



European Citizenship Awards

United Youth Journalists

Description of the nominee:

United Youth Journalists is an international youth lead project with the vision of raising awareness of what is going on in the world in order to collaborate in building the foundations of peace and sustainability. Through reliable, impartial news sources our aim is to share and learn, writing about the issues taking place in our region of the world. As passionate youth leaders in our communities, we provide a large spectrum of stories and perspectives to our audiences.

This initiative was born in October 2014, in an online course on sustainability. Nowadays, we are a group of 77 people (editors, writers...) who have managed to reach almost 3000 people. Our articles are targeted to everyone in the world, up until now they have been written in English. However, we will be starting to translate to the different languages from our regions as we manage to grow.

This project has not required any external financing, managing to work with the free tools that technology development offers us.

Impact achieved:

One of our first major achievements was partnering with Canopy Lab to organise Journalism for youth an online course. Here we were able to share what we had learnt while starting UYJ and writing, share the opportunity of being heard with even more youngsters.

Not only that, but we came together in a series of article project called Life in ISIS, which reflected the impact of the crisis in Syria. After this series, we realised that United Youth Journalists could also give a voice to this collectives and that was confirmed with the guest journalists writing from concentration camps. Our project has given a voice to youth leaders from all over the world, no matter their situation, gender, race, sexuality, ideology, status... We have managed to create and opportunity to access human rights, not only in Europe but all over the world: from equality to dignity; justice and hope; freedom of speech to be able to achieve peace.

What makes the initiative innovative?

United Youth Journalists represents the wish of so many people around the world of working for a better future for everyone. We have managed to raise awareness about what is happening where we are and worked for a change as individuals. Our project takes profit of the development of technology and social media to give a voice to youngsters all around the world. Social media is a very important key for change, it is where the generation of the future is starting to voice its opinion and campaigns to fight injustice or raise awareness.

Our project has managed to connect these young leaders in order to work together and manage a bigger impact. As the Spanish saying says ""muchos pocos hacen unos solo"", ""many bits make an entire thing"". We hope this entire thing will be the change society needs.

Contribution to European values:

While voicing our opinions we are contributing to the freedom of speech everyone deserves and we take advantage of this to denounce any kind of injustice that we encounter: equality (in education, LGBT rights, economic crisis...), human rights (Life in ISIS...); non-discrimination (the organization per se promotes interculturality, the linking of people no matter their background and that is a way of fighting discrimination); sustainability with the many environmental articles we have written (a lot of them from our writers from Brazil about Amazonas)... However, these values are not the only ones the organization promotes. It does not appear in the list, but critical thinking is one of the main characteristics our members try to implement.

Website or promotional materials:

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

<https://unitedyouthjournalists.com/>

<https://twitter.com/UYJournalists>