

THE CONTEST FOR NEW MUSIC (UMK) RULES

The Competition for New Music (UMK) (hereafter 'competition') is seeking the best new Finnish song and performer. Yleisradio Oy (hereafter 'Yle') decides the method and the schedule of the competition process.

1. Participation and material

1.1. The contestant may only enter the competition with a previously unpublished song.

1.2. The song must be delivered to Yle between the 17th and 23th of August 2026. Only songs that arrive on time and comply with these rules are accepted in the competition.

1.3. The song and other requested materials are delivered in digital form and uploaded to Yle's server.

1.4. The lead singer(s) may participate in the competition with a maximum of three (3) songs although only one (1) song is eligible for the competition. Band members can participate in more than one song and composers, lyricists and arrangers (hereafter 'songwriters') may participate in the competition with several songs.

1.5. The singer(s) or the band performing the song must be the final performer of the song.

1.6. The song must be delivered as a high-quality production. It must include the singing and the melody as well as the audible ideas and guidelines for the song's final arrangement. If the song is selected for the competition, the final master and the stems must be ready and delivered to Yle by October 30th, 2026. The structure of the song must be ready and delivered to Yle by October 12th, 2026.

1.7. Yle will not return material submitted to the competition. Yle will neither pay any compensation for the materials nor reimburse or be responsible for any costs and commissions that have been incurred in the production of the material submitted to the competition.

1.8. Yle has the right to use materials submitted by the selected participants in connection with the competition in any manner including marketing, social media and

other contest-related production. This exclusive right applies to all methods of production and transmission without regional or temporal restrictions.

1.9. The chosen contestants participate in program, social media, PR and marketing content that is related to the competition. By participating in the competition, the songwriter(s), performer(s) and other rightholders give their consent to Yle to document and broadcast their preparation for the competition without separate approval.

1.10. Yle has the exclusive right to all the content it has produced without territorial or temporal limitations, including the exclusive right to modify and redistribute the content.

2. The competition process

2.1. The juries appointed by Yle will evaluate the contestants (performance and song) from among all entries submitted to the competition. The juries consist of individuals of different ages and backgrounds.

2.2. Yle reserves the right to decide how the contestants are selected. Decisions cannot be appealed.

2.3. The winner will be chosen in the live broadcasted UMK final in February 2027. The final result of the competition is decided by the combined audience and jury vote result. The winner commits to represent Finland in the 2027 Eurovision Song Contest and to produce the song in accordance with the EBU's rules.

2.4. If the public vote fails for technical or other reasons, the winner is decided by an expert panel appointed by Yle.

2.5. The contestants, including their team and partners, cannot publicly disclose the various stages of the competition process, results, etc. before a later announced date. Yle has the right to reject a competitor who does not comply with confidentiality or other competition rules.

3. General rules

3.1. If a song is not selected for the competition, it may participate in the national selection processes for the Eurovision Song Contest in other countries.

3.2. At least one songwriter and one lead singer must have Finnish citizenship or a permanent residence in Finland.

3.3. All performers participating in the competition must be at least 18 years old by 1 May 2027. This age restriction does not apply to songwriters. Permanent Yle employees cannot participate in the competition as performers.

3.4. The song must not exceed three (3) minutes.

3.5. The stage show must not exceed six persons. Yle has the executive right to decide the performing line-up as well as the show's content.

3.6. The song can be performed in any language. The name and the lyrics of the song must not be political or offensive, and must not contain swear words or trademarks.

3.7. All televised performances are singback with instrumental backgrounds. The instrumental backgrounds must be submitted to Yle by October 30th, 2026. The structure of the song must be ready and delivered to Yle by October 12th, 2026.

3.8. The final version of the song selected for the competition must be submitted to Yle by October 30th, 2026. The contestant produces the final version independently and the contestant, or his/her representative (producer, record company, etc.), submits the final version in the required format by the given deadline. The contestant or his/her representative is responsible for ensuring that the final version is technically feasible. If a third party representative subsequently submits additional requirements to Yle for new instrumental backgrounds and/or sung versions, the final version's producer is responsible to deliver these to Yle.

3.9. Yle reports the song performances to Teosto, which collects and distributes the performing rights royalties to the composers, lyricists and arrangers of the songs in accordance with Yle's and Teosto's current agreement. The rights holders of the song must themselves make a work notification (registration) of the song to Teosto or to another copyright organization of their choice after the song has been released.

3.10. Yle is responsible for the contestants' reasonable competition related travel and accommodation expenses that have been agreed in advance with Yle's representative. For contestants traveling to the competition from abroad, including dancers and other

persons accepted by Yle to participate in the performance, Yle will only reimburse the agreed travel expenses within Finland.

3.11. Yle will enter into an agreement with the participants specifying the tasks, rights, and compensation.

3.12. Yle offers its normal hairdressing, make-up, costume and choreography services. Yle does not compensate auxiliary personnel involved in performance planning and preparation and does not reimburse the costs of costumes, hairstyles, props or the transportation of props if these have not been agreed beforehand with Yle. The contestant may use his/her own auxiliary personnel and assistants, but Yle will not reimburse their costs or fees. If a participant wishes to redeem costumes or props, the redemption of such materials must be negotiated with a Yle representative. A one-time fee must be paid to Yle for any materials redeemed.

3.13. Compositions or lyrics submitted to the competition may not be performed publicly or published in any form, whether commercially or non-commercially, before Yle selects the songs for the competition in autumn 2026. The selected songs must not be performed publicly and/or published commercially or non-commercially before the songs are concertedly published in January–February 2027 at a date informed by Yle. Songs selected for the competition may be used in commercial cooperation only after the UMK event.

3.14. The rightholders of the winning song commit to enter into an agreement with an EBU partner to publish their competition song in commercial ESC 2027 publications which may be published in any format (2027 ESC License Agreement). The reimbursement does not contain a separate licensing fee, only sales royalty pro rata (in 2026 18%). The conditions of the ESC License Agreement also include an override payment (in 2026 11 %) to the producer of the commercial ESC 2027 publications for a period of one year.

3.15. The selected performers (singer(s), band(s), backing singers and other performers) must commit to be available for rehearsals, performances and marketing activities during the competition. Schedules are announced at a later date.

3.16. The producer(s), songwriter(s) and all the performers of the winning song commit to give Yle all the rights that the EBU requires. The songwriter(s) and producer(s), and/or their representatives, also declare that they have no other obligations that are in conflict with the EBU's [rules](#). The people selected for the contest will enjoy extensive

publicity. The contestant must inform Yle of all matters that may affect their public image and participation in UMK or the Eurovision Song Contest.

3.17. Yle reserves the right to change these rules. In addition to these rules, Yle applies EBU's international rules for the Eurovision Song Contest regarding competition participation and song performance. If the EBU's rules or their interpretations necessitate rule changes, Yle reserves the right to these changes. Yle also reserves the right to reject songs that do not comply with these rules. The rejected song's performer(s), songwriters and producers are not compensated for possible rejection costs and losses.

3.18. The competition follows the principles of a safer space. The competition is a non-discriminatory area where we respect, value and encourage each other as people and professionals.

4. Promotion and marketing

4.1. The contestant commits to acquiring a professional promotional representative for the duration of the competition. The promotional representative acts as Yle's contact person in all matters relating to the promotion and marketing of the competition as well as as the contact person in all matters relating to social media. Yle undertakes promotional and marketing measures for the Competition, not for individual artists. Yle does not reimburse the costs of the promotional representative, nor the costs of her/his tasks (e.g. taxi trips). In collaboration with the winner's team, Yle produces marketing, public relations (PR) and social media content at the Eurovision Song Contest.

4.2. Yle produces PR, marketing and social media material that is used in the promotion and the marketing of the competition. Yle reserves the rights to choose this material as well as the method of production and distribution of the material. Yle's promotional, marketing and social media material includes e.g. promotional pictures, newsletters, marketing campaign material and other material that is related to the promotion and marketing of the competition.

4.3. Yle produces social media content during the competition. Yle reserves the rights to choose the content, production and distribution of the material on UMK social media accounts. Yle publishes social media content on Youtube, Instagram, Tiktok and Yle's own platforms.

4.4. The contestant may use Yle's promotional and marketing material in a separately agreed manner. Permission must be sought from Yle for the use and distribution of other material. A one-off fee must be paid to Yle when the material is used for commercial purposes, including promotion and marketing that is related to the competition as well as the pictures which are used in the publication of the contestant's competition song.

5. UMK event

5.1. Yle produces marketing material used for the promotion of the UMK27 event. The UMK event is a separate pre- and afterparty from the Competition, and participants may use the event marketing materials for the promotion of the UMK27 event after the artists selected for the competition have been officially announced in January–February 2027. Any other use or distribution of the materials requires permission from Yle. For materials used for commercial purposes, a one-time fee must be paid to Yle.

5.2. The contestants can perform at the UMK27 event in a separately agreed manner. The UMK27 winner commits to perform at the UMK27 event in a separately agreed manner.

5.3. Yle reserves the right to decide the contestant-specific quota of free tickets and backstage passes. All UMK27 contestants are given the same amount of free tickets and backstage passes and these amounts cannot be changed afterwards.

5.4. All performer(s), songwriter(s), arranger(s) and producer(s) accept and commit to the competition rules when they participate. The materials required in these rules must be submitted between the 17th and the 23rd of August 2026 via the registration form that is published at **yle.fi/umk**.

Registration requires the following digital material:

- The song. File format: mp3
- A promotional photography of the song's artist (singer(s) and/or band). Check that you have the right to use the image and that the photographer's name is included in the upload. File format: .jpg., maximum file size of the camera. Note! No.raw files!
- A publishable bio of the contestant (singer(s) and/or band) that includes links to the contestant's all social media accounts (Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, website, etc)

- The lyrics of the song. (.doc, .pdf or .rtf)

Instructions for uploading the material can be found on the 17th of August 2026 at **yle.fi/umk** Additional information by e-mail at umk@yle.fi