



GOLDEN
DRUM

ENTRY BOOK



PORTOROŽ,
SLOVENIA

12. - 13. 10.
2026

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1. ALL IMPORTANT DATES, CONTACTS AND RANKINGS

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

All entries must have been aired/published/implemented for the first time between 23 August 2025 and 26 August 2026. Except in group A Brand Building – category Brand Vitality where the start of the communication must have been aired/published/implemented for the first time before 23 August 2025. Entries must not have been entered in the Golden Drum competition in previous years.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION: 8 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 23:59 (CET)

SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT: 29 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 08:00 (CET)

BRONZE AND SILVER DRUM AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT: 13 OCTOBER 2026 (during the daily program)

GOLDEN DRUM AWARDS SHOW: 13 OCTOBER 2026 AT 20:00 (CET)

Golden Drum Awards: Bronze Drum, Silver Drum, Golden Drum and Grand Prix Awards in competition groups as well as all main awards – Best of Social Good, Best of Genius Loci, UNFPA Inclusion Excellence, Game Changer, Adriatic Agency of the Year, Brand Grand Prix, Independent Agency of the Year, Agency of the Year, Media Agency of the Year, Production Agency of the Year, Creative Director of the Year, Network of the Year as the winners of Young Drummers Competition.

CONTACTS

Need support? Our friendly Golden Drum team is here to assist you with the entry system or help you with any questions you might have related to the Festival.

GENERAL INFORMATION

info@goldendrum.com

COMPETITION

entries@goldendrum.com

GOLDEN DRUM ON RANKINGS & PARTNERSHIPS

WARC

Golden Drum festival is one of the seven regional award shows in the world included into **WARC Creative Rankings**.



ADFORUM

Golden Drum is included in **AdForum Business Creative Report**, a unique ranking of the world's most-awarded campaigns by industry sector. It currently covers Automotive, Finance, Food & Beverages, Health & Beauty, Luxury, Retail, Technology, Transport & Tourism. The only report of its kind, it allows advertisers and agencies to benchmark their creative impact against competitors in the same sector, and to draw inspiration from the campaigns that have made headlines. It is based on the results of 40 awards shows - worldwide, regional, local, specialist or not.



THE DRUM

Golden Drum is included in the **World Creative Ranking by the Drum**, a leading global business publisher for the marketing and media sector. They provide actionable insights, guidance, inspiration, and solutions to help their readers make better decisions.



THENETWORKONE

As part of the partnership with **thenetworkone** all independent agencies that win Golden Drum or Grand Prix awards at the festival will receive a complimentary entry into the **Indie Awards 2026**, allowing them to submit one piece of work into a category of their choice. Eligible works must be aired, launched, or released to the public for the first time between 30 September 2025 and 31 October 2026 and must not have previously been entered into any past Indie Awards.



2. WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

The **Golden Drum Festival** continues to evolve, celebrating creativity that embodies authenticity, relevance and innovation. In 2026, we are expanding the **All Juries** section with a **UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group**, which is introduced by the Festival in collaboration with **UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund**.

Golden Drum continues its international partnership with **thenetworkone** to further support independent agencies that often face challenges in gaining global recognition. Through this collaboration, Grand Prix and Gold-winning works from independent agencies will once again automatically qualify for the **Indie Awards**, offering them an additional platform to showcase their creative excellence on the international stage.

Novelties presented by the festival:

COMPETITION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH UNFPA

As the Golden Drum Festival continues to evolve, we are proud to introduce the **UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award** in the **All Juries section**. Presented in collaboration with **UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund**, this new accolade aims to inspire and recognise creative work that actively contributes to gender equality and social inclusion.

UNFPA works globally to uphold the rights and choices of women and young people. By dismantling discrimination, challenging harmful norms, and removing systemic barriers, they help forge inclusive societies where everyone can reach their full potential. Their work ensures that individuals, especially women and young people, have access to the information and services they need for a healthy life, free from discrimination and violence. They help guarantee that everyone, throughout their life course, is empowered to make decisions about their bodies, health, and future.

These goals cannot be achieved without addressing the “invisible” barriers - the deep-seated social norms and biases that marginalize women, girls, and those left furthest behind, including historically marginalized communities, older persons, and people with disabilities.

The purpose of this award is to incentivize the creative community to use its immense influence to reshape social norms. Advertising plays an important role in defining what is “normal” in our culture. By rewarding work that challenges stereotypes and promotes gender equality and inclusion, Golden Drum and UNFPA aim to foster an environment where an individual’s rights and choices are not limited by their gender, background or identity. When the media we consume reflects the true diversity and potential of all people, it creates the cultural space necessary for real-world equality to take root. When this happens, everyone benefits: individuals enjoy greater opportunities to realize their full potential, and societies become stronger and more resilient.

The UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award honours creators whose work contributes to shaping a more just, inclusive and equitable future for all.

Entries in this group should demonstrate how creativity can actively question the “default” narratives of society and replace them with empowering alternatives. Eligible work may address, among others the redefinition of gender roles, the visibility and leadership of women in traditionally male-dominated industries, inclusive representation of older people, persons with disabilities, and historically marginalised communities, the dismantling of stereotypes related to gender, age, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation.

The UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group is open to entries from 42 countries eligible to compete at the Golden Drum Festival Competition. The winner of the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award will receive points for Golden Drum rankings and will be included in WARC rankings and The Drum World Creative Rankings.

EXTENDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THENETWORKONE & ADFORUM

STRENGTHENING THE INDIE COMMUNITY

Golden Drum is proud to continue its **partnership with thenetworkone** to further support independent agencies and showcase their creative excellence on the international stage. Through this collaboration, all independent agencies winning Gold or Grand Prix awards at the Golden Drum festival will receive a complimentary entry into the **Indie Awards 2027**, allowing them to submit one piece of work into a category of their choice. Eligible works must be aired, launched, or released to the public for the first time between 30 September 2025 and 31 October 2026 and must not have previously been entered into any past Indie Awards.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Golden Drum is also featured in the **AdForum Business Creative Report**, a unique ranking of the world’s most-awarded campaigns by industry sector.

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

The festival’s competition is recognized and included on the **WARC Creative Rankings** and **The Drum World Creative Rankings**, further affirming its global impact and prestige.

3. AWARDS

All registered entries shall be reviewed and judged by international juries, comprised for the One-Channel, Omni-Channel, Craft, Creative Media Excellence and Creative Business Excellence sections.

By entering the Golden Drum Competition, you are competing for the following awards:

- Finalist (Shortlist)
- Bronze Drum
- Silver Drum
- Golden Drum
- Grand Prix
- Best of Social Good
- Best of Genius Loci
- UNFPA Inclusion Excellence, powered by UNFPA **(NEW)**
- Game Changer **(Open Worldwide)**
- Adriatic Agency of the Year award shall be presented based on the Festival's points system for the most successful entries from the following Adriatic Region countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. Points are collected throughout all sections and special groups.
- Brand Grand Prix for the advertised brand that collects the most points.
- Independent Agency of the Year for the most successful independent advertising agency that collects the most points.
- Agency of the Year for the agency that collects the most points.
- Media Agency of the Year for the media agency that collects the most points.
- Production Agency of the Year for the production company that collects the most points.
- Creative Director of the Year awarded to the Creative Director of the Campaign of the Year that collects the most points for the campaign and the individual entries of the same campaign in all categories.
- Network of the Year for the most successful advertising network on the basis of the points of all agencies that comprise the network in question.

GOLDEN DRUM AND GRAND PRIX WINNERS AT GOLDEN DRUM 2026 FROM INDEPENDENT AGENCIES TO BE ENTERED INTO THE INDIE AWARDS 2027

In collaboration with thenetworkone, all independent agencies that win Golden Drum or Grand Prix awards at the festival will receive a complimentary entry into the **Indie Awards 2027**, allowing them to submit one piece of work into a category of their choice.

4. POINTS

Entrants receive points for each short-listed or awarded entry according to the following key:

AWARD	POINTS
Finalist	1
Bronze Drum	2
Silver Drum	4
Golden Drum	8
Grand Prix	12
*Best of Genius Loci	12
**Best of Social Good	12
***UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award (NEW)	12
****Game Changer (Open Worldwide)	12

* Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Genius Loci / Local Spirit Group. However, the winner will receive the Best of Genius Loci / Local Spirit Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

** Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Social Good Group. However, the winner will receive the Best of Social Good Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

*** Grand Prix is not awarded in the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Group. However, the winner will receive the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

**** Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Game Changer Group. However, the winner will receive the Game Changer Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. **All winners in this group are included in WARC rankings and The Drum World Creative Rankings. Although, the group is open to entries worldwide, only the 42 countries eligible to compete at the Golden Drum Festival Competition will receive points for Golden Drum rankings.** The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

Series of entries included on the shortlist and Bronze Drum, Silver Drum, Golden Drum, Grand Prix, Best of Social Good, Best of Genius Loci, UNFPA Inclusion Excellence and Game Changer award recipients shall receive points as follows:

Finalist	1 point for every entry
Bronze Drum	2 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
Silver Drum	4 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
Golden Drum	8 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
Grand Prix	12 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
*Best of Genius Loci	12 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
**Best of Social Good	12 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
***UNFPA Inclusion Excellence (NEW)	12 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)
****Game Changer (Open Worldwide)	12 points (first entry) + 2 points (every additional entry)

* Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Genius Loci / Local Spirit Group. However, the winner will receive the Best of Genius Loci / Local Spirit Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

** Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Social Good Group. However, the winner will receive the Best of Social Good Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

*** Grand Prix is not awarded in the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Group. However, the winner will receive the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

**** Based on the jury's decision, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be granted. Grand Prix is not awarded in the Game Chnager Group. However, the winner will receive the Game Changer Award. The recipient of this award gets 12 points. **All winners in this group are included in WARC rankings and The Drum World Creative Rankings. Although, the group is open to entries worldwide, only the 42 countries eligible to compete at the Golden Drum Festival Competition will receive points for Golden Drum rankings.** The Jury reserves the right to withhold this award.

Only the points for the highest-ranking award shall be taken into account. The agency name shall be taken into account in the calculation of awards presented on the basis of the Festival's points system.

5. ELIGIBILITY RULES AND JUDGING RULES

Before submitting an entry read the Eligibility Rules and Conditions since they are a great source of answers for the most asked questions regarding the competition. Each entrant is also responsible for full compliance with the Eligibility Rules and Conditions and it is your sole responsibility to submit entries with correct credits. The materials used to present your work must be of a high quality and in line with the technical requirements. The Festival organizer does not bear any responsibility for the poor quality of materials submitted. The organizer shall during any phase of the competition initiate a procedure against "scam" ads to establish the fact and in the event of a justified complaint, expel the work in question from the competition with no refund.

Read all of the rules here: [ELIGIBILITY RULES](#)

All registered entries shall be reviewed and judged by one of five international Juries, comprised especially for the five sections. Each jury shall be comprised of up to max. 16 members. The work of an individual jury shall be headed by the jury president, appointed by the Festival organizer. In a special All Juries section, each jury member will shortlist the entries while the five presidents and one representative of each of the five juries chosen by the festival Organizer will take over the role of judging entries for awards with no leading individual/president. In the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group a representative of UNFPA joins the jury to review and judge the registered entries.

Read more about the judging process like what does the voting process look like etc. in the Judging Rules: [JUDGING RULES](#)

6. THE COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Competition and Awards are open to all agencies, advertisers, clients, design or production houses, media companies and others involved in the creation or production of marketing communications, registered in the following countries: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

**Golden Drum, international festival of creativity, has suspended Russia and Belarus from submitting entries into this year's competition and from having representatives in the juries, with immediate effect.*

The Golden Drum competition is divided into two 5 main sections: ONE-CHANNEL, OMNI-CHANNEL, CRAFT, CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE and CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE. Each section is subdivided into groups and categories that reflect the latest trends in the advertising and creative industry. All five sections are judged by International Juries, featuring top industry professionals.

Groups GENIUS LOCI/LOCAL SPIRIT, SOCIAL GOOD, UNFPA INCLUSION EXCELLENCE and GAME CHANGER were taken out from the five main competition sections. This ALL JURIES section will be shortlisted by all five juries in the first round of judging, and will include five jury presidents and a representative of each of the five juries chosen by the organiser in the second round of judging for the awards. In the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group a representative of UNFPA joins the jury to review and judge the registered entries.



SECTION ONE-CHANNEL

The **ONE-CHANNEL** section focuses on individual works that are using a single channel of communicating the message to the market. Entries in this section should demonstrate the creative use of one-channel communication, its benefits, and efficiency. In relation to the Omni-Channel Drum, this section recognizes individual works delivered through one communication channel exclusively.

This section has 6 groups each with multiple categories: Film; Print; Out of Home; Audio; Digital, Mobile & Technology; and Design.

SECTION OMNI-CHANNEL

The **OMNI-CHANNEL** section recognizes campaigns that were presented through multiple communication channels. Entries should demonstrate the creative use of multiple channels, their integration, and the efficiency of implementation of the communication solutions.

In relation to the One-Channel Drum, this section focuses on campaigns presented through multiple communication channels.

This section has 6 groups each with multiple categories: Integrated; Content; Engagement; Digital, Mobile & Technology; Health & Wellness; Sports, Pop Culture & Art.

SECTION CRAFT

The **CRAFT** section recognizes creative excellence and brilliant execution in certain key segments of the advertising and communication production process. Awards in this group promote best practices that have helped raise the bar of the industry's craft standards.

This section has 4 groups with multiple categories: Industry Craft, Motion Craft, Digital Craft and Innovation Craft.

SECTION CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE

The **CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE** section is intended for creative works with an exceptional media strategy, targeting, and media execution. Judges will be focusing on smart media campaigns prioritising the creative and effective use of channels to communicate the brand's message to the target audience. Entries should demonstrate achievement of campaign goals.

This section has two groups that are further divided into categories: Creative use of Media and Excellence in Media.

SECTION CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

The **CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE** section celebrates the creative business solutions that have made an impact on brands, projects, or customer experiences. This group is intended to show business excellence in a creative way, and to award the works that demonstrate exceptional solutions that have reshaped the business industry and achieved quantifiable business results. During judging, the following criteria will be considered: creative idea & strategy, experience & implementation, data showing concrete business results. Entries lacking business results will not be considered for awards in this section.

This section has 8 groups each with multiple categories: Brand Building; Creative Effectiveness; e/mCommerce, Community & Use of Experience; Sustainable Business Solutions; Activation; Content; Innovation and B2B.

ALL JURIES

The **ALL JURIES** section focuses on special themed groups showcasing local spirit, social good causes, and works actively challenges harmful gender norms and deep-seated cultural biases, demonstrating a creative breakthrough, an innovative shift in process or procedures that lead the way forward in advertising. Due to these subjects' distinct nature, entries here will be shortlisted by all the juries and judged for awards by the five-jury presidents and one representative from each of the 5 juries chosen by the organiser. In the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group a representative of UNFPA joins the jury to review and judge the registered entries.

GENIUS LOCI/LOCAL SPIRIT group focuses on understanding the distinctive local spirit as of the home country and showcasing it in the creative strategy and execution.

SOCIAL GOOD group focuses on multiple executions as well as events, social activations and integrated campaigns that deal with social, mental and environmental awareness, humanitarian, charity and other public and non-profit or profit communication.

UNFPA INCLUSION EXCELLENCE GROUP (NEW) recognizes creative work that actively challenges harmful gender norms and deep-seated cultural biases and contributes to a more inclusive and equitable society. The group honours work that moves beyond surface-level representation to instead portray a more authentic, inclusive and equitable world for all. Entries in this group should demonstrate how creativity can actively question the "default" narratives of society and replace them with empowering alternatives.

GAME CHANGER (open worldwide) group is intended for campaigns that challenge the traditional ways of advertising through their idea, concept and/or execution. Works in this group must present a creative breakthrough, an innovative shift in the process or procedures paving the way forward in advertising, or impactful influence on the mindset and behaviour of the target audience.

COMPETITION 2026

ONE-CHANNEL DRUM

The ONE-CHANNEL section focuses on individual works that are using a single channel of communicating the message to the market. Entries in this section should demonstrate the creative use of one-channel communication, its benefits and efficiency. In relation to the Omni-Channel Drum, this section recognises individual works delivered through one communication channel exclusively.

FILM

PRINT

OUT OF HOME

AUDIO

DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY

DESIGN

CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE DRUM

The CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE section is intended for creative works with an exceptional media strategy, targeting, and media execution. Judges will be focusing on smart media campaigns prioritising the creative and effective use of channels to communicate the brand's message to the target audience. Entries should demonstrate achievement of campaign goals.

CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA

EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA

OMNI-CHANNEL DRUM

The OMNI-CHANNEL section recognizes campaigns that were presented through multiple communication channels. Entries should demonstrate the creative use of multiple channels, their integration, and the efficiency of implementation of the communication solutions. In relation to the One-Channel Drum, this section focuses on campaigns presented through multiple communication channels.

INTEGRATED

CONTENT

ENGAGEMENT

DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY

HEALTH & WELLNESS

SPORTS, POP CULTURE & ART

CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE DRUM

The CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE section celebrates the creative business solutions that have made an impact on brands, projects, or customer experiences. This group is intended to show business excellence in a creative way, and to award the works that demonstrate exceptional solutions that have reshaped the business industry and achieved quantifiable business results. During judging, the following criteria will be considered: creative idea & strategy, experience & implementation, data showing concrete business results. Entries lacking business results will not be considered for awards in this section.

BRAND BUILDING

CREATIVE EFFECTIVENESS

e/COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & USE OF EXPERIENCE

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

ACTIVATION

CONTENT

INNOVATION

B2B

CRAFT DRUM

The CRAFT section recognizes creative excellence and brilliant execution in certain key segments of the advertising and communication production process. Awards in this group promote best practices that have helped raise the bar of the industry's craft standards.

INDUSTRY CRAFT

MOTION CRAFT

DIGITAL CRAFT

INNOVATION CRAFT

ALL JURIES

The ALL JURIES section focuses on special themed groups showcasing local spirit, social good causes, and works actively challenges harmful gender norms and deep-seated cultural biases, demonstrating a creative breakthrough, an innovative shift in process or procedures that lead the way forward in advertising. Due to these subjects' distinct nature, entries here will be shortlisted by all the juries and judged for awards by the five-jury presidents and one representative from each of the 5 juries chosen by the organiser. In the UNFPA Inclusion Excellence group a representative of UNFPA joins the jury to review and judge the registered entries.

GENIUS LOCI / LOCAL SPIRIT

SOCIAL GOOD

UNFPA INCLUSION EXCELLENCE
NEW

GAME CHANGER
OPEN WORLDWIDE

7. GROUPS AND CATEGORIES

SECTION ONE-CHANNEL DRUM

A. FILM

1. TV/Cinema Film
2. Short Film
3. Long Film

B. PRINT

4. Print & Publishing
5. Publications

C. OUT OF HOME (OOH)

6. Billboards
7. Posters
8. Digital screens
9. Ambient & Experiential

D. AUDIO

10. Radio & Audio
11. Other forms of audio communication
12. Creative use of Sound

E. DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY

- 13. Communication and Corporate Websites
- 14. Social Networking Solutions & Community Sites
- 15. Streaming/Downloadable Creative Content and Podcasts
- 16. Off-Site Advertising
- 17. Games
- 18. Apps and Mobile Content
- 19. Creative use of AI / AR, Data / Insight, Metaverse, NFT

F. DESIGN

- 20. Visual Identities
- 21. Business and Promotional Design
- 22. Packaging Design
- 23. Product Design
- 24. Digital Design
- 25. Print Design
- 26. Posters



SECTION OMNI-CHANNEL DRUM

A. INTEGRATED

1. Profit
 - a. Product
 - b. Services
2. Non - profit

B. CONTENT

3. Films
4. Online & Mobile
5. Live experience
6. Native Advertising, Brand Integration, Sponsorship & Co-Promotions
7. Games
8. Influencer Marketing
9. PR

C. ENGAGEMENT

10. Direct
11. Creative use of Data
12. Creative use of Technology
13. Public & Community Relations
14. Creative use of Media
15. Real-time engagement

D. DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY

16. Creative use of AI / AR, Data / Insight, Metaverse, NFT
17. Digital & Mobile Creativity

E. HEALTH & WELLNESS

18. Consumer Products
19. Branded & Unbranded Health Awareness
20. Non-profit Health Awareness
21. Health Services

F. SPORTS, POP CULTURE & ART

- 22. Sport
- 23. Influencers
- 24. Entertainment
- 25. Art

SECTION CRAFT DRUM

A. INDUSTRY CRAFT (BRAND COMMUNICATION & DESIGN, OUTDOOR, PRINT & PUBLISHING, PACKAGE DESIGN)

- 1. Art Direction
- 2. Illustration
- 3. Photography
- 4. Typography
- 5. Copywriting

B. MOTION CRAFT (VIDEO / MOVING IMAGES)

- 6. Direction
- 7. Casting
- 8. Cinematography
- 9. Production, Design / Art Direction
- 10. Original Music
- 11. Sound, Design & Adapted Music
- 12. Animation
- 13. Special / Visual Effects

C. DIGITAL CRAFT

- 14. Digital Illustration & Design
- 15. Motion Graphics Design & Animation
- 16. Music / Sound Design
- 17. Storytelling
- 18. Use of AR / VR
- 19. Use of Creative Data & AI
- 20. Other Use of Technology

D. INNOVATION CRAFT

SECTION CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE DRUM

A. CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA

1. TV & Other screens
2. Audio Platforms
3. Print/Outdoor
4. Ambient Media
5. Digital & Mobile Platforms
6. Social Platforms
7. Events

B. EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA

8. Use of Creative Idea
9. Media Insights & Audience
10. Media Planning & Strategy
11. Use of Data
12. Use of Technology
13. Use of Low/ Small Budget
14. Influencer Campaign
15. Digital Media Engagement
16. Non-profit/Charity, NGO

SECTION CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE DRUM

A. BRAND BUILDING

1. Brand Introduction
2. Brand Reinvention
3. Brand Vitality
4. Brand Strategy and Experience

B. CREATIVE EFFECTIVENESS

5. Profit
6. Non-profit

C. E/MCOMMERCE, COMMUNITY & USE OF EXPERIENCE

D. SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**E. ACTIVATION**

- 7. Technology-led Activation
- 8. Social Media Engagement
- 9. Website & Mobile Activation
- 10. Cross-Platform Activation
- 11. Live Activation

F. CONTENT

- 12. Storytelling & Experience
- 13. Real-Time Action Content

G. INNOVATION

- 14. Communication and Media Innovation
- 15. Product or Service Innovation
- 16. Innovative use of Technology

H. B2B**SECTION ALL JURIES****A. GENIUS LOCI/LOCAL SPIRIT****B. SOCIAL GOOD**

- 1. Non-profit Social Good
- 2. Profit Social Good

C. UNFPA INCLUSION EXCELLENCE (NEW)**D. GAME CHANGER (OPEN WORLDWIDE)**

8. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

There are **required** and **optional materials** to be submitted to present the entries. Since each group has their own specific required and optional materials, please refer to each group's requirements for submission of materials. You can find specifications for each group on [Golden Drum website](#).

- **Required materials** will be shown for the judging, screened and/or exhibited during the Festival, screened at the award ceremony, should the entry be awarded, as well as published in the entries showcase on www.goldendrum.com.
- **Optional Awards show film**, if submitted, will be screened at the award ceremony, should the entry be awarded. In case the entrant does not submit the awards show film, the organizer reserves the right to screen only the first 60 seconds of the original video at the award ceremony.
- **Other optional materials** can be submitted to better present the entered work in a context and will only be shown for judging, if submitted. Upon request from an entrant, these optional materials may be published in the entries showcase on the Festival's website.

There should be no agency branding on any materials submitted. Agency names and logos should not appear on written submission, entry URL in videos or any other submitted materials. Agency may only appear in an entry submission in case their case is self-promotional.

It is the sole entrant's responsibility to submit entries with correct credits.

Materials presenting the entered work should be of high quality and in line with the technical requirements. The Festival organizer does not bear any responsibility for poor quality of materials submitted and will be presented as submitted.

No actual samples of entries are required in any groups.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

Entries shall only be submitted via **ONLINE SUBMISSION** system accessible at <https://engine.goldendrum.com>.

LANGUAGE OF ENTRIES

All video entry materials have to be dubbed or subtitled in English. If the entry is not a video entry and the original language is not English, entrant has to submit a file in original language and a translation into English (as text file) which will only be used for the judging purposes (as text file in .DOC format or .RTF format or .TXT format).

FORMATS OF MATERIALS SUBMITTED

Please check the requirements for submission of materials for each Group.

VIDEO

Video materials must be uploaded as MP4 files only and within a length defined for a particular group.

Resolution	Full HD (1920x1080 px), 16:9 Widescreen (preferable)
Frame rate	25fps
Scan Type	Progressive
Video codec	h.264 (min 15 - max 40 mbps)
Audio codec	AAC (min 160 kbps), 44KHz
Container	MP4
File size(*)	up to 360 MB

(*) Please upload a video with the best possible resolution and within the file size limit. Should you wish to upload the file size of your video larger than 360 MB, please contact us at entries@goldendrum.com.

SCREENSHOT (OF THE VIDEO)

Screenshots are a required material for entries that have video materials.

They will be screened at the award ceremony, should the entry be awarded.

Please submit screenshots that have as little as possible written on them, since credits for this entry will be written over them.

Screenshots must be uploaded as **JPEG** files only and in the following format:

Format	JPEG
Colour space	RGB
DPI	72 dpi
Size	1920 x 1080 px
File size	up to 6 MB

IMAGE

Images must be uploaded as JPEG files only and in the following format:

Format	JPEG
Colour space	RGB
DPI	300 dpi
Size	The longest side must be at least 420 mm
File size	up to 6 MB

AUDIO

Audio files must be uploaded as MP3 files only with the following specifications:

Bit rate	Minimum of 192 kbps and maximum of 258 kbps
File type	MP3 (stereo) with a compression ratio of 22:1
File size	no single MP3 should be over 10 MB

9. PUBLICATION OF ENTRIES

Any material submitted as an entry in the competition becomes the property of the Festival organizer and will not be returned.

All entries submitted to the Golden Drum Festival, will be presented to jury during online judging via online / video conference system, screened at the award ceremony, should your entry be awarded, as well as published in a showcase of the entries on www.goldendrum.com.

Please note that the organizer does not accept any responsibility for the poor quality of the submitted materials as it may affect your presentation before the Juries and the Festival audience. In addition, the organizer does not bear any responsibility for incorrect credits, entered into the entry submission system.

The entrant authorises the Festival organizer to present the entries at the festival and on the Festival website www.goldendrum.com. The entrant also authorises the Festival organizer to screen or publish the entries without prior consent of the entrant and without charge for the purpose of promoting the Festival. The aforementioned authorisation is given for the duration of the copyright, and may be used worldwide for the sole purpose of promoting the Golden Drum Festival.



10. ENTRY SUBMISSION

– CHECKLIST

The Golden Drum Festival provides an easy-to-use and navigate entry submission system. Before entering the required information and materials into the online system, please use this check-list to assist you in smooth entry submission:

- Appoint an award manager: Choose someone within your company to coordinate your entry activities and act as the first point of communication with us. [Check the Groups and categories.](#)
- Read the [Eligibility rules & conditions.](#)
- Go to <http://engine.goldendrum.com> and login with your username and password. If you aren't registered yet, you have to create an account first.
- Select [ENTRY SYSTEM](#) and then click [ADD NEW ENTRY](#) button. Choose the section, group and category you want to enter...
- Check which [credits and information](#) you need for the entry form and then collect it for each work you plan to submit.
- Check the [technical requirements](#) for the materials. In addition to the required materials to be presented to the juries and during the festival, you have a chance to submit optional materials. Decide early on how to best present your work.
- Collect all the [materials.](#)
- Check with your Accounting Department whether the Entrant Company and the Billing Company are the same, or not. Also, agree with them on the payment method (credit card or bank transfer).
- Verify your [tax status for VAT purposes](#) and have your correct company's tax number ready. For EU countries, you may check your tax number via [the VIES system.](#)
- Check our [TIPS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES.](#)
- Log in to the system and submit your entries! If there's anything unclear during this process or you are in need of any assistance, please contact us at entries@goldendrum.com or call us.

WE WISH YOU
LOTS OF
SUCCESS!



11. TIPS FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES

SUBMITTING ENTRY IN MORE GROUPS

Once you save an entry in the system you have an option to copy it. All the materials and information about entry will stay the same just duplicated. All you need to change is the section / group and category in which you wish to enter it and save it. If needed you can change other information as well. Once you have all the entries you can finalise them together. Check the [Eligibility Rules and Conditions](#) to see which groups allow submission of series (Art. 10).

HOW TO ENTER SERIES?

Ads forming a series shall be entered separately, you must tick the appropriate box in the entry form to specify it as such. A minimum of two advertisements in the same category are needed to form a series. A series can be entered in two ways:

1. Entering the series as a whole

First entry of the series will be charged by the entry fee for the individual group (by the entry fee posted on the Golden Drum website [Fees & Payment](#)), while each additional entry within the series will be charged a flat fee of 170 € per entry (no matter how many entries). The jury will judge each part/work of the series as a whole, the series, if awarded, is given one set of points.

2. Entering the series as a group of individual works

Entrant submits any number of works as individual entries and pays the entry fee for each entry (by the entry fee posted on the Golden Drum website [Fees & Payment](#)). The jury will judge each part/work of the series separately, each part/work if awarded is given separate points. The jury reserves the right to award only individual parts/work of the series.

Check the [Eligibility Rules and Conditions](#) to see which groups allow submission of series (Art. 12).

ENTRY DETAILS AND CREDITS

Fill the entry form with required and optional information (required fields are marked with *). [Enter the credits and make sure they are written correctly. All credits in the Golden Drum publications will appear as stated in the entry. Once you finalize your entry you won't be able to change the credits.](#)

All the credits shall be stated in the catalogue on the website goldendrum.com. The Festival's organizer reserves the right to limit the number of authors to between 6 and 8 and to omit suffixes (such as GmbH, Inc. and Sa) in the entrant's name for announcements of competition results.

BE CAREFUL!

Some of the information will be considered in calculations for the awards.

SAVING AND FINALISING ENTRY

You are ready to finish your submission! After clicking the SAVE ENTRY button your entry will be listed as a Pending entry. If all the materials are correct you should see a blue dot next to your entry and you can finish with submission. If needed you can still change the entry. When you are sure your entry is complete you check the box next to it and click FINALISE. Once you FINALISE your entry you cannot change its details anymore! Your entry will be moved to cart.

I CAN'T FINALISE MY ENTRY. WHAT CAN I DO?

If you see a red dot next to your entry it means that you don't have all the required materials, you have too many of them or you don't have the correct materials... in conclusion something is not ok with your materials and that's why you can't finalize your entry. You should check Technical requirements and upload the correct materials. In case you still have problems with finalising your entries please contact the Festival office.

ENTRY IN CART AND PAYMENT PROCESS

Once your entry is in your cart click Proceed with payment. You will see all the entries you choose to finalize in the cart. If everything looks okay you should click NEXT. The system automatically chooses the company or person you entered during registration as the billing company or person. In case you want to change this you should create a new contact and chose it as the billing company. Another thing is to make sure your VAT number is the same as it is in VIES system (for EU). Click Verify your VAT number. In case it doesn't match check how it's written there click EDIT and change it.

Choose the payment method and click next to continue with the payment process.

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CASE MOVIE

For most of the Groups, you need to prepare a case film to present your work. In some other Groups and categories, a case film is also an optional material that allows you to better present your work.

The case film shall be presented to the juries and please bear in mind that all jury members judge all the works entered. The juries expect the case film to be clear and concise by showing key creative solutions and results, less so in terms of its effectiveness. For a reference on good case films, please check the showcase of awarded entries from previous Festivals on www.goldendrum.com.

You can find more answers to common questions on our [website](http://www.goldendrum.com).

If you have any other questions write us at entries@goldendrum.com (Competition and Young Drumers Competition) or info@goldendrum.com (General Information).

12. ENTRY FEES

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SECTION	MASTERCARD 2026*			REGULAR 2026*		
	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON
ONE-CHANNEL DRUM						
FILM	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
PRINT	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
OUT OF HOME (OOH)	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
AUDIO	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
DESIGN	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
OMNI-CHANNEL DRUM						
INTEGRATED	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
CONTENT	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
ENGAGEMENT	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
DIGITAL, MOBILE & TECHNOLOGY	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
HEALTH & WELLNESS	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
SPORTS, POP CULTURE & ART	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €

SECTION

	MASTERCARD 2026*			REGULAR 2026*		
	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON
CRAFT DRUM						
INDUSTRY CRAFT	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
MOTION CRAFT (Video / Moving images)	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
DIGITAL CRAFT	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
INNOVATION CRAFT	330 €	370 €	430 €	350 €	390 €	450 €
CREATIVE MEDIA EXCELLENCE DRUM						
CREATIVE USE OF MEDIA	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €

SECTION

	MASTERCARD 2026*			REGULAR 2026*		
	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON	SUPER EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 22 APRIL 2026	EARLY BIRD FEE UNTIL 17 JUNE 2026	STANDARD FEE FROM 18 JUNE 2026 ON
CREATIVE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE DRUM						
BRAND BUILDING	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
CREATIVE EFFECTIVENESS	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
E/MCOMMERCE, COMMUNITY & USE OF EXPERIENCE	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
ACTIVATION	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
CONTENT	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
INNOVATION	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
B2B	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
ALL JURIES						
GENIUS LOCI/LOCAL SPIRIT	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
SOCIAL GOOD	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
UNFPA INCLUSION EXCELLENCE	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €
GAME CHANGER	370 €	410 €	470 €	390 €	430 €	490 €

*Price of the entry does not include the 22 % VAT.

****Special offer:** 10 + 1 (for every 10 entries you get 1 complete delegate pass without lunch free of charge).

***** Special offer for Ukrainian entrants:** 50% discount on entry fees.

****** Entering a series of entries**

A series of entries can be entered in section One-Channel Drum group A. Film, B. Print, C. Out of home and D. Audio, section Craft Drum group A. Industry Craft, B. Motion Craft, C. Digital Craft and D. Innovation Craft, section Creative Media Excellence Drum group B. Excellence in Media, and section All Juries group A. Genius Loci/Local Spirit, B. Social good, C. UNFPA Inclusion Excellence and D. Game Changer.

A series can be entered in two ways:

1. Entering the series as a whole

First entry of the series will be charged by the entry fee for the individual group (by the entry fee posted on the Golden Drum website [Fees & Payment](#)), while each additional entry within the series will be charged a flat fee of 170 € per entry (no matter how many entries). The jury will judge each part/work of the series as a whole, the series, if awarded, is given one set of points.

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DRUM**

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