical aspects of the photograph, including composition, clarity, and overall visual appeal.

Submission Guidelines:
- Participants are required to submit high-resolution JPEG or PNG files, with a minimum of 300 dpi.
- Applications should be emailed to undrr-roeca@un.org with the subject line “Summer 2024 Photo Challenge Submission”.
- Each submission must include:
  - The photographer’s full name and age
  - Group/organization affiliation (if any)
  - Location of the photo and date
  - Brief description (50-100 words) explaining the photo’s context and relevance to the theme.
- Participants must confirm the authenticity of their work and ensure they have obtained all necessary permissions for any identifiable individuals in the photos.

Kindly note that, by submitting, participants grant UNDRR the right to use, publish, and share the photos in their communication channels, with proper credit to the photographer.

Join us in this selection to showcase resilience and empowerment in the face of the climate emergency. We look forward to your inspiring visions.