



European Democratic Citizenship Awards

Category : Media Initiative of the Year

Name of the initiative: Comix4= Comics for Equality

Description of the Media:

Comics for Equality uses the innovative and attractive educational tools of comics produced by second generation of migrants and migrants to foster intercultural dialogue and promote a plural society, respecting and enhancing diversity among young people in Europe. In this way, the point of view of migrants themselves is disseminated among young people promoting empathy and inclusiveness. Target public include European young people, migrant artists, teachers and youth workers. The partnership, led by Africa e Mediterraneo (Italy), included Mondo (Estonia), WCIF (Bulgaria), ARCA (Romania), Grafiskie stasti (Latvia), Hamelin (Italy) and MultiKulti Collective (Bulgaria). Funders include the European Union, Chiesa Valdese, Society Integration Foundation (SIF), Carisbo foundation, with a total budget of 452.836€. The project was selected among 600 applications from 100 countries to receive one of the Intercultural Innovation Awards 2014, given by the United Nations and the BMW Group.

Impact achieved by your Media:

200 young people (12-25 years old) have participated to 15 comics workshops in 5 EU countries, from which a significant part declared in evaluation questionnaires to have changed their mind about migration positively. 41 artists uploaded 56 comics to the Comix4= Award on the project website, receiving 6.700 likes through the Facebook plug-in. 6 of them received a 1.000€ award, 7 were involved in paid professional collaborations (workshops, comics performance) within the project. 370.000 people were reached on Facebook (page still active); 1000 visitors frequented the 13 Comix4= exhibitions in 10 EU countries. 9000 Comix4= catalogue and 5000 copies of the educational toolkit were disseminated among teachers, youth workers and libraries. Outcomes include: increased awareness of young people in EU on migration and cultural diversity; increased professional opportunities for migrant artists; new multilingual tools for intercultural education available. The Comix4= project is now closed.

What makes the initiative innovative?

The Comix4= Award was the very first European Award on racism and intercultural issues addressed only to comic artists with migrant backgrounds. The innovative approach consists in including migrants and second generations – often subjects to discrimination - into the creation of an artistic tool for combating racism and gaining widespread support and cultural consensus against xenophobia. The specific point of view of artists with migrant background was never taken into account before in a comic art competition in Europe. The stories collected as part of the Comics for Equality Award present the multitude of ways in which migration can take shape and speak of those aspects the authors or their parents have lost, found or are in the process of building. Also, Comics for Equality project put a strong effort in using web 2.0 tools in order to promote engagement and involvement of the interested public.

Finally, the project innovates in the partnership. In fact, Latvia, Romania, Estonia, Bulgaria and Italy had not many occasions to work together in the field of education for intercultural understanding. This cooperation was particularly interesting and innovating as it puts in contact countries with different migration experiences and histories.

Contribution to European values:

Comics for Equality contributed to the European values of equality, pluralism, tolerance and non-discrimination. Specifically, it focused on the rights of people with a migrant origin, thus belonging to a cultural or ethnic minority.

Website or promotional materials:

www.comix4equality.eu ; www.facebook.com/Comix4equality