

European Championship for Thematic Philately 2027

IREX, Call for Entries and Registration

1. Purpose and location of the exhibition

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) aims to give Europe's best thematic exhibits the opportunity to compete in a single exhibition. The purpose of such a competition is to maintain and further develop international standards in thematic philately.

At the same time, the ECTP is intended to offer an opportunity to introduce new exhibits to international level. For this reason, great importance is attached to recommendations by the jury, discussions between the exhibitors present, and a seminar and training programme.

The ECTP is recognised by the FEPA, the umbrella organisation of all national philatelic federations in Europe, as the official European Championship for Thematic Philately and was held for the first time in 2006. The FEPA is granting special patronage to the 2027 event. (This also means inclusion in the FEPA results database. Exhibits that achieve ≥ 85 points for the first time qualify for 8 frames at subsequent FEPA exhibitions.)

The ECTP will be held as part of the exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of Schweizer Motivsammler-Verein (SMV) **in Bulle (Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland) from 15 to 17 April 2027** (Thursday to Saturday). The event is organised by the Federation of Swiss Philatelic Societies (VSPhV) and hosted by the Swiss Motif Collectors' Association in cooperation with the Club Philatélique de Bulle.

2. Concept and implementation of the European Championship

Exhibition classes: The exhibition is divided into the following categories:

- Class 1: Champions' Class
- Class 2: Art and Culture
- Class 3: History and Organisations
- Class 4: People and Everyday Life, Sport and Leisure
- Class 5: Transport and Technology
- Class 6: Nature, Agriculture and Pets
- Class 7: Open Philately (with a thematic focus)
- Class 8: Picture Postcards (with a thematic focus)
- Class 9: 1-frame Exhibits, thematic

Champions Class: Category winners from previous ECTP competitions may choose to show their exhibits in one of classes 2–6 or in the Champions Class. In the Champions Class, the jury determines the best exhibit in this class by judging according to GREV and SREV. In addition to the eight winners in the other competition classes, this exhibit is also a candidate for the ECTP Grand Prix. An exhibit that has already won this ECTP Grand Prix can be exhibited but cannot be a candidate again.

Exhibits in the Champions Class may comprise up to 10 frames at the exhibitor's request. (The FEPA is testing the expansion of the number of frames for top exhibits with the ECTP 2027.)

New ECTP classes Open Philately / Picture Postcards: The Open Philately and Picture Postcard classes are represented at the ECTP for the first time (classes 7 and 8). The prerequisite for participation in these classes is a thematic approach. Exhibits with traditional or postal history themes and treatments (e.g. an exhibit on printing techniques in the picture postcards class or one on postal operations in the Open Philately class) are therefore not eligible for the European Thematic Championship. In cases of doubt, the exhibition management will decide in consultation with the FEPA representative.

Exhibit size in classes 2 – 8: An exhibit in classes 2 – 8 usually comprises 5 – 8 frames. Exhibitors in these classes are free to choose between 5 and 8 frames. Exhibits in classes 2 – 8 may also comprise 2, 3 or 4 frames at the exhibitor's request. To do so, the exhibitor must demonstrate that the subject is so narrowly defined that it cannot be covered in 5 frames.

1-frame exhibits (class 9): Before judging, 1-frame exhibits are checked to see whether the chosen theme is suitable for treatment in all essential aspects within just 1 frame. If, in the opinion of the jury, this is not the case, 5 points will be deducted from the evaluation criterion "treatment".

Awards: In each of classes 2–9, the exhibit with the highest number of points is crowned European Champion. In addition, the jury will identify the runner-up (European Vice-Champion) and third place (3rd in the European Championship). The ECTP Grand Prix will be determined by a vote of the jurors from among the 8 European Champions and the best exhibit in the Champions Class.

The ECTP Grand Prix will be voted on publicly by the jury during the ceremony on the Palmarès evening. Each juror will make their selection of the best exhibits individually and impartially.

The ranking of the exhibits within each class is determined by the jury on the basis of the points awarded according to GREV and SREV for thematic philately (in classes 7 and 8 for open philately and picture postcards respectively). With this score, each exhibit is also awarded a diploma in the range of the usual 8 medals according to FREGEX (from Bronze 60-64 points in 5-point increments to Large Gold ≥ 95).

3. Conditions of participation

Participants and allocation to competition classes: Exhibitors who are members of a national federation affiliated to FEPA are eligible to participate. Any thematic exhibit that has been shown at least once at an FIP or FEPA exhibition can be entered into the competition. Exhibits that have won at least one Vermeil medal at a national exhibition of a national federation affiliated with FEPA are also eligible.

For the classification of thematic exhibits in classes 2–6, it is primarily left to the exhibitor to decide in which class the exhibit should be shown. However, the philatelic committee of the exhibition has the right to reclassify the exhibit in the event of a gross misclassification.

Number and size of frames: Sufficient frames are available for the ECTP to exhibit the qualified exhibits that have been registered. Swiss-German standard frames, 100 x 122 cm, will be used. They contain four fixed rows for a sheet height of 30 cm (fixed) and a (flexible) usable width of 93 cm (including sleeves).

Registrations: All registration forms are first received by the national delegates for the FIP Commission for Thematic Philately. They review the applications from their respective countries and ensure that only appropriately pre-qualified exhibits are registered. The names and addresses of the national delegates can be found on the website of the FIP Commission for Thematic Philately (<http://fipthematicphilately.org>).

All collectors who wish to participate in the ECTP must submit their registration forms (including a photocopy of the collection plan and the exhibit description/synopsis) to the national delegate of the FIP Commission for Thematic Philately by 15 November 2026 at the latest. After checking the correctness of the national pre-evaluations, the delegate will then forward the relevant registrations to the

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by 30 November 2026 at the latest. Exhibitors and delegates will be informed of the acceptance of exhibits by the Philatelic Committee before Christmas.

The exhibition fee is €45 per frame. This fee includes participation in the awards night for one person. The fees must be transferred after notification of acceptance of the respective exhibit.

Transport: Where possible, each exhibit should be brought and collected by the exhibitor themselves or by an agent authorised by them. Due to the special nature of a championship, exhibitors are generally requested to visit the exhibition in person and to be present at the award ceremony. For this reason, it is not necessary to appoint national commissioners, as is otherwise customary at FEPA exhibitions. Exhibits may also be delivered by the jury member of the respective country (after prior consultation). It is not possible to store the exhibits with the exhibition management or return them by post.

Any customs declarations/customs clearances must be made by the owner of the exhibit. The exhibition management will endeavour to provide assistance on request, but cannot give any guarantees or accept any responsibility.

The exhibitor or their designated representative must set up and dismantle the exhibit in the exhibition hall. The exhibits must be set up on the day before the exhibition, 14 April, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and dismantled on Saturday, 17 April 2027, from 4:00 p.m. onwards.

General exhibition conditions: The ECTP generally follows the regulations for exhibitions of the FEPA and the VSPHv.

The exhibitor is responsible for the transport and insurance of the exhibits. Members of the VSPHv can take advantage of the federation's insurance. Foreign exhibitors are required to insure their exhibits adequately for transport and storage at the exhibition.

The exhibition managers will take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the exhibits from their arrival until dismantling. However, neither the exhibition management nor the organising committee can accept liability for loss or damage to exhibits during transport, mounting and dismantling, or during the exhibition itself.

4. Jury

The ECTP jury will consist of up to 10 jurors from individual FEPA countries. Countries with many participating exhibits should be represented on the jury. Each member of the jury is a qualified thematic juror for FIP or FEPA exhibitions. The jury's activities include evaluating each exhibit according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits / open philately / postcards, determining the ranking of exhibits within each class, and voting for the Grand Prix from among the winners of the 9 categories. Consultations with exhibitors will take place on Saturday, 17 April 2027, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Nominated jurors should be prepared to bring exhibits from their own country in their luggage if an exhibitor is unable to attend the ECTP in person.

The composition of the jury will be decided in close consultation between the organisers and the FEPA representative for the ECTP.

Each juror will be provided with a hotel room in Bulle free of charge from Wednesday, 14 April to Sunday, 18 April 2027. Lunch will be provided by the organiser. Jurors from abroad will receive travel expenses equal to the actual costs, up to a maximum of €350.

5. FEPA Jury Seminar on 17 and 18 April 2027

The special time frame of the exhibition (Thursday to Saturday) allows for a FEPA seminar for thematic judges to be held after the ECTP. This seminar will begin on Saturday afternoon (17 April 2027) and end on Sunday afternoon (18 April 2027).

All FIP or FEPA judges, as well as future candidates for FIP/FEPA apprentices, are free to participate in this seminar. Participation is free of charge. Judges who wish to participate are kindly requested to register with the exhibition manager by 31 January 2027. Thematic judges with national accreditation may also participate in the seminar, provided there are places available.

The seminar part on Saturday afternoon is open to all interested ECTP exhibitors.

6. Any unclear aspects

These special regulations of the ECTP are published in several languages (German, French, Italian, English). In the event of a dispute, Swiss law shall apply exclusively and the German-language version of these special regulations shall be used. Decisions on any questions that arise which are not covered by the FEPA's FREGEX or these special regulations shall be taken by the exhibition management. It shall consult the FEPA representative for the ECTP on this matter.