

“Podcast” Official Rules 2026



PREMISE

The cultural and social promotion association “L’Università Cerca Lavoro” (U.C.L.) has conceived and promoted, since 2007, the “**Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Festival of Social Cinematography**” (TSN), an artistic project created with the aim of bringing to the attention of civil society, the media, and institutions the **narratives of diversity** (disability, work, poverty, ethnicity, gender, thought, sustainable development) and the **fragility of people and places**, through the immediacy of short films, documentaries, and music videos.

For nineteen years, we have been committed to overcoming any pietistic approach, transforming the Festival into a genuine moment of **cultural growth through cinema and the performing arts**, capable of engaging the national and international community on issues of **integration, sustainability, and social justice**. Our purpose is to highlight the essence of human diversity, enhancing its talents and aspirations, promoting dialogue among different perspectives, and bringing social themes to the big screen.

The new **Podcast Section** expands the Festival’s narrative tools, elevating sound-based storytelling as a medium for social narration.

1. VENUE AND DATES

The Festival will take place **from 7 to 10 May 2026** in the city of **Rome**. The organizers reserve the right to announce the specific venue at a later date. The venue, the program, and all official notices will be published on our official channels and on the website www.tulipanidisetanera.it.

The organizers reserve the right to modify the Festival dates in the event of extraordinary circumstances (e.g., **anti-Covid regulations**), which may require changes to the event format or postponements.

Competition deadline: Podcasts must be submitted, according to the procedures described below, **no later than 27 April 2026**, unless extensions are announced on the Festival’s official website www.tulipanidisetanera.it.

Corrections and Withdrawal from Participation: Should any defects be found in the files or materials after registration, it will be possible to submit corrected or updated versions, or to withdraw the work from the competition, **no later than 30 April 2026**.

2. PODCAST SECTION

The Podcast Section welcomes original audio works that authentically and respectfully address themes related to diversity, vulnerability, inclusion, sustainability, and social justice, in line with the mission of the TSN Festival.

Eligible works include:

- Narrative podcasts on social themes
- Documentary podcasts
- Investigative or in-depth podcasts

“L’Università Cerca Lavoro”

University Student Association

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- Podcasts based on direct testimonies
- Hybrid podcasts combining narration, interviews, and sound design

Not eligible: promotional content, generic talk formats without social relevance, or works that do not meet the required technical or documentation standards.

The podcast must uphold and highlight the dignity of the individuals represented, avoiding pietistic or sensationalistic approaches, and may be associated with the Main Themes indicated in Art. 8.

Podcasts, in order to be officially eligible for the competition, must have been published no earlier than 2025. Therefore, works published in 2025 or 2026 are eligible for the competition.

2

3. CONTENT OF THE PROJECTS AND DOCUMENTATION

The “**Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Social Festival of Cinematic Arts**” (TSN) focuses its attention on the themes of diversity and vulnerability. The event promotes the cinematic work of both established and emerging authors, coming from film schools, academies of cinema and performing arts, universities, or independent creative environments.

The Festival highlights the works of directors capable of portraying, through images, “not merely the depiction of a fragility, but the essence of diversity, enhancing it and protecting people and places from violence and marginalization.”

Eligible for the competition:

Podcasts with a **maximum duration of 45 minutes**. For podcast series, a single episode must be selected for evaluation.

Each podcast must be submitted:

In **.wav format or Mp3 at 192 kbps**

Accompanied by the mandatory documentation, which will be communicated by the Secretariat after online preregistration on the website www.tulipanidisetanera.it

Works without subtitles (necessary to ensure accessibility for deaf audiences) and those that do not comply with the participation requirements will not be considered and will be excluded automatically.

4. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The “**Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Social Festival of Cinematic Arts**” is open to everyone. Registrations are limited to a **maximum of 3 works per author and/or director**. Preregistration of the work must be completed through the dedicated online form available on www.tulipanidisetanera.it.

Instructions regarding the **mandatory documentation** and registration materials will be provided in an email sent by the Secretariat (segreteria@tulipanidisetanera.it) a few days after online preregistration. Participants are reminded to follow the instructions carefully; if needed, the Festival Secretariat can be contacted at **344.15.99.261**.

All works must be submitted in **.wav format or Mp3 at 192 kbps**. Each work must be accompanied by the following **mandatory materials**:

Registration form and release form, sent by the Secretariat after preregistration

Poster or Cover or Stills (A4) in jpg/tiff/jpeg format

Photograph of the podcast author in jpg/tiff/jpeg format

Technical sheet of the submitted work, sent by the Secretariat after preregistration

Valid ID document of the rights holder

Valid tax code of the rights holder

During the competition, the works will be reviewed by the **selection committee and/or the artistic committee**, under the supervision of the Artistic Director and the President of the Festival.

3

5. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES

Registration for the Festival is **free of charge**. Preregistration must be completed through the online form available on www.tulipanidisetanera.it. After completing the form, the Secretariat (segreteria@tulipanidisetanera.it) will send an email within a few days containing the list of **mandatory materials** and the instructions needed to finalize the registration.

All works must be submitted in **.wav format or Mp3 at 192 kbps**. Audio files may be uploaded via a **WeTransfer link**, which will be provided in our communications. All other materials (forms, posters, etc.) may be sent as email attachments.

Podcasts and all documentation requested by the Secretariat following online preregistration must be submitted **as soon as possible** and completed within the deadlines indicated. Failure to meet these deadlines will render the registration invalid. Incomplete submissions will be excluded from the competition.

Competition deadline: Podcasts must be submitted **no later than 27 April 2026**.

Only works that comply with the **technical specifications** attached to these regulations and are accompanied by the documentation listed in **Art. 3** will be considered eligible; otherwise, they will be excluded from the competition. Submitted materials will **not be returned** and will become part of the **TSN Festival historical archive**.

The results of the selection will be published on the Festival’s website www.tulipanidisetanera.it.

Podcasts must meet the following requirements:

FILE SUBMISSION

Format: .wav or .mp3 192 kbps

Stereo audio

Maximum peak: -3 dB

File name format: *PodcastTitle_author.mp3*

For any information regarding registration materials, please contact segreteria@tulipanidisetanera.it.

6. EXPERT JURIES AND AWARDED PRIZES

Podcasts will be evaluated by a **Podcast Jury**, composed of experts in audio production, storytelling, journalism, communication, and social issues.

The specific awards for the Podcast Section are:

Best Social Podcast

Best Direction

Best Concept/Subject

Best Sound

Additional special awards or mentions may be established.

The organizers reserve the right to modify or remove awards depending on the material received, as well as to introduce additional recognitions.

If among the submitted works there are podcasts that reflect the mission of the cultural partners **ANCOS, ANMIL, ASVIS, Cooperativa Sophia, Fondazione UniVerde, Movimento per la Giustizia Art. 3, and UNICEF**, or of the sponsoring ministries — **Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Ministry for Disabilities and Family, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests** — these entities may establish **additional thematic awards**, either honorary (plaque) or monetary.

Furthermore, upon publication, the posters and promotional materials of such selected works will be displayed alongside the **logo of the partner or sponsoring institution** that selected them.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selected works will be evaluated by the Commission not only on the basis of their technical quality, but also according to the criteria listed below.

Higher evaluations will be given to podcasts that:

- Portray the vulnerability of individuals who are victims of violence, discrimination, or marginalization
- Address diversity and vulnerability of people and places in a natural and original way
- Explore the theme of migration, telling with sensitivity and authenticity the stories of those who cross geographical and cultural borders, highlighting the right to mobility, hospitality, and dignity
- Promote understanding and, above all, appreciation of diversity and fragility, focusing on overcoming prejudice
- Increase awareness of ecological issues, sustainability, and climate change
- Document the relationship between people and nature within the framework of sustainable development
- Expose clichés and stereotypes present in collective imagination

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- Value diversity as a form of richness
- Affirm the right to be different, expressing it also through creativity and irony
- Identify pathways of integration and inclusion for marginalized individuals
- Present multiple perspectives, seeking common ground for coexistence
- Address the current educational shortcomings of parents who neglect their children, overwhelmed by unfiltered digital content, leading to adolescents who become either prey or predators. The objective is to foster moral awareness and help distinguish good from evil, virtues from vices, altruism from selfishness, heroism from malice
- Highlight the importance of legality, understood as a set of rules that contribute to the common good, within an educational and formative journey for young people and for individuals who have committed offenses
- Address sensitive and current issues such as workplace safety, irregular labor, organized crime, and labor exploitation, proposing—through storytelling—new ideas for prevention

Participants must clearly indicate in the synopsis (within the Festival participation form) the social theme addressed and/or the section in which the work is competing. The absence of the synopsis or of the documentation required under Art. 3 will result in exclusion.

8. MAIN THEMES

The “**Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Festival of Social Cinematography**” promotes the creation of audiovisual works, in various formats, that tell stories aligned with the **social missions of its cultural partners**:

- The lives of deaf individuals** and the dynamics of integration between people, including the quality of services available in local communities
- Sustainable development** and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** of the UN 2030 Agenda
- The lives of **people with disabilities resulting from workplace accidents**, and the quality of services provided to them and their families
- Environmental protection**, ecological culture, and the development of the **green economy**
- World hunger** and **economic inequalities** as barriers to accessing essential resources
- Civic education** promoting a culture of health, safety, prevention, and worker well-being
- Enhancement of Italian landscapes and territories**, especially those that attract international tourism, including through travel storytelling
- The lives of **migrant individuals** and their efforts to integrate into host communities, respecting local customs and contributing to social life, with attention to rights, dignity, and the value of plural identities
- Promotion of a culture of **legality, social justice, and peace among peoples**, through educational, training, and cultural initiatives aimed at young people and communities

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j. Promotion of **volunteering, intergenerational solidarity, and social cohesion**, with particular attention to the well-being of vulnerable individuals and the protection of their rights

For the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, participants will be able to select the theme of their work from a menu during preregistration. At that stage, they may indicate **up to two SDGs** to highlight the specific relevance of their content. Below is the list of possible pairings:

MAIN THEMES	17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Immigration	10. Reducing Inequality; 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
Bullying	4. Quality Education; 10. Reducing Inequality
Eating Disorder	3. Good Health and Well-being
Homophobia	10. Reducing Inequality
Disability	3. Good Health and Well-being; 10. Reducing Inequality
Gender Stereotype	4. Quality Education 5. Gender Equality; 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10. Reducing Inequality
Environment	6. Clean Water and Sanitation; 7. Affordable and Clean Energy; 12. Responsible Consumption and Production; 13. Climate Action 14. Life Below Water; 15. Life on Land
Society and Technology	7. Affordable and Clean Energy; 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
Racism	4. Quality Education; 10. Reducing Inequality; 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Social Inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Poverty; 2. Zero Hunger; 4. Quality Education; 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
Historical memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Quality Education; 10. Reducing Inequality; 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Culture of legality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities; 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; 17. Partnership for the Goals
Undeclared work (organized crime, illegal recruitment, etc...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10. Reducing Inequality; 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The thematic blocks provide guidance regarding the relevance of each work to the themes connected to the Festival’s cultural partners or sponsoring institutions. The Artistic Board reserves the right to independently establish additional thematic associations if identified during the evaluation of the podcast.

If a podcast is considered relevant to more than one theme, additional themes may be indicated in the notes section during preregistration.

For more information on the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, you may consult the following link: <https://asvis.it/goal-e-target-obiettivi-e-traguardi-per-il-2030/>

9. INFORMATION ON THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

By submitting their works and completing registration for the competition, participants consent to the processing of their personal data for purposes related to the competition, pursuant to **Legislative Decree No. 196/2003** and **Article 13 of the European Regulation 2016/679 – GDPR**.

The participant authorizes the cultural association “**L’Università Cerca Lavoro**” (UCL), or any company designated by it, organizer of the **Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Festival of Social Cinematography**, to publish images, photographs, and video recordings taken during the Festival on its website, in catalogues, and/or through other suitable communication channels, as well as during public or private promotional events, provided that personal dignity and decorum are not compromised. The participant further declares that this authorization for usage rights **does not conflict with any contractual agreements or representation agency rights**, releasing UCL from any third-party claims related to such rights. The participant authorizes the use of their **image(s) and music** entirely free of charge.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree 196/2003 and Article 13 of the European Regulation 2016/679 – GDPR, the participant declares to be fully informed about the purposes and methods of processing the personal data provided in the registration form and authorizes the **archiving of the submitted material** within the TSN Festival’s historical archive.

All personal data and information protected under privacy law are and will be processed in accordance with principles of fairness, lawfulness, and transparency, safeguarding participants’ rights, for the purposes and with the methods described in the privacy notice of **Tulipani di Seta Nera**, data controller, available in the dedicated section of the website: <http://www.tulipanidisetanera.it>

The participant declares to hold full ownership of the **economic exploitation rights** granted by Law 633/1941 for the audiovisual work submitted to the Festival.

The Organization reserves the right to use all submitted materials and works evaluated by the juries—therefore finalists—for **promotional purposes** related to the Festival’s social mission. Such works may be publicly screened during promotional events or public initiatives that UCL, or any designated company, considers to be of significant social relevance.

10. FESTIVAL ARCHIVE

Works submitted for preselection will not be returned but will be used exclusively as **archival material**. The association **U.C.L.**, or any company designated by it, creator and producer of the Festival, reserves the right to use archived material for **non-profit promotional purposes**.

By submitting a participation request, the author and/or rights holders authorize the use of the work for Festival screenings, study purposes, and showcases, solely for the promotion of the event. They also authorize the use of **up to 20% of the submitted work** for promotional purposes, including broadcast on television networks.

11. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Participation in the Festival implies full acceptance of this Regulation and its annexes.

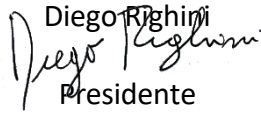
The **Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Festival of Social Cinematography** aims to provide maximum journalistic, television, and cinematic visibility to the work of directors and casts of the submitted projects. For this reason, the organization reserves the right to exclude, at its discretion, any works that, during the Festival period, participate simultaneously in other film competitions with similar purposes or related sections.

Winners agree to include in the opening credits of their project the name and logo of the **“Tulipani di Seta Nera – International Festival of Social Cinematography.”**

Any works that are racist, pornographic, defamatory, or in violation of any legal provision will be automatically rejected. Prizes will be awarded **only in the presence of the winning director or an official representative**. The Secretariat will not ship any awards. The decision of the juries is final and not subject to appeal.

12. DISPUTES

Submitting a participation request implies unconditional acceptance of this Regulation and its annexes. The Festival Management retains final decision-making authority on all matters not expressly covered in this Regulation. For any disputes, the competent court is the Court of Rome.

Diego Righini

Presidente

Festival Tulipani di Seta Nera

Ilaria Battistelli


Presidente

UCL

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON
Radio Digitali Specializzate e Podcast

