

**EUROPEAN
CITIZEN'S PRIZE
2021**



LIST OF WINNERS
ENGLISH VERSION



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ELJUB EUROPEAN YOUTH ENCOUNTERS

Association/organisation

Website: <https://www.eljub.eu/>

Action took place in Austria at transnational/European level

The eljub eBook weeks are meetings enabling young people from different European countries to get to know each other and exchange interesting ideas. By engaging with writing and films, young people get to the heart of what people in Europe have in common.

They become networked, write an eBook together and make films together. eljub eBook 2020: Europe, Corona and us. eljub eBook week 2021: 3 to 10 July 2021 in Krems an der Donau.

‘eljub Dialogue’ is a future-oriented workshop in which young people work on ideas for European integration. Young people from different European countries present their ideas and wishes to policymakers and test out the political reasoning and enforceability of ideas.

More in-depth discussions of the topics take place in the context of local dialogues in a number of countries and at the annual eljub Dialogue Conference, which will be held in Krems an der Donau (18.11.2021). 2021: local dialogues in Jihlava/ Czechia and Poznan/ Poland.

The aim of the eljub ALUMNI Club is to establish long-term networking among young people who have taken part in eljub programmes so that they will benefit from the real added value of European exchange in the future course of their lives.

The focus of the meetings and workshops and the eljub ALUMNI magazine is on deepening life and professional experience in connection with European action.

For further information, all eBooks and films, the eljub ALUMNI magazine, etc.: www.eljub.eu

PAARS (PURPLE)

Group of citizens

Website: <https://www.paars.today/>

Initiative launched in Belgium at national level

The PAARS (Purple) campaign is concerned with promoting widespread solidarity and tolerance in society.

Opening up the debate on LGBTIQ+ in the classroom effectively roots out a breeding ground for intolerance and hostility towards this community at school. Related initiatives include the PAARS newspaper that contains entertaining and educational articles by pupils on LGBTIQ+ issues.

By providing accurate information on gender and sexual diversity, the journal helps to keep young people better informed and debunk stereotypes and popular misconceptions.

A teacher's manual has been produced in conjunction with the newspaper by teacher training students.

The Purple campaign has for years been in the hands of two enthusiastic volunteers: Jeroen Thierens, himself a member of the LGBTIQ+ community, who launched the campaign in Flanders at the age of 21, and Petra Larosse, a co-founder of the Proud Parents association, whose son is also a member of the LGBTIQ+ community.

They surround themselves with experts and are every year involving an increasing number of schools in the campaign.

Their aim is to raise awareness among as many people as possible about LGBTIQ+ issues in a bid to reduce the tragically high suicide rate among young members of that community.

Their dream is to inspire as many EU Member States as possible to launch a similar campaign of their own. The Purple campaign is a way of showing the world that Belgium is upholding LGBTIQ+ rights.

THEMAYOR.EU - THE EUROPEAN PORTAL FOR CITIES AND CITIZENS

Association/organisation

Website: <https://www.themayor.eu/en>

The activity took place in Bulgaria at Transnational / European level

TheMayor.EU portal was launched four years ago, with ambitious goals: to improve understanding between the citizens of the European Union, local authorities and the EU institutions; to promote the exchange of good practices and experience between authorities in Europe; to strive to develop modern, transparent and effective urban governance, raise its profile and increase trust in institutions.

Since then, we have shared the experience gleaned from hundreds of successful European projects in support of the social, economic and technological development of Europe's cities and regions. We have given thousands of examples of constructive solutions to the challenges facing Europe's cities and regions – climate change, pollution, depopulation, technological under-development, protection of cultural heritage, etc.

Something we started four years has now become a sustainable initiative bringing Europe's local authorities and their citizens closer together. Thanks to the work of the TheMayor.EU team, hundreds of thousands of EU citizens are now familiar with the good work done by Europe's cities and regions, making the European Union more understandable, closer and more transparent to them.

Over the past year, our efforts to make European development policies and approaches more accessible to local communities has also been acknowledged by the European Commission, with our Portal becoming one of the first official partners in the New European Bauhaus initiative.

WITH ONE DREAM UNITED

A group of citizens

Action took place in Croatia at Transnational / European level

Society for Neuroscience "NeuroSplit" was founded in 2015 at the School of Medicine in Split, Croatia. The project named "With One Dream United" encompasses many events:

- "Nobel Days" is designed as a 4-day conference where almost 1000 participants had the opportunity to enjoy free lectures and panel discussion by the Nobel Prize winners in the aim of motivating young people and showing them groundbreaking discoveries. Web: www.nobeldays.com.
- The International Congress "Practical Knowledge for Students" is a 4-day annual conference aiming to teach biomedical students the most important practical knowledge they need in their future career. In 3 years more than 1000 participants from 27 countries participated in over 160 workshops, lectures, networking and other events. We also had two Nobel Prize winners join us. Web: www.practicalknowledgeforstudents.com.
- "White coat ceremony" is a project in which we aimed to welcome and integrate into our community all students who just enrolled in our Medical School. In this way, we wanted to promote a spirit of respect and equality not only among the incoming students but also among the natives.
- Charity concerts were organized twice a year with great success to raise money for those in need, in particular ill children, to make their hospital stay more pleasant.

Overall, we have successfully promoted primarily equality, togetherness with a sense of European identity, and integrity.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS: 'OUR WALL' AND 'MY HOMELAND'

Group of citizens

Initiative launched in Cyprus at national level

Panikos Chrysanthou and Neşe Yaşın are nominated for the European Citizen's Prize.

They have been working together on the first documentary produced by the two communities of Cyprus, entitled 'Our Wall', promoting reconciliation between them.

They are currently continuing their collaborative effort with the production of the joint documentary entitled 'My Homeland'. Panikos Chrysanthou, a Greek Cypriot director and Neşe Yaşın, a Turkish Cypriot poet and author, have been seeking to bring together Greek and Turkish Cypriots and at the same time promote friendship between Greeks and Turks.

They have both taken part in many cultural events outside Cyprus, where their works have had a very wide impact. Through their creative artistic works, they are promoting humanitarian values and contributing to mutual understanding and forging closer interpersonal links.

These are values enshrined in the European Citizen's Prize.

MASARYK UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER CENTRE MUNI HELPS

An association / organisation

Website: <https://munipomaha.cz/>

Action took place in the Czech Republic at National level

MUNI HELPS provides volunteers to many different types of organisations – for example, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, testing and vaccination centres, homeless shelters – and individuals, such as senior citizens, parents with young children in need of babysitting or tutoring, etc.

Volunteers from across the Czech Republic have pitched in. Students from Slovakia, as well as other foreigners and Erasmus students, have also contributed.

The centre emphasizes the importance of technology. Alongside the launching of a special database system for coordinators, the launching of the mobile volunteer application was also critical.

It allows people to select what jobs to volunteer for, enables the sending of notifications, etc. In April 2021, a new version was released. It includes a web app, contains new functions, and allows the provision of licences to third parties.

This is one of the steps taken to meet the centre's objectives and to become an inspiring partner for other organisations.

Another pillar is caring for volunteers. The realization that volunteering is not only a way of providing help to others but also a tool of self-development led to the idea that the centre will continue to operate after the pandemic.

It is currently developing programmes that are unrelated to COVID-19, e.g., a student legal advisory centre and a help incubator. We want to focus on programmes for children and youth as we feel that remote learning has had a negative impact on education.

EUROPEAN DEBATE INITIATIVE

An association / organisation

Website: <https://www.europeandebateinitiative.com/>

Action took place in Denmark at transnational European level

We have held a range of different debate events since we founded the European Debate Initiative in 2018.

We are non-profit and receive no funding yet. We organise debates on topics we consider relevant and important such as migration, human rights, and the rule of law crisis, politics and more.

We have had the honour of hosting guests such as:

- Márta Pardavi, human rights defender and chair of the Hungarian Helsinki committee,
- Besa Shahini, former minister of education in Albania,
- Boris Vujčić, governor of the Croatian Central Bank,
- Knut Abraham, German diplomat in Poland,
- Nikolas Feith Tan and Rachel Towers, Human Rights experts from Danish NGOs,
- John Dalhuisen, former Europe Director at Amnesty International,
- Nicu Popescu, former moldovan foreign minister,
- Arzu Geybulla, activist and journalist,
- Luděk Niedermayer, Kati Piri and Judith Sargentini, Members of the European Parliament, Erion Veliaj, mayor of Tirana in Albania,
- Peter van Ham, research at the Clingendael Institute,
- Piotr Zalewski, Turkey correspondent for the economist and
- André Wilkens, director of the European Cultural Foundation.

Each debate teaches us new valuable lessons about life in different professional areas and we are happy to be able to share these new insights and knowledge with our engaging audience, which is mainly university students.

YOUTH ENGLISH CLUB

An association / organisation

Action took place in Estonia at National level

Youth English Club is an organisation that was firstly aimed to solve the problem with a "split" between Russian and Estonian speaking youths in Estonia, by uniting them on the base of English practicing.

However, with the growth of the project we started expanding to the other European countries and beyond.

The main idea is to build communication between communities of people with different backgrounds and cultures and to unite students from all over Europe.

Every meeting we invite a speaker from a foreign country to share an inspiring story about the culture or a project/movement with a positive impact on the society.

As an example, on the previous meeting we discussed ecological problems with the speaker from Canada, who is also a EU Climate Pact Ambassador.

For now we had speakers from the South Sudan, Japan, Armenia, Italy, Great Britain, Russia, Estonia, France, Ukraine, India, USA and so many more.

We are actively working on involving more people in our project to make the greater impact on the problems connected to the miscommunication/lack of communication between different cultures.

THE VOLUNTEERS (ABOUT 800) OF THE CRISES HELPLINE

A group of citizens

Website: <https://mieli.fi/en/home/voluntary-work-promoting-mental-health>

Action took place in: Finland at national level

In the local associations of MIELI there worked as volunteers about 800 in the Crises Helpline in 2020. The well trained volunteers were very committed to work as volunteers in the Crises Helpline during Covid19- pandemic.

The Crisis Helpline acquired about 200 SIM cards to enable the volunteers to work remotely.

Volunteers answered about 46 000 crises calls out of about 90 000.

Before 2020 the most common reasons to call were relational problems but now the most common reasons were malaise (including for example anxiety, depression, fears) and the number of suicidal calls in particular increased (2019 to 2020) from 9 up to 15 daily.

Between March and June 2020 Crisis Helpline (open 24/7) had in 1372 extra hours by volunteers.

The pandemic has caused fears and of some those who have called to Crises Helpline have been very anxious and volunteers have done their best to help and support them.

The voluntary work in Crises Helpline is very demanding but even though the volunteers have been very committed and they have done excellent work.

Many of the volunteers have been working as volunteers for many years, even decades.

The local associations always train their volunteers well and the supervisions after been in Crises Helpline have been well organised.

The volunteers in Crises Helpline have done excellent work during difficult times and they deserve appreciation and praise.

FRANCO-GERMAN CITIZENS' DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Association/organisation

Website: <https://particip-action.org/>

Action took place in France at transnational / European level

This cross-border region is notable for the sheer volume of exchanges and cooperation between France and Germany. However, the decision to close the borders showed us that this is not something that can be taken for granted.

This dialogue provided a forum for a diverse panel of people from two regions which do not communicate much to exchange their experiences of the crisis and their aspirations for the future of this cooperation.

From mobility to culture, via the economy or the environment, the residents informed the local stakeholders of their desire to go further in collaborations between institutions, especially those in health care, and see further cooperation between the two countries.

The panel believed the region could even become a 'testbed' for integration and cooperation for the rest of Europe.

They propose twinning schools and creating bilingual teaching teams from nursery school onwards to promote language learning and make it easier to study for certain degree courses. They recommend digitising medical procedures and aligning cross-border health systems with the existing European system to curb 'medical tourism' and ensure medical information can be reliably transferred from one country to another, in addition to the mutual recognition of prescriptions.

They advocate setting up a cross-border job exchange so as to view the region as a land of opportunities rather than borders.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL 'WILDE MISCHUNG' ('MAD MIX') IN SCHWÄBISCH HALL

A group of citizens

Action took place in Germany at national level

The festival was created in 2005 by staff of the open-air theatre festival in Schwäbisch Hall and local teachers, with the goal of establishing an international youth exchange event focused on theatre. In our day-to-day lives we experience so many things through the prism of the media. On the basis that theatre work can offer young people stimulating new experiences, the idea was that direct contact with 'others' would foster tolerance and acceptance.

Here, young theatre lovers from Germany and abroad have the opportunity to bond over their work and discuss their everyday lives. The event runs to a strict timetable: all participants sleep in a large sports hall and eat breakfast together, followed by 10-12 workshops in the morning.

The afternoons and evenings feature up to three performances that are collectively analysed afterwards. The workshop presentation follows at the end of the week.

The daily performances are very popular with local people. In addition, many of our fellow citizens with roots in other cultures enjoy the opportunity to see theatre from their home country or in their mother tongue.

More than 1000 young people from 15 countries have now attended (in addition to Germany: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Hungary and Belarus).

ELEPAP REHABILITATION FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Association/organisation
NGO

Initiative launched in Greece at National level

The Hellenic Society for the Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled People (ELEPAP) was the first charitable, non-profit association to be set up in Greece. For 84 years, it has been helping to rehabilitate over 100 000 children with motor disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders.

It has six fully equipped branches in various locations in Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, Chania, Ioannina, Volos and Agrinio). It currently provides assistance for high-risk infants, toddlers, children of school age and adults with acquired brain damage, offering therapy, education and medical supervision. At the same time, it provides guidance and counselling for their families.

ELEPAP helps children to realise their potential in order to become integrated within society and the mainstream education system. Over 60% of the children in their recognised special pre-school education establishments are admitted to primary school.

Over 1 000 infants, children and adults throughout Greece participate every day in ELEPAP's integrated rehabilitation programmes.

The actions of this association are in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, more specifically Article 1 (Human dignity), Article 2 (Right to life), Article 21 (Non-discrimination), Article 24 (Rights of the child), Article 26 (Integration of persons with disabilities) and Article 35 (Health care).

EMERGENCY EXIT OPERATION – INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

Association / organisation

Location of the activity: Hungary at transnational European level

The origins of the programme go back to the resistance to the privatisation process surrounding the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest. Members of the University physically blockaded the buildings for 71 days as a protest.

However, the situation did not change, so in order to resolve the situation for the students, five West European universities undertook to help them obtain their degrees with the aid of special student agreements.

The financial and material conditions are being taken care of by the recently-formed Freeszfe Society, with the universities providing their own accreditation frameworks.

At the heart of the ambition and courage of the Hungarian participants to join a previously unheard-of programme and the flexibility and swift but completely legitimate assistance of the partner universities lies the common system of values and the open approach, mindful of tradition, which is the European Union's own.

Alongside the participants' continuing commitments and the expansion of the programme, negotiations are under way concerning long-term, joint teaching governed by partnership agreements.

TOO INTO YOU CAMPAIGN BY WOMEN'S AID

An association / organisation
Charity organisation

Website: <https://www.womensaid.ie>

Action took place in Ireland at national level

Women's Aid is a national charity that has been working to stop domestic violence against women and children since 1974. The organisation's key objectives are to provide direct services to women, to improve societal and political responses to domestic violence, and ultimately to put an end to domestic violence.

During the pandemic, women are at heightened risk of intimate relationship abuse.

From 14 February to 8 March 2021, Women's Aid ran a national campaign to raise awareness of the signs of intimate relationship abuse, including abuse-using technology among young adults aged 18 to 25 years.

This abuse takes place online and offline but has recently been primarily rooted in the digital sphere due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The campaign promoted their Too Into You website which hosts a number of resources around intimate relationship abuse for young people, such as an online safety guide, a Healthy Relationships Quiz and a Guide to Safety Orders in Intimate Relationships.

It also promoted the Women's Aid Online Instant Message Support Service, for direct assistance for anyone experiencing abuse, which is delivered by their trained National Freephone 24/7 Helpline team.

During the campaign, the Helpline received 2,156 calls and 108 support sessions took place on their Instant Message Support Service. Over 5,600 people visited the website, 92% of which were first time visitors.

This project is an expression of the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

FROLLA MICROBISCOTTIFICIO MICRO BISCUIT FACTORY

An association/organisation

Website: <https://frollalab.it/>

The project/activity took place in Italy at national level

‘Shortbread – one of the simplest foods, but far from boring’, reads the slogan of Microbiscottificio Frolla micro biscuit factory. The project was devised in Osimo (Ancona) in 2018, based on the idea of two young friends, one a pastry chef and the other a social worker.

‘We wanted a pastry product that would bring everyone together, generated by the work of young people with disabilities’.

Hence the production of biscuits, made through the skills and manual dexterity of these young people, who are involved from the very first stage of recipe development right through to the stages of production and sale to the public.

Frolla focuses on showcasing the work of these young people (currently around 20) by allowing them to show off their skills, giving them meaning.

Therefore, this is not only a job opportunity, but also a chance to meet and exchange ideas in an atmosphere that is both family-like and professional.

With Frolla, these promising young pastry chefs have a place where they can develop their talent. Their product can be savoured for its quality, not just because it was produced by young people with disabilities.

Frolla has the added advantage of being able to carry out awareness-raising activities for the able-bodied, knowing how to tangibly and directly bring together dis-ability and ability, not just to incorporate the former into the latter, but above all to show how, and to what extent, the latter can learn from the former in terms of experiential and professional growth.

ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS OF BELARUS

Association/organisation
NGO

Activity took place in Latvia, at transnational/European level

In August 2020 the 'Viegli palīdzēt' (Helping is Easy) association began the #FreeBelarus activity to support residents of Belarus.

Using the volunteer movement and in close cooperation with socially active Latvian businesses, this campaign involves collecting donations and providing social, legal and psychological assistance to supporters of the Belarus democratic opposition who are victims of violence by the authorities.

After the presidential election on 9 August 2020, when it was announced that Alexander Lukashenko had been re-elected as President of Belarus, widespread demonstrations started throughout Belarus, calling for new, open and democratic elections to be held.

Since the first day of the demonstrations, in a show of authoritarian power, Belarus has acted very violently towards participants in peaceful protests; tens of thousands of people have been arrested and tortured, there are hundreds of political prisoners, people are being persecuted and intimidated, fearing repression carried out under state authority, and thousands of Belarusians have been forced to leave their homes and move to live elsewhere.

A number of western countries have refused to recognise Mr Lukashenko as President, standing in solidarity with the democratic opposition of Belarus in its desire for a free and independent state.

The #vieglipalīdzēt movement is carrying out the #FreeBelarus activity. The movement was set up in spring 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, to coordinate volunteers across Latvia, bringing people together by putting those who needed practical help in contact with those who wished to provide it.

LIENE DAMBIŅA

Private citizen

Website: <https://www.bsf.lv/>, <https://pusaudzim.lv/>

Activity took place in Latvia At National level

Liene Dambiņa is head of the Children's Hospital Foundation (BSF) and the Adolescent Resource Centre (PRC) and the initiator of many Latvian charitable actions.

Liene has created, led and voluntarily supported a multitude of good projects to support children and young people who have encountered difficulties – so many that they cannot all be listed in the application. With her selfless work, Liene has helped thousands of children and young people throughout Latvia.

The BSF, led by Liene, looks after the health of children, mobilising help from society. With her support, the children's hospital provides valuable and indispensable help to young patients and their families at a difficult time in their lives.

Every day more than 650 young people with mental health issues and risks receive help from the PRC, set up by Liene. The centre operates in accordance with the principle that rather than condemning adolescents, or covertly replacing institutions, it helps to prevent risks specific to adolescence. The PRC's contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic has been very important in offering adolescents various support materials.

Liene is also one of the instigators of the 'Angels above Latvia' charitable action. In 2020 alone, the action managed to collect more than EUR 500 000 in order to care for children who would have no other opportunity to mobilise resources such as these.

Liene's outstanding work for the good of society over many years has inspired those around her, has led to improvements and has strengthened the values set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, particularly solidarity. Alongside this, she is the mother of four children. If anyone has earned this award, it is certainly Liene.

MANO GURU

An association / organisation
NGO

Website: <http://www.manoguru.lt/>

Action took place in Lithuania at transnational / European level

Vilnius city municipality, the Center for Addictive Disorders and the private sector established this unique organisation to run a restaurant, in which socially excluded persons (ex-prisoners, ex drug addicts, homeless) are learning to become cooks, waitress and barmen.

The initiative has become a continuous project thanks to the European Social Fund support (in 17 years - 5 projects of 3 years duration were implemented), as well as Vilnius municipality and Erasmus + financial support.

Achieved results are eloquent: quality services were delivered to more than 700 persons from the target groups of whom, 75% have successfully reintegrated full-fledged social life; an innovative social reintegration model was developed based on national and European institutional development partnership and mainstreamed in daily activities, as well as disseminated among other organisations in the social field.

The success, consistency & sustainability was acknowledged: it has been shortlisted by RegioStars 2010, category „Social Integration of individuals suffering from dependency on psychoactive substances, using a complex set of modern methods"; in 2011, by European Enterprise Awards as Responsible and Inclusive enterprise. In 2020 it was edited as success story.

Reward this project is a way to show EU structural funds investments significance and added value for social and civic society initiatives and NGO sector growth.

<https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46&langId=en&projectId=3537>

RESPECTEACHOTHER

An association/organisation

Action took place in Luxembourg at national level

'My daily walk to work turned into a nightmare. I suffered intimidation for a year. At first, I was marginalised. Over time, I came to realise that I was being subjected to intimidation and verbal harassment.

I could not take the abuse any longer, so I decided to quit my job, as it was too big an issue for workplace mediation to resolve. It was a long and difficult journey, not only for me, but also for my family and friends.

I have come to understand that many people are afraid to speak up about this issue, and that it is down to the people in their lives to act if they don't want to risk losing them for good' – Vanessa Tani, president of the RespectEachOther association.

The aim of the association is to organise workshops in schools, to be the first point of contact for victims of harassment, so they can be referred to qualified support centres, and to raise awareness through information campaigns.

Its volunteers always try to act at the earliest possible stage to offer support to victims, lending them an ear and helping them regain the confidence to deal with life.

RespectEachOther believes that having someone to confide in is an important first step towards preventing long-term mental health problems. This is what the association stands for.

MONUMENT OF MERCY

An association / organisation
NGO

Website: <https://www.dartalprovidenza.org/>

Action took place in Malta at national level

Id-Dar tal-Providenza has always provided homes with a family-like environment for persons with disability who could not live with their family in Malta.

Their ethos is to ensure community care for people at risk of isolation in Malta. This community service, run by the NGO, gives dignity and rights to people with disability, displaying intrinsic values established in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The NGO has developed 4 homes in the communities of Siggiewi, Qawra, Birkirkara and Żurrieq in Malta with a 5th in St Julian's due to be opened in the next weeks.

Their aim is to integrate people with a disability within the community in line with EU norms and values. This empowers residents who are tasked everyday responsibilities. Currently, Dar tal-Providenza houses 115 residents with various forms of disability aged between 8 and 80 years. It also provides respite services on a regular basis.

Their expenses last year were €5 million raised through fund raising activities. Due to COVID, they faced a drastic decline in donations, having to implement various safety measures while the NGO's Head fought his personal battle with cancer while still at the helm.

Faced with COVID, they organised a donation drive for mobile phones for residents to be able to meet loved ones virtually.

Dar tal-Providenza embodies the best of Maltese and European values. Their excellent work in exceptionally difficult circumstances with the most vulnerable in our society displays the best of EU.

THE NETHERLANDS

PROJECT PHOENIX OF STICHTING AERODELFT

An association / organisation
Foundation

Website: <https://aerodelft.nl/project-phoenix/>

Action took place in The Netherlands at transnational / European level

We work on this mission by giving students the opportunity to learn about bringing creativity, engineering and teamwork together to bring a revolution to the aviation industry.

We as students understand that this revolution is necessary because with the current aircraft improvements the CO2 curve will not flatten over the upcoming years!

That is why our liquid hydrogen drone and manned aircraft will fly hydrogen-electric with a hydrogen fuel cell on-board and our own produced and certified liquid hydrogen tank. During this process of flying on liquid hydrogen there is only one by product which is water vapor.

We are even working on converting this water vapor into liquid water to eliminate any potential harm to the environment.

Our students come from Italy, Spain, China, Switzerland, Germany, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, United Kingdom, India, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Every year we recruit a new team of students such that we can continue our revolution and give new students the opportunity to work on this revolution and learn. We stimulate students to join us and make society aware of the revolution that we are working on.

We participate in large events such as the Change Now Summit World Exposition in Paris, International Hydrogen Aviation Conference and many others. We give lunch lectures during online university classes and presentations on high schools.

We work with our partners together such that we can design, build, test and fly liquid hydrogen aircraft.

DEFENDING THE DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES FIGHTING FOR JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN POLAND

Association/organisation

Website: <https://ruchkod.pl/>

Action took place in Poland at national level

Defending the dignity and independence of judges fighting for judicial independence is the Committee for the Defence of Democracy's largest project. The association implements it by:

- printing and disseminating relevant information on the government's actions and on governmental laws that are contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and that threaten the independence of judges and of the courts;
- appealing to the CJEU to halt legislative and executive actions by the Polish authorities which undermine the legal order and threaten the independence of the courts and judges;
- organising large protests and actions of solidarity with judges periodically in over 200 Polish cities against the destruction of the Polish judiciary and the independence of Polish judges and prosecutors;
- co-organising demonstrations, e.g. on 11 January 2020, the 'March of a Thousand Robes' under the slogan 'Right to independence, right to Europe'. Some 50 thousand people participated.
- The protest was attended by judges from various European countries: Austria, Germany, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Latvia and France. Judges from all these countries came to Warsaw to show their support for the struggle of Poles to maintain the independence of judges and the courts.

The Committee for the Defence of Democracy (KOD) has continuously defended judges and prosecutors repressed and harassed by state authorities. In 2020, KOD monitored the presidential elections, staffing 13% of election commissions with observers (4 000 observers according to an OSCE report).

UMP - UNIAO DAS MISERICÓRDIAS

An association / organisation

Website: <https://ump.pt/>

Action took place in Portugal at national level

“From the people, to the people”. With this motto, the project of UMP resorts to more than 45,000 direct collaborators, 10,000 of which are volunteers, as well as many other thousands of indirect collaborators.

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide humanistic care for all and to promote equality and solidarity, rather than profit or economic growth: by helping the homeless, the orphans, the elderly and those in need.

In 2020 and 2021, the project developed by UMP has been of paramount importance to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal, supporting over 160,000 people through the implementation of a contingency plan in 520 nursery homes, 115 long-term care facilities, 23 hospitals, 295 day-cares for children and 300 services of home support.

The services provided through the project are particularly relevant in rural and remote places of Portugal, where the respect for fundamental rights, such as the rights of the elderly and of people with disabilities (art. 25.º and 26.º CFR), access to health care and to social assistance (art. 35.º and 36.º CFR), as well as fostering economic, social and territorial cohesion is dependent upon their work and presence.

The project promotes the dignity of the lives of thousands of people, regardless of their race, age, religion, ethnic identity or sexual orientation. The UMP and its project embody the "de facto solidarity" and the values enshrined in the European project.

GEOFOLK

An association / organisation

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/geofolk.org/>

Action took place in Romania at transnational / European level

The Geofolk project was launched 9 years ago in the Transylvanian town Odorheiu Secuiesc /Székelyudvarhely in Romania and comprises a remarkable photo collection of traditional costumes of women, men and children from all over Europe.

It grew to a huge project actually containing 2000 garments – probably the largest collection in the world. The non-profit association “Magyar Gyökerek - Hungarian Roots” ensures the technical, legal background. The heart of the project is the photographer Botond Dávid.

The overall aim of the project is to establish an online digital archive and documentation of traditional costumes, in such a manner that all collected treasures captured by the photographer in a unique way fulfil the role of heritage preservation and cultural awareness raising.

Every photo is different; they enable to imagine the world behind the person(s) in costumes, their homeland and way of life. Photos are accessible for public at the Geofolk - Home | Facebook page accompanied by a description of the garment in the mother tongue of the wearers. The association shows the collection in outdoor/indoor exhibitions.

The collection should be completed with more costumes from all European countries and from the rest of the world.

Geofolk was born as an artistic, cultural initiative of Europeans and represents a European added value in presenting our cultural heritage to a large, diverse public and preserving it for the next generations, therefore merits European attention.

ZMUDRI CIVICS STREAM

An association / organisation
NGO

Website: <https://www.zmudri.sk/>

Action took place in Slovakia at national level

The mission of our organisation is to provide latest and applicable educational content through short, comprehensible and entertaining video courses dealing with practical and civic issues.

The content of each course is created in cooperation with experts (organisations or individuals in a particular area), and consulted with them in every part of the production (script writing, storyboard making, recording, post-production and editing).

After production, courses are distributed to elementary and high schools all over Slovakia through more than 4500 teachers together with tailored methodology (concept of 5E: engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate).

Our effort is to improve Civics classes and to strengthen democratic values among students, as well as support enthusiasm in teachers dealing with these topics in their classes in innovative way young people like.

Thus, students become not only passive consumers of video courses, but are also able to discuss the topics through the concept of 5E methodology. According to our survey made on the sample of 1000 students, they appreciate that our videos are short, comprehensible, entertaining, and made as a combination of “talking head”, graphics, and gifs. 87% of students would recommend our videos to their classmates, 85% considered videos entertaining and amusing, and 78% deemed the content necessary in life.

KRISTINA MODIC AND DR SAMO ZVER – FOR SOLIDARITY AND PAN-EUROPEAN HEALTH PROGRESS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Group of citizens

The action took place in Slovenia at national level

Kristina Modic, Executive Director of the Slovenian Lymphoma and Leukaemia Patient Association, and Prof. Dr. Samo Zver, an internist and haematologist who is head of the Clinical Department for Haematology at the Ljubljana University Medical Centre, organised a fundraising campaign to buy state-of-the-art equipment for a new cell therapy technique, which will offer the only possible means of treatment and survival for many patients with blood cancer and lymphoma.

Their efforts were also instrumental in securing new premises for the Clinical Department of Haematology at the Ljubljana University Medical Centre, which prevented many deaths in the process of treating the most complex blood cancer cases.

They launched a campaign entitled '*Daj se na seznam*' ('Put yourself on the list'), which brought 4 000 new blood stem cell donors into the national register, and the first rehabilitation programme for blood cancer patients – '*Skupaj na poti do zdravja*' ('Together on the way to health') – which provides free comprehensive rehabilitation.

Covid-19 has had a catastrophic impact on the fight against cancer, one of the pillars of the European Health Union, and on cancer patients. During the pandemic, diagnosis has been delayed and access to treatment made difficult. There is still a very wide gap in cancer treatment between eastern and western EU Member States. Ensuring scientific progress and the most modern treatment methods is key to narrowing this gap. This is why Kristina Modic and Dr Samo Zver are worthy nominees.

VILLA DE MOYA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

A group of citizens

Action took place in Spain at transnational / European level

Despite their limited financial resources, the inhabitants of the small municipality of Villa de Moya in Las Palmas are very committed to welcoming and looking after migrants who arrive on the Canary Island shores illegally.

When the crisis began at the end of 2019, Villa de Moya's inhabitants were among the first on the Canary Islands to offer facilities to migrants, including the municipality's hostel to house 50 adult migrants. In March 2020, they also welcomed unaccompanied minors.

The inhabitants have taken it upon themselves to promote many initiatives to encourage cooperation, hospitality and coexistence.

These include solidarity actions and financial support to the African continent, meetings between rural women in the Canary Islands and Africa, cooperation projects between migrants and locals and the launch of workshops to disseminate the traditions of each culture.

The locals have helped to send a dozen migrant children to school and cover the cost of their materials, they have enrolled students with an interest in the arts in schools for this purpose and have offered them the chance to join local sports clubs.

Although the inhabitants have a lot of empathy for Africa, the solidarity and hospitality shown towards migrants in 2020 has been described by everyone, including public administrations and the media, as an example of how to welcome and integrate migrants and defend human rights.

THE NAVET ('HUB') ASSOCIATION IN BERGSJÖN AND ITS COLLABORATIVE CREATION PROJECT

Association/Organisation

Website: <https://www.navet.org/>

Action took place in Sweden at national level

Bergsjön is a district of Gothenburg. It is a lively, diverse area that is full of energy, but it also has major social problems.

Many of the people who live in Bergsjön have a migrant background. The Navet ('Hub') Association chooses to focus on the opportunities there are in the area, offering a meeting place and a wide range of activities to empower citizens and boost their sense of ownership and belonging.

The role of Navet, as set out in its statutes, is to work with the people of Bergsjön to provide meeting places and study centres, to arrange cultural activities, to be a resource for residents and local clubs and associations, to try to reduce knowledge gaps in the area, to work on the basis of values centred around the principles of equality and equal opportunities for all, to serve as an organisation platform for residents and associations in the area, and to promote a clear, stable infrastructure within local civil society.

Specifically, it is a collaborative creation project that aims to harness the area's strengths and foster dialogue and interaction by supporting civil society in cooperation with the city and in dealings with it. The aim is for the project to result in the development of a civil-society community centre, a meeting place and an arena.

It involves the establishment of local councils and forums to address various issues, the creation of meeting places and the organisation of training courses in cooperation with the participating associations. The project therefore chimes well with the EU's fundamental values.