



The archives are a repository of stories:
the “**Barbara Picutti Creative Contest**” is just the right time to tell them!

The theme for 2026 is:
TIES TALES

After the success of the first two editions, our creative contest “*Barbara Picutti Creative Contest*” returns in 2026. This initiative was inspired by our colleague Barbara Picutti, an “*engineer and humanist*” – as she fondly described herself – who sadly passed away prematurely in 2023.

The 2026 edition of the contest is once again dedicated to MAIRE Group employees – whether active or retired – who can draw inspiration from the Group’s archival heritage, preserved in the [Digital vault](#) (Digital Historical Archive), to write a tale.

In every company, community, or family, what truly holds people together is not only shared goals, but the **invisible bonds** formed over time: collaborations, shared challenges, small acts of trust, resilience, and change.

“**TIES TALES**” invites us to delve into archives and memories in search of those hidden or forgotten connections that have shaped both individual and collective stories.

Whether it is a team that overcame a crisis, a guiding figure who left a lasting mark, a group that built something enduring or a revolutionary chemical bond that forever changed history, each tale becomes a tribute to how **relationships, collaboration, and sense of belonging** have held people together—generating transformation and progress.

Because every bond is a story, and every story reminds us of who we were... and who we can become.



Regulation:

Colleagues who wish to participate in the competition must follow the following rules, under penalty of exclusion:

1. The competition is reserved for **employees** of MAIRE Group Companies and retired colleagues. Applications from members of the contest jury, employees of MAIRE Group Companies continuously involved in the activities of Fondazione MAIRE – ETS, employees of Fondazione MAIRE – ETS, and members of its Board of Directors will not be accepted.
2. The use of AI for the creation, drafting, or revision of the text **is not permitted**. Each tale must be previously **unpublished**. Any partial exceptions (e.g., quotes) must be declared and will be reviewed by Fondazione MAIRE – ETS.
3. Each tale may have a maximum length of **8,000 characters, including spaces**.
4. Each tale can be submitted in Italian or English.
5. Each tale must relate to the theme of the 2026 edition, **“TIES TALES”**, focusing on the concept of legacy, and be inspired, in any way or to any extent, by materials preserved in the [Digital vault](#) (Digital Historical Archive) of the Group.
6. Each tale may focus on one or more materials from the Archive.
7. Each tale must be submitted along with images and/or archival materials used as the subject of the story.
8. Each tale may be structured in paragraphs.
9. Footnotes are not allowed.
10. Only narrative writings (true or fictional) will be accepted. Essays, manuals, historiographic texts, and other forms of writing are not allowed.
11. Each participant may submit only one tale. However, participation in pairs or groups is allowed, with the submission of a single tale.
12. Participants are fully responsible for the tale’s content, including intellectual property rights, usage rights, and compliance with applicable laws regarding confidential or sensitive information.
13. Participants agree to fully transfer the copyright of the submitted tale to Fondazione MAIRE – ETS.



Terms, conditions and information:

The tales, accompanied by images and/or archival materials referenced in the narrative, must be sent via e-mail, in Word and PDF format, to the attention of Francesca Rinaldo at the e-mail address francesca.rinaldo@fondazionemaire.com no later than **March 6, 2026**.

To browse the [Digital vault](#) (the historical digital Archive) of the Group and explore its materials, you must register for the vault at this link: [Login](#) <https://groupmaire.archivio.com/console/login>. Registration is free of charge.

The tales will be evaluated by a specially appointed jury.

The most compelling tales will be awarded and subsequently highlighted through publication on the internal and external communication channels of Fondazione MAIRE – ETS as well as the MAIRE Group and may also be used by Fondazione MAIRE – ETS for additional external activities (e.g., submitted as entries for contests outside the company).

The authors will be notified of every use of their stories.

For any clarification you can contact Francesca Rinaldo, at the e-mail address francesca.rinaldo@fondazionemaire.com.

For any additional information about the contest visit Fondazione MAIRE – ETS's website: [Barbara Picutti Creative Contest 2026 | Fondazione](#).

Enjoy your writing!