

RULES OF THE PAGE INTERNATIONAL LITERARY CONTEST

Project	PAGE Project Advancing coGnitive accessibility in publishingn
WP 3	Literary contest - Call for easy-to-read and easy-to-understand texts
Authors	TPUL, Portugal
Date	November 2025
Language	EN

The PAGE Project – Project for Advancing Cognitive Accessibility in Publishing – is a collaborative initiative between several European organisations committed to promoting cognitive accessibility in the field of publishing: SCS Controvento (Italy), Trinta Por Uma Linha (Portugal), RISA (Slovenia), Yelo (Croatia), Boarve Konsult AB (Sweden), Logopsycom (Belgium), and Les Apprimeurs (France). The project is co-funded by the European Union.

PAGE was born from a shared observation and a pressing concern: across Europe, it remains extremely difficult to find literature designed for adolescents and young adults with cognitive disabilities. While the publishing sector has made significant progress in developing accessible books for early readers and children, a major gap persists once these readers reach adolescence. Many young people who need cognitively accessible texts face a painful dilemma—either continue reading books made for much younger audiences or stop reading altogether.

Recent studies and surveys across the European publishing landscape suggest that less than 2% of all published books are designed or adapted for readers with cognitive disabilities, and most of these are targeted at children under 12. Among more than 60,000 new titles published annually in Europe, only a handful meet accessibility standards suitable for older readers. In addition, fewer than 15% of publishing houses report having any editorial strategy or trained staff for cognitive accessibility, underscoring a systemic lack of awareness, resources, and models.

PAGE aims to respond to this gap by fostering a European community of publishers, educators, authors, and designers who will work together to rethink how literature can be made accessible, engaging, and dignified for all readers—especially those navigating adolescence and early adulthood with cognitive challenges.

So far, the project has gathered good practices, analysed accessibility standards, and built partnerships with authors and publishers interested in inclusive storytelling. However, much remains to be done: there is an urgent need to create a body of works that combine literary quality, emotional depth, and cognitive accessibility; to



develop shared editorial guidelines; and to ensure that every European reader can access stories that respect both their abilities and their age.

As one of its core activities, PAGE will organise an international literary contest to select five original stories for young adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. These stories will be translated into all partner languages—ensuring that each participating country has access to the full collection—and will be published both in digital and print formats.

Through this collaborative effort, PAGE seeks not only to fill a gap in publishing but to affirm a fundamental principle: that everyone, regardless of cognitive ability, deserves access to literature that speaks to their age, imagination, and humanity.



Article 1 - Objective

This international literary contest, organized within the framework of a European project, aims to promote the creation of accessible literature for young adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities. The contest seeks to encourage the production of literature that is accessible, stimulating, and adapted to the needs and abilities of the target audience.

Article 2. - Eligibility

Authors of the piloting countries (Italy, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal) are eligible to participate, provided that their works are submitted in the official languages of the partner country (IT, FR, SL, HR, PT). Both individual and co-authored submissions are accepted, as long as the final text complies with the criteria outlined in these rules.

Submissions must be entirely original and the exclusive work of the author(s). By submitting their story, participants declare that they are the rightful owners of all intellectual property rights to the submitted text and that it has not been previously published or submitted to other contests.

In the case of minors, submissions must be accompanied by a signed authorization from a parent or legal guardian, granting consent for participation in the PAGE Contest and, in case of selection, for publication and dissemination of the work in print and digital formats.

The processing of participants' personal data is carried out in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and with the applicable European data protection legislation, ensuring transparency, confidentiality and security of all information collected in each country involved in the project.



Article 3 - Category

Short Story for Young Adults with Intellectual and Cognitive Disabilities.

The stories should promote inclusive, positive, and stimulating values, avoiding content that might cause discomfort or exclusion.

Article 4 – Text requirements

The submitted short story must have a minimum of 10.000 and maximum of 18.000 characters, including spaces.

The text should follow the guidelines for Easy Language, according to (insert national guidelines or Inclusion Europe guidelines...).

The guidelines for Easy Language include the importance of:

- using simple and common words
- Avoid complex or abstract terms. If you need to use a complex word which is key for the sentence, explain it.
- Do not use synonyms
- Do not use metaphors or idiomatic expressions.
- writing simple sentences

The language should be direct in active tense, with short and simple sentences.

- Write one information/thought per sentence.
- The short story should also:
- Have a limited number of persons/characters
- Have a clear voice of the narrator
- Clearly make a difference between dialogue, thoughts/dreams and narrator
- Be easy to follow with a clear chronology of the events. No mixing of past, present and future.



Article 5 – Submission format

Texts must be submitted in Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF format, and sent electronically to the email provided at the end of these rules.

Article 6 – Critères d'évaluation

The works will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Is the story engaging for the target audience.
2. Clarity and simplicity of language.
3. Narrative coherence and text organisation.
4. Creativity and originality.

Article 7 – Jury

The evaluation committee will consist of 4 experts: one from the publishing sector, one expert in Easy Language, one educator with expertise in the field of social inclusion and one representative from the target group (person with intellectual and developmental disability).

Article 8 – Dates

Opening of submissions: **1 December 2025.**

Submission deadline: **31 May 2026.**

Winners announced: **June 2026.**

Article 9 – Prizes and copyright

The winning authors will have their stories published and promoted through the PAGE project. The selected works will be published in accessible digital format on the PAGE app and the official project website; printed in a limited physical edition translated into partner languages (IT, PT, HR, SL, FR, EN), ensuring European-wide accessibility and visibility; supported through promotional activities, including



events, presentations, and communication campaigns coordinated by the project partners.

Each national partner may include additional specific details in their own national call — for example, the exact amount of the monetary prize or other forms of local recognition.

Following the announcement of the results, each winning author will sign a publishing agreement with the project partner in their respective country. This contract will define the publishing terms, selling conditions for additional copies, and the rights and obligations of both the author and the publisher within the PAGE framework.

Article 10 – Final provisions

Participation in the contest implies full acceptance of these rules. Any issues not covered by these rules will be resolved by the organizing entity at the national level.

