



*The Innovation in Politics Institute*  
**Innovation in Politics Award**  
80 Courageous & Creative Political Projects

Das Innovation in Politics Institute mit Hauptsitz in Wien hat sich dem Ziel verschrieben, innovativen Projekten in der politischen Arbeit aus ganz Europa eine Bühne zu bieten. Dieser Prämierung liegt das Votum von mehr als 1000 europäischen Staatsbürgerinnen und -bürgern zugrunde. Die Preise werden jährlich in den Kategorien Zivilisation, Gemeinwesen, Demokratie, Ökologie, Menschenrechte, Arbeit, Gesellschaftliches Wohlergehen und Lebensqualität vergeben.

Das pdf stellt die Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger des Jahres 2019 in Texten und Bildern vor.

The Innovation in Politics Institute located in Vienna, Austria, was established to identify and recognise innovative projects of political work from all over Europe. Every year, a jury of more than 1000 European citizens elects the winners of the award in eight different categories: Civilisation, Community, Democracy, Ecology, Human Rights, Jobs, Prosperity, Quality of Life.

The pdf presents the project descriptions of all finalists' projects in 2019.

The Innovation in Politics Institute

# Innovation in Politics Award

80 Courageous & Creative Political Projects

Schriftenreihe Band 10618



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**The Innovation in Politics Awards 2019**

take place under the joint patronage of  
**the Federal President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier**  
and  
**the Federal President of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen.**

Our values are diverse – conservative, social democratic, green, liberal and more – but we all want to live in a free and democratic Europe. Therefore, we need to improve and strengthen democratic politics in Europe.

Every year, this book presents 80 exemplary political projects. We bring the work of courageous and creative politicians to the fore so that it may serve as a source of inspiration to others.

### **The founders and partners of The Innovation in Politics Awards**

Dalia Bankauskaitė, Małgorzata Bonikowska, Stephen Boucher, Helfried Carl, Alexander Dourchev, Jürgen H. Gangoly, Daniel Heller, Jakob Huber, Fidelma Joyce, Patricia Kahane, Julia Kozak, Josef Lentsch, Lena Morozova-Friha, Philippe Narval, Joan O’Flynn, Dorina Ofrim, Lisa Pelling, Alpo Räinen, Dimitris Roulias, Sven Eric Scheuerling, David Schoibl, Dominic Schwickert, Paul M. Sills, Martin Slater, Edward Strasser, Elke Zuckermann, Ronny Zuckermann



# CONTENTS

---

- 10 **Acknowledgements**
- 12 **Preface:** Edward Strasser, Josef Lentsch, and Patricia Kahane
- 22 **Keynote:** Dr. Hilary Cottam. There will also be Singing:  
A Relational Politics for the 21st Century
- 212 **Majority – Let’s play Democracy**
- 218 **Team**
- 220 **Artists**

# PROJECTS PROJECTS PROJECTS

## CIVILISATION

- 38 **Accessible Tourism for All** » BULGARIA
- 40 **A New Public Library Strategy: Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities** » IRELAND
- 42 **Creative Ireland Programme** » IRELAND
- 44 **Fee** » AUSTRIA
- 46 **Fostering the City’s Common Goods** » ITALY
- 48 **Innovative Schools: Improving Educational Quality** » BULGARIA
- 50 **Kaunas Challenge** » LITHUANIA
- 52 **Play and Code with Minecraft** » POLAND
- 54 **Smart Library** » BULGARIA
- 56 **Youth Start – Empowering Each Child** » AUSTRIA

## COMMUNITY

---

- 60 **Connected Communities** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 62 **Create Lithuania** » LITHUANIA
- 64 **Free Polish Lessons** » POLAND
- 66 **Frome Community Fridge** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 68 **Humanitas Retirement Village** » NETHERLANDS
- 70 **Longford Nua** » IRELAND
- 72 **Metamorphosis Against Food Waste** » GREECE
- 74 **Open Schools of Athens** » GREECE
- 76 **synAthina** » GREECE
- 78 **Low-Cost Student Flat-Sharing  
in the Ehpad** » FRANCE

## DEMOCRACY

---

- 82 **Cooperative Council Groningen** » NETHERLANDS
- 84 **E-Sports and Politics Live  
from the Swedish Parliament** » SWEDEN
- 86 **Ferla Agorà – Ideas Square** » ITALY
- 88 **Fluicity** » FRANCE
- 90 **Frankfurt Democracy Convention 2019** » GERMANY
- 92 **Learn Before you Vote** » LITHUANIA
- 94 **Molenlanden** » NETHERLANDS
- 96 **Open Think Tank Network** » SWITZERLAND
- 98 **Talking to Each Other! Citizens' Workshop** » GERMANY
- 100 **Year of Democracy** » GERMANY

## ECOLOGY

---

- 104 **100% Fossil Free Public Transport in Skåne** » SWEDEN
- 106 **#MPF – Milano Plastic Free** » ITALY
- 108 **First Cigarette Butt-Free Greek Beach** » GREECE
- 110 **Divestment from Fossil Fuels** » IRELAND
- 112 **green.LAB Graz** » AUSTRIA
- 114 **InnovationCity Ruhr - Bottrop Model City** » GERMANY
- 116 **Jobticket** » AUSTRIA
- 118 **Local Solutions to Global Challenges** » FINLAND
- 120 **UK Climate Emergency Network** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 122 **Ungersheim – a Municipality in Transition** » FRANCE

## HUMAN RIGHTS

---

- 126 **Active Café** » POLAND
- 128 **Athboy Walkability and Inclusive Town Developments** » IRELAND
- 130 **Helping Teenagers Imagine their Future** » ITALY
- 132 **Katrineholm – the first LGBTQ-certified Municipality in Sweden** » SWEDEN
- 134 **On the Trail of Prejudices in Cz stochowa** » POLAND
- 136 **Reproductive Justice** » IRELAND
- 138 **Safe Harbours** » GERMANY
- 140 **Your Vote Your Voice** » IRELAND
- 142 **Tackling Discrimination on the Rental Housing Market** » BELGIUM
- 144 **The Wonder Garden: a Social Enterprise for more Opportunities** » BULGARIA

## JOBS

- 148 **Be-More** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 150 **FabriQ – The Social Enterprise Incubator** » ITALY
- 152 **House of Skills** » NETHERLANDS
- 154 **Housing First, Örebro** » SWEDEN
- 156 **Karjeras – Lithuania’s First One-Stop Career Centre** » LITHUANIA
- 158 **Moyross Training at The Bays** » IRELAND
- 160 **Professional Knowledge and Skills Base for Prisoners** » FRANCE
- 162 **Quality Services for the Residents of Guostagalis** » LITHUANIA
- 164 **The Digital Tool – QIOZ** » FRANCE
- 166 **Stay in Norsjö – it pays off** » SWEDEN

## PROSPERITY

- 170 **A Digital Appointment with your Doctor** » SWEDEN
- 172 **City of Omegna Masterplan** » ITALY
- 174 **Competent Teachers - Entrepreneurial Youths** » FINLAND
- 176 **Creative Transformations** » POLAND
- 178 **DigitalKidZ STEM Club** » BULGARIA
- 180 **GovTech Lab** » LITHUANIA
- 182 **Plymouth’s Social Enterprise Investment Fund** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 184 **Regulatory Sandboxes** » GERMANY
- 186 **Sweden’s First Social Impact Bonds** » SWEDEN
- 188 **The Örebro Model: Housing for the Many** » SWEDEN

## QUALITY OF LIFE

---

- 192 **Age-Friendly Ireland** » IRELAND
- 194 **Good Support – A System of Local Services** » POLAND
- 196 **Healthy Eating in Nurseries** » BULGARIA
- 198 **Library of Sports** » SWEDEN
- 200 **Małopolska Tele-Angel** » POLAND
- 202 **Modular Housing Sites  
for Homeless Families in Ealing** » UNITED KINGDOM
- 204 **Municipal Flats for Senior Citizens  
in the Centre of Ostrów Wielkopolski** » POLAND
- 206 **Smart City Bad Hersfeld** » GERMANY
- 208 **Summer City Camps in Vienna** » AUSTRIA
- 210 **Taming Adulthood** » POLAND

## IMPRESSUM

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INNOVATION  
IN POLITICS  
INSTITUTE**

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**Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin**, welcomes our guests and finalists of the Awards and participates himself in our conference Politics, Coffee & Cake – thank you very much for your involvement and support!

We appreciate very much the distribution of an online version of this book by the **German Federal Agency for Civic Education**, to be downloaded free of charge at [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de).

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We want to thank **all politicians who submitted their projects** to the awards. They value our initiative and they trust us – as we trust them!

We thank **all scouts all over Europe**, who in 2019 identified more than 400 great political projects.

**1,067 jurors from all countries of the Council of Europe** made a great effort to provide fair-minded judgements on all submitted projects, enabling us to present to you 80 selected finalists. We thank them for their crucial contribution, their responsibility and their time.

Many thanks to all members of our team, our friends, and those who support our initiative with their excellent work: **Elisabeth Bartovics, Barbara Brunsteiner, Simona Budeva, Elena Cerutti, Roberta Constantini, Alexander Czjzek, Bernhard Drumel, Clara El Hoty, Paulina Fröhlich, Georg Gangoly, Dunja Ganser, Nicola Gold, Lukas Graf, Fabian Hablützel, Amadea Horvath, Melanie Koravitsch, Magdalena Lindorfer, Emil Mihov, Alissar Najjar, Margherita Pacileo, Anjuli Patel, Sebastian Philipp, Andrii Prisiechnyi, Kertu Rattus, Maria-Elsa Salvo, Samuel Schaab, Anna Scisłowska, Roman Snehotta, Eleni Revekka Staiou, Markus Stefan, Harald Ströbel, Laura Thomas, Galyna Tkachenko, Ekaterina Toseva, Annamária Tóth, Benjamin Urbanek, Stefanos Vitoratos, Elias Vormayr, Martin Wolfram, Marie Wutzler, Joe Zehetner, Michael Zerz and Paul Zuckermann.**

Please accept our heartfelt thanks – and enjoy our joint success.

**The founders and partners of  
The Innovation in Politics Institute**



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### **BRINGING TOGETHER THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN POLITICS**

Do you want to speed up making your city free of carbon emissions? Does creating more digital jobs sound good and you also want those to provide a high quality of employment? Do you believe it is a good idea to bring citizens closer to politics?

If you say yes to any or all of the above, you belong here. In this book you will find descriptions of some of the most creative political projects in Europe. Thanks to courageous mayors, councillors, ministers and members of parliaments from various parties, there are state-of-the-art solutions already in place somewhere for almost every political issue.

I want to thank all politicians who contributed by presenting their initiatives. You are doing what many citizens have long been waiting for: making politics work in the 21st century.

The idea of politicians from different parties sharing their know-how across borders still seems odd to some people: free-market-lovers, distribution-of-wealth-guys and save-the-planet-from-combustion-people – is not that like expecting cats and dogs to play peacefully together? That will not work, they say.

But apparently, it does work. The need to improve politics is becoming more important and it is better to learn from other ideas than to fail.

However, in spite of the creative work done by so many politicians, we still have not figured out how to solve some of the toughest questions in Europe:

1. Our common sense tells us that isolated countries in Europe do not have a chance in the global economy if acting on their own. Yet we cling to the fantasy of proud nations deciding their own stimulus packages and social systems.
2. A vast number of meteorologists have shown us where the current path of global warming is headed. Still we hope that all of this will play out nicely without any need for rigorous action.
3. We can feel that democracy is endangered by aggressive new movements flooding our political culture with hate. Still many of us hope that their outdated ways of doing politics will become successful again.

These mammoth tasks cannot be solved by a single individual, not by a single party family and certainly not by a single country. To ensure a strong and flourishing Europe, in which we can live in freedom and in social balance, we must gather the brightest minds in politics, stick them together into a room and let them build a strong network to create new initiatives that bring us forward.

And in case you have not noticed: that is exactly what we are doing.

You are welcome to join us!

**Edward Strasser**

Founder, The Innovation in Politics Institute



## **GERMANY AS A POWERHOUSE OF POLITICAL INNOVATION**

Innovation has a long tradition in Germany. Measured by new patents or research and development intensity, it is one of the world's most innovative countries. Germany today is also among the world's freest countries. Freedom of expression and other fundamental rights are enshrined in its fundamental law and protected by its liberal democracy.

But 30 years after the historic reunion, Germany, like many other Western democracies, is once again experiencing a transition. Many citizens are not satisfied anymore with how politics works. The political landscape is realigning. Anti-democratic forces have entered parliaments.

This makes political innovation imperative. And in fact, political innovators are at work in Germany on all political levels. This is highlighted by the 7 German finalists at this year's Innovation in Politics Awards. They were selected by an independent jury of 1,067 European citizens out of 402 projects across 40 countries.

Among these German political innovators are Mayors, a Federal Minister and a State Prime Minister. They had the courage to try something new – and it worked. Rarely do these success stories get the attention and appreciation they deserve. Our role at the Innovation in Politics Institute Germany is therefore to identify good practice across parties and political levels, to help develop it further and to facilitate its application in new contexts.

Germany's political future is already in the making – in this book, we are proud to present some examples of tomorrow's politics, today.

**Josef Lentsch**

CEO, Innovation in Politics Institute Germany



## **THE AWARDS ARE LIKE A POWER STATION SUPPLYING FUEL FOR DEMOCRACY**

We live in interesting times. While new technologies, material wealth and the general level of education in our societies would allow for big advances in social cohesion and democratic practices alike, we are almost inundated on a daily basis with bad news about the erosion of democracy and ever-widening social and societal gaps.

Democracy can only exist with democrats: citizens, who are actively engaged in the search for the positive common denominator, trying to realise the best possible outcome for everybody and including and protecting minorities and their rights at the same time. Hence democracy is about process, but also about result: to overcome social divisions and those who have an interest in spreading them.

For this to happen, we need to be inventive. And once we have found new solutions to political problems, we must make sure these new approaches are shared as widely as possible. This is the added value of the Innovation in Politics Awards: they not only give hope, an important resource for democrats, but provide concrete and proven practical examples of how to make the world a better place in a democratic manner. They are like a power station supplying fuel for democracy.

This democratic fuel - a genuinely renewable resource – is generated by the innovative leaders participating in the awards. I would like to congratulate and to thank all of them for their important contribution to our democratic European societies.

**Patricia Kahane**

Founder, The Innovation in Politics Institute













**Dr. Hilary Cottam**

### SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Hilary is an internationally acclaimed social entrepreneur whose work in Britain and around the world has focused on designing collaborative and affordable solutions to the big social challenges of our time: challenges such as ageing, loneliness, chronic disease, good work and inequality. Hilary's book *Radical Help: How We Can Remake the Relationships Between Us & Revolutionise the Welfare State* was published by Virago LittleBrown in June 2018. She has been recognised by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader and in 2005 was named UK Designer of the Year for her transformative social practice. Hilary's TED talk "Social Services Are Broken" has had three quarters of a million views. Hilary continues to support communities and governments around the world to grow and extend an approach to social change which puts capability, relationships and deep human connection at its heart. She is an Honorary Professor at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

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# THERE WILL ALSO BE SINGING: A RELATIONAL POLITICS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

On the streets of London last month there was singing. There were choirs, there was music provided by rogue sound systems erected on London's bridges and there was dancing. Images of police escorting a giant pink octopus puppet to Trafalgar Square in the centre of the city, while protesters performed around them, went viral. Similar scenes unfolded in many European capitals.

This was an unruly, jubilant form of politics, but it was one born of frustration. The organisers and participants of Extinction Rebellion are demanding that the climate crisis be taken seriously and that political leaders act. They are responding with creativity to the fact that neither their voices nor those of independent scientists are being heard. We face, in the words of Ulrike Guérot, an 'unbearable democratic deficit'. And all around us we see the responses to this deficit. Some of us sing, others take to darker methods, angry that our political, legal, financial and social systems seem unable to hear us, include us or rise to the many challenges we face.

What is the role of politics today in creating the good life? What can professional public servants offer with regard to the big questions we face: from climate change to migration; from the need for new

economies to the creation of good work? How can we heal the deficit? The failure of our politics dismays not only the protesters.

It is also disorienting to those who have dedicated themselves to a life of political service yet find themselves unable to make change, reduced – in the words of the Brazilian political theorist – to humanisers of the inevitable.

This evening I want to ask you whether we can imagine a different role for politicians: as experimenters, connectors and designers of the new? Could we find new ways to connect to the energy that is in fact all around us and create a different form of relational politics?

I am a designer of future welfare systems. The same questions that face modern politics are those I must confront in my work. I must ask whether the role of modern welfare systems is to manage the needs and crises of those who inevitably fail to thrive in our divided societies, or whether we might dare to dream again and design new systems that would enable every life to sing.

Across Europe our welfare systems have been a source of pride, but today they appear tattered and out of step. Our services are sometimes able to manage a crisis but rarely to create lasting change.

**ARCHITECTS OF OUR  
WELFARE STATES DESIGNED  
THEIR POST WAR SYSTEMS  
AROUND A CORE SERVICE  
OF SUPPORT: HELP TO  
FIND WORK.**



Let's take work. Good work is at the heart of flourishing economies, communities and loving family life. We have always known this. It is why the architects of our welfare states designed their postwar systems around a core service of support: help to find work.

Today these same employment services are still on offer across Europe. If you are out of work, you can join a queue and access a service which would look familiar to a job seeker from 70 years ago. There are now computers on the desks and much of the work is done online, but underneath the service logic remains the same. It is remarkable in fact that these services, designed in the middle of the last century, also vary little between our nations. In Denmark, for example, the offer is more

personal and better funded than a similar service in my own country, Britain. However, the core of what is on offer across Europe is the same: help with responding to job adverts and financial benefits. When I spend time in these services, I meet people joining the queue for the second, the third and sometimes the fifteenth time. It is not surprising – the world of work has changed dramatically since the 1950s. Today, for most people, work is temporary and insecure. The chance to progress within work to a better position is vanishingly small. And there is something else too: most work today is found through word of mouth. Today, eight out of ten jobs are not advertised. The best route into work is something not available from our welfare services: a robust network of diverse relationships.

Some years ago, I wanted to see if it was possible to design an alternative approach. I set up a false door in an employment centre in South London where I live. 'Get me Out of Here' read the huge poster I put up on the door. I asked anyone who wanted to try a different approach to finding and creating good work to come through. I charged each person about €5, but so many people wanted to come through the door that I had to keep raising the price by the hour. Those queuing for advice and benefits within the employment service know the approach does not work and they are desperate to escape the shame and the humiliation and to try a different approach.

I work with people like Earl. Earl has trouble holding down any job and has a criminal record for petty drug dealing. He wants to be a chef, but the employment service thinks that's impossible, in fact they think it's a joke. They want Earl to take a cleaning job which he finds demeaning. I invited Earl and the many others that came through my door that day to help me design a new service.

Together we create simple tools to break down our problems and tell new stories. We organise social gatherings in public places to connect people in and out of work together. We don't ask people about their formal qualifications, we ask them what they dream of and then we connect those who need support to others who might help them with the first step of the journey. Using simple digital devices – mobile phones and simple data base systems – we can work with

many at low cost. Randomised control trials show our approach cost one fifth of current services, fostered skills and enabled 87 percent of members to make progress in or towards work.

I am describing a new approach to finding good work. But I have successfully used the same principles to design new approaches to old age, to support families in long-term crisis, to prevent and manage chronic health conditions and to enable young people to thrive. All these approaches are low-cost, they include as many people as possible, they connect people together in new ways and they seek to foster capability (as opposed to traditional approaches that manage need).

The capability approach is, according to one of its founders – the philosopher Martha Nussbaum, a counter-culture. Nussbaum describes how we need a granular understanding of the lives of others if

**THE RESULT IS RAGE,  
NOT CHANGE.**



we are to lead effective change. And she contrasts this with the worlds of policy and politics that are governed by elites who rarely take the time to walk in the shoes of others. The result is that political visions (Nussbaum says biases) collide with the messy reality of our lives and failure is inevitable. The result is rage, not change.

In contrast, the ways of working that I am describing invert this perspective: starting from people's lives and with the collaboration of Earl and others who are living with the challenges we are seeking to address. This is 21st-century welfare. It starts where you are and instead of commanding change or trying to fix you, it offers support to grow capability. The shift in power entailed not only creates lasting change in people's lives, I think it also prefigures a new form of participatory politics.

We face three big changes in our societies. Changes that are rendering our current institutions and approaches redundant. The first of these three changes is the nature of the problems we face. Today's problems, from the creation of good work to addressing demographic change, from preventing chronic health conditions to combatting climate change – require new forms of problem solving. Change today requires our broad participation and the motivation of thousands of

everyday activities. However the systems we have inherited try instead to command change as they keep at arms length where – like Stan in the job service queue – it is believed we can be safely managed. Today, commanding change no longer works.

**CHANGE TODAY REQUIRES  
OUR BROAD PARTICIPATION  
AND THE MOTIVATION  
OF THOUSANDS OF  
EVERY-DAY ACTIVITIES.**

.....

Secondly, there is a deep shift in our socio-economic structures affecting how we live, work and relate to one another. Our welfare systems, for example, were designed around concepts of a nuclear family with a

male breadwinner and a housewife who would take care of the children, elderly relatives and if necessary the neighbours. Our political systems were designed in the same era, when occasional visits to the ballot box and a wide-spread deferential trust in a paternal ruling class was the norm. This world has gone and today the institutions it gave birth to seem out of step with modern lives, unable to care for us in the case of our welfare systems or represent us in the case of our political systems.

Thirdly, we face new and entrenched forms of poverty. In many of our nations, including my own, deep inequality is disfiguring our societies. This poverty is closely related to the challenges of work. In Britain, for example, most people who are poor are in work, but their wages are so low they find themselves still dependent on welfare systems.

And there is a new form of poverty that is strangling us – the poverty of relationships. We don't know each other anymore. The digital economy is widening the economic gaps between us – between those earning the dizzying sums enabled by the algorithms of high finance and those doing the traditional work – of care for example – living precarious lives on low wages.

These gaps in income are reflected in chasms of geography – the wealthy are concentrated in a few neighbourhoods. Increasingly we don't live near each other, join the same clubs or do things together. This matters because as social research shows – it is our relationships and who we know that will predict our life chances: what kind of job we will get, our health, our happiness and how we will age.

**THERE IS A NEW  
FORM OF POVERTY THAT  
IS STRANGLING  
US – THE POVERTY  
OF RELATIONSHIPS**

.....

Technology sits at the heart of all these changes. We are in the midst of a technology revolution, one that started in 1971 with the development of the microchip and is now accelerating rapidly to embrace robots, artificial intelligence and biotechnology. This revolution is transforming our politics, our economies, our societies and our minds at unprecedented speed and breadth and in ways that we cannot juggle alone.

History shows us that technology revolutions create paradigm change – new ways of thinking, working, living and organising, new dreams and aspirations. Technology revolutions create new challenges and they produce new possibilities. In this context, tinkering with our political institutions, social frameworks or economic regulations will not be enough. Instead we must create anew the conditions for universal flourishing in ways that are generative for all people and for our planet.

The experiments and innovations of this year's Innovation in Politics finalists show us what could be. From new forms of sharing to the design of new libraries and public spaces, from new approaches to learning to experiments in digital democracy, these innovations draw on what is abundant now: educated populations who want to take part, a new generation that wants to share and live together in new ways, a desire to collaborate and build the new. To create the systemic transitions we require, we need these and many more experiments.

And we need something else. We need four sets of actors within our societies to collaborate in new ways. The change we need cannot be oppositional – the challenges are too immediate and too big. Instead we need to weave new relationships between the organic intellectuals – those who can produce new ideas inspiring our imaginations; organised civil society – those who bring creativity, knowledge and above all lived experience of new forms of living and organising; new industrialists – those who, walking in the footsteps of their enlightened forbearers, will dare to challenge their peers, believing that a new era is only possible with the design of new social systems and norms for labour; and the state – a new generation of politicians and public

leaders who will dare to forge new alliances and design the new frameworks within which we can grow and create.

**TO CREATE THE SYSTEMIC  
TRANSITIONS WE REQUIRE,  
WE NEED MANY MORE  
EXPERIMENTS.**

.....

Our postwar welfare systems of which we have been so proud came into being through experimentation and combined radical action in each of these sectors. Again and again, history shows us that all four sectors of society must step forward, but history also tells us that the most critical of the four is the state. The state is a convener – it can bring the other groups together and set the tone of the conversation that must follow. Critically, only politics can set the agenda. Only public leaders can be the architect of the framework which makes the myriad actions and experiments of others add up to something bigger and different.

However here we face the greatest challenge because we are reliant on a state and form of politics that too often struggles to make change because its own structures and cultures resemble the world we need to leave behind. Despite the efforts and intentions of many brilliant and committed individuals, our state institutions and politics are out of step.

Today state institutions and modern politics operate as stratified vertical institutions. Like employment services, our health services and our education services, politics resembles an industrial production line. The hierarchies and the mindsets are those of command and control. Citizens are held at a managed distance – we can be engaged with in episodic moments and in forms of performative politics, but we are not asked to make the rules nor are we invited to work together as peers.

Just as Stan cannot find good work in such a system, so we cannot build good lives. 20th-century industrial politics cannot tackle the challenges of today. And it cannot connect to the energy that abounds around us. Today we talk of constructing new forms of participative democracy, but when the young take to the streets, wanting to design and live in new generative ways, to be heard and to engage, they are dismissed as ‘anarchists with a smile’ or worse greeted with pepper spray and violence.

**OUR FUTURE WILL BE  
CREATED THROUGH HUMAN  
CONNECTION AND THROUGH  
THE DESIGN OF NEW SYSTEMS  
AND NORMS THAT SUPPORT  
THIS HORIZONTAL WAY OF  
WORKING.**

.....

Our future will be created through human connection and through the design of new systems and norms that support this horizontal way of working. A radical politics would be dedicated to making this happen; to forging new forms of collaboration, to engaging with new forms of energy, facilitating those with different lived experiences to come together, to sharing their power in new, distributed ways.

How can we start to practice this new politics? Thousands of years ago, Aristotle was asked a surprisingly similar question.

He suggested singing in a choir. Choirs, he argued, were a cornerstone of both a flourishing democracy and a sense of individual wellbeing. Being together, blending one's voice with others, creating through committed practice. The finalists here this evening have, metaphorically at least, been singing together -they have not pontificated on a modern form of politics, instead they have joined with others and practiced something new. I am sure at times this new way of working has felt uncomfortable – sometimes in the choir we cannot quite reach the note or we lose the harmony, but through doing, practicing and collaborating they have created examples of the new.

In the dark times, Brecht told us, there will also be singing. In many ways our times feel dark, but the new is all around us – we can see it this evening in the projects of the finalists and in the new bonds we are making here. This is the start of a new form of relational politics rooted in capability and horizontal connection.

CIVILISATION  
Table 3









**COURAGE** BEATS PREJUDICE.

**80 FINALISTS » 8 WINNERS.**



CATEGORY

# CIVILISATION

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# CIVILISATION

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**Website:**

[www.accessrilatour.com](http://www.accessrilatour.com)

# ACCESSIBLE TOURISM FOR ALL



**Georgi Kabzimalski**  
Mayor of Rila Municipality

## **Tourists with disabilities can now visit sites with the assistance of specially trained guides.**

The Municipality of Rila offers the first service for accessible tourism on its territory by providing assistants for tourists with disabilities. Tourists with disabilities who visit the sights in Rila can now choose and book personal assistance guides via a website specially created for this service. The thirty trained personal assistance guides were economically inactive and unemployed before they were prepared and trained to start working as personal assistants and guides for tourists with specific needs.

The overall objective of the project was to improve access to employment and social inclusion for unemployed and disadvantaged people in the municipality and the specific objective was to create and popularise the service which provides accessible tourism for people with disabilities. This service leads to the better inclusion and integration of people with physical disabilities and has an additional impact since tourism has a positive social and psychological effect on people with physical disabilities.

# CIVILISATION



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# A NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGY: INSPIRING, CONNECTING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



**Michael Ring**

TD, Minister for Rural  
and Community Development

## **Irish libraries evolve into accessible community hubs that meet the needs of their communities.**

‘Our A New Public Library Strategy – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities’ was launched in 2018, as part of the My Open Library service. The aim is to make libraries better able to meet the needs of the public in an ever-changing society. In 2018, an 8 million Euro investment in ICT equipment and software allowed libraries to meet the growing digital and technological demands of modern society. The strategy also seeks to improve access, use and visibility of libraries, developing them as community hubs. The My Open Library service will be extended to a hundred branches by 2022.

Irish libraries are evolving and innovating, and not just digitally – they are now being used to address national health issues. Improving health and wellbeing for people in all communities is a national priority and public libraries are well-positioned to support this. Healthy Ireland is a national strategy focused on illness prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer. Public libraries are now delivering the nationwide Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, which provides valuable health and wellbeing information for communities.

# CIVILISATION



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# CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME



**Josepha Madigan**

TD and Minister for Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

## **The creativity of Irish citizens is supported and promoted through its integration into public policy.**

The Creative Ireland Programme is a five-year government initiative to place creativity at the centre of public policy. Led by Minister Josepha Madigan of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, this programme proposes that participation in cultural and creative activities promotes individual, community and national wellbeing. Two and a half years in, the programme is realising this proposition by devising and facilitating a range of innovative and empowering initiatives to support the creative potential of Irish citizens.

The programme promotes understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms, engages and influences decision-makers to embed creativity in public policy, and supports and enables participation in creative activities. It is built around five pillars: 1. Enabling the creative potential of our young people; 2. Creative communities; 3. Investing in our creative and cultural infrastructure; 4. Ireland as a centre of creative excellence; 5. Our global reputation. The programme's collaborative approach, working across sectors, government and state agencies, combined with a powerful vision and strong leadership, has facilitated a transformational change in the perception of creativity as a catalyst for positive change for Irish citizens.

## Ehrenamtsbörse der Stadt Graz



fee ist ein Netzwerk für alle, die sich für die Gesellschaft engagieren wollen. Geben Sie Ihre Kriterien ein und finden Sie eine Möglichkeit sich freiwillig, in verschiedenen Bereichen und Organisationen, zu betätigen. Sie werden gebraucht!

### Ich habe Zeit

#### Wochentag

Montag  Dienstag  Mittwoch  Donnerstag  Freitag  Samstag  Sonntag

#### Tageszeit

Früh  Vormittag  Mittag  Nachmittag  Abend  Nacht

#### Zeitaufwand pro Woche

0,5 h  1 h  2 h  4 h  6 h  8 h  10 h  12 h

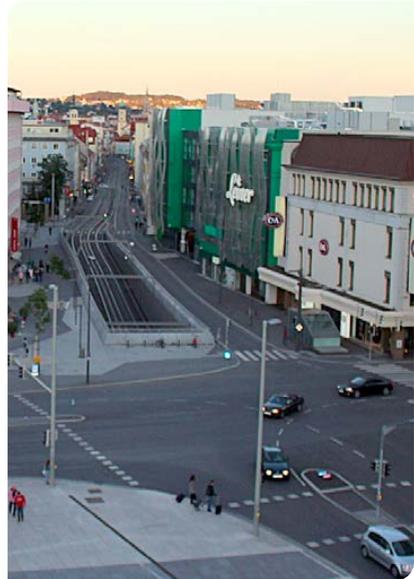
### Mein Interessensgebiet

- |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> alle             | <input type="checkbox"/> Integration       | <input type="checkbox"/> Soziales     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beratung         | <input type="checkbox"/> Katastrophenhilfe | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Besuchsdienst    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kinderbetreuung   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiere        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bildung          | <input type="checkbox"/> Kultur            | <input type="checkbox"/> Umwelt       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Büroarbeit       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lernhilfe         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wissenschaft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flüchtlingshilfe | <input type="checkbox"/> Rettungsdienst    |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gemeinwesen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniorinnen       |                                       |

### Ich bin in Besitz von

- Erste Hilfe Kurs  
 Führerschein B  
 Führerschein C

SUCHE STARTEN



### Email:

stadtrat.hohensinner@stadt.graz.at

### Website:

graz.volunteerlife.xyz

# FEE



**Kurt Hohensinner**  
City Senator

## **This online platform makes it easy for volunteers to find the placements that suit them best.**

The City of Graz's volunteer exchange (Ehrenamtsbörse) brings together people who want to get involved in their leisure time with organisations that need support. The voluntary exchange 'FEE' stands for 'freiwillig, engagiert und ehrenamtlich' (optional, committed and voluntary) and is a free online platform where citizens can find organisations that suit their talents.

FEE offers interested parties a simple, practical search function, tailored to their personal needs. You simply enter your search criteria – for example, your available time and desired area of work such as tutoring, office work or visiting services – and the online service provides possible vacancies. Demand is constantly updated and maintained by the volunteer organisations.



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**Email:**

[urp@comune.verona.it](mailto:urp@comune.verona.it)

## FOSTERING THE CITY'S COMMON GOODS



### **Stefano Bertacco**

Executive Councillor in charge of  
Social Services, Social Tourism,  
Employment, Education, Personnel,  
Municipality of Verona

Over five weeks in the summer of 2019 and 2020, young people, 14-19 years old, can apply to become Active Citizens in the care of their city. 380 young people are involved this year, with the same number or more expected to participate next summer. The Council coordinates the identification of Common Goods to be enhanced, through the expertise of the central and territorial offices, creating a synergy between institutions, youth and communities. The interventions are intended to foster the City's common heritage, both material (maintenance of street furniture such as benches, gates and public playgrounds), and immaterial (urban greenery).

# CIVILISATION

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# INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS: IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY



**Krasimir Valchev**  
Minister of Education and Science

**Innovative Schools are recognised for their inspiring work and encouraged to support other schools to follow in their footsteps.**

Innovative Schools is a model for building a new educational paradigm through which students can improve their educational outcomes and enhance their critical thinking and creativity through innovative educational processes, teaching methods, school leadership and learning strategies. In order to be considered innovative, schools have to show that they have improved the quality of education by introducing innovative elements, redeveloping the curriculum, or introducing new programmes.

Innovative Schools also need to create, develop and share materials so that other schools can learn about relevant innovations and the steps they need to take to adopt these innovations. Obtaining an Innovative School status enables the headteacher and their team to gain more freedom in organising the learning process and the teaching plan. The Innovative School status also encourages schools to grow and introduce new learning methods, while drawing on experiences.

# CIVILISATION



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## KAUNAS CHALLENGE



**Visvaldas  
Matijošaitis**  
Mayor of  
Kaunas city



**Sandra  
Karnilavičiūtė**  
Programme  
Coordinator



**Evelina  
Suscickyte**  
Programme  
Curator

### **Young participants are invited to solve cultural challenges in their home city.**

Kaunas's 2022 youth programme 'Kaunas Challenge' presents a youth empowerment practice, which is adaptable and helps involve youngsters in solving the cultural challenges of the city. The programme offers various ways for students to grow their social competences, with seminars that are focused on encouraging personal growth. The young participants are aware of the organisation and its goals and are also involved in improving the programme, giving them ownership and the opportunity to join the team during or after the programme.

There are no boundaries in creating this social and cultural project that adds true value to the city and fosters creativity. The participants work in teams to create something that will lead to real change, creating products, services or projects designed with the input of the target audience. For given challenges, youngsters are provided with guidelines, mentors for each group and, if needed, other professionals from the cultural field. The challenge gives participants real-life experience and the Kaunas Challenge environment is a safe place to fail, learn and develop with the projects. This project adds value both for the city and the individuals involved.

# CIVILISATION



**Website:**  
[www.minecraft.ereszow.pl/](http://www.minecraft.ereszow.pl/)

# PLAY AND CODE WITH MINECRAFT



**Tadeusz Ferenc**  
Mayor of Rzeszów

## **Using computer games to teach computer programming to children.**

The aim of this project is to provide extra-curricular classes in computer science, in all primary schools in Rzeszów. The subject of these classes will be to learn programming based on one of the most popular Minecraft games in the world – Education Edition, which is in fact an educational tool using a popular game as part of the teaching process.

Several dozen computer science teachers from Rzeszów primary schools have already been trained in how to use Minecraft during classes. During the workshops, the teachers learned how to use the game to teach programming to children. Programming is a key skill in the modern world, but it is difficult to master, so it must be taught in a way that is attractive for the students.

# CIVILISATION



## SMART LIBRARY



**Kalin Kamenov**  
Mayor of Vratsa Municipality

### **Reducing information isolation by providing computer literacy training for older people in Vratsa.**

The 'Smart Lib' is a communication centre in a library in Vratsa that serves the technological needs of local people over 55 years old. It aims to help overcome the social exclusion that affects nearly 45 percent of the older inhabitants in the area, by giving them access to mobile devices and applications.

Initially, computer literacy training was conducted for nearly 100 users and 24 library specialists from the towns of Vratsa, Mizia and Byala Slatina, who will continue the project by passing on what they have learned. The Smart Lib increases the quality of life of people over 55 in the Vratsa district and reduces their information isolation, preparing them for e-government services and expanding their skills and capabilities.

# CIVILISATION

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## YOUTH START - EMPOWERING EACH CHILD



**Maria Hutter**  
State Councillor

### **A unique educational programme designed to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit.**

A vibrant society needs independent people who think and act responsibly. This can be learned through entrepreneurship education, acknowledged as one of the EU's key competencies for lifelong learning. To foster the entrepreneurial spirit of children from the age of seven, the goal of the project is to implement in all primary schools in the region of Salzburg the 'Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Programme'. This is an innovative holistic learning programme, which covers a broad range of entrepreneurship education themes, activities and situations.

The aim is to encourage young people to be open to new ideas and implement these ideas creatively. It fosters initiative, intrinsic motivation and innovation, as well as the confidence and social participation of young people. Within four years, the programme will be sustainably implemented in all 180 primary schools in Salzburg from grades two to four. In the academic year 2019/2020, teachers at 72 schools will be teaching around 4,600 children using this programme, in 2021/22 around 20,000 children will be reached. The project offers teacher training and activities for students, such as the 'Trash Value Festival', the 'Inventor's Workshop' and 'Market Day'.



CATEGORY

**COMMUNITY**

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# Connected Communities

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# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



**Sarah James**

Cabinet Member for Adults  
and Health in Haringey Council

## **Migrants are welcomed and supported through this community programme which helps them integrate into life in the UK.**

Connected Communities is a programme that aims to make migrants feel welcome, support them to settle quickly into London and improve their accessibility to Haringey Council's services. Haringey has high levels of migration and population change; 45 percent of residents were born outside the UK and one third of residents have lived in the borough for less than five years. These factors provide distinct challenges to building strong, integrated communities.

Connected Communities supports new migrants in the following ways:

1. Navigating the system: improving access to appropriate information, advice, guidance and support;
2. Housing: support with finding suitable homes that meet residents' needs;
3. Employment: finding qualification-appropriate job and career progression pathways;
4. Parenting and early years: support with successfully transitioning to parenthood and ensuring children have the best start;
5. Community groups: integrating migrants into the wider community and building social networks.

A sixth area that runs throughout the programme is providing suitable means to improve English language skills amongst new migrants as a critical element for obtaining a job and accessing services.

# COMMUNITY

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## CREATE LITHUANIA



**Agila Barzdien**  
Head of Programme  
"Create Lithuania"



**Virginijus  
Sinkevičius**  
Minister of Economics  
and Innovation



**Ieva Nagyte**  
Programme  
Coordinator

### **Lithuanian professionals with internationally acquired experience help the Lithuanian Government to adopt the best foreign practices.**

Many young people leave their home countries in search of the education they desire, or the careers they aspire to. The youth of Lithuania are venturing beyond their country's borders to better themselves in a way that suits them best, but for the homeland they leave behind it is tremendously important that they find their way back. In order to encourage this, the national agency Invest Lithuania collaborated with the Lithuanian Government to launch a pioneering project – Create Lithuania.

Create Lithuania is the first, and still the only, programme in Lithuania for professional development and the application of the best foreign practices in Lithuania. It enables professionals to contribute towards shaping the future of modern Lithuania with their knowledge and ideas. Since 2012, the programme has been employing professionals of Lithuanian origin with internationally acquired experience. Over one year, participants advise various bodies within the public sector on national and regional issues in areas such as; digitalisation, e-governance, enhancing competitiveness, the business environment and improving public governance – especially in the fields of innovation, sustainable development and mental health.



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## FREE POLISH LESSONS



**Jacek Sutryk**  
Mayor of Wrocław



**Adrian Rode**  
Project Coordinator

### **Local volunteers help newcomers to learn Polish for free.**

Wrocław has 640,000 inhabitants. About 100,000 people of other nationalities come here for a longer stay each year. They work and study in the city, often without using the Polish language. Through this project, inhabitants of Wrocław volunteer to teach foreigners the Polish language. The local community supports newcomers from other countries and helps them to integrate into Polish society by learning the local language.

The local government of Wrocław initiated the project and set up an online platform to facilitate and coordinate contact between students and volunteers. Students and volunteers meet in 65 different places throughout the city: they study in restaurants, cafes, NGO offices and locations around the city, which are made available free of charge by churches, religious associations and the local government.

# COMMUNITY



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# FROME COMMUNITY FRIDGE



**Anna Francis**  
Resilience Manager  
in Frome Town Council

## **One community fridge saves 90,000 food items per year from being wasted.**

In May 2016, Frome Town Council worked with Edventure Frome CIC to set up the UK's first community fridge. The aim of the project was to reduce food waste and to connect the community. A network of volunteers coordinates with local businesses to fill and clean the fridge each day. A report published in May 2019 found that the fridge saves 90,000 items a year from being wasted, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 140 tonnes.

The success of the Fridge has inspired more than sixty other community fridges to open across the country. In October 2018, a community larder was also set up to accommodate items that do not need refrigeration. The Fridge and Larder are open daily and available for anyone to make use of, bringing neighbours and communities together to share surplus and increase access to fresh produce.

# COMMUNITY



**Website:**

[www.humanitasdeventer.nl](http://www.humanitasdeventer.nl)

# HUMANITAS RETIREMENT VILLAGE



## **Jan Jaap Kolkman**

Member of expert team housing and Chairman committee of self-built and custom housing, Department of International Affairs and Housing

### **Students receive free accommodation when they support the care of elderly care home residents.**

Students are finding that accommodation near college campuses is substandard or unaffordable. Meanwhile, elderly people in care often experience social isolation, which studies demonstrate adversely impacts both their mental and physical health. Humanitas Retirement Village, a long-term care facility in the city Deventer in the Netherlands, offers free accommodation to students in exchange for thirty hours of their time, per month, to help the elderly residents.

This arrangement provides a mutual benefit: rent-free accommodation for students and a younger demographic to help support the care of, and foster interactions with, elderly residents. As part of their agreement, students teach residents various skills, such as using email and social media, as well as providing companionship. While these exchanges are important, it is living in such proximity that helps relationships and connections to develop, eases loneliness and makes a positive contribution to the mental health of the seniors.

# COMMUNITY



**Lorraine O'Connor**  
Regeneration Officer



**Martin Monaghan**  
Councillor in Longford County Council



**Peggy Nolan**  
Councillor in Longford County Council



**Gerry Hagan**  
Councillor in Longford County Council

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## LONGFORD NUA



**Seamus Butler**  
Councillor in Longford  
County Council



**Gerry Warnock**  
Councillor in Longford  
County Council



**Joe Flaherty**  
Councillor in Longford  
County Council



**John Browne**  
Councillor in Longford  
County Council

**Through a new online platform, Longford residents can take a more active role in shaping the future of their county.**

Longford Nua is a new mapping project using an app that Longford County Council launched, seeking to challenge the status quo and to give a voice back to the people, engaging them at an early stage in the decision-making process. Nua is a word from the Irish language that means 'new' and was chosen to communicate to local citizens that this is a new approach to creating a new Longford. This new approach through technology allows local people to share stories about places in Longford Town and make suggestions about how some of them could be reused.

There are three elements to the app: past, present and possible. The app allows people to tell us their stories; highlighting the positive attributes of the town, identifying opportunities for potential new uses and involving them in the conversation. The app has increased opportunities for engagement with local people and brought forward new ideas. It has encouraged people to buy into the process of regenerating their town and to take ownership of their town again, thereby increasing the effectiveness of projects implemented by the Municipal District of Longford.

# COMMUNITY



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# METAMORPHOSIS AGAINST FOOD WASTE



## **Nikoleta Pateli**

former President of the  
Public Enterprise, City Councilor

### **The Municipality of Metamorphosis is combating food waste through the redistribution of unused food to different local charities.**

The Municipality of Metamorphosis, and particularly its Public Enterprise under the leadership of Nicoletta Pateli, has been cooperating for a number of years now with the NGO Boroume, which is combating food waste. Boroume gathers unused food from private citizens, businesses and organisations and distributes it to charitable organisations, who provide food for the people under their care. This innovative action had its beginnings in the financial crisis years and has achieved great success.

The Municipality of Metamorphosis is one of the most active municipalities in battling food waste and, in cooperation with Boroume, distributes the food it gathers to charities and the soup kitchens it runs for its citizens with a low socioeconomic status. In this way, the Municipality of Metamorphosis has an excellent and efficient collaboration with a civil society organisation, which functions on a flexible basis in order to take advantage of the NGO's knowledge and experience to help citizens in the best possible way. This project shows that local governments should be open to collaborations with NGOs.

# COMMUNITY



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## OPEN SCHOOLS OF ATHENS



**Maria Iliopoulou**

former Vice Mayor for the Child

### **Schools buildings are used in the evenings and on weekends for the benefit of the wider community.**

Open Schools is an innovative programme initiated by the Municipality of Athens in 2015. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation funds the programme, which is coordinated by the Athens Partnership, to use school buildings during afternoons and weekends for the benefit of the local community. Open Schools meet the needs of school communities, who use the school buildings at the end of the school day. Through cooperation with the Municipality of Athens, this is done in a coordinated and secure way, taking into account the background operation, supervision, cleanliness, liability, coverage of operation costs and damages, etc.

All Open Schools activities are proposed by civil society groups or individuals, who are only selected following evaluation. These activities are co-organised by the operational body and the Municipality of Athens, giving access to free knowledge-building and entertainment activities for citizens of all ages and creating new neighbourhood hubs, which improves the quality of life for Athenians. As part of this programme, repairs and maintenance were carried out in classrooms and courtyards in the 25 Open Schools, to upgrade the schools and provide a welcoming environment for the public of the city.

# COMMUNITY



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# SYNATHINA



**Amalia Zepou**  
former Vice Mayor for  
Civil Society & Innovation

## **A platform designed to bring together and support the many different citizen groups working to improve Athens.**

synAthina is a municipal platform that brings together, supports and facilitates formal and informal citizen groups involved in improving the quality of life in the city. By coordinating their activities, the municipality reaches out to an untapped resource of knowledge and capacity in the city. It supports community groups to create a dynamic relationship between civil society and local government and to further cultivate their bidirectional bond.

synAthina is an initiative of the City of Athens, created in July 2013, under the Vice Mayor's Office for Civil Society and Innovation. Its methodology is based on four elements: it records the activities of citizens to better learn and understand their priorities through their actions; it connects citizen groups with each other and with the municipality, sponsors, and other institutions; it evaluates activities to help scale up their impact; and it incorporates best practices to improve and update its own services in accordance with the city's current needs and challenges.

# COMMUNITY



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## LOW-COST STUDENT FLAT-SHARING IN THE EHPAD



**Philippe Saurel**  
Mayor of Montpellier

### **Low-cost intergenerational flat-sharing that creates greater social cohesion between students and the elderly.**

In order to reduce the isolation of many seniors, to tackle the precarious housing situation of many students and to create greater social cohesion in the neighbourhood, President Philippe Saurel and Vice-President Annie Yague, of Montpellier CCAS, have implemented a low-priced (from 190 to 290 EUR) intergenerational flat-sharing project in three of its seven nursing homes for eleven students. In exchange for a low-priced apartment (renovated former company apartment) the students must volunteer and work three hours per week.

Each month, students are offered a schedule of at least three hours of intergenerational activities per week, depending on their availability and areas of interest. The objectives were to: provide very low-cost housing for students; develop a year-round intergenerational project; and to open nursing homes in various neighbourhoods and develop them into active intergenerational spaces. These new roommates will be able to share moments of conviviality with the residents but also discover more about life. For residents, this will be an opportunity to share their experiences and benefit from the vitality and dynamism of younger generations.



CATEGORY

**DEMOCRACY**

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# DEMOCRACY



**Email:**  
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# COOPERATIVE COUNCIL GRONINGEN



**Wieke Paulusma**  
City councillor Groningen

## **Building trust between people and politics by connecting participatory and representative democracy.**

Trust is one of the most essential values in life. It is impossible to connect, create, love or develop without trust. As a politician, one meets many people over the years who do not have any trust in politics, politicians, or even in other people. That is the main reason the Cooperative Council in Oosterpark, Groningen, was conceived and realised. The primary goal was to rebuild trust between politicians and citizens.

This project has made a difference on various levels: by letting residents and city councillors sit shoulder-to-shoulder on the Cooperative Council, conversations took a positive turn; sharing responsibility coloured the dialogue in a way that would not be possible without connecting participatory democracy (active citizens) with our representative democracy (elected representatives). Citizens were randomly selected to encourage a variety of people to join. The Cooperative Council is monitored by the University of Groningen, which has found a collective rise in levels of trust, increased voting turnout and indicators of a tighter-knit community.

# DEMOCRACY



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# E-SPORTS AND POLITICS LIVE FROM THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT



**Rickard Nordin**  
Member of the Riksdag

## **A Swedish politician reaches out to young people with live weekly discussions.**

Every Tuesday Rickard Nordin, a Member of the Swedish Parliament, broadcasts live on Twitch, discussing e-sports and everyday politics with his audience. He is the first in the world to do this and has received international attention from the US, Argentina, Russia and many other countries for doing so.

He has found a way to reach out to young people within their own arena and has had a great response. He has been invited to appear on reality shows and has held speeches about what he does in the area of e-sports, showing that everything is politics in one sense or another. His approach to reaching out to young people and interesting them in politics is both highly innovative and successful.

# DEMOCRACY



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## FERLA AGORÀ – IDEAS SQUARE



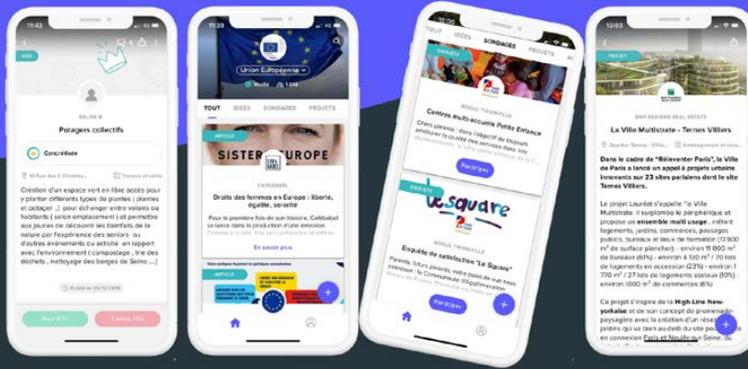
**Michelangelo Giansiracusa**  
Mayor of Ferla

### **Citizens take part in the democratic process and governance of their town by meeting on the main square.**

In 2014, the Municipality of Ferla, a town in South-East Sicily, experimented with the initiative 'Ferla Agorà – Ideas Square' at the suggestion of various citizens. This fun, new form of democratic participation shares the governance of the territory with the local community. Meetings are scheduled in the main square of the town, in which citizens can freely participate and discuss issues relevant to the community – from the urban street network to the organisation of the calendar of events. If a decision needs to be made, the people are invited to express their opinion for or against through the simple and effective method of voting using coloured cards.

The aim of the project is to encourage the development of community dialogue and democratic participation, involving citizens directly in the governance of the territory through sharing ideas and voting. In addition to community assemblies, smart communication methods have been added in order to reach the younger population, the so-called 'millennials'. This led to the birth of 'Filo' – a direct information service, via Whatsapp, between the Municipality of Ferla and the citizens, and monthly live streaming with the Mayor on Facebook.

## Produit : une app citoyenne pour s'informer, participer, influencer



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# FLUICITY



**Claire Behaghel**

Responsable Marketing  
Produit



**Jean Baptiste de Froment**

Municipal councillor

## **This transparent platform enables effective public participation in local governance.**

Fluicity is a platform that enables an easy exchange between citizens and local decision makers, which was named the best French GovTech during the Public.io 2018 European summit. Citizens can propose ideas, vote for other people's ideas, report a malfunction, or take part in consultations – all within the same application.

Local public decision makers can take citizens' expectations into account thanks to a dashboard from which they can launch consultations and inform the public about news and projects. While the citizens themselves experience participation with an impact – citizens can expect a timely and appropriate response to their proposals. In this way, Fluicity acts as a trusted third-party which helps to maintain a transparent and long-lasting relationship between citizens and decision makers.

# DEMOCRACY

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# FRANKFURT DEMOCRACY CONVENTION 2019



**Peter Feldmann**

Mayor of the City of Frankfurt am Main

## **Bringing citizens together to discuss how to increase active participation in local democracy.**

The aim of the Frankfurt Democracy Convention is to make political participation tangible with a focus on mutual exchange. The purpose is to create a constructive local debate culture and reduce the feeling of alienation from the political system. Democracy is to be understood again as practice – a creative process of active co-shaping through the consultation of many different people. In February 2019, fifty randomly selected Frankfurt citizens met for three days to discuss how citizen participation could be improved in Frankfurt. Many different perspectives and ideas came together, resulting in concrete recommendations for action.

The first Democracy Convention showed that it is possible to actively involve people in local political decision-making – citizens advise politicians and are central to the democratic process. Men and women from all districts of Frankfurt were invited in equal numbers, and one-third of the 50 participants in the Democracy Convention were randomly selected from groups of underrepresented citizens, such as young, low-income, migrant and homeless people. This type of selection is intended to bring people with different perspectives together, in contrast to other political events where participants are personally invited.

# DEMOCRACY

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**Ausrine  
Armonaite**

Liberals Movement of  
Lithuania

**Gintautas  
Paluckas**

Social Democratic  
Party

**Andrius  
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## LEARN BEFORE YOU VOTE



**Judita  
Akromiene**  
Initiator



**Ausrine  
Dirzinskaite**  
Coordinator



**Guoda  
Vaitiekute**  
Coordinator



**Virginijus  
Sinkevicius**  
Lithuanian Farmers  
and Greens Union

### **Increasing the political engagement and knowledge of young people in Lithuania.**

This project aims to foster the interest of young people in local, national and European politics and encourage their active and informed participation. The idea is that increased youth participation will increase the accountability of politicians to this group of voters. During the local elections in February-March 2019, 84 debates were organised in 57 municipalities (out of 60) with candidates for the position of mayor. In total, there were over 12,000 participants in the events and 260,000 people watched the debates online on social media.

Network volunteers developed, maintained and updated an online public platform for direct communication between citizens and politicians, allowing anyone to publicly put a question to the candidates. There were 1,400 questions put to politicians on the platform that had 20,000 unique visitors. The young volunteers also conducted around 60 interactive educational activities to raise awareness amongst their peers of the importance of youth participation, as well as how to make an informed and well-founded decision. Launched in 2014, the initiative has evolved into a social movement, involving young people in political life who are now 'ambassadors' in their local communities.

# DEMOCRACY

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# MOLENLANDEN



**Bram Visser**  
Councillor

## **A decentralised town hall allows citizens to conduct most municipal affairs online.**

Molenlanden Municipality was created on 1 January 2019 by merging the municipalities of Giessenlanden and Molenwaard. During the merger, a question was raised: where would the new town hall be located? This question eventually evolved into: is a town hall even needed? The result was: no. Now, instead of having citizens come to see them, the city administration goes to see the citizens. An innovative programme and strategy were put in place, which the new municipality of Molenlanden has continued and further developed.

The vision and focus of the programme are based on trust, professional freedom and responsibility. Self-organised teams and roles reduce hierarchies: all public services are 100% digital, available from citizens' homes, or at the local pub by appointment. Special services, such as for drivers' licenses and passports, are available at local offices. Since the town hall closed in 2014, every location in the municipality can, in principle, now function as a working place. Adopting technical developments, such as cloud tooling, blockchain experiments and artificial intelligence, as well as investing in e-democracy and e-participation, have enabled this project to be a success.

# DEMOCRACY



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# OPEN THINK TANK NETWORK



**Nicola Forster**

Co-Founder & President of Foraus

## **Creating a transnational network of policy think tanks with an open source digital platform.**

Foraus, the Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy, has initiated the creation of the international Open Think Tank Network – striving to foster transnational collaboration between think tanks with an innovative grassroots model. The aim is to enable participatory, bottom-up policy making on multilateral issues that extend beyond national boundaries. Hands-on collaboration is made possible through the use of the publicly accessible, open source policy innovation platform – ‘Policy Kitchen’.

This platform empowers a diverse set of stakeholders from different countries – with a particular focus on youth – to co-create policy recommendations and create an impact with targeted communications to decision makers. It builds on ten successful years in the Swiss context, three years of experience as an international network, and one year of rolling out the Policy Kitchen platform. This model has proven its strength with ten policy challenges, ranging from biodiversity, to migration, to artificial intelligence, involving eight countries on four continents.

# DEMOCRACY

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# TALKING TO EACH OTHER! CITIZENS' WORKSHOP



**Michael Kretschmer**

Prime Minister of  
the State of Sachsen

## **Revitalising political discourse through direct conversation between citizens and government officials.**

The participatory Citizens' Workshops 'Talk to Each Other!' were initiated by Minister-President Michael Kretschmer. In order to strengthen local and state-wide democracy, nuanced political discourse should be taking place everywhere in Saxony. Thirteen Citizens' Workshops took place all over Saxony as a way to institutionalise this discourse. The Citizens' Workshops allowed for the exchange of views and the joint generation of new proposals, while acknowledging the important role of wide-ranging civic engagement for community life.

Guided by the question, "What needs to be done so that your region and Saxony are even more attractive by 2030?", participants discussed local visions of the future as well as current shortcomings. Some 1000 citizens from volunteer and grassroots organisations, business associations and religious communities talked politics with state ministers, town councillors and local government officials. Speaking on equal terms, they discussed what worried them and what needed to be done urgently.

# DEMOCRACY

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# YEAR OF DEMOCRACY



**Ulrich Hörning**  
Mayor of the City of Leipzig

## **The city of Leipzig reinvigorates and strengthens democratic values under the motto “You. Us. Leipzig”.**

For some time now, increasingly radical tendencies have been observed within society: extreme and simplistic positions are booming. In order to strengthen democratic values and the motivation for local democracy, the Leipzig City Council initiated a "Year of Democracy" in 2018. The aim was to convey knowledge about the existing, diverse local democratic processes, as well as to promote new ideas and approaches for good democratic co-existence in Leipzig. For this purpose, the city council has allocated 500,000 EUR of the city budget to various projects over the course of a year.

The majority of the projects are aimed at strengthening democratic values and promoting local democracy. A total of 28 projects from very different areas such as sports, culture, social affairs etc. were implemented by local associations, initiatives and institutions with the aim of promoting democratic co-existence. In addition to project funding, the focus was on local political bodies in Leipzig, such as the district advisory councils, town councils and the city council, to exert their influence in various ways. Under the motto "You. Us. Leipzig", the themed year was accompanied by an effective publicity campaign.



CATEGORY  
**ECOLOGY**

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# 100% FOSSIL FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN SKÅNE



**Mätta Ivarsson**

Chair of the Green Party  
Fraction in the Regional  
Council of Skåne



**Iris Rehnström**

Responsible for environmental  
and sustainability issues at  
Public Transportation of Skåne

## **Biogas and fossil fuel-free electricity now power public transport for 1.3 million people.**

All public transport in the Region of Skåne, with a total population of 1.3 million people, became fossil-free in December 2018. Local trains started using fossil-free electricity in 2000, and public transport in the largest city, Malmö, became fossil free in 2015. Now, all of the 1,023 regional buses run on fossil-free fuel, such as biogas or electricity.

Overall, the amount of emissions from public transport last year decreased by 29 percent compared to 2017. As the leader of the Green Party in the Regional Council, Mätta Ivarsson has been a leading force for this transition to fossil free-fuels. Now there is a focus on reducing air travel, which has already seen some success since the number of business trips by air decreased by 13 percent in the Region of Skåne last year.



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## #MPF – MILANO PLASTIC FREE



### **Cristina Tajani**

Cabinet Member of Business,  
Commerce, Human Resources  
Division in the Municipality of Milan

### **Milan eliminates disposable plastic tableware from schools and saves 720 tons of waste per year.**

The city of Milan says goodbye to disposable plastics through the Milano Plastic Free campaign in anticipation of the European Union directive on the reduction of the impact of plastics, scheduled for 2021. The move towards banning disposable plastic started some years ago with the involvement of Milano Ristorazione, the company owned by the Municipality that provides catering services in schools, retirement homes and refugee centres, which served 16,987,305 meals in 2018. Since 2016, plastic disposable tableware in schools has been replaced with compostable materials, saving 720 tons of plastic per year.

Guidelines on green events have been defined and all major city events (e.g. Fashion Week, Design Week, sports events, etc.) will have to adopt sustainable behaviours in order to obtain the patronage of the Municipality, including finding alternatives to disposable plastics. Thanks to the collaboration with Legambiente and Confcommercio, since January 2019 the campaign has successfully involved bars and restaurants to reduce their use of disposable plastics, improved awareness of the problem, and led to the creation of a logo to distinguish Plastic Free initiatives.

# ECOLOGY



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## FIRST CIGARETTE BUTT-FREE GREEK BEACH



**Antonios Antonakis**  
former Mayor of Serifos Island

### **Shoreline cleaning found cigarette butts were the most common waste on Serifos's beaches.**

The beach of Vagia in Serifos became the first beach in Greece, in the summer of 2019, to be cigarette butt-free. This project was motivated by the discovery during shoreline cleaning that cigarette butts were the most common waste to be found. The Municipality of Serifos is working in collaboration with the Athanasios C. Laskaridis Charitable Foundation, as part of the Sea Change Greek Islands programme.

This project follows practices that have been implemented in France and Spain, with a controlled smoking area on the beach with ashtrays and environmental messages. This effort is innovative for Greece and an island like Serifos that welcomes thousands of tourists, Greeks and foreigners every year. The Greek public and the Greek media were enthusiastic about this news and urged other islands to take similar action on other beaches in the country.

# ECOLOGY



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# DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUELS



**Thomas Pringle**  
TD in Dáil Éireann for Donegal

## **A law was passed to divest public funds from companies who explore, extract or process fossil fuels.**

The Fossil Fuel Divestment Act was introduced by Deputy Thomas Pringle, Member of the Irish Parliament. The Act obliges the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) to divest public money from investments in companies whose primary activity is fossil fuel exploration, extraction or processing. The ISIF is a 7.9 billion euro commercial investment fund, designed to support economic activity and employment in Ireland. It is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency and reports to the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform.

Since the act was passed in December 2018, the ISIF has taken action to divest all investments covered by the law. This amounted to 38 global companies and a total of 68 million euros of public money divested. This law responds to Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, where States commit to making finance flows consistent with action on climate change, and highlights the need to significantly speed up the phase-out of fossil fuels in Ireland and globally, if the Paris Agreement temperature limits are to be achieved. The bill was inspired by the global Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement and contributes to its continued growth.



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# GREEN.LAB GRAZ



**Siegfried Nagl**  
Mayor of Graz

## **Brownfield sites in cities are transformed into usable spaces with portable, 'green' urban boxes.**

The green.LAB Graz is a replicable use concept for brownfield sites, offering the opportunity to learn about, experience and implement green infrastructure as a climate change adaptation measure in cities. An innovative demo building was erected on an existing brownfield site in the Smart City district as an interim use-of-space, which will be transferred to another urban development area at the end of the project in order to initiate a similar process there. The green.LAB Graz combines transportable modular timber constructions with greening buildings, biodiversity, district gardens, rainwater management, efficient energy supply and renewable energy sources.

The green.LAB is accessible to neighbours and citizens, developers and investors, schools and businesses and provides an open learning-production-exhibition workspace on the subject of urban greenery. The green.LAB also serves as a meeting point in the district and will be used as a location for district management and a non-profit employment project. The green.LAB has instigated and driven forward a variety of intelligent interim and transitional uses of other brownfield sites in the district.



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# INNOVATIONCITY RUHR - BOTTROP MODEL CITY



**Bernd Tischler**  
Mayor of Bottrop

## **Bottrop pledges to reduce CO2 emissions by fifty percent in ten years using an InnovationCity master plan.**

In 2010, Bottrop became Germany's first InnovationCity. The Initiativkreis Ruhr, an association of around 70 leading companies in the Ruhr region, had previously been looking for the climate city of the future in the Ruhr region within the framework of a competition. Bottrop won the race and committed itself to reducing CO2 emissions by fifty percent within ten years. For this process, a pilot area with seven city districts was defined in which almost 70,000 of the 120,000 inhabitants live in 12,500 residential buildings.

For the InnovationCity area, a master plan was drawn up, analysing the social, structural and energy demands of the neighbourhoods and the measures which could transform the neighbourhoods into climate districts. The city of Bottrop and the Innovation City Management GmbH, founded specifically for this purpose by the Initiativkreis Ruhr, have identified more than 300 individual projects and have already implemented many of them since the master plan came into effect in 2014.



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# JOBTICKET



**Klaus Luger**  
Mayor of Linz

**The Jobticket provides discounted public transport for workers while also benefiting the environment and the whole community.**

The so-called 'Jobticket', which costs 277.20 Euros for a whole year, makes it possible to travel to work in a stress-free, convenient and comfortable manner. This low price is simply achieved through participating companies in Linz paying a small monthly amount per employee, who receive the annual ticket for Linz AG Linien (the public transport provider in Linz) at the same price as six monthly tickets. The Jobticket covers the use of all public transport provided by Linz AG Linien, with up to 3,000 people now using this service every year.

This innovative idea not only saves money and benefits the environment, but also helps employees to get to work more quickly and comfortably. Another plus: on weekends and public holidays, a family with up to four children under the age of 15 can travel for free! The jobticket offers advantages not only for employees but also for their company, since it is deductible as an operating expense, simplifies travel allowances, is accessible for commuters as well as Linz city residents, and reduces the risk of commuting accidents.

# ECOLOGY



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## LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES



**Leena Vuotovesi**

Managing Director,  
Micropolis Ltd (Town of Ii)



**Ari Alatossava**

Mayor of the City Ii

### **Creating a culture of responsibility around climate change in a small town.**

Ii is a little town in the north of Finland. Back in 2012 we realised that climate change is really changing the world and that we are part of that change. Did you know that the Arctic is the area most affected by global warming? We did not have the resources or expertise to make a change, but what we had and still have is a shared will. So we began.

We welcomed everyone to participate and do you know who got the most excited? The children. Every child in the town is now participating. They are measuring the consumption of water, heat and electricity in schools and daycare centers and receive 50% of the savings they make. They learn that it makes sense to be climate-friendly. They learn that it depends on our own actions and that it is possible. In Ii, so far, we have cut emissions by 60%. We want to make changes and show that it is possible to tackle climate change. If Ii can do it, Europe can do it too.



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# UK CLIMATE EMERGENCY NETWORK



**Kevin Frea**

Deputy Leader, Lancaster City Council

## **Councils across the UK are declaring climate emergencies and are working together in response to the climate crisis.**

Lancaster City Councillor and Deputy Leader Kevin Frea has been a central figure behind the growing movement for UK councils to declare a climate and ecological emergency and commit to urgent actions to reduce carbon emissions. In December 2018, when the first UK councils declared a climate emergency, Cllr Frea decided to put his expertise and contacts behind the initiative and committed the council to go zero carbon by 2030. In parallel, he set up Climate Emergency UK, to record and disseminate all climate emergency declarations, thereby encouraging other councils.

Useful resources, advice and contacts were provided online for councillors and residents wishing to get their council to declare an emergency, as well as for councils wanting to deliver on a declaration. Cllr Frea also organised the UK's first climate emergency conference, creating an online forum and network through which to share best practice. The UK Climate Emergency Network, a special interest group of the Local Government Association, was created to promote and coordinate the growing climate emergency movement and influence central government. Half of UK authorities have declared an emergency in the past eight months.

# ECOLOGY



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## UNGERSHEIM – A MUNICIPALITY IN TRANSITION



**Jean-Claude Mensch**  
Mayor of Ungersheim

### **Participative democracy supports a movement for intellectual autonomy, energy independence and food sovereignty.**

Faced with the depletion of our global resources and the moral breakdown of our civilisation, raising awareness of current events has become crucial. The ecosystems which are essential for our livelihood are being destroyed by the modern lifestyle. The first impacts of climate change are already evident, with rising water levels, droughts, migration, extinctions, loss of biodiversity, decreases in farming yields and pollution. The municipality of Ungersheim is engaging in ecological transition to promote energy efficiency, controlled consumption, a responsible local economy and a natural food network with short supply chains, alongside a constant quest for stronger social relations.

In concrete terms, the municipality has engaged in 21 activities with three underlying themes: intellectual autonomy, energy independence and food sovereignty. Participative democracy is essential for the definition, development and application of such concrete and holistic activities to have an impact on our lives. Participative committees made up of volunteers suggest and debate suggestions assessed by a jury of citizens. As a result of this experience, the Institute of Ecological Transition has been created to raise awareness about the programme amongst the general public and generate traction for change.



CATEGORY

# HUMAN RIGHTS

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

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# ACTIVE CAFÉ



**Piotr Borawski**

Deputy Mayor of the City of Gdańsk

## **The Active Cafe helps senior citizens and young people with intellectual disabilities to socially integrate.**

Seniors and young people with intellectual disabilities are two groups which are often socially and professionally excluded. This is either due to their disabilities themselves, a lack of professional engagement and activity, diminished physical capabilities, or linked to cultural trends that champion young age, while respect for the life experience of our elders disappears.

The aim of the project is to remove these obstacles through the activities of the Active Cafe. Working to challenge stereotypes and change old patterns, the initiators created and tested an innovation that harnesses individuals' potential, while simultaneously paving the way to social inclusion for seniors and younger people with intellectual disabilities.

# HUMAN RIGHTS



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# ATHBOY WALKABILITY AND INCLUSIVE TOWN DEVELOPMENTS



**David Gilroy**  
Councillor in Meath County Council

## **Athboy town ensures accessibility and inclusivity for all citizens regardless of age or physical, cognitive, or sensory impairment.**

Councillor David Gilroy promotes Athboy as an inclusive and progressive town. He recently led an Age-Friendly Walkability Audit in the town to address accessibility. Uniquely, this audit considered cognitive and sensory impairment, as well as physical access issues. Cllr Gilroy works closely with the business community and Athboy has been nominated as ‘Meath’s Friendliest Town’ in this year’s retail excellence awards. Athboy has a fantastic community centre that features a ‘Changing Places’ toilet facility, which has a height-adjustable bench and hoists to enable people with more profound disabilities to use the facilities.

Cllr Gilroy is Chairman of Boyne Valley Tourism, instrumental in the ‘Spirits of Meath’ festival which will now be supported to develop as an international festival centred on the original site of Samhain/Halloween. Athboy is close to one of Meath’s two Gaeltacht areas, where the Irish language is spoken daily, and will host the ‘Leinster Fleadh’ 2019 – a prestigious traditional Irish music competition. There are also many other inclusive and progressive developments, including biodiversity zones and a sensory garden, which are developed in consultation with the community.

# HUMAN RIGHTS



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## HELPING TEENAGERS IMAGINE THEIR FUTURE



### **Stefano Bertacco**

Executive Councillor in charge  
of Social Services, Social Tourism,  
Employment, Education, Personnel,  
Municipality of Verona

### **Using a rights-based approach, young people are guided and supported as they imagine their future.**

This project is a shared research project aimed at high school students, aged 16-18 years old, conducted by students for students under the supervision of Riccardo Giumelli, sociologist at Verona University, in collaboration with the Local Ministry of Education, Verona. The goal is to make students aware of their rights, by addressing their main right, namely their right to a future. Students compare their expectations in the context of a constantly changing world, which is not always democratic.

This complex challenge can generate uncertainty and it is therefore essential to maintain a high level of rights for all, aiming for wide-spread democracy. Adults can help and support young people's development and subsequent integration into adult society. Health, school, citizenship, work, respect, justice and listening are some of the topics which have been explored over the last seven school years (2012-2019), with the involvement of 56 institutes and an annual average participation of 160 students.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

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# KATRINEHOLM – THE FIRST LGBTQ-CERTIFIED MUNICIPALITY IN SWEDEN



**Göran Dahlström**  
Mayor of Katrineholm

**Jenny Skarstedt**  
Head of Culture Department

## **A high-quality education in LGBTQ-related issues helps Katrineholm to be an inclusive municipality.**

In 2015, the education administration of Katrineholm examined the situation for LGBTQ people living in the municipality. This research resulted in the conclusion that there was an urgent need to develop knowledge and methods related to LGBTQ issues. Therefore, Katrineholm's politicians decided to implement an extensive educational programme for municipal employees, especially those working directly with children and youth.

The project lasted three years (2015-2017) and involved 3,000 employees, with the objective of securing a professional work environment and a high quality of municipal activities for all Katrineholm's citizens. The project was so successful that the municipality has become the first in Sweden to offer their employees a high-quality education in LGBTQ issues.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

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## ON THE TRAIL OF PREJUDICES IN CZESTOCHOWA



**Krzysztof Matyjaszyk**  
Mayor of Czestochowa

### **A game for all ages designed to challenge prejudices, discrimination and hate speech.**

Czestochowa plays the game 'On the trail of prejudices' as part of an innovative approach to tackle discrimination and hate speech. The City Hall of Czestochowa has created an educational game called 'On the trail of prejudices', the purpose of which is to make people aware of the role of stereotypes and prejudices play in their perception of others. Players take on the role of detectives, who are supposed to solve a criminal puzzle. They receive images of people suspected of committing a crime, and then, based on the clues emerging during the investigation, they identify the criminal.

The aim of the game is to show how social imagination and common opinions influence the assessment of people and the interpretation of facts. The game includes: 10 character cards and 90 clue cards, instructions for the moderator, a worksheet for groups of players, and a scenario for the whole game. The game can be played by children, adolescents and adults. In Czestochowa, dozens of workshops have been organised so far, during which people played 'On the trail of prejudices'. Participants included students, teachers, educators, entrepreneurs, and leaders of local communities.

# HUMAN RIGHTS



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# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

**Clare Daly**

Former TD, Member of  
the European Parliament

**An amendment to Irish law designed to hold Irish hospitals accountable for maternal deaths.**

Despite persistent patterns of women dying in Irish maternity hospitals, these deaths have not been subject to public scrutiny. Between 2011 and 2013, there were 27 maternal deaths, with only three inquests. Ireland was failing in its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 2 – the right to life. Article 2 includes the right to know why sudden death has occurred and also states that steps should be taken to prevent such deaths in future, both of which require an inquest.

Between 2008 and 2014, eight families fought for inquests to ascertain why the mothers of their children had died giving birth: all returned verdicts of death by medical misadventure, signalling catastrophic failures of care. In 2014, independent parliamentarian Clare Daly TD joined hands with the Elephant Collective, grassroots citizen activists, to secure legal reform. The Collective toured the country with a multimedia exhibition to raise public awareness and Deputy Daly worked relentlessly in the Dáil Eireann (Irish Parliament). In May 2019, under the stewardship of Minister for Justice and Equality Charles Flanagan, the Dáil passed the Coroners (Amendment) Bill 2018 for mandatory inquests for all maternal deaths.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

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# SAFE HARBOURS



**Mike Schubert**  
Mayor of Potsdam

## **A network of German municipalities and civil society committed to receiving refugees.**

The Safe Harbours campaign was initiated by the civil society movement – Seebrücke. Seebrücke is committed to the decriminalisation of sea rescue and safe escape routes into Europe. The situation for refugees in the Mediterranean and worldwide has been steadily worsening. Due to these humanitarian crises, safe escape routes and safe harbours (where refugees are received) are urgently needed. The aim is to channel the readiness of civil society and municipalities to receive refugees into local reception programmes in Germany and Europe, in order to ensure a fair, long-term distribution of refugees within the EU.

As a result of pressure from civil society and Seebrücke, seventy German towns, municipalities and districts have now declared themselves ‘Safe Harbours’. At the Seebrücke congress, twelve of these cities got together to form an alliance which calls on the Federal Government to work with municipal admission programmes, with other cities ready to join. The campaign is a democratic joint action of municipalities and civil society. It shows how migration policy could be conceived and implemented differently: a local, solidarity-based and European way of dealing with people on the move.

# HUMAN RIGHTS



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# YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE



## **Seamus Coyle**

Councillor and Cathaoirleach  
in Monaghan County Council

### **Monaghan County Council has developed an easy-to-read guide to the voting process, with a focus on the needs of disabled voters.**

Your Vote Your Voice is an easy-to-read guide to voting in Ireland. The guide is written in plain English and uses a clear layout. It explains the voting process in Ireland and how any person over 18 can exercise their right to vote. Your Vote Your Voice was identified as a priority by Monaghan County Council in 2019, following the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with a Disability in 2018. With Local and European Elections taking place in 2019, it was time to focus on the rights of people with a disability, particularly their right to vote.

This initiative has collated all information relating to voting in Ireland into one easy-to-read information booklet. The guide includes information on: government structures; types of elections and votes that take place; the Constitution; who can vote and why they should; registering to vote; polling cards and polling day; accessibility of polling stations; the voting process and filling out a ballot paper; getting help to fill out ballot papers; support for voters with visual impairments; the ballot box and the secret ballot; rules inside the polling station.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

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# TACKLING DISCRIMINATION ON THE RENTAL HOUSING MARKET



**Astrid De Bruycker**  
Deputy Mayor

## **A multi-year study conducted in Ghent to determine the scale of discrimination in the rental housing market.**

The City of Ghent started testing for discriminatory behaviour on the private rental housing market in 2014. Real-estate agencies were first tested without prior notice and a second time when they were informed in advance. The researchers responded to advertisements asking whether a property was still available and if a viewing was possible. They sent two similar emails, one signed with a Flemish name and one with a foreign name. Differences in response were monitored.

The findings from the first stage of the research clearly showed routine discrimination against people with a different ethnic origin (26%). The findings from the second research stage pointed to a fall in the number of cases of leading real-estate agencies discriminating against people with a foreign background (10%). In 2016-2017 a new round of tests was carried out, this time 12 out of 86 real-estate agencies were found to be discriminating and 1 out of 7 (14%) people with a foreign name were being discriminated against. These 12 agencies were tested for the last time in 2018 and no discrimination was found.

# HUMAN RIGHTS



**Website:**

<http://scoolmedia.com/en/the-wonder-garden-in-dobrich-that-gives-chance-to-people-with-disabilities/>

# THE WONDER GARDEN: A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES



**Yordan Yordanov**  
Mayor of Dobrich Municipality

## **A social enterprise that provides people with intellectual disabilities with meaningful work.**

In 2018, a local foundation for people with disabilities in Dobrich, with the support of Dobrich Municipality, launched a social enterprise – a flower garden selling seedlings named ‘The Wonder Garden’, where the staff is entirely composed of people with intellectual disabilities. It all started when, with the support of the municipality of Dobrich, the foundation acquired four acres of land that was already being used for growing vegetables, fruit trees, flowers and various types of seedlings.

The staff is completely made up of young people from different areas in the city who take care of the landscaping of the urban areas in Dobrich, for which there is a massive shortage of workers. The Wonder Garden is a good example of a successful social enterprise and provides a model where people with intellectual disabilities can be of value to themselves and society, while working and feeling useful and complete.



CATEGORY  
**JOBS**

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# JOBS



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# BE-MORE



**Steve Rotheram**

Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region

## **Be-More is an online platform which simplifies the search for a suitable apprenticeship in Liverpool.**

Be-More is an online portal, which allows individuals interested in apprenticeships to search for local opportunities. The website, which is the first of its kind, not only highlights the current vacancies but also allows users to explore potential career pathways and read the inspiring stories of current apprentices and their employers. The Be-More website is the brainchild of Liverpool City Region's Metro Mayor and the fulfilment of his election pledge to simplify the way people access information on apprenticeship opportunities. The result is a unique online portal, providing users with the ability to search and explore more information about apprenticeships across the Liverpool City Region.

Developed with a 'mobile first' principle, Be-More offers innovative access to a range of resources regarding apprenticeships and careers advice. Visitors can search by keyword and location to find their ideal apprenticeship opportunity with useful information on apprenticeship benefits and local travel discounts. On average there are nearly 500 vacancies live on any given day and since its launch in March 2019, there have been over 15,000 unique vacancy searches on the site.



Incubatore di innovazione sociale

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# FABRIQ – THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INCUBATOR



## **Cristina Tajani**

Cabinet Member of Business,  
Commerce, Human Resources  
Division in the Municipality of Milan

### **Startups are supported and encouraged to have a positive social and economic impact in Milan.**

FabriQ is the first social innovation incubator of the City of Milan, located in the peripheral suburb of Quarto Oggiaro. It offers economic incentives and assistance services to companies wishing to start business projects with a high social impact; encourages the birth and development of projects that propose new solutions to current social issues; as well as providing support for existing solutions.

The objective of the service is to transform startups into new economic actors that can have real effects on the social fabric of the neighbourhood and the entire city. Since 2013, FabriQ has carried forward more than 60 startup and young companies, combining profitability and entrepreneurship with social and environmental sustainability. In particular, the municipality has contributed more than 373,000 Euros in grants for 21 projects/startups.

HOUSE OF SKILLS

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# HOUSE OF SKILLS



**Annelies Spork**

Program Director House of Skills

## **Developing a skills-based labour market supports the sustainable employability of lower- and medium-skilled workers.**

House of Skills is a 'field lab' where the business community, trade organisations, employee and employer organisations, educational institutions and regional administrators collaborate and carry out pilot projects to develop various skills-oriented career programmes. House of Skills focuses primarily on: circular economy, energy transition, housing and transport challenges, health care, hospitality and education. The aim is to improve the sustainable employability of lower- and medium-skilled workers on the labour market. An important aspect is that people take control of their own labour market future through lifelong development.

Skills improve the potential of the working population. Therefore, this project aims to develop the labour market into a more skills-based one. House of Skills develops new services which are tested in pilot projects, including: assessments and skill scans; career-advice training; skills-based matching; as well as a platform where employers and employees can find each other. In addition, a work experience hub has been set up in the public library – an easily accessible location where the working population can get information.



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## HOUSING FIRST, ÖREBRO



**Fisun Yavas**

Deputy Chair, Municipal  
Program Committee on  
Social Welfare



**Anna-Lena Lindqvist**

**When homeless people are first provided with a home, the other problems they face can be more easily overcome.**

Housing First is a well-researched and empirically-based method of combating homelessness. Instead of asking people with mental problems or addictions to 'deserve' housing, this method turns it around: having a home is the starting point and a prerequisite for other measures to succeed, regardless of whether it is work, health or addiction treatment efforts. The Municipality of Örebro took Housing First to Sweden in 2012. In 2015, brave politicians dared to take the step to make the project permanent.

Since then, Örebro has at least ten flats set aside for homeless people and has inspired other municipalities to introduce Housing First projects as well. After many years of chronic homelessness, several of the tenants have turned their lives around since transitioning from living on the street to having a home. All have reduced their consumption of alcohol and drugs, according to the counsellors' assessment, and several have gone from unemployment to permanent employment.



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## KARJERAS – LITHUANIA'S FIRST ONE-STOP CAREER CENTRE



**Agila Barzdien**  
Head of Programme  
"Create Lithuania"



**Tautvydas  
Tamulevičius**  
Vice-minister of  
Interior Ministry



**Akvile  
Naginionyte**

### **A career centre offering guidance and individual consultations provided by a team of specialists.**

The municipality of Alytus's Youth Affairs Department and the Labour Exchange launched Lithuania's first one-stop-shop for career consulting. The career centre, called 'Karjeras' in Lithuanian, opened at the end of April 2019. This one-stop-shop provides young people with career guidance by offering career tests and individual consultations. It also helps to set up volunteer opportunities and internships in a range of local companies.

Individuals can also take part in free business lectures and consultations to help them start their own businesses. The centre's team consists of specialists from the Labour Exchange, Youth Affairs Department, local schools and experts in psychology. The one-stop-shop currently functions as a pilot programme intended to run for the first two years.

# JOBs



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## MOYROSS TRAINING AT THE BAYS



**Frankie Daly**

Councillor in Limerick City and County Council

### **A trades-based training approach for young adults fills key skills gaps in the local labour market.**

A low level of economic activity and lack of any significant economic base is a particular problem within the Moyross area of Limerick City. The 2016 census shows that nearly a quarter of the highest unemployment areas in Ireland were in Limerick City and County, including Ballynanty (Moyross), with 43.6 percent unemployment. The target group for The Bays training programme is over 18 year old unemployed adults, primarily from within the Moyross regeneration area of Limerick City.

The Bays training facility delivers an integrated service approach to equip unemployed residents with the skills and confidence to secure employment. The facility provides a trades-based training approach, focused on equipping clients with industry-specific skills currently being sought in sectors such as construction and manufacturing. Each client progressing through the training programme is provided with a pathway to employment through the establishment of relationships with the private sector. Key skills gaps are identified in the existing labour market, and graduates of this programme are being offered jobs with industry partners to fill those immediate skills gaps.

# JOBS



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# PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND A SKILLS BASE FOR PRISONERS



**Georgette Breard**  
Regional Advisor

## **Rehabilitation of prisoners through the provision of professional and life-skills training.**

The aim of this project is to enable prisoners to achieve the CléA certificate and for inmates to be able to fulfill the work and professional prerequisites in terms of the seven spheres of competence of the CléA certificate. The challenge is to make it possible to acquire and develop all of the skills necessary, given the constraints imposed by imprisonment (such as not having access to the internet), in order to offer the same training to prisoners as those living outside of prison in Brittany.

Within prison, the availability of the common foundation of knowledge and skills represents a challenge in terms of securing professional courses and accessing training programs and/or employment. Moreover, the skills acquired through this programme are useful in all areas of social, civil and cultural life. Achieving this certificate is an essential part of the process of rehabilitation and helps to avoid reoffending.

# JOB



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# QUALITY SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GUOSTAGALIS

## **Virginija Jocien**

Director of Guostagalys Services Centre,  
Chair of the Rural Community of Guostagalys

### **A Services Centre providing social assistance for elderly and socially vulnerable people.**

The Guostagalys Services Centre was established in February 2017. All services are provided for residents and organisations in Guostagalys and surrounding neighbourhoods. The Centre provides assistance for the elderly (grass cutting, gardening, cooking, delivery) and socially vulnerable people (specialists teach them social skills, how to grow vegetables, process products, prepare healthy food, and include them in various local cultural activities). The Centre's specialists provide services that were not possible in the area until now, or which socially vulnerable people couldn't afford.

Involving volunteers and maintaining partnerships with local organisations, the Centre finds opportunities to provide services at a minimum price or free of charge. The catering service is available for up to twenty elderly people every day, and up to fifteen people are provided with daily social services. Jobs were also created at the Centre for the environmental manager, kitchen worker and social worker. The Centre's activities have attracted local media attention and guests from other municipalities often visit – the first such Service Centre has become a best-practice example for other communities.

# JOBS



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## THE DIGITAL TOOL – QIOZ



**Valérie Pecresse**

### **An online language learning tool designed to improve employability in the hospitality sector.**

Ile-de-France is the first tourist region in France to set a target to improve the language skills of the population and become a 'Multilingual Region'. This project aims to make Ile-de-France more attractive, increase its influence and enhance the inhabitants' employability.

In order to achieve this goal, a free learning tool is available for people who are at least 15 years old, which helps them to learn foreign languages in a way that is adapted to the needs of each individual. This language-learning platform is available as a web and mobile application and does not replace offers made by private or public organisations.

# JOBS



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## STAY IN NORSJÖ – IT PAYS OFF



**Magnus Eriksson**

Chair of the Committee  
on Education and Care,  
Municipality of Norsjö



**Therese Berg**

Head of Education,  
Municipality of Norsjö

### **A programme designed to attract and retain qualified teachers in rural Sweden.**

Norsjö Municipality covers almost 2,000 square kilometers but only has 4,000 inhabitants. Located in northwestern Sweden, Norsjö Municipality has experienced great difficulties in attracting staff for its public services. A Teacher Investment programme has been set up to attract teachers to work in Norsjö and to develop incentives so that they stay in the municipality. Bonuses are offered to qualified teachers who choose to stay in Norsjö: the bonuses are paid when the employment exceeds 12 months (SEK 15,000), 24 months (SEK 25,000) and 36 months (SEK 30,000).

Teachers who start an education to become qualified teachers are offered the possibility to set aside 30 percent of their work time for studies, with full compensation. Money is also set aside for general initiatives to increase health and well-being among teachers in Norsjö. At the beginning of 2018, only 50 percent of all teachers in Norsjö Municipality were qualified to teach in the subjects they were teaching. Since the Teacher Investment programme was initiated, Norsjö Municipality has been able to recruit three more qualified teachers and now 70 percent of teachers are fully qualified.



CATEGORY

**PROSPERITY**

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# PROSPERITY



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## A DIGITAL APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCTOR



**Birte Sandberg**

Chair of the Committee on Primary Care in the Region of Skåne



**Caroline Hedenström**

First deputy chair of the Committee on Primary Care

### **Routine visits to the doctor become a thing of the past with this digital service.**

Instead of physically visiting a primary health clinic to see your doctor, the Region of Skåne now offers some patient groups a digital appointment with a doctor. The digital appointment makes access to medical care much easier, particularly for people who require routine assistance, such as when renewing a prescription. This initiative allows primary health clinics (vårdcentraler) resources to be reallocated.

An appointment can be made in three easy steps: 1. The patient logs in with an electronic ID (BankID) and describes his or her symptoms by answering a number of questions; pictures can be attached. 2. The patient receives a written response from a nurse and, if necessary, a doctor who is a specialist in general medicine. The patient receives a notification via SMS or email when answers are available. 3. The patient and the care provider have the opportunity to continue to be in touch via text until the matter is resolved.

# PROSPERITY

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# CITY OF OMEGNA MASTERPLAN



**Paolo Marchioni**  
Mayor of Omegna



**Raffaella Varveri**  
Councillor

## **The City of Omegna is working in a holistic way to improve the town for the community as a whole.**

This project brings together, around an institutional working table, majority and minority political forces, professional associations, trade associations and local entrepreneurs to build a shared project for the future of Omegna. The aim is to provide work for new generations and attract investors and visitors in search of cultural (City of Gianni Rodari) and natural (Lake Orta) tourist experiences. Involving the entire population and neighbouring territories, concrete actions are promoted to develop urban spaces.

Project actions include; a municipal grant per square meter and zeroing the tax for occupying public land with scaffolding. In addition, the municipal administration is in dialogue with private companies and has obtained significant discounts for construction and renovation materials and services. In turn, the technical working group is developing a new road system to reduce traffic and pollution in the historic centre. The municipality is working to carefully balance the needs of entrepreneurs and the private sector with the needs of the public sector and the community as a whole.

# PROSPERITY



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## COMPETENT TEACHERS - ENTREPRENEURIAL YOUTHS



**Olli-Pekka Heinonen**

Director General of  
Finnish National  
Agency for Education



**Päivi Ojala**

Project Manager,  
The Federation of  
Finnish Enterprises

### **A new entrepreneurial spirit is being fostered in schools in Finland.**

Technology is changing social and economic structures, creating new frameworks for work, entrepreneurship and citizenship. At the same time, the social exclusion of young people and an ageing population are challenges that require new solutions. A new spirit of entrepreneurship is therefore sorely needed in Finland and we have recognised significant potential among young people, immigrants and academic degree holders. Schools have decided to introduce an extensive entrepreneurship training programme in order to support entrepreneurial pedagogy. For public and higher education institutions, the training programme improves the competences of their personnel and promotes entrepreneurship as part of their operational culture.

Since the project was launched in 2015, nearly 9,000 teachers, teacher trainers and students have participated in the training. Approximately 7,200 of them are teachers in secondary or tertiary educational institutions. The rest, approximately 1,500 people, are student teachers or teacher trainers. Training events have been held nationwide in Finland, with 50 to 60 training events held each year, or more than 200 events since the start of the project.

# PROSPERITY



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## CREATIVE TRANSFORMATIONS



**Krzysztof Łuk**  
Mayor of the City of Lublin

### **Small and medium-sized businesses in Lublin's city centre are supported and the district revived.**

The aim of this project is to increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises operating in Lublin's city centre. *ródmie cie*, once a shopping district, has been gradually losing its position as a centre of small trade and services because consumers prefer to go to larger shopping centres. The district also faces additional problems, such as higher unemployment (over 20%) compared to other parts of Lublin (5.4% in the whole city) and a higher rate of petty crime. This leads to an unfavourable perception of the district by Lublin's inhabitants and fewer visits to the district for shopping.

Over the last three years, this project has supported six Lublin entrepreneurs through individual business consultations and renovation of premises. Participation in the project has not only increased the interest of customers, but also aroused enthusiasm for further work. An additional impact of the project is that participating entrepreneurs are now more willing to participate in other training programmes and conferences organised in the city, which strengthens the competences necessary to run a successful business.

# PROSPERITY



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## DIGITALKIDZ STEM CLUB



**Ivelina Atanasova**  
Founder of the DigitalKidz Foundation

### **Using modern educational methods to improve digital and media literacy of young people in Bulgaria.**

The DigitalKidZ project is an innovative programme launched by the Ministry of Education and Science in Bulgaria, in partnership with a national educational foundation, to fight computer illiteracy and a lack of access to technology. The latest initiative within this programme is called the DigitalKidZ STEM Club, which is an educational programme aimed at children and students. This initiative develops programming skills, communication and emotional intelligence, as well as leadership skills, flexibility, along with digital and media literacy – all key in the 21st century.

This initiative implements modern educational methodologies used in the Finnish education system, which places the child at the centre of the learning process. DigitalKidZ STEM Club offers a training programme for extracurricular activities for teachers from selected schools, who have access to a virtual training platform and an opportunity to exchange good practices with colleagues from Finland. The programme was already tested among 1,500 children aged 8-16 years and teachers in seven major Bulgarian cities. The results are positive and the feedback shows the success of the programme and the new teaching methods.

# PROSPERITY



GovTech Lab Lithuania is an in-house government GovTech centre of excellence

## GOVTECH LAB LITHUANIA GOALS



1. To solve public sector challenges using new technologies (AI, data analytics, sensors, etc.)



2. To promote greater involvement of SMEs and startups in the public sector product creation (through public procurement or otherwise) to foster entrepreneurship

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## GOVTECH LAB



**Agila Barzdien**  
Head of Programme  
"Create Lithuania"



**Elijus Civilis**



**Arune Matelyte**



**Virginijus Sinkevičius**  
Minister of Economics  
and Innovation

### **Emerging technologies can be used to solve public sector challenges in Lithuania.**

Startups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are transforming major industries, but one sector is often overlooked – government. GovTech, involving the use of emerging technologies to solve public sector challenges, harnesses the potential of startups and SMEs to support government innovation. The worldwide GovTech market is calculated to be 400 billion USD and is predicted to continue to grow. Lithuania's GovTech Lab aims to maximise the potential of GovTech for technology creators, the government and citizens.

The Lab underpins Lithuania's burgeoning GovTech ecosystem, facilitating the connection between the public sector, startups and SMEs, academia and the voluntary sector. The Lab has already helped many institutions identify challenges that can be solved with emerging technologies and works with the private sector to accelerate new GovTech solutions. To support the application of GovTech solutions, the Lab's team oversees training sessions for public sector workers on topics ranging from artificial intelligence and open data, to fostering soft skills that enable innovation. The Lab also organises 'town hall' meetings that are open to the public to encourage transparent sharing of knowledge.

# PROSPERITY



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# PLYMOUTH'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INVESTMENT FUND



**Chris Penberthy**

Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative  
Development in Plymouth City Council

## **Creating inclusive growth in the city through investments in social enterprises.**

Plymouth City Council is proud to have developed the first ever UK initiative solely dedicated to delivering social investment. This ambitious approach shows that, with the right political leadership and support, local authorities can deliver inclusive growth for citizens. The Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) was designed to help social enterprises with limited financial resources to establish themselves and grow. It started with a pledge by the local Labour Party in their 2014 manifesto and was driven forward by the Portfolio Holder in the months leading up to the November 2014 launch, turning words into action.

The SEIF consists of a revenue contribution to provide high-quality business support and a capital contribution at the business case stage, through a capital grant/loan mix – 2.5 million GBP that has made a real difference. The outcomes of SEIF have been incredible: 127 jobs have been created; 14 abandoned buildings have been brought back into use; and 2.3 million GBP of match funding has been collected. Most importantly, Plymouth's social economy in some of the city's most deprived areas has been given a significant boost, delivering truly inclusive growth.



# Reallabore

Testräume für Innovation  
und Regulierung

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# REGULATORY SANDBOXES



**Peter Altmaier**

Minister for Economic Affairs & Energy

## **Spaces designed to test new digital technologies in real-life conditions without risk to the public.**

New digital technologies are making their way into many areas of the economy, faster than ever before. Such innovations offer huge opportunities, but they might also have negative effects on consumers, companies and society as a whole, which are difficult to assess in the short term. The purpose of Regulatory Sandboxes, as a new policy instrument, is to learn about the opportunities and risks that innovations carry and to develop an effective, innovation-friendly regulatory environment which also provides an appropriate level of protection and is accepted by the general public.

Regulatory Sandboxes enable innovations to be tested for a specific length of time under real-life conditions. They help to review existing regulations and test out new ones by using experimentation clauses. The Regulatory Sandbox Strategy developed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy seeks to systematically create Regulatory Sandboxes in Germany. It consists of three pillars: 1. Fostering the greater use and development of experimentation clauses; 2. Providing information and networks to facilitate the creation of Regulatory Sandboxes; and 3. Launching and supporting Regulatory Sandboxes, e.g. through competitions or support for specific projects.

## Sveriges första sociala utfallskontrakt

*För förbättrade skolresultat och minskad risk för återplacering för HVB- och SiS-placerade barn och unga*



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Samarbete mellan Norrköpings kommun, Leksell Social Ventures, SKL Uppdrag Psykisk Hälsa och Health Navigator

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# SWEDEN'S FIRST SOCIAL IMPACT BONDS



**Lars Stjernkvist**

Chair of the Municipal Board of Norrköping

## **In Sweden, private investors are working with a local municipality to improve the lives of foster children.**

Sweden's first social impact bonds have been jointly developed by Norrköping Municipality, Leksell Social Ventures, the Committee on Mental Health of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, and the company 'Health Navigator'. The social impact bonds were developed primarily to improve the situation for children who are in foster care in Norrköping Municipality by enhancing support for these children, including measures to improve their school results. A secondary goal was to develop work on social investments and to test a new model of collaboration between external funders and public entities, such as Norrköping Municipality.

The basis for the Norrköping model is the internationally tested model for service production through social outcome contracts, so-called 'social impact bonds'. Since the first social impact bond was launched in 2010, the concept has gained increasing attention. Called the "hottest idea in social service provision" by the New York Times, there are now more than 120 social impact bonds in over twenty countries, with more than 500 million EUR invested capital, tackling social challenges such as the integration of refugees, loneliness amongst elders, youth crime, prevention of diabetes, etc.

# PROSPERITY



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# THE ÖREBRO MODEL: HOUSING FOR THE MANY



## **Björn Sundin**

Former Deputy Mayor,  
former Chair of the Committee  
for Community planning  
in Örebro Municipality

### **Using the market economy to provide housing for people with lower incomes in Örebro.**

More housing is being built in Sweden now than ever before and no Swedish city built more houses per capita in 2016 than Örebro. However, since newly built apartments and houses are more expensive than older ones, newly built areas are being populated by few people with lower incomes. Since there is no national legislation or other tools to effectively stop this from happening, cities are trying to do it on their own.

Örebro is the first city in Sweden to implement a policy where the precondition to building housing in certain areas is that some of the finished apartments are let for a lower rent, enabling people with lower incomes to move into the area. This way competition between real-estate companies is being used to further equality and a diverse society in a growing city. By using the market economy, the city ensures cheaper housing is on offer, without any public subsidies or use of tax payers' money. The model is being implemented in Örebro and inspiring other cities in Sweden. It affects both the market and the way other cities act, thus achieving a far reaching impact.



CATEGORY

# QUALITY OF LIFE

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# QUALITY OF LIFE

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# AGE-FRIENDLY IRELAND

**Wayne Harding**

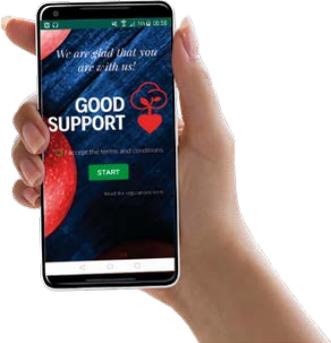
Councillor and Cathaoirleach  
in Meath County Council

**Ireland is a world leader in addressing elderly people's issues and preparing for population ageing.**

In April 2019, Ireland became the first country ever to be committed to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Age-Friendly Programme on a national scale. Meath County Council has taken the lead in developing Ireland as an Age-Friendly country through its establishment of an Age-Friendly Ireland shared service of local government. This service provides support and guidance to all 31 local authorities in developing their Age-Friendly Programmes. Over the last ten years, every local authority has committed to developing as Age-Friendly counties and cities.

Age-Friendly Ireland works in partnership with the public, private and NGO sectors to prepare Ireland for population ageing and to address elderly people's issues under the eight themes of the WHO's Age-Friendly Programme. When funding for this work came to an end, Meath County Council offered to host the Age-Friendly Programme in order to ensure continuity and then bid to host the shared service for Age-Friendly work in Ireland. Ireland's Age-Friendly Programme is at an advanced stage and well-regarded internationally. The continued support from Meath County Council helps to drive this innovative work.

# QUALITY OF LIFE



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## GOOD SUPPORT – A SYSTEM OF LOCAL SERVICES



**Olgierd Geblewicz**  
Voivodeship Marshal of West Pomeranian

### **A coordinated network of local caregivers and service providers supports those most in need.**

This project addresses people in the most difficult life situations; being disabled, chronically ill, or elderly. The project is in partnership with the Science for Environment Foundation Koszalin and the district government, with the cooperation of Caritas units from Szczecin and Koszalin. The aim is to build a network of local caregivers for people in need of help. Local caregivers are trained using a simulated apartment: the assistance team trains the family and neighbours on how to correctly assist the beneficiary, either in their own home, or in a simulated apartment in Szczecin.

This project has also led to the launching of two rehabilitation equipment rental services, so that disabled people can order a device (e.g. a lift) that will be delivered to their home. In addition, two respite apartments have been built in the district, where disabled, sick or elderly people can receive temporary professional care. The Tele-Services IT programme is an innovative tool that links people in need of a service with those who can provide it (carers, as well as hairdressers, or rehabilitators, etc.), thus coordinating the community's efforts to care for those in need.

# QUALITY OF LIFE



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## HEALTHY EATING IN NURSERIES



**Donka Mihaylova**  
Mayor of Troyan Municipality

### **An orchard and greenhouse provides fresh, healthy and environmentally friendly fruit and vegetables for children.**

Healthy eating in nurseries and kindergartens is one of the priorities of the municipality of Troyan and the Mayor Donka Mihaylova, who initiated the development of an orchard and a greenhouse where only environmentally-friendly fruit and vegetables are grown for the children. The kindergarten menus have been completely restructured, and kids in the city are already eating healthier, homegrown fruits and vegetables.

The garden has an area of three acres and there are already 600 apple trees, as well as other types of fruit and vegetables. In addition, all of the food served in the nurseries and kindergartens is prepared in a kitchen serving the poor in the municipality of Troyan, which is an additional social innovation. Environmentally-friendly fruit and vegetables support healthy nutrition, strengthen the immune system and reduce exposure to excessive chemical pesticides.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

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## LIBRARY OF SPORTS



**Bodil Hansson**

Deputy Chair of the City  
Council of Sundsvall



**Marlene Svensson**

Project Leader

### **Young people can borrow outdoor sports equipment for up to two weeks at a time.**

Sundsvall is a community that is proud of its outdoor sports tradition. However, not everyone can afford to participate in outdoor activities. At the Library of Sports you cannot borrow books, but you can borrow sports equipment.

Young people under the age of 25 can borrow skis, snowboards, skates and other sports equipment for up to two weeks. This enables young people to try out a range of different outdoor sports, without having to first make a financial investment. The Library of Sports project is part of Sundsvall's social investment fund, which was initiated by Bodil Hansson.

MAŁOPOLSKA  
DBA O ZDROWIE

ZGŁOŚ SIĘ DO MAŁOPOLSKIEGO TELE-ANIOŁA

**POMOCNA DŁOŃ  
ZAWSZE PRZY TOBIE**

[WWW.MALOPOLSKA.PL/TELEANIOŁ](http://WWW.MALOPOLSKA.PL/TELEANIOŁ)



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## MALOPOLSKA TELE-ANGEL



**Marta Malec-Lech**

Member of the Board of the  
Voivodeship of Lesser Poland

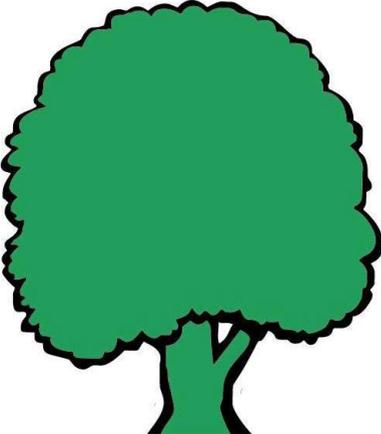
### **A free security wristband connects elderly and disabled residents with a 24-hour emergency response team.**

The Malopolska Tele-Angel project is aimed at 10,000 dependent Malopolska residents who need support in performing basic everyday activities due to their age, illness or disability. These residents now have the possibility to quickly call for help in the event of a threat to life, health or safety, through contact with the Telecare Centre. Participants receive a free security wristband equipped with an SOS button and SIM card which has a 24-hour voice connection with the Centre, where medical rescuers, Telecare assistants and a psychologist are employed. The wristbands are equipped with a built-in fall detector, GPS and heart rate monitor, allowing rescuers to monitor the participants of the project remotely.

The project provides care and neighbourhood services to those most in need of support: 3216 single, dependent, unaccompanied persons. The scope of support is determined on an individual basis, with an average of 20 service hours per month, provided by carers or trained neighbours. Care and neighbourhood services include; assistance with everyday activities, hygienic care, getting out of the house. Approximately 1,600 neighbours (8-hour training) and 160 carers (80-hour training) have been trained to provide these services.

# QUALITY OF LIFE

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# MODULAR HOUSING SITES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES IN EALING

## Ealing Council

### **Modified shipping containers provide high-quality, modular housing for homeless families.**

Ealing Council was one of the first local authorities in Europe to use innovative modular homes made from heavily modified shipping containers as temporary accommodation for local homeless people. Ealing's excellent transport links and outstanding schools mean it has been hit particularly hard by London's housing crisis: local people are priced out of the housing market and some find themselves homeless. For this project, the council works in partnership with QED Sustainable Developments to offer 108 safe, private housing units for vulnerable families with nowhere else to go.

The modular buildings are each self-contained, with their own kitchens and bathrooms. That means they offer a far better standard of accommodation than other alternatives, which usually only offer a single room for the whole family, with shared cooking and washing facilities. The homes are built on sites which are earmarked for future development and are designed so that they can be easily moved to other sites when necessary. Despite this flexibility, the homes are built to the same rigorous standards as traditional buildings. They improve the neighbourhoods they are set up in by bringing derelict, run-down sites back into good use.

# QUALITY OF LIFE

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# MUNICIPAL FLATS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE CENTRE OF OSTRÓW WIELKOPOLSKI



**Beata Klimek**  
Mayor of Ostrów Wielkopolski

## **Accessible municipal housing designed to meet the needs of senior citizens.**

The authorities of Ostrów Wielkopolski, in response to the ever-growing number of seniors and the lack of a municipal flats suitable for people over sixty, decided to create municipal flats designed for senior citizens. The apartments were created in response to the problems that seniors face in everyday life. The city authorities noticed that seniors are often 'prisoners of the fourth floor'; living in buildings without a lift and being unable to climb the stairs every day.

The flats were built in a tenement house in the city centre: close to bus stops, a market, shops, a cultural centre, a pharmacy and a church. There are 14 one- and two-room flats, with an average size of 35m<sup>2</sup>, each with their own kitchen and bathroom and a lift installed in the building. The city had to completely renovate the building inside and out, which was completed in 2019. The apartments were allocated to seniors according to the City Council Resolution and are highly appreciated by the inhabitants. The accommodation improves the quality of life of the residents in their autumn years.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

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# SMART CITY BAD HERSFELD



**Thomas Fehling**  
Mayor of Bad Hersfeld

## **Sustainably improving the quality of life for citizens through technological innovation.**

Bad Hersfeld is a medium-sized town which takes a proactive approach to its future development. The project 'Smart City Bad Hersfeld' connects the public administration with citizens and local businesses to solve common problems through technological innovation. This was realised by systematically implementing digital tools, understanding the city better and linking related topics together. For example, a digital parking guidance system means space can be used intelligently and makes it easier to find free spaces. Furthermore, the town builds public charging stations for electric cars. This links transportation to the topic of energy and the environment.

Smartboxes, developed by a local start-up, were installed along the highway. They collect data on noise, particulate matter and more, which gives the city the opportunity to make well-founded decisions in environmental management. Free and open Wi-Fi in the city centre allows everybody to use and contribute to the different services of the project. The administration itself further digitised internal processes, as well as external communication to become better equipped for the future. The Smart City project is centred around improving the quality of life for its citizens in a cooperative and sustainable way.

# QUALITY OF LIFE



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# SUMMER CITY CAMPS IN VIENNA



**Jürgen Czernohorszky**  
City Senator

## **Providing affordable summer childcare options to families in Vienna.**

In the past, parents were repeatedly confronted with the challenge of finding affordable and suitable childcare during the summer holidays. Now, Summer City Camps offer all Viennese school children an extensive leisure-time educational programme during the holidays. The programme includes plenty of exercise, excursions into nature, cultural experiences and technical workshops. In addition, targeted and free learning support is offered at six locations throughout Vienna, where secondary school pupils can improve their language and numeracy skills with professional support in two-week courses.

The Summer City Camps took place for the first time this year from 1 July to 30 August 2019 in 25 different school locations throughout Vienna. Children can be registered for a camp on a weekly basis all day from 08:00 to 17:00, for a maximum of six weeks. The Summer City Camps are an inclusive offer, providing professional care for children with disabilities at special school locations. A healthy lunch is included in the price of 50 EUR per week per child, 75 EUR for two children and 100 EUR for three or more children per family. The summer camps are free if parents receive social benefits.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

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## TAMING ADULTHOOD



**Michał Gu**  
Deputy Mayor of Gdynia

### **Educational workshops that prepare adults with intellectual disabilities for parenthood.**

Taming Adulthood increases awareness amongst individuals with intellectual disabilities about the challenges associated with adolescence, gender identity, growing up and parenthood. The project develops tools necessary to conduct workshops that familiarise people with intellectual disabilities with the role of parents and provides support to parents coping with natural aspects of the developing sexuality and needs of children with intellectual disabilities. Based on professional and personal experience, an educational method using an infant simulator that enables trainees to experience the role of parenthood was developed.

Thanks to this innovation, individuals with intellectual disabilities acquire skills in building self-confidence, independent decision-making, being aware of their own potential and preparing for the challenges of parenthood. This training programme also increases competencies in sexual and family-life education of professionals working with individuals with intellectual disabilities, enabling direct consultation about sexuality for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. This contributes to the further development of an open and inclusive society with equal opportunities for all citizens.



## MAYORITY – LET'S PLAY DEMOCRACY

**Majority** is a single-player city building and management game created for youngsters between 10 and 14 years. The player runs a small village as its Mayor. Migration and multicultural societies being world-wide challenging topics changing everyday life in communities, youngsters can get firsthand experience of what living together in diversity means.

### Toolkit for Educators

The aim of the game: Playfully experience migration, cultural diversity and social cohesion in schools and other teaching environments as well as in recreational gaming.

For classroom application in Political Education, History, German and English language, the game comes with a comprehensive toolkit for educators including materials, assignments and tests which can be acquired. As almost all teenagers use mobile games, Majority gives the opportunity to introduce dealing with the complexity of democracy and diversity in multicultural societies in a playful way.

## Social Cohesion

The game takes place in a world inspired by fables. Citizens are anthropomorphised animal characters. This allows disassociation from reality while still directly experiencing the needs of different groups of citizens as well as their diverse interests.

Four different groups of Citizens (ducks, mice, rabbits and rhinos) voice their concerns as demands and it is the player's duty as Mayor to solve problems as cost- and time-efficiently as possible, while at the same time avoiding stepping on anyone's toes. If citizens aren't happy they stop working, causing the community to lose resources and tax-income. However, additional citizens arrive at a regular pace, leaving the Mayor with a larger workforce but also with more people to keep happy and the duty to provide them with what they require.

## The people behind the Game

The Game was created by Paul Zuckermann and Johannes Zint for Act.Now, founding Partners of the Innovation in Politics Institute and since 2016 hosting the "NOW International Mayors' Conferences". It will be distributed by the Austrian World of Tomorrow Institute.

Majority will be available for download from 1.03.2020 in English and German from Google Play and App Store.

For more detailed information also about the toolkit for educators please visit [www.majority-game.com](http://www.majority-game.com)











# TEAM

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**Malgorzata  
Bonikowska**

Political Science Officer

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**Helfried Carl**

Founder, Senior Director

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**Jürgen Gangoly**

Founder

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**Dunja Ganser**

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**Nicola Gold**

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**Amadea Horvath**

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**Patricia Kahane**

Founder

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CEO Innovation in Politics  
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**Edward Strasser**  
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**Marie Wutzler**  
Project Manager



**Josef Zehetner**  
Project Manager



**Elke Zuckermann**  
Founder



**Ronny Zuckermann**  
Founder, Chief Strategist

## ARTISTS

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**Elena Margarita Kakaliagou**, *French Horn*

**Hilary Jeffrey**, *Trombone*

**Matthias Müller**, *Trombone*

**Mia Dyberg**, *Saxophone*

**Markus Krispel**, *Saxophone*

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**Elena Margarita Kakaliagou** is a Greek musician. She is a part of the ensembles ‚Zinc & Copper‘, ‚Zeitkratzer‘ and ‚Rank Ensemble‘, as well as the duos Kakaliagou/Schmoliner and Guerra/Kakaliagou. Her particular interest in contemporary music and free improvisation has led her to various artistic collaborations and participation in music festivals.

**Hilary Jeffrey** is a trombonist, composer, author and visual artist. He has worked with various choreographers on dance performances, played with other respected trombonists and recorded many pieces.

**Matthias Müller** is a trombonist, who has collaborated with many outstanding improvisers as well as released his own CD „Bhavan“.

**Mia Dyberg** is a Danish saxophonist, improvisation musician and composer. Her ability to combine sound experiments with melancholic, unique melodies makes her one of the new exciting voices in the European jazz scene.

**Markus Krispel** is a saxophonist, who is an improvising musician in various constellations. His interest lies in the combination of the ‚sonical‘ exploration of the instrument in relation to the acoustic conditions of the respective room.

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## FARAO & THE HOLE BOYS



**Farao**, *Singer/Songwriter*  
**The Hole Boys**, *Band*

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**The Hole Boys** are entertainers for all occasions, having worked with artists such as David Byrne, Molly Nilsson, Ducktails, Kat Frankie, Max Prosa and Jaakko Eino Kalevi to name just a few.

**Farao** is the pseudonym of the Norwegian singer Kari Jahnsen. Accompanied by an acoustic guitar only, Jahnsen turns songs into various covers and into touching ballads. Her Singer-Songwriter-Pop flirts with Folk music just as much as it does with electronic Ambient-Sounds. Acclaimed blog Line Of The Best Fit recently named her as one of the ten singers and bands leading the female-fronted Nordic music revolution.

# ARTISTS

## THE DOUBLEDRUMS



**Alexander Glögger**, *Drums/Percussion*

**Philipp Jungk**, *Drums/Percussion*

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### **Welcome to the world of rhythm !**

The award-winning percussion duo „Double Drums“ ignites a real rhythm firework on over 100 percussion instruments and everyday objects. Classical, pop and international music are merged and paired with infectious good humour and witty entertainment. Strong film music meets breathtaking drum art, rhythm symphonies meets duel with cooking pots and traffic signs.

The two percussionists with master class graduation effortlessly bridge the gap between demand and entertainment and present a show „that is rhythmic, skillful and passionate.“

## DJ YASU



**Jasmine Alakari**, *Singer*

**Jakob Hohmann**, *Producer*

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**DJ YASU** is a performing duo of Jasmine Alakari and Jakob Hohmann. Jasmine is a Finnish film producer and singer/musician and Jakob has been producing electronic and acoustic music. The duo likes improvisation music and has recorded various tracks together.



In memoriam

**Paweł Adamowicz**

1965 – 2019