

**EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE 2014**



**WINNERS 2014**

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# 1. Austria

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Austria

at national level

www.respekt.net is a versatile project exchange that aims to foster social engagement against the growth of political or religious ideologies based on hatred which propagate xenophobia, glorify violence or claim supremacy for a nation, race or religion. The project bases its values on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It invites people to seek a common solution to current challenges, with clear words and a positive attitude. A further principle underlying the project exchange is that, if it is made easier for people to become actively involved, more people will do so. It helps all participants to become engaged in areas of interest to them by enabling people to launch projects through the website, offer funding or donations, find partners and motivate the public to act. Where necessary, project initiators are assisted and coached by project scouts - from designing the content of a project to public relations support. A Respekt.net Academy has also been created to help professionalise projects and civic engagement by offering seminars. It also invites people to mark Respect Day every year on 20 September.

***Othmar KARAS***

## **Die Wiener Volkshochschulen GmbH, VHS Alsergrund1**

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at transnational/European level

Women on the rise' is a project from women of four different European countries about women. Our common aim was to search for courageous women, who lived in the 19th and 20th century and made a special contribution to women's emancipation in science, improvement of women's rights and social status, or fought for public recognition in arts and sports. This resulted in 100 women's portraits from Austria, Germany, Poland and Spain. [www.unless-women.eu](http://www.unless-women.eu) At the same time, getting involved with women's biographies and comparing our findings, we could differentiate the historical developments in the respective countries during these centuries: war and peace, dictatorial regimes, national conflicts, drawing up of new frontiers. It was an unstable Europe with shaky prospects to become a union. As co-ordinator of the Vienna team I am convinced that we established a successful cross-border co-operation among women of the generation 55+ in the spirit of common EU citizenship. Most important for me was the strengthening of awareness among participants all the four countries that only a united Europe can guarantee peaceful social and political co-existence.

***Ulrike LUNACEK, Michel REIMON, Monika VANA***

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at national level

Founded in 1997, the Mauthausen Committee Austria (MKÖ) is a non-profit organisation with no affiliation to a political party. It carries out important work in commemoration of the victims of the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis. Working together with the survivors' association (the Comité International de Mauthausen), the Committee organises annual commemorative events on the anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp and its satellites. Every year these constitute an important international encounter for 10 000 to 15 000 people from across Europe, enabling them to work through their experiences. Through its work, the Mauthausen Committee aims to draw lessons from the tragic past and as a result puts particular stress on protecting the human rights of all people, regardless of nationality, political disposition or religion. It lays special emphasis on protecting minorities and the resolute fight against all forms of fascism, racism, right-extremism and anti-Semitism. With this in mind, the MKÖ has led civil courage training sessions and anti-racism workshops with over 30 000 young people in recent years. These activities give concrete expression to the values set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

***Josef WEIDENHOLZER***

## 2. Belgium

### **BEDNET**

Association/organisation

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at national level

Bednet is an organisation that caters for chronically ill children's right to an education. As many such children cannot attend lessons in a classroom, Bednet ensures that they can take part in distance learning with their own classmates via a live Internet link. The children are thus given support in the learning process and are encouraged to have social contact. More than 1 000 chronically ill children have been able to use Bednet's free services since the start-up in the 2007-2008 school year. Bednet took its commitment to a European level in 2014 by joining the European LeHo project. With eight partners in Italy, Spain, Germany, the UK and Egypt, Bednet is part of an international network for learning at home and in hospital by means of ICT. It therefore gets a small amount of support from the Lifelong Learning Programme. Its most important objective is to discover the needs in the field of education of chronically ill children and to see what ICT solutions may improve these children's access to education. Bednet deserves European recognition for its commitment and work to ensure that sick children are not deprived of their right to education. Because of Bednet's involvement in the LeHo project, the expertise that it has acquired in Belgium can be shared with other partners in working towards a possible European model for ICT education for chronically ill children.

***Ivo BELET***

## **Skills Belgium**

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/

Belgium

at transnational/European level

The not-for-profit organisation Skills Belgium promotes technical and manual trades. It organises national competitions every year and European and worldwide ones in alternate years. These competitions take in almost 45 trades and professions representing all sectors: building, public works, industry, the motor industry, services, IT, farming, the food industry, new technologies, graphic arts. Sharing, commitment, integrity, excellence, openness to others and respect for cultural diversity are all hallmarks of these competitions. The national and international competitions have a threefold aim: -to encourage young people and trainers to excel by confronting them with international standards; -to showcase and improve the image of manual and technical trades and the technology industry in the eyes of a wide audience; -to give the young competitors and their trainers a personal and professional experience that will enrich them and their trade. Three competitions have already been held in Europe: EuroSkills Rotterdam in 2008, EuroSkills Lisbon in 2010, EuroSkills Spa-Francorchamps in 2012. The next one will take place in Lille on 2, 3 and 4 October 2014.

***Marc TARABELLA***

### 3. Bulgaria

#### **Young Volunteers from Varna**

Group

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Bulgaria

at national level

In summer 2014, Bulgaria suffered a series of heavy floods which affected various parts of the country, claimed lives and caused physical damage on a huge scale. At the same time, they gave rise to a phenomenon to which I want to draw the European Parliament's attention, namely volunteering. Those who rushed to the aid of the victims included children with disabilities, Syrian refugees from the Harmanli camp, representatives of Bulgaria's Jewish and Roma communities and dozens of volunteers from all over the country. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the work done by the disadvantaged young people from the Dr Anastasia Zhelyazkova Social Vocational Training Centre in the city of Varna, who were the youngest and among the most active volunteers and who joined in the task of clearing up the stricken areas. In my view, their selflessness and the way they responded to the situation of the people hit by the flooding are worthy reasons to name them European Citizens of the Year. What they did was, primarily, an expression of active citizenship, which contributes to promoting some of the most important of the European values: solidarity and civic commitment. The spirit with which these young people pitched in helped to rally Bulgaria as a nation around fundamental European values such as mutual respect, friendship and tolerance. I very much hope that the selection panel will appreciate the exceptional work done by these young volunteers, which will contribute to strengthening the European spirit of solidarity, commitment and mutual support among Bulgarians.

***Momchil NEKOV***

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at national level

Through his work as an investigative journalist, Hristo Hristov champions freedom of thought, conscience and religion as well as the freedom to be informed and to express one's opinion. His work with documents from 20th century archives has repeatedly laid bare the denial of these freedoms and the prevalence of repression during the period of totalitarianism in Bulgaria. Hristov is the author of eight documentary books, three documentary films and publications in other media on the theme of coming to terms with the totalitarian past. He has published extensively about the 'Process of Rebirth' – the renaming and relocation of Bulgarian Turks and Muslims. Hristov is the founder of the independent specialist website [desebg.com](http://desebg.com), which he has maintained since 2011. His investigative work on the killing of writer Georgi Markov in London in 1978 has been relayed and quoted in media outlets internationally. Hristo Hristov is the only journalist who has won court cases in pursuit of access to documents of the former Bulgarian State Security Service: in 2004 the Supreme Administrative Court ruled against the Minister of the Interior for implicit refusal of access to information, and in 2007 it found against the Director of National Intelligence. Hristov is actively involved in the 'Clean Voices' civic initiative for the opening of secret files in Bulgaria as part of the process of coming to terms with the past, and he has energetically and consistently championed this cause over recent years. Hristo Hristov and his family have been repeatedly bullied and threatened on account of his independent stance as a journalist.

***Andrey KOVATCHEF***

## 4. Croatia

### **Martina Culjak**

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Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia  
at transnational/European level

HelpBalkans is a crowdfunding platform which lists the profiles of families and individuals affected by flooding in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in order to facilitate direct contact between them and donors. The project arose from the desire to put a human face on this natural disaster and to enable people who wish to help to do so in a personal way. In practice it works in the following manner: the donor sends a donation offer to a family via their profile. The family then receives a notification that their donor will contact them and that their contact details have been forwarded to the donor. From then on, the donor and the family are in direct contact. The subsequent correspondence and delivery is monitored on both sides. The project has thus far made it possible to provide significant financial support to a large number of families, fostered new friendships between donors and those affected, and helped provide furniture, job offers and countless other benefits. Using its website feature which facilitates direct financial donations from any country on Earth, HelpBalkans intends to expand beyond its existing boundaries in the coming months.

***Davor SKRLEC***

## 5. Cyprus

### **Sevgul Uludag και Μιχάλης Χριστοφίδης / Sevgul Uludag and Michalis Christofidis**

Group

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CYPRUS

at national level

The Turkish journalist Sevgul Uludag began (2002) on a voluntary basis to investigate and report on the unknown victims of the intercommunal violence sparked off in July 1974 in Cyprus, who were buried in unmarked or mass graves. As a result of her work, swifter progress was made in launching an inquiry and having the graves exhumed. She played a leading part in creating the 'Together We Can' organisation bringing together Greek and Turkish Cypriot families of unknown victims. In 2008, she won the International Women's Media Foundation 'Courage in Journalism' award for her investigative reporting. She is also a columnist for the Turkish Cypriot YENIDUZEN and Greek Cypriot POLITIS journals and publishes articles on [sevgululudag.blogspot.com](http://sevgululudag.blogspot.com).

Michalis Christofidis writes poems concerning peace and human rights, universal values and freedom. They have been published in both Greek and Turkish (for example 'Red Jasmin', 'Outlook', and 'Together'). His life and work have been devoted to highlighting the importance of mutual respect and reconciliation and sending the message that peace can and must prevail in Cyprus. Michalis and Sevgul have joined forces to proclaim the message that the pain caused by the bloodshed in Cyprus is shared by all and should not serve as a justification for encouraging blinkered nationalism.

***Neoklis SYLIKIOTIS, Takis HADJIGEORGIU***

## 6. Czech Republic

### **Evropský parlament mládeže v ČR / European Youth Parliament in the Czech Republic**

Association/organisation

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Czech Republic

at national level

European Youth Parliament in the Czech Republic (EPM v ČR) is an independent, non profit making and non political educational organisation. The organisation is led by university students and its main target group is high school students. Every year, EPM v ČR reaches over 1000 dynamic young people through its projects, helping them to develop their soft skills, critical thinking and mastery of the English language. The main objective of the organisation is to help young people to deepen their knowledge on how the EU works. In order for the organisation to achieve its aims, it organises several types of event for students. In order to develop soft skills, it organises training sessions and workshops with experts for its members. These events are for a maximum of 25 participants in order to ensure that speakers can devote enough attention to each participant. The largest events organised by EPM v ČR are the sittings, which attract 120-150 participants and are held three times per year. The sittings are held under the guidance of Czech and foreign facilitators. During the sittings, the participants are divided into working groups Each group has its own current political issues to discuss, and they will create resolutions with proposals to resolve the problem. On the last day of the conference, all participants meet at the General Assembly where their resolutions will be discussed and voted on. The most recent – and hugely successful – project organised by EPM v ČR was the 2014 Poděbrady European Forum in July 2014. This event was organised in conjunction with the city of Poděbrady as part of celebrations of the 550th anniversary of King George of Poděbrady's peace mission.

***Jan ZAHRADIL***

## **Nadace Naše Dite**

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Czech Republic and EU  
at transnational/European level

Nadace Naše Dite (Our Child) is a Czech Foundation that since 1993 has helped vulnerable children in difficult situations, such as orphans, children that are maltreated, abused, and handicapped. It also supports various safety lines nationally. Nadace Naše Dite provides financial support, legal advice, educational activities, legislative proposals and other means to further child protection. Working with a number of international organizations, this Foundation also actively participates in programs of child protection within the EU. They deserve the European citizen's prize as a result of their work towards such an important cause and willingness to promote closer work on the European level to further the welfare of children not just in the Czech Republic, but throughout Europe and beyond.

***Dita CHARANZOVÁ***

## 7. France

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France

at transnational/European level

Euradionantes, a local European radio station, was set up in Nantes in 2007. The aim of the not-for-profit radio station is to talk about Europe in a way in which people can relate to, with a view to bringing the EU and its citizens closer together. The independent media outlet has an original approach to reporting current affairs: it treats Europe as a neighbourhood, or in other words, examines how events unfolding in one place tie in with what is happening in another. Other media outlets tend to take a broader view, focusing on the EU institutions and current events in EU countries. Euradionantes is also a school for European radio journalists, welcoming young students from across the continent and training them in 'local European journalism'. The practical course gives apprentice journalists first-hand experience on the ground, placing them at the heart of the European integration process in a multilingual and multicultural environment. More than 150 young people from some 20 different countries have been fully trained in local-European journalism since Euradionantes was formed. The radio station is also a participatory, democratic platform open to people active in civil society who want to discuss and shape Europe. Moreover, Euradionantes encourages cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe through its pioneering musical programming. Its audience is growing year on year (77,700 listeners in 2013, according to Médiamétrie), along with its website traffic, testament to the station's professionalism and success.

***Sylvie GOULARD***

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France, Belgium, Europe and International  
at transnational/European level

The task of enforcing EU asylum and immigration law falls to the Member States and to legal professionals and practitioners. In practice, however, it is not a straightforward one, not least because this area of law is constantly evolving. Keeping abreast of developments in the field can be difficult, leading to a lack of familiarity with the law and discrepancies in the way it is applied.

This creates problems on two levels: firstly, when legal professionals fail to apply or enforce EU law, foreigners' rights under that law are not protected; secondly, EU law imposes obligations on national administrations, with non-compliance constituting an infringement of Union law.

[www.EuropeanMigrationLaw.eu](http://www.EuropeanMigrationLaw.eu) helps magistrates, lawyers, national administrations, unions, social workers, NGOs, international organisations, academics and researchers to implement and/or use EU law, offering them quick, easy access to EU law as it currently stands and to the asylum and immigration case-law of the Court of Justice.

The [www.EuropeanMigrationLaw.eu](http://www.EuropeanMigrationLaw.eu) project is privately funded by its founders and is managed by a team of volunteer practitioners and academics who firmly believe that familiarity with EU law is essential if we are to protect migrants' rights and promote the values of the EU, as set out in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Ensuring universal application of these rules and policies is thus a prerequisite for closer integration among the peoples of the European Union.

***Sylvie GUILLAUME***

## **Je veux l'Europe**

Group

France

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France

at national level

Sixty famous artists, sportspeople, intellectuals and decision-makers talking about the role that Europe has played in their careers. Over the 100 days prior to the elections, these interviews and images travelled all around the Internet, reaching some 5 million people, principally in the 18-34 age group, via social networks and generating the highest volume of traffic on social networks in France during the elections (ahead of institutions, associations and some media outlets).

This success is down to the young team at Je Veux l'Europe ([www.jeveuxleurope.fr](http://www.jeveuxleurope.fr)) who launched a short-term, innovative, apolitical campaign across social networks with the aim of reaching out to young people and non-voters in the run-up to the European elections. Who better to talk about the EU than those who experience it every day? The informal nature of the video messages recorded by these celebrities and ordinary EU citizens alike made it easier for French people to identify with them. The project was participatory. Everyone could play an active role in examining the impact of the EU in their own neighbourhood, and could respond with a message of their own.

During the election period, Je Veux l'Europe received 42 000 views on YouTube, 11 000 likes on Facebook and 500 followers on Twitter. The campaign's success came down to two factors: major partners such as La Croix and Ouest France that supported and helped to spread the word about the project, and 20 leading figures from civil society who came together to keep the momentum going.

***Michèle RIVASI, Michèle ALLIOT-MARIE, Jean ARTHUIS***

## **Jaccede**

Association/organisation

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France

at transnational/European level

Créée en 2006, Jaccede vise à permettre aux personnes à mobilité réduite (personnes handicapées, femmes enceintes, personnes âgées ou provisoirement immobilisées) d'occuper une place à part entière dans la vie de la cité, en défendant le concept d'accessibilité universelle. Elle a mis au point le premier guide web collaboratif des bonnes adresses accessibles Jaccede.com (Français, Anglais, Allemand). À ce jour : 29.000 lieux référencés en France, en Europe et à l'international et 25.000 visiteurs par mois sur le site. Une application pour smartphones a été lancée (français, anglais, allemand, espagnol). En septembre 2013, Jaccede a lancé le projet Eurotrotters en visitant Madrid, Barcelone, Londres, Bruxelles et Berlin pour : - défendre des principes d'accessibilité pour tous homogènes en Europe - créer et fédérer un réseau associatif européen autour du projet de Jaccede, notamment par l'échange de bonnes pratiques - augmenter le nombre de bénéficiaires du guide Jaccede.com tout en augmentant l'impact social, en généralisant l'organisation de Journées de l'accessibilité - partager et échanger les données afin de développer un guide des bonnes adresses accessibles de référence en Europe Jaccede organise des événements de sensibilisation comme la Journée de l'accessibilité qui permet de vivre une expérience unique en se mettant en fauteuil roulant le temps d'un recensement des lieux accessibles dans les villes (4ème édition le 11.10.2014 en France et Belgique).

***Philippe JUVIN***

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Toute l'Europe

at transnational/European level

The Bulli Tour Europa project involves a team of journalists taking a road-trip in a 1970s VW Kombi, fitted out as a radio studio, from which they broadcast reports as they travel across Eastern Europe between May and October 2014. The project is run by Rodéo d'âme, an arts collective and publishing house based in Strasbourg. The Bulli Tour Europa team are currently in Poland, where they are meeting members of the country's Jewish community, which is slowly rebuilding itself. This follows a stop in Budapest, where a meeting with representatives of the Hungarian extreme right offered a worrying insight into a country where nationalism is re-emerging, and a long journey across Ukraine, a divided country where the hopes of the young insurgents seem to be fading as the months go by. All the reports produced during this journalistic road-trip across Eastern Europe, which started in May 2014, can be found on the website ([www.bullitour.eu](http://www.bullitour.eu)). They paint a portrait of Eastern Europeans and include first-hand accounts of their experiences. The University of Strasbourg supports the project as an 'excellence initiative' (IdEx), particularly given its European dimension and the study that it has made of current problems affecting Europe.

***Edouard MARTIN, Anne SANDER***

## 8. Germany

### **Europäische Gesellschaft für Politik, Kultur, Soziales e.V. Diaphania / European association for political, cultural and social issues**

Association/organisation

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Germany, Greece  
at transnational/European level

The European association Diaphania is a charitable, non-partisan, non-denominational association. It fosters understanding between peoples, promotes European art and culture and runs innovative projects that contribute to peace, humaneness and tolerance. One of its priorities is to promote the acceptance of people with disabilities in Europe. For example, for many years Diaphania has been supporting Estia Agios Nikolaos in Galaxidi, Greece. To achieve its objectives, Diaphania cooperates with other associations and European organisations with the same or similar aims. Many of its projects and individual events make use of new ideas to promote the integration of people from different backgrounds. These include its annual international New Year celebration including the award of the Integration Prize in Heilbronn, as well as exhibitions, and the series of readings in Stuttgart and Heilbronn. The New Year celebration is held annually in cooperation with other associations and organisations. Diaphania also offers its members and friends international concerts, study and art trips and various international meetings and educational conferences.

***Evelyne GEBHARDT***

## **Werner Hohlbein, 'Wir sitzen alle in einem Boot für mehr Toleranz' / Pushing the boat out for more tolerance**

Group

Germany

Pestalozzistrasse 1, 30926 Seelze, Germany

werner.hohlbein@gmx.de

0049 (0) 511402718

Germany

at national level

When, in 2006, the publication in Denmark of cartoons featuring Muhammad led to the torching of the Danish Embassy in Damascus, the words 'religious war' were suddenly on many lips. The group felt that some sort of response was called for. Since then, it has held annual events under the motto 'Pushing the boat out for more tolerance', with the aim of breaking down barriers and building bridges between people of different nationalities and from different cultures. A dragon boat regatta draws on the power sport has to bring people together in order to foster tolerance. The event also features a panel discussion on topical issues. As part of its campaign against racism, anti-Semitism, religious fanaticism and xenophobia, the group welcomes representatives from a different partner country every year; it has already hosted delegations from Mexico, Turkey, Israel, Poland and South Africa. A programme showcasing the culture of the partner country rounds off the event. The focus is on young people from the partner country and youth groups from that country are invited to join local people. Every year some 400 people attend the event in Hanover, where guests are encouraged to sample regional specialities laid on by a local centre for people with a disability. All proceeds go to an orphanage in the partner country. 2015 marks the event's 10th anniversary. The group includes people from various walks of life, from young trainees to publishing directors, and aims to promote social cohesion.

***Bernd LANGE***

## **Erika Körner-Metz and Gisela Berninger**

Group

Germany

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koerner-metz@web.de

0049 - 8031 - 89797

0049 - 171 - 9537777

Germany

at national level

Whether it is a matter of winning our young people round to Europe or arousing their interest in European integration, Erika Körner-Metz acts as a tireless advocate of the EU. Once again, Vocational Business School II in Rosenheim has succeeded in persuading the internationally active painter Ekaterina Zacharova from Gmund/Tegernsee to accept this commission. Youth and art: that is Ms Körner-Metz's theme, which she has for years been pursuing in a unique manner by means of various projects. As long ago as 2012, Ms Körner-Metz, together with the Russian artist Ekaterina Zacharova, launched the project 'Panta Rhei-Komm mit' (Panta Rhei – come and join us), in which more than 11 schools took part. In a cycle of pictures, snapshots of people from European metropolises were shown. Inspired by them, young people debated intensively with me and the painter about Europe, its achievements and problems, and the past and future. The project is an impressive example of how art links our young people to Europe, and how it generates interest in other nations and understanding of them, as well as of European complexity. All this is thanks to the untiring efforts of Erika Körner-Metz. Pupils from Vocational Business School II have now committed themselves enthusiastically to a new creative writing project, initially as part of their German lessons, and written texts to accompany a number of paintings from the cycle 'Unterwegs.New York' (On the Move: New York). They have produced some remarkable poems, stories and dialogues.

***Angelika NIEBLER***

**Demokratisches Ostvorpommern – Verein für politische Kultur e.V.  
/ Democratic Western Pomerania – Association for political  
culture)**

Association/organisation

Germany  
Burgstr. 9, 17389 Anklam, Germany

info@demokratisches-ostvorpommern.de  
+49 (0)3971 241736

Germany  
at national level

The 'Western Pomerania: cosmopolitan, democratic, diverse' action alliance was founded in 2012 as a response to the press festival organised by Deutsche Stimme, the newspaper of Germany's National Democratic Party. Thousands of people formed a human chain in a peaceful but determined protest against xenophobia. The event was a great success and, since then the alliance's members and supporters have been involved in a series of projects which emphasise Western Pomerania's diversity in order to counter local neo-Nazi groups and rid the region of its neo-fascist image. Local groups and networks have been set up to enable the alliance to respond quickly to events. It uses peaceful, democratic tactics to fight hateful ideologies and employs a non-violent approach deliberately designed not to exacerbate tensions. In so doing, the alliance's members and supporters are taking a stand against the criminalisation of lawfully conducted anti-Nazi protests. The European Agency for Fundamental Rights has found that ethnic and religious minorities in the EU face racism, discrimination, verbal and physical abuse and marginalisation. The action alliance and other similar initiatives give practical expression to the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

***Iris HOFFMANN***

## **Marianne Lück**

Individual

Germany

Justus-von-Liebig-Str. 25, 66346 Püttlingen, Germany

lueck@esh-puettingen.de

+49 (0)6806 480225

France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary  
at transnational/European level

Since 1996, Marianne Lück has been organising annual exchanges involving more than 70 people from six different countries as part of a European youth exchange network. The young people involved take part in a varied programme, which requires a considerable amount of organisation, and they gain a real insight into the European integration process. The project deserves every accolade. The young participants come from Nova Sol in Poland, Zamberk in the Czech Republic, Saint Michel sur Orge in France, Veszprém in Hungary, Fresagrandinaria in Italy, and Senftenberg and Püttlingen in Germany.

***Jo LEINEN***

## 9. Greece

### **Κέντρο Εκπαιδεύσεως & Αποκαταστάσεως Τυφλών, Περιφερειακή Διεύθυνση Θεσσαλονίκης (πρώην Σχολή Τυφλών Θεσσαλονίκης «Ο ΗΛΙΟΣ») / Centre for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind (CERB), Thessaloniki Regional Office (former 'Ilios' School for the Blind, Thessaloniki)**

Association/organisation

Greece

Vasilissis Olgas, 32 54641 Thessaloniki, Greece

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Greece

at national level

The opening in 1947 of the Thessaloniki School for the Blind, the only institution providing aid for the blind and visually impaired in northern Greece, was a landmark event for the city as a whole. It provides education, vocational training and care for the blind and visually impaired, from northern Greece and elsewhere in the country and has for decades been helping them integrate fully within Greek society. From March 2011, the School for the Blind became part of the Thessaloniki regional CERB, continuing the admirable work commenced 60 years previously.

The Centre also houses a special kindergarten and primary school for blind pupils, the Tiresias training centre for blind telephone operators, and provides 24-hour boarding facilities with rooms for blind or visually impaired students. It also provides inter alia:

- Training for the blind and visually impaired, teaching support and training in everyday activities, Braille, English and IT skills;
- Instruction in Braille for teachers;
- Accommodation for students and pupils on its own premises and those of the Thessaloniki regional CERB;
- Help in organising sports events with facilities for blind athletes belonging to the 'Pirsos' and 'Ifestos' teams;
- Help in raising public and institutional awareness regarding issues concerning the blind.

***Theodoros ZAGORAKIS***

## **Διογένης MKO / Diogenes NGO**

Association/organisation

Athens

Favierou 24-26, 10438 Athens, Greece

info@shedia.gr

+30 213 023 1220

Greece

at national level

Diogenes NGO, an urban non-profit organisation, was set up in 2010 to help the homeless and socially excluded to integrate or reintegrate within society. It is doing this in number of ways.

Firstly, 'Shedia', like all other street newspapers, is not available from newsagents or kiosks and can only be purchased on the city streets from approved vendors belonging to vulnerable social categories, such as the homeless, the unemployed or those obviously living below the poverty line. Vendors are allowed to keep 50% of the proceeds, thereby providing them with a valuable opportunity to earn a minimum income in a dignified manner and break out of the vicious circle of social isolation and exclusion. 'Shedia' is part of the International Network of Street Papers

The national Homeless Football Team uses football as a means of social reintegration, taking part in the annual Homeless World Cup.

'A coffee is waiting for you' gives needy people the chance to enjoy a free cup of coffee paid for in advance by customers at one of the network cafes.

These initiatives are designed to support those of our fellow citizens who have been hardest hit by the social and economic crisis and whose active participation enables them to embark on the process of social reintegration.

***Elissavet VOZEMBERG***

## **Το χαμόγελο του παιδιού / For a Child's Smile**

Association/organisation

Greece

Zinonos, Eleatou 10, 15124 Athens, Greece

info@hamogelo.gr

210 3306140

Greece

at national level

'For a Child's Smile' is a voluntary non-profit organisation operating in Greece seeking to uphold the rights of children and resolve their everyday problems. Its activities include the provision of shelter for children at risk, a telephone helpline, counselling and social integration services and assistance for destitute families, as well as the organisation of information campaigns and cultural and sports activities. The onset of the economic crisis in Greece has heralded a sharp increase in children's needs and hence the workload of this organisation. In the first half of 2014 alone, 'For a Child's Smile' provided assistance for 57 056 children, 90% up on the first half of 2013. We consider that the European Citizen's Prize would be a suitable form of recognition for the remarkable voluntary work of this organisation, encouraging it to continue its endeavours and raising public awareness of its activities, thereby helping it obtain contributions and assistance.

***Miltiadis KYRKOS***

## 10. Hungary

### **Kerényi Lajos**

Individual

Hungary

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szent.kereszt@freemail.hu

3613780356

Hungary

at national level

Lajos Kerényi (Szöny, 1927 --- ). Roman Catholic priest, Piarist monk, parish priest. Sent to the front when his secondary school studies were interrupted, then became a prisoner of war in Russia. He returned home in 1945 in a hospital convoy. From the time he was ordained until the present day he has fulfilled his pastoral duties in a diocesan setting. He has been particularly active in ministering to the young and visiting the sick in hospital. He was again subjected to harassment under the Communist dictatorship, which attempted to make it impossible for him to perform these tasks. In 1982 he began organising young people's activities in Egerszalók, but in addition to being associated with these gatherings for 25 years, his name is also attached to such events at Nagymaros. His motto for these was: 'I put my faith in you'. He professes that there will always be more to the world than the world itself. That there will always be more to history than history itself. That there will always be more to people than the people themselves. It is this extra something that we must look for in people and in the world. We should prepare ourselves with knowledge, pure moral principles and a sense of vocation. This is what he tries to teach young people at the gatherings and in his parish work. In hospitals he often meets attempted suicide victims and people with psychiatric problems. He tries to convince them to transcend their bitterness, become spiritually stronger and find meaning in their lives. This is a noble European calling.

***György HÖLVÉNYI***

## **Atlatszo.hu**

Association/organisation

Hungary

Déri Miksa u. 10, 1084 Budapest, Hungary

info@atlatszo.hu

36309772410

Hungary

at national level

Atlatszo.hu - meaning transparent in Hungarian - is a watchdog NGO for investigative journalism to promote freedom of expression and information, media pluralism and transparency in Hungary. Due to the investigations conducted by atlatszo.hu the discrimination against Roma and homeless people was stopped in numerous cases and financial abuses in distributing EU funding were discovered. The atlatszo.hu is one of the last bastions in Hungary which stands for the freedom to hold opinions and to receive an impart information without interference by public authorities. As a major achievement the watchdog managed to provide the right of Hungarian journalist to withhold the identity of confidential sources which was recognized later by the media law of Hungary. As laid down in the Europe 2020 strategy the atlatszo.hu exerts civil control on decision-makers, stand for European values such as media freedom, democracy, human rights and transparency. Atlatszo.hu is member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network of similar investigative nonprofit news outlets all around the world. Bearing in mind the concerns about media freedom voiced by the OSCE, the European Commission and the European Parliament as well, the nomination of atlatszo.hu sends a strong signal to Hungarian citizens that the European Parliament is behind us, behind the freedom of expression.

***Csaba MOLNÁR, Péter NIEDERMÜLLER***

## **Probstner János**

Individual

Hungary

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36209217542

Hungary

at transnational/European level

János Probstner, born in Budapest on 10 September 1943, is a potter and industrial designer. In 1970 he graduated in design from the Hungarian University of Art and Design. In 1976 he set up the International Ceramics Studio, which was incorporated into university-level art education in 1986. This enabled him to host, for the first time in Hungary, scholarship holders in art from five European countries in 1992. The Studio welcomed world-famous artists and teachers and became unique in international art education. Its renown spread, and it soon became a meeting place for artists from both Western and Eastern Europe. Its collection now includes works from nearly every country in Europe. János Probstner worked as a visiting professor at the University of Fine and Applied Arts of Iceland where he ran courses for a number of years, and he has also taught visiting students from many countries in the EU. From 2004 to 2007 he was a member of the 'Leonardo da Vinci- KNOWHOW' programme to explore the introduction of new learning and teaching methods, sponsored by the EU, which also appeared in book form. In 2005 he was granted the title of 'Honorary University Professor' in recognition of his work. For the reasons set out above, I propose János Probstner, founder of the Studio, author, teacher and creative artist, as Hungary's candidate for the European Citizen's Award.

***Tibor SZANYI***

## 11. Ireland

### **Blue Star Programme Teachers**

Group

Ireland

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32488609194

Ireland

at national level

Blue Star Programme teachers foster better knowledge and understanding of the European Union and how it affects our lives amongst Irish primary pupils through classroom projects and activities. Teams of pupils of all ages, from primary schools all over Ireland, are challenged to get creative and think about Europe by carrying out projects in relation to four key elements: the history, geography, culture and creativity, and Institutions of the EU. Each participating school is required to carry out projects and tasks, incorporating elements that include information about: The foundation and development of the European Union The cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe What the European Union does and how its work affects the lives of citizens

***Seán KELLY***

## **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann**

Association/organisation

Ireland

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+353 1 2800295

Ireland (North and South), EU wide and internationally  
at transnational/European level

Comhaltas is the largest group involved in the promotion of Irish traditional music and the Irish Language. It is world renowned and has members from hundreds of cultures. This non-profit group teaches music, dance and language classes through a network of branches. It provides a perfect setting for people to share their love of culture. Comhaltas branches aid understanding of different cultures and traditions for immigrants to Ireland. Comhaltas is also important for Irish emigrants, in the EU and beyond, to make friends in their new homes. Many Comhaltas branches run exchange programmes with other EU cultural organisations which assist and enhance the long-term, cross border and transnational efforts of other bodies. Comhaltas run an annual Irish music competition, the Fleadh Cheoil. Musicians compete in qualifying rounds, then in the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, one of the largest cultural festivals in Europe. It attracts about 10,000 performers, 300,000 visitors and generates upwards of €40m. In 2014 Comhaltas achieved a milestone in the Peace Process. Derry, where residents are predominately in favour of a United Irish Republic, was chosen as UK City of Culture and the All-Ireland Fleadh was a highpoint in a historic year of events. It was the first time in 60 years that it was held in the north of Ireland. In the spirit of inclusivity, a loyalist Apprentice Boys hall was used as a venue and loyalist and Police Service flute bands took part in festivities.

***Matt CARTHY, Martina ANDERSON, Lynn BOYLAN, Liadh NÍ RIADA***

## 12. Italy

### **Cittadini di Lampedusa**

Group

Lampedusa

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Italy

at transnational/European level

The citizens of Lampedusa are living with the tragedy of thousands of migrants, welcoming them. They embody, in an exemplary manner, the best features of the Sicilian people: solidarity, willingness to share and help, a welcoming nature, dignity and decorum.

### ***Ignazio CORRAO, Laura FERRARA***

The nomination of the citizens of Lampedusa for the European Citizens' Prize must be a way to remember their solidarity and efforts over these years of terrible tragedy on their shores. The people of Lampedusa, year after year, have seen waves of desperate people abandon their countries and risk their lives in the hope of a better one. However, Lampedusa was not indifferent towards this tragedy, it did not refuse to help those people in difficulty outside their front doors, it did not take refuge in intolerance. There are countless examples of heroism and solidarity among these citizens, not only when the island was constantly in the news, as happened after the tragedy of 2013, but also when the cameras were turned off yet the boats kept coming. The people of Lampedusa are a symbol for us all; living as they do in a place where their humanity is put to the test every day, they have retained their capacity to welcome people who needed their help. The citizens of Lampedusa have become an example of solidarity that is necessary and possible for each and every one of us. The nomination of the citizens of Lampedusa can act as a warning to draw attention to a very serious situation, which is awaiting possible solution. It would also be an important message of solidarity and sharing on the part of Parliament and the EU.

### ***Renato SORU***

## **SOSERM SOS Emergenza Rifugiati Milano**

Association/organisation

Italy

Corso Genova 21, 20123 Milano, Italia

soserm2014@gmail.com

0039/3334755664

0039/3334755664 (Presidente Susy Iovieno)

Italy

at national level

With the exodus of refugees, mainly Syrians, fleeing recent wars, Milan has become one of the stopping places on the long journey to Europe. Whole families, but mostly mothers and children, are arriving at the mezzanine of the main station in Milan after exhausting journeys by boat, and then by train or car, before leaving again a few days later. They arrive totally spent, often with nothing left to their name. The SOSERM association came into being a few months ago when one woman, who then became its president, noticed these refugees and did not turn her back on them. She put out an appeal on the social networks, asking for contributions of basic foodstuffs and medical items. The public responded positively and an association was formed with 70 volunteers who go to the mezzanine every day in rotating groups, from early in the morning to early afternoon, to provide a first point of contact for refugees as they arrive (food and medical items, mediation, information, games for children), before they are registered and taken to reception centres and the authorities start to register them. To date SOSREM has helped over 120 000 refugees. A huge demonstration of solidarity which has seen a huge response from civil society and is now organised and recognised by the agencies. This nomination is recognition for all those who daily work to affirm the values of welcome, dignity and solidarity, the EU's founding principles.

***Patrizia TOIA***

## **Libera. Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie**

Association/organisation

Italy

via IV Novembre 98, 187 Rome, Italy

libera@libera.it

0039 06 69770301

Italy and other EU countries

at transnational/European level

‘Libera. Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie’ started in 1995 with the aim of calling on civil society to join the fight against mafia organisations and of fostering lawfulness. Only ‘we’ can drive forward a real change in society: it was on this basis that the commitment to combating organised crime was born with the aim of calling on civil society to join the fight against mafia organisations and fostering lawfulness and justice. Libera today coordinates over 1 500 associations, groups, schools, grassroots organisations, committed to building political-cultural and organisational synergies in their own areas. It promoted the law on the social use of goods confiscated from mafia organisations and the campaign to alter the penal code on vote buying by the mafia. At European level Libera, together with Flare, has organised ‘Contromafie stati generali sulle mafie’ [countering the mafia, states general on mafia organisations], a coordination meeting for organisations committed to opposing organised crime. Their work to raise awareness has also led to a proposal for the EU directive on goods confiscated from organised crime organisations. Their nomination recognises their work and their daily commitment to the affirmation of democratic lawfulness and social justice. The European Union has an opportunity here, through this prize, of expressing its own support for this organisation, whose president and members have been victims of mafia intimidation by Toto Riina, the boss of Cosa Nostra, who has called from his prison cell for their death.

***Mercedes BRESSO, Sergio Gaetano COFFERATI***

**SOS SCUOLA di ALVEARE CINEMA di Paola Rota e Paolo Bianchini / SOS SCUOLA by ALVEARE CINEMA: Paola Rota and Paolo Bianchini**

Association/organisation

Italy

VIA GIAN GIACOMO PORRO 4, 197 Roma, Italia

paola.rota@alvearecinema.com

0039 06 88588063

0039 347 2997771

Italy

at national level

SOS is the acronym for ‘Scambiamoci Orizzonti per Sognare’ [let’s exchange horizons and dream], a campaign devised by Alveare Cinema to regenerate schools through bottom-up cooperation, restoring their ethical and aesthetic value as a common good, a community of people and a place to share, and helping to build up European citizenship. The SOS campaign began with the story of two African teenagers, Yaguine and Fodè, who on behalf of all the children in the southern hemisphere, wanted to ask the ‘gentlemen-members and officials of Europe’ for the freedom to attend school. On 2 August 1999 they hid in the undercarriage of a plane, imagining the moment when they would deliver their letter to the European Parliament. They were found, frozen to death, at Brussels Airport. That letter is now a symbol for thousands of boys and girls who identified with the ‘Fatti sentire’ [make yourself heard] movement born out of the film ‘Il sole dentro’ [the sun within] promoted by Alveare Cinema. The letter was delivered to the European Parliament on 7 May 2013 along with 1 500 other letters from students. The project arose out of students and teachers meeting there from a variety of educational institutions. This project which, thanks to the empathy its instigators have succeeded in creating between students from different schools through an extraordinary experience of spontaneous twinning, has taken on deep significance is an example of best practice that can be exported at EU level by involving other schools and student networks in one huge opinion and solidarity campaign.

***Silvia COSTA***

## **Maria De Biase**

Individual

Italy

II Traversa Palazzone 2, 84070 San Giovanni a Piro, Italy

maria.gea@virgilio.it

0039 0974986667

0039 3484980501

Italy

at national level

Since 2007, Maria Di Biase has been carrying out a ‘sustainable revolution’ in the ‘Teodoro Gaza’ comprehensive school in San Giovanni a Piro (Salerno, Italy) of which she is head teacher. Her work was recognised in 2013 by the prestigious Agri Civic Awards of the AiCare Agency. Italian schools are required to draw up a 'Plan of Studies'. In Maria Di Biase’s school the Plan of Studies is based on transition and includes in the school curriculum the development of tools that enable children to steer, rather than just undergo, the inevitable future economic and social scenarios related to climate change and the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels. The school is a 'zero waste' institute; it deals with composting, permaculture, self-production laboratories and recovery of local knowledge and traditions, as well as producing environmentally friendly snacks. Maria Di Biase places at the heart of her innovative teaching two meaningful values of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The first is the right of children to receive the protection and care that are necessary for their well-being (Article 24 2010/C 83/02). This right is applied far-sightedly, because it looks at the challenges that children will have to face when they grow up. The second is the protection of the environment (Article 37 2010/C 83/02). These are essential issues for the education of young European citizens who will be living in a future that will inevitably be different from today.

***Dario TAMBURRANO***

## 13. Malta

### **Malta Hospice Movement**

Association/organisation

Malta

Good Shepherd Avenue 39, BZN1623 Balzan, Malta

info@hospicemalta.org

35621440085

Malta

at national level

The entire Maltese Delegation has decided to nominate the Malta Hospice Movement due to their extensive work caring for hundreds of patients and families over the years. The movement has been caring for patients since 1989 and it currently cares for over 900 patients and their families, most of which have cancer or motor neurone disease and respiratory disease. The Maltese delegation has decided to nominate this movement as they welcome everyone and value them as unique individuals, whatever their race, religion or lifestyle.

***David CASA, Therese COMODINI CACHIA, Miriam DALLI, Roberta METSOLA, Marlene MIZZI, Alfred SANT***

## 14. Poland

### **Fundacja Pomocy Wzajemnej BARKA / BARKA Foundation for Mutual Help**

Association/organisation

ul. Św. Wincentego 6/9  
PL 61-003 Poznań,  
Polska

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48616682300  
48607622752

Poland, UK, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, France, Kenya and Canada  
at transnational/European level

The BARKA Foundation was founded in 1989 with the objective of helping those people who suffered most from the process of political and economic transformation in Poland. Its founders, Barbara and Tomasz Sadowski, became pioneers in Poland and active popularisers of the Social Economy across the world. Today, BARKA is creating conditions to allow many hundreds of thousands of socially marginalised people worldwide to develop, including through the establishment and development of vocational training schools for the unemployed, promoting social entrepreneurship and creating programmes for affordable housing. It educates and reintroduces people into the workplace in 14 London boroughs. Each year, more than a dozen delegations of observers from across the world who wish to implement BARKA social inclusion programmes in their own countries visit BARKA's headquarters. The Foundation's activities have been singled out for honours and distinctions on numerous occasions and by various groups, institutions, media and governments. Among the awards it has received are: World Habitat Award, Washington, 2009; First place in the Global Development Network (GDN) competition in Beijing, held under the patronage of the World Bank, 2007, and second place in Cairo in 2003; Times Magazine 'European Heroes' Prize, 2003; Silver Rose Award, awarded by the European SOLIDAR network, 2001; 'Pro Publico Bono' Award to mark the tenth anniversary of freedom – Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek Award, 1999; Title of 'Innovator for the Public Good' from Ashoka – an international organisation of innovators for the public.

***Agnieszka KOZŁOWSKA-RAJEWICZ***

## **dr Bartomiej Zapala**

Individual

Kielce, Poland  
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509661653  
48509661653

Poland  
at national level

I nominate Dr Bartłomiej Zapala, a journalist and university lecturer, in respect of his extraordinary service, diligence and meticulousness in raising awareness of the benefits of being citizens of the European Union among the region's inhabitants. Dr Zapala is a master at translating 'eurospeak' into a language that the layman would understand. As a journalist at 'Radio Kielce', he provides tens of thousands of listeners with information on the EU each day in an interesting and comprehensible way. He uses simple language to explain the most convoluted of topics. He is always extremely well prepared. For five years he has been presenting 'Studio polityczne' (Political Studio), which features debates on EU policies, and 'Świat na Wskroś' (All about the World), in which he sheds light on the most important processes occurring in the EU. He is educating a new generation of euro-enthusiasts. As a lecturer at the largest university in Świętokrzyskie Province – the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce – he organises courses for students on topics including European citizenship standards and EU regional policy. He teaches students the very principle that he holds to himself: it is not the harshness of the debate, but using the debate to gain a deeper understanding of the issue that is important. He co-organises meetings of the Polish network of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, which promotes dialogue between cultures and the objectives of the Barcelona Process through cultural and intellectual exchanges. Świętokrzyskie Province is one of Poland's poorest regions. It also has low levels of internet coverage, which makes it difficult to access information on the EU.

***Róza Gräfin von THUN UND HOHENSTEIN***

## **Anna Wolff - Powęska**

Individual

Poland

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00 48 693 101 941

Poland, Germany

at transnational/European level

Anna Wolff-Powęska is a professor of political sciences, historian of ideas, specialist in Polish-German relations and a member of the academic staff at the Adam Mickiewicz University. She chairs the academic board of the Centre for Historical Research in Berlin. For many years, she has combined her academic career with journalism. As a scholar, she has received many awards and distinctions for her commitment to creating an atmosphere conducive to dialogue between the German and Polish nations in order to eliminate mutual antagonisms and build lasting cooperation for future development. From 1990 to 2004, Professor Wolff-Powęska held the post of Director of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań. While directing the Institute for Western Affairs and chairing the Polish-German Forum at a time of deep political and economic transformation – both in Poland and in a reunified Germany – she organised many conferences and meetings that aimed to break down barriers and overcome negative stereotypes in both countries. Anna Wolff-Powęska is also known as someone who popularises knowledge and education on politics in order to provide a grounding for the development of civic values and local democracy. She is one of the people who has been most instrumental in creating good relations between Poland and Germany. Her contribution should be considered in the wider context of laying the foundations for Poland's European integration, a process that was significantly helped by the dynamic dialogue and cooperation that developed between Poland and Germany.

***Krystyna ŁYBACKA***

## 15. Romania

### **Societatea Timisoara / The Timișoara Society**

Association/organisation

Romania

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Romania

at national level

Societatea Timișoara (ST) was one of the first associations to be created in Romania after the revolution there in December 1989. The ST continued the popular movement for democracy in Romania, and established a programme for this in the form of the Timișoara Proclamation, which was issued in March 1990, while also fixing the key steps to be followed in order to eliminate any tendencies towards continuing totalitarianism. The defence of the Proclamation generated the largest anti-Communist demonstrations in Eastern Europe since the wave of revolutions in 1989: the 'University Square' demonstrations. ST pushed for respect for human rights and for Romania to join the Council of Europe and the European Union. It did this by organising international meetings, as well as through street demonstrations to stop the country going off-course on its way to EU membership. ST has sought to put into practice the ideas advocated in the Timișoara Proclamation by taking legislative initiatives. It has drafted and promoted in the Romanian Parliament a law on lustration, which prohibits former Communist party activists who were part of the machinery of the totalitarian state from taking up top administrative posts in the new democratic state. The law has been adopted by the Romanian Parliament twice, with an overwhelming majority. ST has continued to work for democracy in Romania. It has pushed for inter-racial understanding, and has sought to preserve the multicultural and multicultural traditions of the Banat – the so-called 'Timișoara spirit'.

***László TŐKÉS***

## **Andrei Pleșu**

Individual

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Romania

at transnational/European level

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the New Europe College (NEC) - Institute for Advanced Studies. Since 1994, the NEC has contributed to the development of human science research by means of its grants programme. The NEC has therefore played a major role in steering Romania's leading academics, politicians and administrators in a European direction, with financial support from European partners in Germany, Austria and France. At the same time, the NEC has helped to stimulate public debate on European issues in Romania through its conferences and publications. The network of researchers to benefit from NEC support had gradually extended to include neighbouring countries and across the world. The NEC has therefore become a powerful hub of transnational cooperation in the field of human science. I heartily recommend that the European Citizen's Prize 2014 be awarded to the Rector of the New Europe College, Mr Andrei Pleșu, founder of an institution that has made a substantial contribution throughout its existence to developing a European spirit in Romania and spreading European values in neighbouring countries and across the world.

***Cristian Dan PREDA***

## 16. Slovakia

### **MUDr. Eva Siracká, DrSc., prezidentka Ligy proti rakovine / Dr Eva Siracká M.D., president of Liga proti rakovine (League against Cancer)**

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Slovakia

at national level

Eva Siracká has devoted her entire professional life to oncology. After 20 years of clinical practice and research, in 1990 she founded Liga proti rakovine (LPR), of which she is president, in Czechoslovakia. She drew inspiration for her projects while abroad and applied her knowledge in Slovakia. Her most important projects include: the construction of 'substitute homes' for the parents of children undergoing cancer treatment in hospital; the creation of a helpline offering advice over the phone, by mail or in person; and the construction of assistance centres in Bratislava, Martin and Košice offering free services to patients, their families, the young generation and members of the public. In 1997, she launched a fund raising campaign entitled 'Daffodil Day', which – thanks to 19 years of public support – helped LPR to become the state's partner in dealing with healthcare issues. In 1998, she was a co author of the book 'Oncological Education' for secondary schools, which educates the younger generation on looking after their health. The project has been running successfully until now and has even inspired its partners abroad. In 2010, she launched the project 'Psycho social care for cancer patients and their families', which involves having psychologists provide professional services to patients and their relatives in hospitals and oncology out-patient units. In this project, Ms Siracká made use of her many years of experience, which taught her that it is also important to focus on the patient's mental state of the patient and that doing so has a positive effect on treatment. The costs of these services, which are highly praised by foreign partners, are borne by LPR.

***Ivan ŠTEFANEK***

## 17. Slovenia

### **Alojz Rebula**

Individual

Slovenia

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Slovenia

at transnational/European level

Alojz Rebula, a Slovenian writer, playwright, essayist and translator, was born on 21 July 1924 in San Pelagio (Šempolaj), a village near Trieste. For over six decades his work has straddled two cultures – Slavic and Romance. The essence of the message which radiates from his work has been the struggle for the rights of ethnic minorities, for Rebula himself belongs to one such minority. Nurturing an endangered language, one's own mother tongue, is something he sees as a value that has a European dimension. His works have addressed issues of democracy, plurality and mutual respect, and he has continually strived to overcome the dark shadows of the past and work for the common good in the spirit of upholding human dignity. He has always been a committed advocate of close cooperation between European writers, something which he has helped to forge. In Slovenia he has played a role in popularising contemporary European writers, while also promoting Slovenian literature elsewhere in Europe. A man who is both spiritual and worldly-wise, he has sought to confirm the European dimension of Slovenian culture while remaining a strong point of reference for the 'Europeanness' of Slovenia. He has been culturally and socially active throughout his career, co-editing the journals Sidro and Tokovi and being a regular contributor to Zaliv, founded by Boris Pahor. In 1951 he was arrested and kept under secret-police surveillance right up until the end of the communist period. In 1976 he was banned from entering Yugoslavia following publication of the 'Kocbek Interview', in which, together with Pahor, Rebula helped bring the post-war killings in Slovenia to public attention.

***Alojz PETERLE, Milan ZVER, Franc BOGOVIČ, Patricija ŠULIN, Romana TOMC***

## **Spomenka Hribar**

Individual

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Slovenia

at transnational/European level

Dr Spomenka Hribar, sociologist, philosopher and columnist whose wide-ranging activities in public life over several decades have led many to call her the 'conscience of Slovenian politics', has been a relentless fighter for recognition of human uniqueness, respect for the sanctity of human life and democracy as a framework for upholding human rights. These are the values which she began advocating as a student, a restless intellectual who, in battles within the former Yugoslavia's one-party system, promoted communication, reconciliation and openness as a path to liberation and democratisation. She was the editor-in-chief of the *Nova revija* journal, which heralded the onset of political pluralism and Slovenian statehood. In 1988 she played an active role in the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, and in 1990 was elected as a member of the Slovenian parliament. Hribar is the author of many books, collections, science monographs and articles. With a clear political stance and an unambiguous commitment to humane European values, she has been instrumental in building an awareness that social conflicts and divergent views of history and ideological differences can be overcome only through openness and dialogue. Her groundbreaking essay *Guilt and Sin* spoke about post-war mass killings in Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia, a topic that for many years had been kept secret. At a time when Europe and the world as a whole are riven by conflict and violations of human integrity and rights, the life's work of Spomenka Hribar is now more relevant than ever.

***Ivo VAJGL, Tanja FAJON, Igor ŠOLTES***

## 18. Spain

### **Sociedad Civil Catalana**

Association/organisation

Spain

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Spain

at national level

Sociedad Civil Catalana is an organisation set up by a group of Catalan men and women anxious to continue and promote the creation of awareness and mobilisation of people in Catalonia who support continued links with the rest of Spain and with Europe. The organisation promotes important values such as concord, coexistence, respect, tolerance and freedom of expression and dialogue. For these reasons and the extremely valuable work which it carries out in Catalonia, I feel that this organisation deserves the European Citizens' Prize.

***Santiago FISAS AYXELÀ***

## **Orden Hospitalaria de San Juan de Dios / Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God**

Association/organisation

Spain

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52 countries around the world  
at transnational/European level

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God has worked for 500 years in Spain, Europe and throughout the world to protect and help the least fortunate. At present, the Order is present in Europe in Germany, Austria, the Vatican, Spain, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It runs a total of over 180 social care and health centres in Europe. It has a strong social dimension, upholding the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, particularly those relating to social assistance under Chapter IV of the Charter. The Hospitaller Order is made up of 1 124 brothers. With the assistance of some 50 000 collaborators, they are engaged in over 300 social projects around the world, caring for almost 20 million people on five continents. In recent weeks they have gained greater visibility through public awareness of the work carried out by the Brothers of St John of God in Liberia. Just as the case of Brother Miguel Pajares, his transfer to Spain and subsequent death from Ebola has made headlines not only in Spain but worldwide, the commitment and solidarity which is the hallmark of the Order's work has always transcended borders and limitations.

***Gabriel MATO***

## **Cocina Economica de Logroño**

Association/organisation

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Spain, Colombia, Bolivia, India

at national level

The Cocina is an establishment serving all in need with no distinction made as to sex, age, condition, standing, race or nationality. Its objective is to help by selling cheap, healthy food to workers, the sick, and in general anyone who does not have the means to feed themselves or their family. While remaining true to its original aim, it has over the years moved forward to meet new needs. These include providing full board for workers and young students looking for work; old people living in difficult conditions, with no friends or family and whose physical and psychological condition has severely deteriorated; the homeless with alcoholism problems. Creating new possibilities for housing and childcare. Ever since it began it has tried to propose alternative solutions to the individual and collective problems of people who are vulnerable or in a precarious situation, forestalling hardship through different projects.

***Esther HERRANZ GARCÍA***

## 19. Sweden

ORDER OF PREFERENCE BY NATIONAL JURY:		
Members of the Jury	Order of preference	Nominee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GUTELAND Jytte</li><li>• FEDERLEY Fredrick</li><li>• ANDERSSON Max</li><li>• PAULSEN Marit</li></ul>	1	Miljötinget

### **Miljötinget / The Environmental Conference**

Association/organisation

Sweden

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Sweden

at national level

In a world in which climate and environmental challenges are growing by the day, there is a pressing need for inclusive spaces where EU citizens can both get involved and become inspired. The Environmental Conference is the Nordic countries' largest environmental event, in which young people take the lead from planning to implementation. It is supported by the Dalarna region and Gävleborg county council. The aim of the Environmental Conference is to help people learn about and improve their understanding of the challenges to society, both globally and locally. Its slogan is 'For young people – By young people'. The Environmental Conference has attracted thousands of young people between the ages of 14 and 19 since its inception in 1990. The principles of tolerance, equality and respect are the cornerstones of the organisation's vision and of its everyday activities. The Environmental Conference is a year-round event thanks to the 'Sunflower project' that is run by conference participants. The aim of the project is to make it possible for young people to organise local follow-up activities after they have taken part in the conference. It gives them an opportunity to bring about change in their local area in conjunction with other young people who share their aims. They can turn their ideas and solutions for a sustainable world into real events and activities. The Environmental Conference has been awarded a national environmental charter mark by the Keep Sweden Tidy foundation and works actively to reduce its climate footprint year on year. With this nomination I should like to highlight the hard work done by the Environmental Conference. It gives young people the practical tools they need to make a difference and get more involved in efforts to make our world sustainable. It also sets a shining example for other bodies and organisations in the EU to follow.

***Fredrick FEDERLEY***