Guide to EURO26

All information about the European Poetry Slam Championship 2026 in Graz at a glance.

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Addresses & Meal Times

(in order of use - Graz is a city, where you can do everything on foot)

Festival Center **LENDHAFEN** → Lendkai 17, 8020 Graz
Walk approx. 15-20min. from Graz Main Train Station (“Hauptbahnhof”)
Tram 1, 6, 7, 17 from “Hauptbahnhof” to “Südtirolerplatz” (3 Stops)

Hotel Daniel → Europaplatz 1, 8020 Graz
Walk approx. 1min from Graz Main Train Station (“Hauptbahnhof”)

Hotel B&B Graz Hbf → Annenstraße 58/60, 8020 Graz
Walk approx. 5min from Graz Main Train Station (“Hauptbahnhof”)

Opening venue **ORPHEUM** → Orpheumgasse 8, 8020 Graz
Walk approx. 10min from Graz Main Train Station (“Hauptbahnhof”)
Tram 1, 6, 7, 17 from “Hauptbahnhof” to “Roseggerhaus” (2 Stops)

Aftershow 19 Nov. **ERNST FUCHS BAR** →Sackstraße 3, 8010 Graz
located in the Palais-Hotel Erzherzog Johann
Admission only with festival accreditation
Walk approx. 5-10min from Opening Venue

Competition venue **NEXT LIBERTY** Theatre for Young Audiences
Audience → Kaiser-Josef-Platz 10, 8010 Graz
Artists’ entrance → Girardigasse 1, 8010 Graz
From Hotel to Next Liberty approx. 25min Walk (longest distance of festival)
Tram 1, 7, 17 from “Hauptbahnhof” to “Kaiser-Josef-Platz/Oper” (6 stops)

Aftershow 20 Nov. **feel free** → Annenstraße 27, 8020 Graz
Admission only with festival accreditation
Walk approx. 2-5min from Hotels.

Aftershow 21 Nov. **Murinselcafé** on the Murinsel → Lendkai 19, 8020 Graz
Admission only with festival accreditation
Walk approx. 10-15min from Next Liberty

Cost from Graz-Airport train service to Graz-Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station) is about 3€.
Taxi to and from Graz-Airport is more convenient, but costs about 25-30€.

Public transport in Graz after 11.30pm only hourly until 2.30pm. You better walk.

*The phone number of the **awareness phone** will be announced at accreditation.*

Lunch (20 Nov. & 21 Nov.)
from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm at the Festival Center LENDHAFEN

Late night snack (19 Nov., 20 Nov. & 21 Nov.)
at 11.00 pm at the respective aftershow venue

Staff

This team is here for you at the festival:



Katharina Wenty
Communication



Yannick Steinkellner
Organisation



Christoph Steiner
Location/Stage



Agnes Maier
Awareness



Florian Joham
Hospitality



Antonia Unterholzer
Press Relations

Helping Hands
These people are working especially for you at the European Championship because they are curious about the European scene. All of them also perform at poetry slams themselves. They help on a voluntary basis at the festival center, as backstage support and in the awareness team

→ Anna Hader, Basquel, Elena Sarto, Henning, Fanny Famos
(all from Vienna & Lower Austria)
→ Katrin ohne H (from Tyrol)
→ Anna Koller, Jakob Schwaiger, Julia Leopold, Katharina Handl, Memo, Muhammed Dumanli, Mulla Demir, Simon Renner, Su, Vali Georgieva (all from Graz)
→ Denise Bretz (Cologne)

Competition Management
These people will make sure that the rules are followed and everything runs fairly. They select the jury and make sure that jury members do not know any of the people in the competition. The competition management also works on a voluntary basis. MCs are only deployed in rounds in which their own competitor is not performing. All of these people have experience with this job.

Tina Messer (Biel, CH), Jesko Habert (Berlin, D), Katharina Wenty (Vienna, AT), Francesca Herr (Vienna, AT), Lukas Hofstetter (Zurich, CH), Valerio Moser (Zurich, CH) Fabian Navarro (Vienna, AT), Yannick Steinkellner (Graz, AT), Lisa Rothhardt (Graz, AT)

Artists of the Opening Show



Valerio Moser
European Champion 2025
World Champion 2026



Emil Kaschka
Vice-World
Champion 2025



Geist des Frühlings
Austrian Champion
2026



Vali Georgieva
Styrian
Champion 2026



Marc Vanicatte aka
Daréka Darémo
WPSO-Europe



Cat Gadget
Austrian Club-DJ



Katharina Wenty
Organizer Euros 26
WPSO-Austria



Yannick Steinkellner
Organizer Euros 26
Styrian Champion 2015

Hosts & Feature Acts of the Competition

Semi-final 1 - Host



Fabian Navarro
Austrian Team Champion
2023, 2025, 2026

Semifinal 1 - Host



Francesca Herr
Austrian Team Champion
2023, 2025, 2026



Team *mal was anderes*

Semi-final 1 - Feature



Agnes Maier
Styrian Champion 2017
Austrian Champion 2017

Semi-final 2 & Final - Host



Elif Duygu
Austrian Champion 2022

Semi-final 2 - Host



Yasmo MC (Yasmine Hafedh)
Austrian Champion 2013

Semi-final 2 - Feature



Elena Sarto
Viennese Champion 2024

Final - Host



Katharina Wenty

Final - Feature



Valerio Moser

The Day of the Opening

Timetable - 19 November

10.00 am - 7.00 pm Festival Center *LENDHAFEN*
Accreditation at Festival Center
Your first stop when you arrive in Graz is here. You will get all the info and a small welcome surprise from us. You will also receive the tickets for the opening, the link to the shared WhatsApp group and the number of the awareness phone.

3.00 pm - 7.00 pm Check-in at *Hotel B&B Graz Hbf*
Some of you are staying here. Breakfast is included.
Walking Distance Festival Center: 10-15 minutes
Walking Distance Orpheum Extra: approx. 10 minutes
Walking Distance Next Liberty: 20-25 minutes
Walking Distance Hotel Daniel: under 5 minutes

3.00 pm - 11.00pm Check-in at *Hotel Daniel*
Some of you are staying here. Breakfast is included.
Walking Distance Festival Center: 15 minutes
Walking Distance Orpheum Extra: approx. 10 minutes
Walking Distance Next Liberty: 20-25 minutes
Walking Distance Hotel B&B: under 5 minutes

7.30 pm - 9.45 pm *Orpheum Graz*
Opening & Poetry Showcase at Orpheum Extra

DJ Cat Gadget for admission and entertainment.
Hosted by Katharina Wenty & Yannick Steinkellner (organisers of EUROS26)
on Stage:
Daréka Darémo (WPSO-Europe) - words of welcome
Vali Georgieva (Styrian Champion 2026 from Graz) - two texts
Der Geist des Frühlings (Austrian Champion 2026 from Innsbruck) - two texts
Emil Kaschka (Vice World Champion 2025 from Vienna) - two texts
Valerio Moser (World Champion 2026 from Zurich) - two texts

10.00 pm - 2.00 am *Ernst Fuchs Bar* *in the Hotel Erzherzog Johann*
Welcome Night: Speak easy at Ernst Fuchs Bar
Admission to the aftershow only for accredited festival guests!

You are welcomed by the one and only *Herr Helmut*, owner of Graz' finest cocktail bar and one of Austria's finest bartenders. Special drinks at special rates will be served. Dress up they way you feel chique and comfy and get to know your European colleagues.
→ 11.00 pm: Late night snack at the aftershow venue

At the aftershows there is a solidarity glass into which people with a little more money can donate to support people with a smaller budget. Any money left over at the end will be donated.

Walking Distance Orpheum Extra to Ernst Fuchs Bar: 5-10 minutes
Walking Distance Ernst Fuchs Bar to Hotels: 15-20 minutes

The Day of the Semi-finals

Timetable - 20 November

10.00 am - 10.00 pm Festival Center *LENDHAFEN*
Accreditation is also possible today. You will get the tickets for the semi-finals here.
→ 10.50 am: Draw of the starting order for Semi-final 1 and Semi-final 2
→ 11.00 am: Panel “Solving a WPSO-Crisis: Overview & Discussion” with Daréka & Garryl
→ 1.00 pm: Lunch is served and remains available until 2.30 pm.
→ 1.30 pm: Meeting point for a short guided tour of the old town (duration approx. 90 minutes)
→ 5.30 pm: Livestream watch party Semi-final 1 & Semi-final 2 (only for accredited festival guests)

4.15 pm - 7.15 pm *Next Liberty* Children’s and Youth Theatre
→ 4.15 pm Get-in at Next Liberty backstage for MCs & performers of Semi-final 1 (!)
→ 4.30 pm Tech check at the control desk for all MCs with the competition management
→ 4.30 pm Sound check for all performers with the host
→ Doors open at 5.15 pm, show starts at 5.30 pm
→ End of the show at 7.10 pm
→ 7.15 pm Get-in at Next Liberty backstage for MCs & performers of Semi-final 2 (!)
→ 7.25 pm Tech check at the control desk for all MCs with the competition management
→ 7.25 pm Sound check & stage walk-through for all performers with the host
→ Doors open at 7.45 pm, show starts at 8.00 pm
→ End of the show at 9.45 pm

10.00 pm - 2.00 am *feel free* Queer Community Center
Admission to the aftershow only for accredited festival guests!

You will be welcomed by members of *feel free*, who serve a variety of drinks at fair prices. There is also a karaoke setup installed especially for EUROS26. Use it and sing with all your heart and an off-key voice - but above all: together!
→ 11.00 pm: Late night snack at the aftershow venue

At the aftershows there is a solidarity glass into which people with a little more money can donate to support people with a smaller budget. Any money left over at the end will be donated.

Good to know
Walking route from Next Liberty to *feel free*: approx. 20 minutes
Walking route from *feel free* to the hotels: approx. 5 minutes

Tram lines 1 & 7 between Südtirolerplatz and Kaiser-Josef-Platz are free of charge.
This is the route between the festival center and Next Liberty.

The Day of the Final

Timetable - 21 November

10.00 am - 10.00 pm Festival Center
You will get the tickets for the final here.
→ 10.50 am: Draw of the starting order for the final
→ 11.00 am: The big MC meeting of all European organisers (ENDS 1.00 pm)
Send your agenda items to Lee Jenner from Estonia (Euro-Host 2027)
Email: tallinnaslammikollektiiv@gmail.com
→ 1.00 pm: Lunch is served and remains available until 2.30 pm.
→ 3.00 pm: Panel “Building Poetry-Slam-Scenes Professionally” (ENDS 4.00 pm)
Best practice examples from Bern/Biel (Switzerland) and Berlin (Germany) with Tina & Jesko
→ 8.00 pm: Livestream watch party Final (only for accredited festival guests)

6.15 pm - 10.00 pm Next Liberty Children’s and Youth Theatre
→ 6.15 pm Get-in at Next Liberty backstage for MCs & performers of the final
→ 6.30 pm Tech check at the control desk for all MCs with the competition management
→ 6.30 pm Sound check for all performers with the host
→ Doors open at 7.30 pm, show starts at 8.00 pm
→ Break at 9.15 pm, final run-off starts at 9.30pm
→ End of the show at 10.00 pm

10.00 pm - 2.00 am *Murinselcafé* at Murinsel
Admission to the aftershow only for accredited festival guests!

You will be welcomed by staff of the Murinselcafé. The venue is one of the most prominent places in the city and a worthy end to our weekend together.
→ 11.00 pm: Farewell speech by Katharina Wenty & Yannick Steinkellner
→ 11.10 pm: Late night snack is served
→ 11.30 pm: DJ Valerio Moser (European Champion 2025) at the turntables. Dance your heart out and fall happily into your soft beds at the end.

At the aftershows there is a solidarity glass into which people with a little more money can donate to support people with a smaller budget. Any money left over at the end will be donated.

Good to know
Walking route from Next Liberty to Murinselcafé: approx. 15 minutes
Walking route from Murinselcafé to the hotels: approx. 15-20 minutes

Tram lines 1 & 7 between Südtirolerplatz and Kaiser-Josef-Platz are free of charge.
This is the route between the festival center and Next Liberty.

All Participants of the Competition

The 30 poets and 30 organisers (MCs for short) from the 30 countries

Country / Round	Poets	MCs
Austria / HF 1	Lia Hartl	Katharina Wenty & Yannick Steinkellner
Belgium / HF 1	Giovanni Baudonck	Mary Elarbi
Croatia / HF 2	Nikola Rabušić	Željko Barišić
Cyprus / HF 1	Theodoris Eracleous	not attending (n.a.)
Czechia / HF 2	David Bolech	Bob Hýsek
Denmark / HF 1	Johannes Ravn Jeppesen	Mark Jensen-Skovgaard
England / HF 2	Georgia Griffiths	n.a.
Estonia / HF 1	Kaarel Aadli	Lee Jenner
Finland / HF 1	Juuso Maalismaa	Solja Krapu-Kallio
Germany / HF 2	Ayşe Irem	Jesko Habert
Greece / HF 2	Maria Kouimtsidi	Makis Moulos
Hungary / HF 2	Eszter Szvoren	Veroni Gyenge
Ireland / HF 1	Eva Mary Lucy	David Hynes
Italy / HF 2	Antonio Amadeus Pinnetti	Giuliano Logos
Latvia / HF 1	Normunds Bolužs	Kaspars Lielgalvis
Luxemburg / HF 1	Franziska Peschel	Bob Reinert
Netherlands / HF 2	Marthe Van Bronkhorst	Wim Landuyt
No. Macedonia / 1	Viktor Spaseski	Igor Trpceski
Norway / HF 1	Sofie Frost	Marija Bliznac
Poland / HF 1	Ilya Tandur	Dagmara Swierkowska-Kobus
Portugal / HF 2	Rita Bravo	n.a.
Romania / HF 2	Ioana Lungu	Diana Duțu
Scotland / HF 1	Aditiya Narayan	Robin Cairns
Serbia / HF 2	Boya Kez	Nenad Ignjatović
Slovakia / HF 1	Suzana Cascino	Tomáš Straka
Slovenia / HF 1	Rok Gumzej	Matic Ačko
Spain / HF 2	Annët Batlles Padilla	n.a.
Sweden / HF 2	Jonas von Essen	Olle Sundström
Switzerland / HF 2	Annika Biedermann	Tina Messer
Ukraine / HF 2	Yuliia Yaskova	Viktoriya Matyusha

RULES

Competition Rules

Poetry slam is a literary competition. Slam poets perform texts they have written themselves to an audience within a time limit. These performances are scored. At the European Championship, the decision on who wins is always made by people from the audience.

Even if this is not your first championship: every event has its own particularities, so we recommend reading through the rules. Especially if you are planning something out of the ordinary in your performance, you should be prepared and aware of whether your actions violate the rules.

Basics from the rules:

- Competitors must **be at the venue** at **the latest 30 minutes before the start** of their round.
- The **time limit is 4 minutes**. At 3:45 minutes a sound is played to mark the last 15 seconds.
- **You need two different performances** to win the European Championship. **If a poet reaches the top 3, they have to perform three times in total in the competition**. The maximum number of performances would be, in this order: semi-final (20 Nov.), final (21 Nov.), final run-off (21 Nov.). Repeating the text from the semi-final in the final run-off is allowed.
- **Discrimination** of any kind, including but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, islamophobia, classism and ageism, **will not be tolerated**. If discriminatory content is performed, the competitor will be disqualified. Poetry slam is a format that does not target those with less power or privilege.
- Costumes and Props are not allowed. **Traditional clothing** of the country that a poet represents **is not considered a costume.**
- The final decision on disqualification in case of rule violations lies with the organising team of EUROS26. It acts on recommendations from the competition management and the awareness team.
- It is allowed to perform a text which has not been handed in or translated. However the competition management has to be informed before the beginning of the show in order to secure the right projection on the video wall.

The following points are explained on the next pages:

- Scoring
- Time Limit
- Text & Performance
- Procedure
- Competition Management & Disqualification

1. Scoring:

Individual semi-finals - starting 20 Nov., 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm
15 performers per semi-final in 5 groups of three.
Each group winner advances.

1 In the individual semi-final, an audience jury consisting of 7 people/groups of people scores.
1.1 The jury members are selected by the competition management in the foyer before the event begins.
1.2 The jury consists of seven individuals or groups of people (where a group may consist of a maximum of four people) and scores with scoring boards simultaneously on the host's command.
1.3 The range of a scoring board is between 1.0 (lowest possible score) and 10.0 (highest possible score).
1.3.1 The lowest and highest score for each performance are dropped. A maximum of 50 points per performance can therefore be achieved.
1.3.2 In the event of a tie, the jury decides according to the 1/2/3 principle *(--> 1.7.3)*.

Individual final - starting 21 Nov., 8:00 pm
10 performers in a group of three, a group of four and a group of three. Each group winner advances to the final run-off of the top three.

1.4 In the individual final, an audience jury consisting of 7 people/groups of people scores.
1.5 The jury members are selected by the competition management in the foyer before the event begins.
1.6 The jury consists of seven individuals or groups of people (where, during selection, the jury must brief the group and not one person of the group) and scores with scoring boards simultaneously on the host's command.
1.7 The range of a scoring board is between 1.0 (lowest possible score) and 10.0 (highest possible score).
1.7.1 The lowest and highest score for each performance are dropped. A maximum of 50 points per performance can therefore be achieved.
1.7.2 In the event of a tie, the jury decides according to the 1/2/3 principle.
1.7.3 The 1/2/3 principle means that in the event of a tie, the jury has to decide once more between the poets. If there are two poets, the jury has to hold up 1 or 2, depending on who should advance. If there are three poets, the jury has to hold up 1, 2 or 3. If two poets have the most votes in the 1/2/3 principle, the third poet with the fewest votes is eliminated and the principle is repeated with 1 or 2 between the two remaining poets.

2. Time Limit:

2.1 The time limit is 4:00 minutes. At 3:45 minutes, a sound is played that marks the last 15 seconds.
2.2 The duration of the performance is timed by the competition management.
2.3 Timing starts with the first word or the first gesture attributable to the text delivery (or the performance).
2.4 After four minutes, the performance is interrupted by the host and the tech crew. The host pulls the microphone away and the sound technician turns off the sound.

2.5 If the performance is not interrupted in time, the competition management may pronounce a disqualification in consultation with a member of the EURO26 organising team.
2.6 If the disqualification is only pronounced after scoring, the next-ranked person moves up according to the scores.

3. Text & Performance

- All languages, forms, styles and genres are allowed. The texts must have been written by the performers themselves.
- In the semi-final and final, texts must be performed that have never been performed at a European Championship before.
- In the final run-off, texts from the semi-final may be repeated. The final run-off is a battle between the three group winners of the final.
- This means starters need two texts; however, starters may also perform a third text in the final run-off. It is still not allowed to repeat a text from a previous European Championship.
- It is allowed to perform a text which has not been handed in or translated. However the competition management has to be informed before the beginning of the show.
- Singing and quotations from others are partially allowed, but the majority of the text must be written and conceived by yourself.
- Costumes and props are not allowed in the competition. Traditional clothing of the country that a poet represents is not considered a costume.
- Discrimination of any kind, including but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, islamophobia, classism and ageism, will not be tolerated. If discriminatory content is performed, the competitor will be disqualified. Poetry slam is a format that does not target those with less power or privilege.

3.1 Texts that have already been performed at a European Championship are not allowed in the competition. Repeating a text leads to disqualification.
3.2 Media (sheets of paper, mobile phones, tablets, etc.) from which the text is read are allowed.
3.3 Costumes and props are not allowed. Preparing the outfit or the medium carrying the text counts as costume and prop use. However, performing with the help of the medium is allowed. (E.g. painting an image relevant to the text on the side of the medium or outfit facing the audience turns it into a prop and is not allowed. The same applies to keywords that underline the content of the text. Tearing up, dropping or crumpling a sheet of paper from which one is reading for dramatic effect, on the other hand, is allowed. It is likewise allowed to pull or tug at one's own clothing, or to undress.) Traditional clothing of the country that a poet represents is not considered a costume.
3.3.1 Objects on the stage (microphones, microphone stands, host couch, etc.) do not count as props.
3.3.2 Damaging or attempting to damage stage equipment is prohibited and may lead to disqualification (e.g. mic drop). Artists are liable for damage wilfully caused during the performance.
3.4 It is allowed to perform a text which has not been handed in or translated. However the competition management has to be informed before the beginning of the show in order to secure the right projection on the video wall. In this case the rule “If you don’t understand the poem - feel it.” applies for both audience and jury (which is to be seen as part of the audience). If this decision

is made and timely communicated, no translations will be projected and the logo of EUROS26 will be seen on the video wall throughout the performance.

3.5 Discrimination of any kind, including but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, islamophobia, classism and ageism, will not be tolerated. If discriminatory content is performed, the competitor will be disqualified. Poetry slam is a format that does not target those with less power or privilege.

4. Procedure

4.1 The draw for the starting order is carried out by the competition management. The draw for the semifinals takes place on 20. November at 11.00 am at the festival center. The draw for the finals takes place on 21. November at 10.50 am at the festival center.
4.1.1 The starting order for the final run-off is drawn at the same time as the starting order for the final.
4.1.2 Poets do not have to be present at the draw. However, if they are not at the venue 30 minutes before the start of the round and have not checked in, they will be disqualified (e.g. start 5:30 pm means being backstage by 5:00 pm). The drawn group otherwise remains the same but is reduced by one person.
4.2 In each round, the poets perform in the order drawn. A feature act performs before the competition. A test score is also collected for the feature act, but it is not written down, since it is not relevant for the competition. The jury takes the first score in the competition as benchmark.
4.3 A jury score is collected after each person in the competition. See point 1.
4.4 At the end of the competition, the winner is crowned the new European Champion on stage by the host.
4.5 All performers of a round must come on stage at the end of their round for the final applause.

5. Competition Management & Disqualification

5.1 The competition management ensures compliance with the rules during the competition and checks before the show that the software for score entry and the jury boards are available.
5.2 In the event of a rule violation, the competition management consults with a member of the EURO26 organising team on whether a disqualification is necessary and makes a recommendation.
5.3 A violation of the Code of Conduct (*see next page*), just like rule violations in the competition, can be interpreted as grounds for disqualification.
5.4 Only a member of the organising team can pronounce a disqualification from EURO26.
5.5 Violations of the Code of Conduct will be reported to the organising committees of future Championships.

Code of Conduct - EUROS26

The Code of Conduct is a shared understanding of rules of behaviour to be observed at this festival. They define the house rules of the festival organisers. Participation in the festival is only possible if you agree to the Code of Conduct at accreditation.

General Conduct

- I will ensure that I follow all applicable laws and regulations throughout the duration of the festival.
- I undertake to respect the personal boundaries of all festival participants, artists, staff members and other persons involved in the festival. I will make every effort to remain aware of individual boundaries, including those that may be influenced by cultural, religious or other personal differences.
- I will make every effort to recognize inappropriate conduct and violations of personal boundaries by others and, where appropriate and within the range of my responsibilities, address such conduct openly and, where possible, intervene to prevent it. If I do not feel able to intervene myself, I will contact the Awareness Team via the designated Awareness Hotline. (See also the “Awareness Policy”.)
- I will neither engage in nor tolerate sexist, discriminatory, racist, verbally abusive or physically violent behavior. Should I observe such behavior on the part of another festival participant, I will report it immediately to the responsible Organizing Committee.
- Where necessary, or whenever I require professional support or assistance, I will contact the Awareness Team. The designated contact person will initiate an appropriate internal process for addressing and resolving the matter.

Handling of Property Belonging to Others

I hereby undertake to treat all premises and facilities made available to me during the festival with due care and respect. This includes, but is not limited to, the hotel, festival center, event venues, after-show venues and any other facilities used in connection with the festival.
The applicable house rules and regulations must be observed at all locations. I undertake to familiarize myself with these rules and to comply with them.
Any person assigned to and occupying a hotel room during the festival, as indicated in the hotel's room allocation records, shall be responsible for any damage caused to the room or its contents during their stay. Any damage that is already present upon arrival must be reported to the hotel reception immediately.
Should any difficulties arise in communicating with the hotel or in resolving an issue, I may contact the festival's Organizing Committee for assistance.
In the event of any other damage caused in connection with the festival, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate legal action against the person or persons responsible.

Conduct During Events

I acknowledge that the decision as to who wins the European Slam Poetry Championship 2026 is made by the audience and not by members of the slam community.
As a member of the slam community, I am not entitled to vote and undertake not to participate in the voting process.
I further undertake to refrain from making statements or engaging in conduct that could potentially influence the outcome of the competition or otherwise compromise its fairness. Where appropriate, I will also remind my fellow participants and colleagues of this obligation.
I acknowledge that any violation of this Code of Conduct or of the commitments set out herein may result in consequences, including, but not limited to, exclusion from further participation in the festival and/or the initiation of legal proceedings where applicable.

Awareness Policy - EUROS26

The Awareness Team is committed to fostering a respectful environment within the slam community during the European Slam Poetry Championship 2026 in Austria.Throughout the festival, the team is available to all participants — regardless of age or gender — as a point of contact via a designated phone line during various shifts.
The Awareness Team consists primarily of non-professionals, and all work is carried out voluntarily and on an unpaid basis. The team is intended as a first point of contact. However, severe cases of violence or abuse exceed the team's competencies. In such situations, we reserve the right to involve external professionals and counseling services in consultation with the organizing committee.
We support people affected by boundary violations, violence, and discrimination by providing a safe and protected environment and respecting their individual boundaries. Our goal is to help affected persons develop their own strategies for action and regain a sense of control over the situation.
In addition, we are also available for concerns, questions, and uncertainties of any kind. It is not necessary for a severe boundary violation to have occurred in order to contact the Awareness Team.
Our approach is based on responding to requests for support: we listen attentively, respect the wishes and needs of the affected person, and take time for them. In cases of observed discriminatory or boundary-crossing behavior, communication with the affected person takes priority. The person seeking protection is always our highest priority.
Participants who engage in abusive or inappropriate behavior may be removed from European Slam Poetry Championship in consultation with the organizing committee. In more serious cases, the organizing committee — primarily represented by Agnes Maier — will be contacted to decide on further steps, if necessary in cooperation with external experts.
Our responsibilities also include intervening in conflicts in order to de-escalate situations, while always prioritizing the safety of the person intervening.
Self-awareness is an important part of our work. We strive to remain aware of our own competencies as well as our limitations and to seek support when necessary. In difficult situations, we may request assistance even outside of our assigned shifts. Awareness work does not end with the end of a shift or the handover of the awareness phone.

General Principles of Our Awareness Work and Its Limitations

- Discrimination includes any form of disadvantage or unequal treatment, regardless of whether it is intentional or not. Exclusion or devaluation of individuals based on age, gender, origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other individual or group-specific characteristic — as well as resulting insults, harassment, hostility, or assaults — are considered discriminatory actions.
- The authority to define boundaries lies with the affected person. This means that the affected person defines their own boundaries and therefore determines when and where violence, discrimination, or boundary violations begin. Their definition is taken seriously and accepted as valid. Every boundary is subjective and must not be questioned by others.
- The Awareness Team stands in solidarity with affected persons. This is reflected in our role as a support structure. Awareness work is not about determining objective truth or identifying guilty parties, but about acknowledging individual experiences and perceptions of situations. By taking the side of affected persons, existing power imbalances within a situation can be counteracted.
- Confidentiality: Affected persons are never required to talk about situations they have experienced or about their feelings. However, if they choose to share them, everything said will be treated confidentially and will not be shared within the Awareness Team without consent.

It is also important to us to emphasize the values that guide our work and that we are committed to upholding. We are:

- Anti-racist
- Anti-patriarchal
- Anti-fascist
- Anti-sexist
- Queer-friendly
- Body-positive
- Anti-discriminatory
- Anti-ableist
- etc.

The Awareness Team is not a judicial authority. It does not decide what is right or wrong, but merely provides a point of contact for affected persons. However, the organizing committee of the European Slam Poetry Championship 2026 reserves the right to require all festival participants to comply with the “Code of Conduct,” which all participants receive during accreditation.

Participants who engage in abusive behavior or violate other aspects of the Code of Conduct may, after consultation with the organizing committee, be removed from the venue or excluded from the festival. If the Awareness Team determines that an incident requires more serious measures, at least one member of the organizing committee will be contacted to discuss further action (main contact person: Agnes Maier). If members of the Awareness Team feel capable of doing so, they may also intervene in conflicts in order to de-escalate situations. However, the safety of the intervening person always takes priority.

All festival participants who are not directly affected but who witness boundary violations, violence, or other breaches of the Code of Conduct are encouraged to contact the Awareness Team for support and advice.

Throughout the entire festival, the following applies:

The European Slam Poetry Championship 2026 should be a safer space for all participants. Voluntary participation implies an active commitment to contributing to this goal.

Support for the Community

The Awareness Team can be reached via the awareness phone continuously and around the clock from the beginning of the festival on 19.11 at 10.00 am until the end of the festival on sunday morning, 22.11. at 9.00 am. The phone number will be announced at the start of the festival.
All shifts are staffed by two team members. One team member takes the lead role and carries the awareness phone, while the second team member provides additional support and can be contacted via their own phone whenever needed at the discretion of the lead person on duty. Each shift includes at least one FLINTA* person.

Local Recommendations

Your personal Graz list for the spare time during your stay by Yannick Steinkellner.

Graz Sightseeing, a small Bucket List

Schlossberg & Uhrturm
The Uhrturm (Clock tower) is the iconic landmark of Graz. Go up the stairs at Schloßbergplatz and enjoy rising over the red old town roofs for the best panoramic view of the city. Take the funicular or glass elevator, if 250 steps are too much. But go to Schloßbergplatz first. The view of the staircase is extremely nice. (Yannick says: Funicular is a must for train geeks like me. Everyone else - take the stairs.)

Historic Old Town
Wander through the UNESCO World Heritage city centre: Hauptplatz → Herrengasse → Landhaushof → Glockenspielplatz → Cathedral. The narrow streets, courtyards and historic architecture are best explored on foot.

Kunsthaus Graz
The city's futuristic "Friendly Alien" is one of Graz's architectural icons and a great contrast to the historic centre - designed as part of Graz's European Capital of Culture 2003 programme. (Yannick says: Outside view is enough - except if you like museums.)

Murinsel
A floating steel-and-glass island in the middle of the Mur River - designed as part of Graz's European Capital of Culture 2003 programme. (Yannick says: You are allowed to leave this one out. Because we will be there for our final aftershowparty on Saturday.)

Schloss Eggenberg
A beautiful Baroque palace and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Worth the short tram ride from the centre, especially if you have a little more time during the day. If you're stressed and need to practice your text by heard, we recommend a 30min walk around Schloss Eggenberg. (Yannick says: If you have never seen a peacock live - go there.)

Google Maps can direct you to all of these spots.

Top 5 - FAST FOOD

Now there are so many opinions on this among people from Graz. But we chose these five places.

€ - Kapadokya Kebap - Jakominiplatz or Griesplatz
Graz' favourite Döner Kebap place. The taste of Döner in Austria differs from the one in Germany. However we swear, that it immediately gives us back the nostalgic feeling of lunch break with our friends back in our schooldays.

€ - Wilding - Dietrichsteinplatz
If you are out and about, you might as well go where university students go for a late night snack when clubbing in Graz.

€ - Stand 12 “Weil’s wurscht is’” - Hauptplatz
A proper Austrian sausage stand. Go for it all. But only, if you eat meat. We especially like the word play. “Weil’s wurscht is” means “because it doesn’t matter” and “because it is sausage” in Austrian German at the same time.

€€ - Oh my dog! - Eisernes Tor
A Graz favourite for hot dogs with a twist. Opens in the evening. Worth a visit if you want something beyond the traditional Würstelstand.

€ - LOOP Kebap - Annenstraße
They are the ones with the plant-based döner. Don’t miss the black garlic sauce if you go there. Really nice guys run this place.

What to order at an Austrian Würstelstand?

Käsekrainer — grilled sausage filled with melted cheese
Bosna — grilled sausage in bread with onions & curry-spiced sauce
Leberkäse-Semmel — warm Austrian meatloaf in a bread roll
Steirer Hot Dog — a Styrian twist with pumpkin seed oil (yes, Styrians will put that in anything.)

Styrian classics - Things we love

Pumpkin Seed Oil - Kürbiskernöl
Dark green, nutty and intensely aromatic. Try it on salad, soup or even vanilla ice cream (although the latter is a little intense - even for locals…).

Backhendl(-Salat)
Classic Styrian-style fried chicken - crispy, simple and very satisfying. Often also served on Salad (with pumpkin seed oil).

Käferbohnen
Large Styrian runner beans, often served as a salad with pumpkin seed oil and vinegar.

Schnitzel
The one and only. Pride of Austria. Also of the people of Graz.

Ice cream
You can have very good ice cream in Graz. *Eisperle* and *Eis Greissler* for example serve top notch Gelato. *Harrys Ice Cream* is our favourite place. If open in November: the prices for one scoop are crazy. So a typical Graz move would be to have a delicious Gelato, enjoy it and then complain about the prices.

Martin Auer vs Sorger - Bakery battle
In Graz there are two bakeries with many stores → *Martin Auer* and *Sorger*. The first has top-notch quality, but also crazy prices. The latter is more down-to-earth. Try both and pick a side. There’s no way back in this everlasting discussion. (Yannick says: Sorger or Martin Auer - Friend or foe.)

FARMER'S MARKET & COFFEE

Kaiser-Josef-Markt and **Lendplatz Market** are great places to experience Graz's food culture, local produce and everyday city life. Graz has an unusually high density of farmers' markets. Drink a spritz, have a coffee, enjoy the sunshine (or whatever weather November has to offer…). It is possible that certain venues at the market are closed from November until March. Markets are generally closed on Sundays, though. Austria is a catholic country etc pp…

Restaurants we recommend

€€€ - Der Steirer - classic Styrian food in a lively, central setting. Everyone in Graz knows it. And those with taste love it. https://www.der-steirer.at/

€€ - Die Herz'l Weinstub'n - if you want traditional and not too expensive, this is the place to be. If you are lucky, the waiters will be unfriendly and not speak English - double Austrian experience. But normally, people in Graz are nice and polite to paying customers ;) https://dieherzl.at/

€ - GINKO - this all-vegan restaurant serves a lot of tasty things (since 1976!!). No menu, just buffet. You pay for the weight of your plate. We swear on it and you should, too. https://www.restaurant-ginko.at/

€€ - Feinkost Mild - if you are from Graz and think you're a cool left-leaning person, you have to show yourself at least once a week at Mild. It's a sandwich club you want to be part of. https://www.feinkostmild.at/

€€ - Speis am Lendhafen - Speis will take care of our festival catering. They are a young and innovative place located right next to our festival center. Their "Mehlspeisen" (desserts) are to die for and served best with oat milk cappuccino.

Clubbing on Fridays and Saturdays

Postgarage - The best club in town. Cool crew. Could be good if the party is the right one. Depends on their calendar. Check online before you go.

Kombüse - The legend of bars. There is no other place in the world like Kombüse. If it's the right night, it could become an epic one. Owned by old punks and indie rockers. Perfect vibe.

Café Wolf - We wanted it as an aftershow location. Sadly, they already had a concert booked. But it is the bar where most subculture artists hang out whenever it is open.

Running Horse - The myth of the close-to-always-open bar. Even on Christmas Eve (24 Dec.).

Lotte - My personal favourite of all the bars in Graz. Just two older guys who made their dream of having their own bar come true. No frills, but still stylish. No crazy opening hours. I still have my own button on their till system labelled "Dichter Junge", a pun on "young poet" and "drunk poet" (in German, "Dichter" means poet and "dicht" means drunk).

Hello	-	**Hallo!** (eng. “Huh-low”)
Goodbye	-	**Wiedaschaun!** (eng. “Vea-duh-shaun”)
Excuse me/Pardon	-	**Tschuidigen s’**! (eng. “Choo-eeh-deeg-enns”)
Yes, please	-	**Ja, bitte!** (eng. “Yuh, beatteh”)
No, thank you	-	**Na, danke!** (eng. “Nuh, done-kay”)
I’d like, please,...	-	**Fia mi, bitte,...** (eng. “Fear me, beatteh…”)
Check, please!	-	**Zahlen, bitte!** (eng. “Tsa-layn, beatteh”)
How much is this?	-	**Wie vü kost des?** (eng. “Vea-foo-eeh cost-ace?”)
Tap water	-	**Leitungswasser** (eng. “Lie-toong-swazza”)

Good to know about Austria:
You get tap water for free in cafés, clubs and restaurants.
If you order still/sparkling water, you will get it out of a bottle and pay for it.

That’s it.

Welcome to Graz. :)

Have fun! <3