



THE ROADS OF EUROPE: PHOTOGRAPHS OF A MIGRATORY JOURNEY

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

WHO ARE WE?

As part of its new project, the student association **FOCUS 8** is looking for **young amateur photographers!**

Founded by Master's students in Cultural Policy and Management in Europe at **Université Paris 8 Vincennes – Saint-Denis**, Focus 8 aims to provide a platform for socially engaged artists. As a multicultural association, we develop awareness projects, reflections, and testimonials on **contemporary European issues**.

For our first initiative, we are organizing a **photography exhibition** dedicated to **migration**. Our focus is on **France** and the **Mediterranean Balkans**, particularly Bulgaria and Greece, as they serve as key gateways to Europe for people on the move.

As Susan Sontag reminds us, photographs—“**fragments of the world**”—raise awareness of pressing global challenges. In this spirit, we invite **amateur photographers under the age of 30** to share their perspectives through their work. Our goal is to highlight the cultural diversity of young artists and amplify their voices.



THEMES AND ORGANIZATION:

Thus, artists are invited to submit photographic series that explore one or more of the following aspects:


- **Migratory journeys, exile, and crossings:** images tracing the paths taken, the obstacles encountered, or symbolic places.
- **The social, economic, and political stakes of migration:** a visual exploration of contexts and systemic impacts.
- **Stories of life, resistance, and resilience:** visual testimonies highlighting human experiences and hope.

We encourage a wide **diversity of perspectives** and **photographic styles**, ranging from documentary approaches to more artistic and conceptual creations.

The exhibition will open in **Seine-Saint-Denis**, at **Université Paris 8**, before traveling to **Bulgaria**, at the **New Bulgarian University** in **Sofia**, and then to **Greece**, at the **University of the Aegean**.

This exhibition will be accompanied by **workshops** for local residents and/or visitors, led by members of the association along with one or more photographers. These workshops could take the form of **guided tours** or **interactive sessions** that combine **different disciplines**—such as writing and photography—to create works around themes of migration, displacement, or exile.

Following these exhibitions, we aim to publish the artworks and **workshop materials online**, making them freely downloadable. Our goal is to continue amplifying diverse voices and perspectives..



PARTENRS:

This project is supported and funded by the **European Reform Universities Alliance (ERUA)** as part of the **Bottom-Up project call**. The ERUA brings together eight European universities and two associated universities to develop an innovative alternative teaching model. Our initiative is based on a partnership with the **New Bulgarian University**, located in **Sofia**. The exhibition will be presented at this institution, as well as at the **University of the Aegean in Greece**, allowing for international dissemination of the project across several member countries of the alliance.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The photographs will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the concept
- Aesthetic qualities of the images

The form of creation is free. Although particular attention has been given to France, Greece, and Bulgaria, it is not necessary to explicitly reference these countries. This connection may be developed in a message accompanying your submission. For instance, this could apply to a portrait that refers to an experience of exile in Greece. Additionally, there are no specific requirements regarding the genre.

The jury will consist of one member from the association, one photographer, and one social sciences scholar.

The jury's decision is final, and no appeals will be allowed. We ensure the destruction of files in the event that works are not selected.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:

This call is open to:

- **Photographers of all nationalities**
- **Amateur photographers under the age of 30**

Each participant may submit between **1 and 5 original photographs**, free of rights for use within the framework of the project. The photographs may have been created prior to or specifically for this call for submissions.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

To participate, please send the following elements by email to focus8.association@gmail.com with the subject line: "Last Name First Name _ Focus 8 Exhibition":

1. Photographs (1 to 5, suitable for printing in 30 x 40 format).
2. Application file including:
 - Full name and age
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - A description of your works (300 words maximum).

SUPPORT AND PROMOTION:

Selected photographers will benefit from:

- Coverage of printing and framing costs.
- Insurance for the artworks.
- Digital promotion of the works and the artist (social media).
- Organization of a vernissage event.

TIMELINE:

- **11 / 02** - Opening of the call for submissions
- **13 / 04** - Deadline for submissions: 11:59 PM
- **19 / 04** – Jury deliberation
- **21 / 04** – Announcement of results

We look forward to discovering your submissions!

The Focus 8 Team

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