Call for Articles of the SWITCH Journalism Award

The SWITCH Journalism Award aims to promote the dissemination of quality information on the transition to sustainable and healthy diets in Europe. Through this initiative, we want to highlight the role of journalism and communication in raising public awareness and stimulating debate, rewarding articles that inform, raise awareness, and inspire change, with a focus on food innovation, sustainability education, and accessibility to healthy food for all.

1.1 Disclaimer

SWITCH assumes no responsibility for the truthfulness of the content published by participants.

Participants may be excluded if their content does not adhere to the award's guidelines.

Themes of the Call for Articles

Participants are invited to submit original articles addressing one or more of the following macro-themes:

- Sustainable and healthy diets – Strategies and practices to promote eating habits that respect the environment and human health.
- Food education and awareness – The role of education and communication in the food transition.
- Innovation and digitalization in agri-food systems – Innovative technologies and methodologies to improve food production, distribution, and consumption.
- Food justice and accessibility – Inequalities in access to healthy and sustainable foods, and proposals for more inclusive policies.
- Policies for behavioral change – Strategies to modify consumer food choices toward more sustainable options.

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Participation Modalities

Participants may submit a maximum of one work per author. Each article may include images, photos, infographics, or other visual elements to support the text.

Articles may be written in any of the official languages of the SWITCH project's Food Hubs (Italian, Spanish, French, German, Swedish) or in English.

Participation is open to journalistic articles, scientific and academic contributions. The maximum length for articles is 5,000 words.

Accepted formats are .doc, .docx, .pdf

The articles will be evaluated by an international jury of experts; therefore, regardless of the language chosen for the article, each participant must attach a summary in English (maximum 300 words) summarising the main points of the work. This will allow the multilingual jury to evaluate all contributions fairly.

The jury will then select the two best articles from each language to be published on the website and open for public voting.

Submit your article before March 30!

Awards and Prizes

Seven articles will be awarded, one for each of the Food Hubs and one in the international category (written in English).

The Food Hubs of the SWITCH project are: Rome and the Lazio region; Berlin and the Brandenburg region; Montpellier and the Occitania region; Cagliari and the Sardinia region; Gothenburg and the Västra Götaland region; and San Sebastian and the Basque region.

The public vote for each article will influence the jury's decision in selecting the winning article.

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Call: HORIZON-CL6-2021-FARM2FORK-01-15:
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Announcement of Winners

The jury will select 7 winners based on their overall impact and excellence in the evaluation criteria.

The results will be announced on SWITCH's official social media channels, while further details on the award ceremony logistics in Venice will be shared with the winners directly.

Award

Winners will be awarded through a dedicated press tour taking place in the framework of the Venice Climate Week 2026, held in Venice, Italy, from June 3rd to 8th. The exact dates within the week will be communicated in due course.
Venice Climate Week is an international multistakeholder forum dedicated to climate leadership, strategic action, innovation, and systemic solutions for a fair and regenerative ecological transition. Further details will be communicated to the winners.

Physical attendance at Venice Climate Week 2026 is a mandatory condition for the award eligibility. In the event that a selected winner is unable to attend the award ceremony in person, the award will be withdrawn, and the author will be recognised as an *Honourable Mention*. The Honourable Mention will be published on the SWITCH Project website. The organisers reserve the right to reassign the award to another eligible participant. No monetary or alternative prize will be offered in lieu of attendance.

The experience includes:

Participation in a roundtable dedicated to communication and promoting healthy and sustainable food practices.

Opportunity to network with experts, policymakers, and other change-makers in sustainable food systems.

Travel, meals, and accommodation fully covered.

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Selection, Evaluation Criteria, and Jury

Selection Process

The jury will be composed of scientific experts and representatives from the Food Hubs, ensuring a multilingual and multidisciplinary evaluation. Once received, the articles will be assessed by a jury of experts based on the criteria outlined below. Entries that receive the highest scores from the jury in each language category will be uploaded to the website for public voting, which will contribute to the final score.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Relevance and originality (20%): The selected theme, its importance to the agri-food sector, as well as innovative aspects and the original approach proposed will be evaluated.

Clarity of expression (25%): The quality of the narrative structure and the ability to present content in a clear and effective way will be considered.

Depth of the treatment (25%): The scientific rigor and informational quality of the work, as well as the variety and reliability of the sources used, will be evaluated.

Timeliness (5%): The relevance of the work concerning current trends and issues in the sector will be evaluated.

Impact (5%): The potential of the work to reach a wide audience and be widely shared will be considered.

Reader preference (20%): The number of votes received by each article on the SWITCH website will affect the final score alongside the scientific quality evaluation.

Jury

The jury will be composed of scientific experts and representatives from the Food Hubs, ensuring a multilingual and multidisciplinary evaluation.

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Terms and Conditions

Both previously published and unpublished articles are eligible for submission. The inclusion of unpublished work aims to encourage participation from emerging journalists, including students, whose work may not yet have been formally published. Published articles must not be older than 2023.

Published articles must not be older than 2023. Authors whose work was awarded in the previous edition of the SWITCH Journalism Award are not eligible to participate in this call.

Participants may submit a maximum of one article per person. The article may include images, photos, infographics, or other visual elements to support the text.

Works created individually or in collaboration with other authors (maximum two authors per work) are allowed.

Participation in the final event in Venice (Italy - Venice Climate Week), from 3-8 June 2026, is mandatory to be eligible for the award.

For more information, write to switch@futurefoodinstitute.org

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