

## Guidance note on Thematic Exhibitions

### ABPS National Exhibitions

These exhibitions are the only UK route to FEPA and FIP competitions. To be eligible for five frames at an FIP, FEPA or other Continental Federation competition it is necessary to achieve 75 points and a vermeil medal.

---

Another UK based thematic competition is:

#### The **BTA Cup**

A UK 32 sheet annual thematic competition organised by the British Thematic Association.

Judged according to "national thematic rules".

Open to all UK philatelists with an interest in thematic philately.

This is a BTA competition leading to no nationally recognised qualification and giving rise to eligibility to FEPA or FIP competitions, nor does it give any qualification to an ABPS UK national show.

---

Within Europe ...

**Eurothema** is a European competition in thematic philately between national teams from each of nine countries; Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

It is held every second year and is a competitive challenge organised successively by each country, and judged according to FIP Thematic Class rules.

It gives no nationally recognised qualification for eligibility to FEPA or FIP exhibitions, nor does it qualify an exhibit for the ECTP.

Selection for entries is by the thematic association of each participating country.

---

### **European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP)**

ECTP is recognized by The European Federation of Philatelic Associations (FEPA) as the official European Championship for Thematic Philately. The notes below are not the complete rules, but a fair summary.

ECTP is usually arranged in conjunction with the International Stamp Fair in Essen, organised by the German Philatelic Federation BDPH, through its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen

The exhibition comprises 8 different competitive classes

Class 1: Arts and Culture

Class 2: History and Organisations

Class 3: Man and Everyday Life

Class 4: Sport and Leisure

Class 5: Transport and Technology

Class 6: Medicine and Science

Class 7: Animals and Plants

Class 8: Agriculture and Pets

Up to ten exhibits from ten different FEPA countries can be shown in each class.

Every thematic exhibit which has been shown at least once on FIP or FEPA exhibitions can apply for participation through its national thematic association. Every FEPA country can only submit one exhibit per class. If less than 10 applications are received for one specific class, the selection committee may nominate further exhibits from countries which are represented in this class already to reach the maximum of 10 exhibits.

The ranking of exhibits within each class follows the order of points awarded by the jury according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits. In each class, one gold medal ("European Champion") will be awarded, with one silver and one bronze medal.

This means that a gold medal might be awarded in one class for an exhibit with 83 points and in another a gold medal might be awarded for 93 points; in other cases a gold medal in one class may receive fewer points than a bronze medal in another.

There are 24 medallists at each ECTP. From the eight European Champions, the jury votes in public during the award ceremony with every juror contributing, for the Winner of the Grand Prix ECTP.

Each exhibit should be brought and collected by its national commissioner nominated by the national philatelic thematic association. In the special case of a championship, the exhibitors are in general requested to be present during the exhibition and the award ceremony.

The ECTP jury comprises 12 jurors representing a wide range of FEPA countries, usually the national commissioner. Each member must be a qualified thematic juror on FIP or FEPA level.

Since all entries are already FIP or FEPA qualified, in practical terms awards at the ECTP give no further qualification for eligibility to FEPA or FIP exhibitions.