

EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE 2022



WINNERS LIST

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AUSTRIA

Civil courage – Initiative against the deportation of schoolgirls

The story of two pupils, who had grown up in Vienna, being deported in the dead of night in January 2021 caused a public outcry.

However, the two cases did not enter the public consciousness just like that; awareness was raised by two dedicated students who refused to stand idly by while their classmates were deported.

They informed and mobilised thousands of people through their commitment, grit, tenacity and civil courage.

That is why the MEPs from the Austrian Democratic Socialist Party would like to nominate the two school spokespersons, Theo Haas (Stubenbastei Grammar School, Vienna) and Tierra Rigby (Higher Institute of Vocational Professions in Vienna), as favourites for the citizens' prize.

We nominate them as representatives of the many students who took to the streets to protest about their classmates' plight, staged sit-ins, organised petitions and raised awareness.

Not everyone has the courage of his or her convictions to show such civil bravery. Yet these two proved that they do, and that fact – plus the way they live by the values of solidarity and friendship – makes them role models.

It is by standing up for what they believe in that they got the public and politicians talking and brought home the importance of considering how well integrated an applicant is and, in particular, what's best for the child when processing asylum cases.

BELGIUM

My talents. for diversity

<https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/my-talents-for-diversity>

<https://twitter.com/josipafriscic>

YouTube: [playlist?list=PLs0Ece-TWoSITHzq71qug2IE5VasZ-Mly](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs0Ece-TWoSITHzq71qug2IE5VasZ-Mly)

The goal of the project is to foster the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the open labour market through diversity management; in this event, companies shared their perspective, experiences and knowledge of employing people with intellectual disabilities.

The project is led by Inclusion Europe, Plena Inclusión (Spain), EVPIT (Estonia) and the Antwerp Management School (Belgium), who have produced videos to promote diversity management amongst private and public employers.

There were two types of online events organised:

1. EU knowledge transfer on diversity management and non-discrimination where the focus was on giving examples of inclusive employment.
2. Capacity building training on diversity management and non-discrimination that focused on policies, laws and instruments at EU level that can be used to foster employment of people with intellectual disabilities, as well as the barriers encountered.

Overall:

- 7 countries reached directly
- 15 videos produced
- 10 languages in which the deliverables are available
- 37 articles published
- Around 1,747 people reached out by the events, meetings, conferences
- 3,660 YouTube views;
- 276,321 impressions on the social media campaign

The Coordination Centre of Promote Ukraine

In direct response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the NGO Promote Ukraine set up a Coordination Centre ('the project') in Brussels, Belgium. The Coordination Centre's core team of fifteen volunteers conducts a matchmaking process between various assistance opportunities provided by European civil society actors, reflecting the needs addressed by citizens of Ukraine.

The centre manages a range of fundraising, humanitarian aid, and refugee support schemes, aimed at strengthening Ukraine's resilience, thereby fostering EU-Ukraine cooperation and facilitating the country's EU integration.

At the core of the project is the Coordination Team, which translates the needs on the ground in Ukraine into concrete humanitarian and non-lethal military assistance, as well as into refugee support measures.

Funds are raised by the Fundraising Team, which builds partnerships with donors and sponsors and facilitates donation opportunities.

Logistical and administrative support is provided by the Aid Team, for the efficient delivery of humanitarian aid, non-lethal defence materiel, and medical supplies to Ukraine.

As of 23 March 2022, the centre had provided aid amounting to 50,285 Euro. Further to this, the Refugee Support Team is running numerous projects aimed at assisting those displaced by the war.

Among its achievements is the establishment of a Cultural Centre, providing linguistic training and psychological support to Ukrainian refugees.

CROATIA

FUND 5.5

<https://solidarna.hr/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ivan.blazevic.7509/>

<https://www.facebook.com/solidarna>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/solidarnahr>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/solidarna.foundation/?hl=en>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivan-blazevic-6b671076/>

SOLIDARNA reactivated the Fund 5.5 just 4 hours after the earthquake on December 29, 20 hit Sisak-Moslavina County and SOLIDARNA immediately started with crisis support and preparations for long-term projects.

HRK 17,2 M donations were collected from 27,614 citizens from 26 countries and 637 companies from 16 countries.

All funds raised are directed to socially vulnerable victims - poor single elderly families and poor families caring for children, the elderly, the infirm and people with disabilities and people with chronic diseases, with special attention to the needs of the rural population.

Support focused on:

- Crisis housing and social protection (45%)
- Support in sustainable reconstruction and housing (45%)
- Socio-economic recovery (10%)

In housing, SOLIDARNA provided 51 housing containers and equipped 33 more, over 25 houses were repaired, 10 families were provided with housing by the so-called "Green houses", 8 wooden "Solidarity houses for people" were built and the construction of sustainable houses that can withstand an earthquake up to 9° Richter begins. One-time financial donations have stabilized the income of 527 most vulnerable families.

In total, more than 1,200 families received assistance.

1M HRK supported social and economic projects in the community that led to employment, market expansion and economic recovery.

All that with six employees.

CYPRUS

OXYGONO (Cyprus Forum & Nomoplatform)

In February 2012, Oxygono was founded, an NGO based in Cyprus.

Oxygono means oxygen in Greek and its name was symbolic, as it wanted to provide oxygen to the very toxic public discussion in Cyprus.

Oxygono started organising small-scale events in Cyprus asking policymakers to share their views in panels together with business people, academics, and members of the civic society.

In 2019, the preparation of the first largescale conference by Oxygono started which led to the launch of the “Cyprus Forum”, an event that brings together local and foreign policymakers, business people, researchers and active citizens especially young ones.

The Cyprus Forum is the largest policymaking event in Cyprus, the showcase of Cyprus to the outside world and a bridge between Cyprus and EU institutions.

It focuses on sustainable policies and inclusiveness.

In 2019 Oxygono also launched “Nomoplatform”, the first parliamentary observatory in Cyprus. Until then, any citizens or organisation who wanted to find out about the progress of pending legislation in the Cypriot Parliament had to contact an MP or a political party.

Nomoplatform provides all information around the parliamentary process including drafts of pending legislation and summaries of the parliamentary debates.

Nomoplatform works together with the House of Representatives to complement its work.

Nomoplatform also launched a mobile app and aspires to issue a printed magazine with important parliamentary updates to increase its reach.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charita Znojmo's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine

Charita Znojmo Charity Organisation has been providing assistance to Ukraine for over 20 years. They have six partners who help identify those in need.

They support operations on and the treatment of children from poor families, poor families in general, children's studies, and transferring know-how to their partners.

Now, at a time of Russian aggression, they focus on humanitarian aid delivered by their partners directly to where it is needed.

The humanitarian assistance to Ukraine project aims to help Ukraine and its war-ravaged cities.

The project covers imports of consignments of medical supplies, sleeping bags and blankets, durable foods, baby and infant food, medicines and toiletries.

In the other direction, mothers with children from Ukraine are brought to the Czech Republic – 54 people have already been brought, including four children with disabilities.

Three delivery trips will take place as part of this project, of which two have already taken place, while the next one will take place on 7 April 2022, and one of the vehicles will be a first-aid rescue vehicle that will remain there.

The project was created following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, i.e. on 24 February 2022.

The project also includes taking in people fleeing the war from Ukraine directly in Znojmo.

Setting up a humanitarian warehouse that dispenses clothes, durable food, medicines and toiletries to people.

Seeking out accommodation in suitable premises with private persons or in accommodation facilities.

Charita Znojmo is a large organisation with many years of experience in social and humanitarian work; it provides assistance to a high professional level while retaining the human touch.

#HolkyzMarketingu

<https://holkyzmarketingu.cz/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/holkyzmarketingu>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/holkyzmarketingu>

Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9FpQuOuJQnq0j1hvknfQCQ/featured>

In #HolkyzMarketingu (*Girls from Marketing*), we believe we are stronger together. Therefore, we have built a platform that offers training, an overview of jobs or inspiration. We help women, whether they work in marketing or want to start doing so. Regardless of age, situation or location. As part of our projects, we offer scholarships to women from all over the world to improve their position on the labour market or to return to it. Whether they are female students, on parental leave, 50+ or facing hardships.

When women go through our education programmes, we help them to connect with employers, thanks to which 20 % of graduates of our programmes find a job. We offer a Junior Academy to help fledgling female marketers gain basic knowledge. Advanced Brand and Performance Marketing Academies to develop participants' professional standing in the industry follow this.

When women need career advice, we have mentoring, where they work with an assigned mentor for four months. Every week, we have several webinars to help women keep up to date in the field.

The Academy for Future Female Founders helps women who want to do business but do not have an idea how to start. We will help them come up with the idea, test it and give them a business pitch that they can present to investors.

In addition to education programmes, we are actively building up the largest Czech women's marketing community, which currently counts over 31 000 members. Our community values are inspiration, support, connectivity and a hate-free environment.

DENMARK

Europe Dialogue

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1532097360>

Europe Dialogue is an informal citizen think tank.

The purpose is an informal dialogue about Europe for citizens, businesses, organisations and politicians.

A free and informal dialogue on life in Europe is desired.

At the same time, an informal dialogue is also desired about international organisations related to Europe, e.g. the EU, NATO, the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the OECD, the G7 / G20 and more.

Therefore, focus is also about Europe in the World.

Anyone with an interest in a Europe Dialogue is welcome in this group.

Background:

The group's background is the EU Conference on the Future of Europe, which aims to create a broad debate and dialogue about the EU and Europe.

I would like to contribute to this dialogue from a citizen's perspective.

I have done various interviews and some online meetings (See events) as part of the dialogue.

In addition, I share various inspirational texts about Europe and the world.

I have written a book on dialogue across borders and am considering a book 2, where I gather all the dialogue.

ESTONIA

Assisting Ukraine and 'Ukraina heaks!' (For Ukraine) initiative

<https://www.pagulasabi.ee/>

<https://www.ukrainaheaks.ee/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pagulasabi>

Since 24 February 2022, when Russia attacked Ukraine, Estonian people have expressed their clear wish to do everything they can to help Ukraine and the Ukrainian people escaping the war.

The aim is to ensure that people escaping the war receive a warm welcome from society when they arrive in Estonia.

Non-profit organisation Pagulasabi already has extensive experience of helping Ukraine.

In this current war situation, Pagulasabi has reacted quickly and expertly and, as a result, it has become one of the key organisations in Estonia helping to direct and organise Estonians' desire to help so that the Ukrainian people can benefit as much as possible.

The guiding principle of Pagulasabi, for which young people are at its heart, is that everyone can do something to help Ukrainians in this difficult period.

Among other things, the organisation offers the possibility to make monetary donations towards providing humanitarian aid in Ukraine and towards supporting Ukrainians arriving in Estonia.

Pagulasabi has also organised evacuation buses from the Ukrainian border to Estonia and assisted in the exchange of contacts between Estonians and Ukrainians.

The organisation offers comprehensive support to war refugees arriving in Estonia.

Pagulasabi pools offers of places to live and jobs as well as other services from individuals and businesses.

In addition, the organisation is actively running a media campaign.

Ukrainians see their future as being in the EU but they are currently paying a terrible price for it. Pagulasabi is playing a major role in enabling Estonians to extend a helping hand to Ukrainians at this difficult time and to assure them that they are welcome.

FRANCE

InteRadional

20 teachers and 320 pupils from 5 European countries (France, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Spain).

Pupils in secondary school or in general or vocational training.

Under the teachers' guidance, the pupils are setting up a European youth radio station on the eTwinning platform.

They created, made suggestions for and voted on the name, logo and jingle of their radio station. They have written articles on youth topics.

They have set up discussion groups focusing on specific topics.

They will record podcasts on youth topics.

They will talk about cultural issues as well as aspects of daily life.

The teachers meet regularly to set a framework and objectives for the project.

Moreover, the pupils meet in class to write articles and debate in the discussion groups.

However, they can also meet out of school hours and many have become friends, using their favourite social media platforms to communicate.

The podcasts will be uploaded to the project space on a dedicated page, where people will be able to listen to the recordings.

GERMANY

ApplicAid

<https://www.applicaid.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ApplicAidOrg/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/applicaidorg/?hl=de>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqpVJRitZ8g&t=9s>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/applicaid?originalSubdomain=de>

ApplicAid is a social organisation that helps talented young people looking to educate their way up the social ladder apply for a support scheme, thus boosting the outward mobility of educationally disadvantaged groups.

Financial obstacles often stand in the way of people from such backgrounds ('first in family', refugees, low-income household, migration background, etc.) who would like to study abroad.

ApplicAid makes a lasting improvement to the professional and personal chances of those looking to improve their lot through education, by making support more accessible.

To this end, ApplicAid provides detailed information on scholarships and grants, breaks down prejudices and offers a personalised digital mentoring scheme to support people from educationally disadvantaged groups throughout the entire application or enrolment process.

ApplicAid's vision is a society in which every individual – regardless of their social, ethnic or financial background – has an equal chance to harness their skills and reach their potential.

This (financial) support gives European students the opportunity to complete a valuable stay abroad, boosting their international mobility and encouraging them to embrace a unified Europe.

So far, they have helped disadvantaged students secure a total of approximately EUR one million in funding.

GREECE

Doctors of the World - Greece: Emergency response to humanitarian crisis

<https://mdmgreece.gr/en>

Doctors of the World (MdM) Greece is a non-partisan and independent humanitarian organisation whose primary task is to address inequalities and social barriers to health. It has been operating continuously for the last 32 years in Greece and abroad.

From the first week of the humanitarian crisis in Europe following Russia's massive military invasion of Ukraine, MdM has assisted Ukrainian citizens fleeing Ukraine to neighbouring countries and to Greece.

So far, the organisation has provided over 35 tonnes of humanitarian aid and has been operating a mobile medical unit at the Romanian border for over 40 days, providing first aid and basic health services and information to people on the move.

Regarding reception and guidance facilities for Ukrainians within Greece itself, MdM help desks are operating every day in Athens and Thessaloniki, providing psychosocial support, material assistance and information to new arrivals. At the same time, its open polyclinics are providing healthcare and treatment for children, women and the chronically ill.

MdM initiatives are directly linked to Article 1 (Human dignity), Article 2 (Right to life), Article 6 (Right to liberty and security), Article 21 (Non-discrimination), and Article 35 (Health care) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

HUNGARY

Miklós Both, folk song collector

<https://www.polyphonyproject.com/en>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/polyphonyproject>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/polyphonyprojectcom>

Ukrainian heritage, accumulated over centuries and now mostly preserved in song by elderly women, is to be made accessible to all by the Polyphony Project in an organised format on a website.

The unique collection of folk songs on the website and on YouTube may be of interest to both music enthusiasts and academic researchers.

The online archive of folk music is a kind of condensed catalogue with detailed descriptions of the songs and videos recorded in 4K technology.

In addition, the place of origin of the songs and the singers' locations have been geocoded on an online map.

Anyone can perform a search on the site quickly and efficiently based on the themes, main motifs, characters and collection data of the songs.

The song lyrics are presented in the original language, but translations are already under way into Hungarian and English. In addition, the project has organised concerts with Ukrainian singers in Hungary, France and Ukraine.

Steered from Hungary, the project is making an extraordinary contribution to preserving Ukraine's cultural and folk treasures, the significance of which is invaluable, especially given the consequences of the current war in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the Polyphony Project has given birth to the Folk_ME programme, run jointly by Ukrainians and the Finnish Sibelius Academy; the programme is led by Miklós Both, focusing on the integration of folk music into 21st century music education to preserve Europe's cultural heritage.

IRELAND

Jigsaw Pandemic Response

www.jigsaw.ie

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JigsawYMH>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jigsawYMH>

Jigsaw delivers free mental health services and supports for young people and adults including:

- Delivering one-to-one, therapeutic sessions with young people (aged 12-25) in-person across 14 regional hubs and online via phone and video. To date over 50,000 young people have directly supported.
- offering community-based programmes aimed at better informing, supporting, educating and empowering young people and those around them, in places where they live, learn, work and play
- undertaking pioneering research and robust evaluation leading to transformative evidence
- providing a wide range of online mental health support, services and programmes through jigsaw.ie
- rolling out a comprehensive secondary schools programme aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people by developing a shared responsibility for mental health across the whole school community.

During the pandemic, Jigsaw was able to transition, in 12 days, from a largely in-person organisation to a largely digital one, with limited interruption to service.

In a short space of time, Jigsaw was able to continue to offer direct support to young people through a range of online modalities (phone, video, live chat, group chat).

They continued their supports to communities (through webinars, online supports and services) and their support to schools grew with the development and roll out of Jigsaw's One Good School initiative (over 200 schools) and the Jigsaw Schools Hub.

Connect Migrant Youth

<https://nascireland.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Nasclreland>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Nasclreland>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/Nasclreland>

The Connect projects supports young asylum seekers, refugees and migrants aged 14-23 years. Since the project started in 2018, Nasc have worked with 200+ young people from 38 nationalities. Nasc is the Irish word for “link”.

As a social work service, Nasc focuses on supporting the most vulnerable migrant young people, including those at risk of abuse or neglect, children in foster care, aged out or aged disputed minors, unaccompanied children, and young refugees experiencing mental health, trauma, disability, poverty and homelessness. Nasc provides child-centred and -led social work supports.

The main areas addressed are:

- Orientation support and access to healthcare
- Access to mental health supports
- Links to integration and social inclusion activities
- Liaising with schools, social work and community agencies
- Providing emotional and practical supports such as learning and IT resources, transport and basic needs assistance
- Linking young people and their families in with public services to help alleviate poverty
- Prevention of abuse and neglect and specialist support for young people in foster care and aftercare services
- Addressing any immigration or asylum issues that may be causing barriers to the young person’s essential life opportunities

In 2020, Nasc supported 109 clients and delivered over 400 interventions.

We take a collaborative approach and work with existing services to help enhance the capacity of mainstream providers to respond effectively to the needs of young refugees.

ITALY

#siamotuttelaura

<https://www.differenzadonna.org/en>

The #siamotuttelaura initiative stems from what happened to Laura Massaro, who has become a symbol of a very serious and widespread phenomenon across Europe in Italy: the removal of children from mothers who report gender-based domestic violence on the part of the father.

Courts in Italy and other countries in Europe (like France, Croatia and, Spain) have invoked the pseudo-scientific concept of 'parental alienation' and deprived women like Laura of their children, often without listening to what the children themselves have to say, which is a breach of the principles of due process and disproportionately affects women.

It is a violation, inter alia, of Article 7 (respect for private and family life); Article 20 (equality before the law); Article 21 (non-discrimination) and Article 23 (equality between women and men) and Article 24 (Rights of the child) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The association 'Differenza Donna' is committed to the defence of women's rights, and works to give these women a voice and uphold the rule of law in Europe.

It has ensured that Italian case law now recognises the unlawfulness of using pseudo-scientific concepts in courts in breach of the fundamental principles of justice and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Young people remember the Shoah – SOS UKRAINE

www.scuolapolacca.it

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/associzioneaPolonia>

The Day of Remembrance does not only fall on 27 January. The Polish historian and sociologist Pawel Spiewak, a university lecturer and for many years the Director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw talks about the horrors of the Shoah in a remote video interview.

This interview led to the production of the multimedia autobiographical diary *Il pianto senza lacrima* (Crying without tears), which the Molise Regional Council selected for the competition *I giovani ricordano la Shoah* (Young people remember the Shoah).

This reflects the importance of remembrance and the need for new generations to continue to hand down the past by any means of communication possible, from the most traditional to the most innovative. It tells not only of a personal pain, but also the universal pain of a whole people, who were persecuted and condemned for no reason and are still not at peace, and of the horror of war in the heart of Europe.

It has been accompanied by a charity collection of all the basic commodities needed by Ukrainians, so that those who are fleeing war do not feel they have been abandoned to destitution and pain.

The collection was organised by the Apolonia association, which has done charity work for many years and supported those most in need in difficult times.

The whole story seems to be repeating itself, given the tragic events that we have recently witnessed.

Culture is the most powerful weapon we have for tackling and breaking down prejudices.

LATVIA

Hospiss LV

<https://www.hospiss.lv/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HospissLV>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hospiss_lv/

This pilot project in Latvia was announced as a 15-month project, but I think that it should be made permanent.

Before you experience it yourself, you cannot imagine the situations that relatives have to deal with. Having by some miracle found out about this initiative from the Latvian TV news service, we applied straight away.

A member of our family did not even have a full six months from discovering her illness to her death.

Unfortunately, the Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital repeatedly failed us with its attitude, using the pandemic and data protection as a pretext for, essentially, banning the family from having any contact with the patient.

While she was in hospital, the patient acquired an infection in addition to her existing illness.

Without the family's knowledge, she was transferred to Jūrmala hospital, where the attitude was marginally more humane.

There it was announced that the stage-four cancer patient had an infection, which was contagious, and that she would have to be isolated in a medical institution, where she would have to be kept for a year.

The family looked for opportunities, but the institutions did not wish to take such a patient, because who can provide such facilities with integrated palliative care?

Then we met the Hospiss LV team.

Their attitude, absence of fear, professionalism, friendliness, respectful way of working and, in general, presence at such an important life stage as death, as helpers, is invaluable!

Their staff and doctors were of the highest quality, as was the chaplain, an excellent caregiver.

Both we, as relatives, and the patient benefited from work and attitudes such as I have never before experienced anywhere in Latvia. Such a project must not remain merely a pilot: this is what life and a dignified death should look like in Europe.

LITHUANIA

BLUE/YELLOW

<https://blue-yellow.lt/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com//blueyellowforukraine>

Initiative "Blue-Yellow", based in Vilnius, has been supporting Ukraine's armed resistance since 2014. Jonas Ohman, a Swedish-born filmmaker, working without salary only with support by volunteers, founded it.

Since then, both with Lithuanian and international partners, they continuously have been providing Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers with non-lethal supplies to help them battle Russian aggression.

As from 24 February 2022, the initiative is the focal point of Lithuania's yearning to help Ukrainian people, bravely fighting for European values.

Due to their developed structure and long-standing trustworthy activities, after Russia started its war on 24 February, in less than a month "Blue/Yellow" collected over 20 million euro donations from Lithuanian people.

Aid is directly provided to the soldiers, volunteers and territorial defence forces fighting for Ukraine's freedom. The money raised is used to buy helmets, bulletproof vests, medicine, clothing, etc.

In 2021, J. Ohman published the book "Jazz of Donbas", in which he depicted his own experiences about Russia's hybrid war in Ukraine.

This book is to remind us who is Ukraine and Ukrainians, to contribute to better understanding of each other and to encourage us support brave fighters who are defending their and ours freedom in Eastern Ukraine.

Activities of Jonas Ohman and his Blue/Yellow initiative, involving long-term, transnational cooperation, contribute to strengthening our European spirit.

LUXEMBOURG

Slava Ukrayini Luxembourg

<https://slava.lu/>

The non-profit Association “Slava Ukrayini Luxembourg” was created in February 2022 following the war in Ukraine for an indefinite period.

The office is registered in the municipality of Roeser, Luxembourg.

The main aims of the Project are:

- to provide assistance and support to all migrants from Ukraine, as well as their families, who are seeking international protection in Luxembourg
- To organise the schooling of Ukrainian children and helping with the search for housing and jobs.
- To render the administrative support necessary for the social and professional integration of the Ukrainians.

The Association is managed by a Board of Directors composed of 3 to 9 administrators, elected by a simple majority of votes by the General Assembly.

Any person who submits a written request to the President may register with the Association as a member.

All the functions exercised in the organs of the Association are of a voluntary nature and are exclusive of any remuneration.

The Association’s resources include but are not limited to membership fees, self-financing, grants, and subsidies, donations, or legacies in its favour.

MALTA

The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation

<https://www.daphne.foundation/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DaphneCaruanaGaliziaFoundation>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/daphnefdtn>

The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation was born of necessity.

Against rising impunity and corruption, a rule of law crisis was triggered in Malta, culminating in the assassination of the eponymous journalist.

The project debuted fighting for justice and an independent, public inquiry into her murder, and continues furthering international human rights and the rule of law through domestic, EU, and international mechanisms and litigation.

The project has since been at the forefront of instilling the core rights of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, fighting for transparency and accountability of public bodies in collaboration with institutional and non-governmental actors to catalyse change in Europe and Malta.

The work done by the Foundation has secured important victories for human rights, the protection of journalists, and access to information.

It has become a trailblazer in expert-led capacity building for civil society and the media, bolstering monitoring in public life and promoting higher standards of government.

Among the project's initiatives are the Public Interest Litigation Network, the first access to justice undertaking of its kind, and the Malta Investigative Journalism Centre, a data platform designed to develop Malta's journalistic toolkit.

Both actuate Charter rights in Malta, whose rule of law collapse was confirmed by the public inquiry.

The project continues to work to promote public interest journalism, the rule of law, accountability, and ending impunity.

THE NETHERLANDS

News checkers ('Nieuwscheckers')

'Nieuwscheckers' checks the news.

Whether printed in newspapers, broadcast on radio or television or circulating on social media.

Checks are carried out by students (as part of study assignments), by paid editors or by the coordinators.

All fact-checks are checked, edited and approved by one of the coordinators prior to publication.

The mission of 'Nieuwscheckers'

The mission of 'Nieuwscheckers' is to help the public assess the value of (on-line) news and information.

We do that by fact-checking questionable claims by public figures (such as politicians) and (news) media, but also by teaching the public how to take a critical look at reports.

This is how we try to improve the quality of public debate.

In addition, our mission is to familiarise Journalism and New Media students (at Leiden University) with fact-checking methods and tools so that, when they become journalists, they are able to evaluate and verify information.

POLAND

José Andrés, the chef that feeds the refugees of the war in Ukraine

Spanish chef José Andrés travelled to the border between Ukraine and Poland within hours of the start of the Russian invasion to serve hot meals to the population fleeing the conflict.

Since then, the cook has not only remained in the area to prepare and coordinate the preparation of hundreds of dishes of food for refugees arriving daily at Poland's borders from different parts of Ukraine, but has also mobilised and supported local restaurants so that they can supply those affected.

An example of this is the "Oh my ramen" food truck, located in the reception centre of Korczowa, a Polish village near the border.

The cook has followed a plan to first attend the needs of Ukrainian refugees at the border, and then move inland to feed the Ukrainian population in need.

Thus, José Andrés has coordinated the supply of meals at eight border crossings in Poland, and has moved through Ukrainian territory where it has been necessary, from Lviv and Kyiv to, recently, Irpin, to personally distribute food to the Ukrainian population in need.

With his humanitarian work, José Andrés is contributing to the achievement of the rights and values reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, such as human dignity, giving hot and nutritious meals to thousands of people affected by the conflict.

Volunteers Without Borders' – refugees from Ukraine

Project description – Summary

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, Polish Humanitarian Action has engaged hundreds of people as volunteers to aid the refugees fleeing the war. PAH is a Polish non-governmental organization that has been operating for 30 years. Since 2004 it has also been a public benefit organization. Its main goal is to provide humanitarian aid to civilians affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters, as well as to educate the public, especially young people. Its activities fully reflect the European values stated in Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which states the right to asylum.

Full project description

The armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine has been ongoing since 2014, and on February 24, 2022, the war took over the rest of the country. Ukrainian citizens were forced to flee their homes in search of safe shelter in other parts of the country and abroad. Help was needed not only for those who had fled, but also for those who had taken in refugees in their own areas. However, the support would not have been possible without the commitment of thousands of volunteers, who with great dedication brought help to the victims of the war.

The European Citizenship Award being awarded to the volunteers working for Polish Humanitarian Action is a tribute to all Poles involved in helping the refugees. It was a great effort that involved sacrificing their private and professional time. Honoring PAH with this award is an impulse for further action for those in need, but most importantly, it recognizes the enormity of the work and dedication of all those who provided this type of assistance both in Poland and throughout the EU.

PAH carried out its activities together with volunteers by providing round-the-clock assistance at refugee intervention points along the Polish-Ukrainian border. The Foundation launched such centers on the border in Dorohusk, Hrebennie and Zosin. Volunteers helped refugees in the first moments after crossing the border by providing food, warm drinks, blankets and hygiene products, among other things. They also provided comprehensive information about the rules of staying in Poland and possible further assistance. The intervention points were also a haven for those who needed to gain strength after the exhausting journey to Poland.

All citizens of the European Union should be aware of the importance of the role of volunteers and their involvement, especially at a time of enormous challenges and crises facing the European community.

PORTUGAL

Tampinhas' bottle cap project

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vitor.branco.58>

The project was born in 2005, when a nurse and I came up with the idea.

It became official in 2016 and we hope it becomes an association as, since then, we have helped many people and institutions, in particular by purchasing wheelchairs and other equipment.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we joined forces with an organisation to supply masks, face shields and personal protective equipment.

Recently, we have been putting on workshops in schools in the Lisbon region to raise awareness of the project among children.

We are currently looking to relocate to the centre of the country (Alentejo), where we will be able to have a warehouse and create three jobs.

The main difficulty we face right now is storing and transporting material.

ROMANIA

Support for refugee children from Ukraine

<https://www.salvaticopiii.ro>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/SalvatiCopiiiRomania/>

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the Save the Children organisation has provided basic food products Hygiene, clothing, footwear, children's products, blankets and other immediate assistance products, calling cards provided free of charge by mobile phone companies, emotional support, translation and information counselling - information materials in Ukrainian (information on asylum procedure, means travel, hospitals, map and addresses of asylum seeker centres, etc.).

It has responded to the acute needs of immediate humanitarian assistance, information and emotional support, both at the border and in the centres where refugee mothers and children are housed.

He supported groups of children from the child protection system in Ukraine, for whose safety the Save the Children teams work closely with the authorities.

Save the Children will continue immediate relief efforts for children and their families and will constantly monitor the care needs of both new refugees and those who have chosen to remain in Romania for a longer period, maintaining a permanent link with authorities.

SLOVAKIA

Europe in a Cube (Kniha Európa v Kocke)

<https://www.eukniha.sk>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/marco.nemeth.73>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/MarcoNemethEN>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/nemethmarco>

I decided to submit my book called Európa v Kocke (Europe in a Cube).

I aimed to increase young people's interest in the European Union.

It is well known that young people in Slovakia are relatively poorly informed about the EU.

I am convinced that a person, who understands why this partnership of European countries was created, will be actively involved in building a democratic European society.

The European Twenty-Seven, as well as our ways of life in Europe, are discussed in this 245-page book. It provides a concise overview of the most significant facts in simple, understandable language.

Because I understand my age group's perspective, I created a book for "comfortable" students and adults, as there is now no such offer. The book progresses from young to young.

I am 16 years old. All illustrations have also been made by students: Terka, Adriana, and Lucka.

In each chapter, the publication deals with the most significant moments since the establishment of the EU and the functioning of individual institutions.

The next chapter deals with the issue of human rights, the rule of law, but also the often-discussed communities.

The last chapter pays attention to the Union's foreign and security policies.

Lastly, I emphasise the risk of growing misinformation.

Európa in Kocka is already in bookstores, but I want to get the book closer to students, because I consider it essential that young people at least master the basics of how our community works.

SLOVENIA

Legal Network for the Protection of Democracy

<https://pravna-mreza.si/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/pravnamreza>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/PravnaMreza>

For a number of years the European Parliament has been monitoring the protection of democracy and the rule of law, which are fundamental values of the EU.

Applying the same values, a Legal Network for the Protection of Democracy was established in 2021 with the aim of reducing the imbalance in access to funding and legal remedies between the state and individuals whose human rights have been violated, thereby helping to strengthen the rule of law and the protection of democracy.

At the start of the pandemic, when in Slovenia we had disproportionately high fines for public activities, criminal and damages lawsuit intended to intimidate and curb criticism, pressure on the media and civil society, threats against and punishment of public officials who decide to speak out, representing a gross abuse of the law, the Legal Network became a beacon of hope and trust in the law. Within a year, this network of NGOs, with which more than 50 lawyers are cooperating in Slovenia has become one of the most recognisable organisations in the area of the rule of law in Slovenia.

It has further developed its activities through cross-border cooperation with Polish and Hungarian colleagues facing similar challenges.

Since its inception, it has managed to attract to its projects (in particular the monitoring of public rallies) young people who are fighting for democracy and who are active citizens.

This is particularly important in the European Year of Youth 2022.

Successes at all levels of the courts (including constitutional) are a demonstration of quality and a confirmation that their work is indispensable.

SPAIN

Customer Service in Bank Branches· '#SOY MAYOR, NO IDIOTA'

Financial services are basic services.

With the shift to digital, many bank transactions have been moved onto the Internet, resulting in less personal interaction between staff and customers in bank branches.

The Spanish financial sector had already cut back its branch network in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

The pandemic then led to even more branches being closed.

This has seriously restricted access to basic financial services for some segments of the population, particularly the elderly and disabled.

Carlos San Juan is a retired 78-year-old Spanish doctor who suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Because of his illness and the trembling in his hands, he finds it difficult to press buttons or withdraw money from cash dispensers.

In view of the banks' failure to provide any alternatives to the digital model and the virtual non-existence of face-to-face customer services, Carlos San Juan decided to launch an online petition calling for better access to banking services.

This proved popular, collecting 647 950 signatures, and led to the banking associations signing a new protocol, along with the Ministry of the Economy, in which they pledged to provide better customer services for older people: longer branch opening hours, priority for older people in being served and simpler digital interfaces. The petition has also led to legislative initiatives in both the lower and upper Houses of the Spanish Parliament.

ANAR 116000 Helpline for missing children

<https://www.anar.org/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/FundacionANAR>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/FundacionANAR>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/fundacionanar>

Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOQb3ZDHjHMrvUBXBF6asfw>

The ANAR Foundation's team of psychologists, social workers and lawyers attend to all requests for help related to the disappearance of a minor (runaways, abductions, kidnappings, loss, etc.) on the helpline 116000.

The ANAR help/chat line 116000 aims to help children, adolescents, and their families by providing guidance, support and accompaniment whenever a minor disappears.

The line's chief functions include:

- Help in reporting disappearances and immediate connection with the police
- Psychological and emotional support to missing children and adolescents and their families
- Legal and social counselling for families
- Support for and collaboration in police investigations
- Promoting international cooperation: networking with the organisations making up Missing Children Europe (the European federation for missing and sexually exploited children), owing to the rising number of cases in which missing children change countries
- Helping raise awareness of cases of missing children via social networks

Children can go missing in the following circumstances: running away for/not returning home:

Parental abduction; Unaccompanied migrant child or adolescent; loss, accident or other type of disappearance; abduction by a stranger.

The help/chat line dealt with 2 892 requests for help concerning cases of missing children in 2021.

