



European Citizenship Awards

Altinget: civilsamfund

Description of the nominee:

Altinget: civilsamfund is a new online news media about and for the civil society in Denmark. It was launched 15. September 2015.

As a new source focused exclusively on the civil society sector, Altinget: civilsamfund works as a catalyst for better governance of organisations, new partnerships, better fundraising and ultimately for a better mutually beneficiary understanding between foundations and NGOs, charities and volunteers. Furthermore, it provides inspiration for the readers through portraits about passionate entrepreneurs, volunteers and project-developers and displays new initiatives and ways to deal with challenges that the sector is facing. When summarized, one could say that Altinget: civilsamfund has become an influential instrument that helps sustaining a healthy Danish civil society through critical and inspiring journalism.

It is produced by two journalists: Carsten Terp Beck-Nilsson and Rasmus Løppenthin, supported by researchers and permanent panels of bloggers and scientists. Outreach is handled by a social media/customer-relations manager, Nina Friis. A project board ensures compliance with the project guidelines.

Impact achieved:

Altinget: civilsamfund has entered an uncovered area in the Danish media landscape and after less than a year, this news service has already been accepted as the forum where the actors in the sector break their stories (an example is Denmark's largest foundation, A. P. Møller Fonden <http://bit.ly/1rUcXgV>). It has become a forum for discussion about the framework of the entire sector with more than 100 op-ed-entries from all kinds of civil society actors (<http://bit.ly/1T5MqUH>). In addition to this, Altinget: civilsamfund has proved influential on political discussions in the parliament by bringing untold stories out in public (an example is the story about taxation of foundations <http://bit.ly/1rUmLav>).

Within the first 9 months "A: civilsamfund" reached more than 6000 subscribers.

What makes the initiative innovative?

"The project is innovative because it has shifted the political news coverage from the political actors in the parliament to the third sector of society: the charities, the foundations, and the voluntary sector. Considering that constructive journalism is an essential part of the news flow, Altinget: civilsamfund is providing inspiration and examples of best practice straight to the target group. Altinget: civilsamfund is thereby unifying a diverse and fragmented sector on a common platform to strengthen the civil society in Denmark as a whole.

The business model is also innovative. "Altinget: civilsamfundet" is independent from private, religious and governmental interests, as it is not funded by either sector. "Altinget: civilsamfund" is delivered free of charge to any interested audience as it is being sponsored by a single donation from two major Danish foundations for a period of three years. The foundations do not have any editorial influence on the project.

Contribution to European values:

"As a news media for and about the civil society, in Denmark, the project basically complies with all of the European values mentioned. "Altinget: civilsamfund" is fostering better governance for the organisations working with various aspects of the European values, and ensures that best-practice and the most important products and results are being shared, but also that the most common mistakes, and the gravest problems are displayed publically. By facilitating the civil society this way, Altinget: civilsamfund is supporting a thriving democratic society in Denmark.

Altinget, the publisher of Altinget: civilsamfund, is a politically independent online newspaper. Altinget provides specialized news about politics for political actors in their own area (examples of this is Transport, Energy and Health). One of the aims of Altinget is to strengthen the Danish democracy by ensuring easy access to information for the political sector and to general Danish citizens.

Website or promotional materials:

www.altinget.dk/civilsamfund

Examples: <http://bit.ly/1qb7aCq> <http://bit.ly/1SLOelO>