



Fondazione
Marco Biagi



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



SHORT on WORK

Global short-video contest on contemporary work

2026 - 11th edition

“SHORT on WORK – a global contest for short videos on contemporary work” is an international competition for short audiovisual works focusing on contemporary labour, conceived and developed by the Marco Biagi Foundation within the PhD Programme in Labour, Development and Innovation at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

The primary objective of the competition is to encourage the production and collection of audiovisual works addressing contemporary forms of work, while simultaneously contributing to the creation of an international audiovisual archive intended for educational and research purposes.

The initiative is grounded in an interdisciplinary perspective that recognizes the audiovisual medium as a particularly effective analytical tool for capturing, in an original and incisive manner, the transformations that have profoundly reshaped work over recent decades. This approach deliberately transcends the conventional dichotomy between corporate filmmaking and social documentary, fostering new interpretative frameworks.

1) Participation terms

1.1) The competition is open to directors, filmmakers, videomakers, students, and creative practitioners of any nationality, with no age restrictions. Submissions may consist of individual or collective works, provided that each entry is submitted by a single designated representative of the project. Eligibility is limited to audiovisual works with a maximum running time of 10 minutes.

1.2) Eligible works must meet the following criteria:

- they must address the theme of contemporary work;
- they may be produced in any language; however, the preview version must be in English or include English or Italian subtitles;
- They must have been produced **after 1 January 2025**.

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1.3) All submitted works and any music used therein must be original or otherwise covered by duly acquired rights.

1.4) There is no limit to the number of entries that can be submitted by a single participant.

2) Rules for participation

2.1) Entries must be submitted by **July 15, 2026**, via the Short Film Depot platform. At the same time, the submission form must be completed at the following link: <https://fmb.unimore.it/eventi/concorso-short-on-work-2026/>

2.2) Upon notification of the shortlisted films, only the selected participants will be asked to provide download links for a copy of the film in .mov or .mp4 format, in high definition and without subtitles.

3) Selection and Awards

3.1) The selection of the finalist works will be carried out by the Competition Directorate, which will promptly notify the authors by the end of September 2026.

3.2) The award will be granted by a Jury composed of scholars and professionals in the audiovisual sector and labor relations.

3.3) The prize, awarded by the Jury, for the best work is €1,000.00 (gross of taxes and social security contributions, including VAT).

3.4) The Directorate reserves the right to grant special mentions, including delegating their assignment to specifically appointed jurors.

3.5) The selection of the finalist works must remain strictly confidential until the official program of the award ceremony is announced.

4) Winner's Announcement

4.1) The winner will be announced in Modena in November 2026, as part of the **ViaEmili@docfest** Festival.

4.2) The announcement will be preceded by the screening of the selected finalist videos

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and will be accompanied by side events dedicated to video as a tool for interdisciplinary research on work.

5) Competition Directorate and Jury

5.1) The Competition Directorate is responsible for organizing and ensuring the proper conduct of the initiative, with the authority to interpret and apply these regulations.

5.2) The Jury evaluates the works with full autonomy and independence, examining the selected short films according to artistic, technical, and thematic criteria consistent with the nature of the Competition. The Jury's decisions are final.

6) Use of the submitted works

6.1) Directors, authors, and rights holders of the submitted works authorize the Competition Directorate to screen their works during the award ceremony and at related events.

6.2) Submitted works may be published on the Short on Work YouTube channel, subject to the rights holder's consent, which must be provided at the time of submission.

6.3) Directors, authors, and rights holders also authorize the Competition Directorate to keep a copy of the work in its archive for non-commercial purposes and to use it for educational and research purposes or in any other context suitable for promoting and enhancing the use of the works as a tool for research on contemporary work, excluding commercial use and respecting the interests of authors and producers.

6.4) Participation in the Competition implies full acceptance of these regulations.

Modena, 15 December 2025