

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

# 1st DRLab Awards for Collaborative Conflict Management and Culture of Peace Projects

*2026–2027 Academic Year · Teaching Innovation Project “Change Begins at School”*

## 1. Introduction and Purpose

The Dispute Resolution Lab (DRLab) at Universidad Complutense de Madrid announces the 1st DRLab Awards for Collaborative Conflict Management and Culture of Peace Projects, within the framework of the teaching innovation project “Change Begins at School: building a participatory and collaborative model to foster a culture of peace and the collaborative management of conflicts.”

These awards aim to recognize, showcase, and encourage projects developed by students at educational institutions that promote coexistence, collaborative conflict resolution, and a culture of peace in their school or community, fostering students' role as agents of social change. This first edition seeks to lay the groundwork for a stable, annual call for entries linked to DRLab.

## 2. Participants

- Students from Secondary Education and Bachillerato institutions in the Community of Madrid.
- Projects may be submitted individually or, preferably, as a group, and must be endorsed by the supervising teacher or the coordinator responsible at the school. Each school may submit a maximum of **2** projects per edition.

## 3. Theme and Types of Projects

Projects of any format may be submitted, whether completed or in an advanced stage of development during the 2026–2027 academic year, addressing conflict prevention and collaborative management, school mediation, improving coexistence and inclusion, human rights, care and mental health, or, more broadly, the promotion of a culture of peace. Examples include:

- Creating a conflict-management club or a coexistence observatory at the school.
- School and peer mediation services or experiences.
- Debate tournaments or leagues on coexistence and conflict resolution.
- Mediaforum: film or documentary screenings on conflicts, followed by a discussion panel and closing reflection.
- Reading clubs focused on collaborative conflict management.
- Awareness campaigns, or artistic or sports activities with a focus on coexistence.
- Participatory research projects (photovoice or other methodologies).
- Participation in Service-Learning projects or volunteering in collaboration with UCM.
- Proposals to facilitate child and youth participation in schools and at DRLab (youth observatories, mentoring programs, student participation bodies, etc.), which will also be eligible for a special mention (see section 7).

Projects must reflect a complete cycle of planning, action, and reflection.

**Note on CAS and volunteering:** DRLab will issue certificates of participation, and each school may, according to its own criteria, recognize the work carried out as a CAS project, CAS hours, or volunteering (International Baccalaureate or other programs).

## 4. Documentation to Submit

- Project report (maximum 8 pages) including: title, summary, need or conflict identified, objectives, description of the action, people involved, results and impact on the school or community, and students' closing reflection on their learning.
- Evidence of the process: photographs, videos (maximum 3 minutes), posters, reflection journals, or other materials documenting the experience.
- Endorsement signed by the supervising teacher or the coordinator responsible at the school.
- Evidence featuring identifiable individuals must have the corresponding image consent.

## 5. Deadline and Submission Procedure

Applications must be submitted by **April 1, 2027** via the **online form [drlab@ucm.es](mailto:drlab@ucm.es)**, indicating the school, project members, and supervising teacher.

## 6. Review Committee and Assessment Criteria

The review committee will be made up of members of DRLab, the ADRsXXI research group, university faculty, and professionals in collaborative conflict management, with the participation of partner organizations. Schools may propose additional members. The assessment criteria will be:

- Relevance: a clear connection between the project and collaborative conflict management and a culture of peace (20%).
- Impact: actual or potential results and benefits for coexistence at the school or in the community (25%).
- Student leadership: degree of student initiative, participation, and youth leadership in designing and carrying out the project (20%).
- Quality of reflection: depth of analysis of the process and the learning acquired (15%).
- Creativity and innovation of the proposal (10%).
- Sustainability and replicability: the potential to sustain the initiative over time or transfer it to other contexts (10%).

## 7. Awards and Recognitions

- An award will be given to the best project, along with any mentions the committee deems appropriate. The award will consist of a **certificate, a gift, and featured promotion of the project**.
- **Special mention for child and youth participation:** a special mention will be awarded to the project presenting the best proposal for facilitating child and youth participation in schools and at DRLab (for example: youth observatories, clubs, mentoring programs, student representation bodies, or other mechanisms that give students a voice in matters affecting them). The distinguished proposal may serve as a basis for the stable youth-participation structures that DRLab plans to promote.
- The winning project will be publicly presented at the award ceremony and may receive support from DRLab for its continuity, dissemination, or scaling up (for example, through mentoring or integration into the lab's activities).
- All participating projects will receive a certificate of participation, and a selection may be featured on the website and social media of DRLab, the Faculty of Social Work, and UCM.

The award ceremony will take place at an event held at UCM's Faculty of Social Work near the end of the 2026–2027 academic year [date to be confirmed], to which participating schools, their families, and the educational community will be invited.

## **8. Data Protection and Intellectual Property**

The personal data provided will be processed exclusively for the management of this call, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Spanish Organic Law 3/2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights. Authors retain the intellectual property rights to their work and authorize its non-profit dissemination within the project's activities, with authorship always credited.

## **9. Acceptance of the Rules**

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of these rules. Any circumstance not covered herein will be resolved by the organizers.

More information and contact: [drlab@ucm.es](mailto:drlab@ucm.es)

<https://www.ucm.es/labdr/>