

Evens Foundation Newsletter August 2013



Evens Prize for Peace Education 2013 won by French school

The international expert jury of the Evens Prize for Peace Education gathered in Paris at the end of May to select the prize laureate. For the 2013 award, the foundation was looking for a primary school that integrates and consistently implements peace education principles in their school policy and functioning.

After an intense day of debate and discussion, the jury chose the Léon Jouhaux primary school at Villeurbanne, France from a shortlist of 11 schools. The jury especially valued the comprehensive and constructive character of the change process initiated in the school, which functions in a challenging context, as well as the mechanisms and procedures put in place to improve children's participation in class and school life.

The award ceremony will take place on Friday 20th September 2013. For more information about this prize, [click here](#).

First Evens Prize for European Journalism awarded to leading journalist

The first Evens Prize for European Journalism has been awarded to a leading journalist with the *Financial Times*.

Quentin Peel, Associate Editor of the *Financial Times* and Chief Correspondent in Germany brings long experience, deep insight and a historical perspective to his political and economic analysis. He writes for several major newspapers in Europe and elsewhere, and appears regularly in broadcast media around the world.

In the mid-1980s, he covered the emergence of the EU as European Community correspondent and bureau chief in Brussels; later he covered the end of the cold war and German reunification.

The external jury, chaired by Baron Frans van Daele, Ambassador (rtd) of Belgium and Former Chief of Staff of the President of the European Council, also wanted to reward a promising young journalist who is covering Europe in a unique way. A runner-up or junior prize was thus awarded to Valentina Pop. The jury praised the young Romanian journalist for her mature style, independent mind and professional skills in her work as correspondent at *EUobserver.com*.

This new prize is aimed at rewarding journalists whose work contributes strongly to making Europe more comprehensible to a broad audience. More information can be found on the [Evens website](#).

I AM EUROPE project culminates in major Brussels gathering

From January to June 2013, more than 200 citizens from eight EU countries participated in the Evens Foundation's *I AM EUROPE* project. During three spring weekends, 50 of them gathered in Antwerp, Paris and Warsaw to exchange, explore and evaluate participation tools to enlarge the influence citizens can have on EU policymaking.

The outcome of this investigative quest was presented by the participating citizens and discussed with panels of policymakers and experts at the plenary closing event on 22nd June in Brussels.

During this event, the first European newspaper of its kind, titled *I AM EUROPE*, was launched. Produced by the participating citizens, it focuses on a wide variety of stories and issues of interest to European citizens, including the serious democratic challenges the EU currently faces.

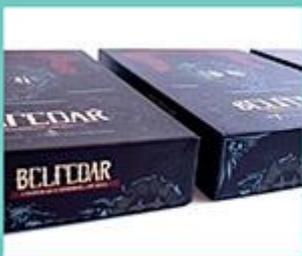
You can view the I AM EUROPE newspaper at iameurope.eu or on the project's **Facebook page**.

Lively debate on 'The United States of Europe'

The Evens Foundation organized a fascinating debate for almost 200 people at 'The Egg' in Brussels on 21st June. The main question to which the panel members were seeking an answer was: 'The United States of Europe ... An illusion or a necessity?'

The event was chaired by Baron Frans van Daele, Ambassador (rtd) of Belgium and Former Chief of Staff of the President of the European Council, and the inspiring keynote speaker of the evening was former Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister and member of the Council of State, Ana Palacio.

It was Rob Heirbaut, European Correspondent at VRT, who chaired the debate where panel members Frans van Daele, Mia Doornaert (Columnist and Independent Expert on International Affairs), Karel Lannoo (CEO Centre for European Policy Studies), Peter Ludlow (President of the Executive Committee of the European Strategy Forum), and Maciej Popowski (Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service) engaged in lively discussion of the future of the European Union.



Spanish, Polish and Dutch edition of Belfedar for sale

The Evens Foundation partnered with four organizations in Poland, Flanders and Spain to launch the popular Belfedar game in three new languages: Polish, Dutch and Spanish. Since May 2013 the games have been officially on sale.

Belfedar is the fruit of a partnership between the Evens Foundation and the Université de Paix. A boardgame for

4-8 players aged over 10, it encourages constructive communication, cooperation and group solidarity. It also helps to develop social skills for managing conflict and preventing violence.

Through amusing exercises, players better understand both themselves and others, develop self-esteem, and learn creative expression, management of emotions, listening, cooperation, etc. The 250 challenges offered are both active and interactive: mime, drawings, word-games, writing, movement, singing, and so on.

For more information about the game and our partners, [click here](#).

Young journalists complete training at Street School

The second session of the Street School, a free initiation into journalism, ended in June 2013. Open to young people from various backgrounds, it provides a four-month program of workshops on the essentials of journalistic practice, with master classes led by professionals from major newspapers, and TV and radio stations.

The project, developed by Street Press, a young online media, under the direction of Cecilia Gabizon, Editor-in-Chief of *Figaro Etudiant*, is supported by the City Hall of Paris and numerous media partners.

More than 450 young people applied to take part in the second session of the Street School and 15 were selected. As the principle of the training is 'learn by doing', the students produced numerous reports which were published or aired in partner medias, such as *Figaro Etudiant*, *Metro Magazine* and *Radio Campus*.

An online version of the Street School with workshop podcasts allows a wider community of young people to follow this journalistic training. More information at school.streetpress.com

Scientific Challenge 2013 - investigating empathy

Since its establishment, the Evens Foundation has awarded biennial prizes in various fields to fulfill its mission. In line with this tradition, we are proud to announce the Evens Foundation Scientific Challenge 2013: the Neuroscience of Empathy. In the framework of this challenge, a grant of €30,000 will be awarded to an individual or group with an established track record of research in the behavioral neurosciences involving human subjects, and who propose to investigate the neural processes of empathy.

By encouraging research in this field, the foundation seeks to substantiate its initiatives related to constructive conflict management in the framework of its Peace Education Program.

The grant, which will be awarded by an international expert jury, chaired by Prof. Dr. Patrick Cras, is intended to fund the initiation of new research or to support a research project already in progress. Preference will be given to projects that explore how empathetic behavior can be encouraged or stimulated. For more information about the criteria, [click here](#).

Young poetry lovers win Poetry Unites contest

Eight young German, Bulgarian and Polish poetry lovers - winners of the **2013 Evens Foundation's Poetry Unites - My Favorite Poem Contest** attend the contest's closing gala in Warsaw on 13th June 2013.

This year's contest for the best presentation of a favorite poem generated over 900 entries in three countries. Juries selected eight winners. The award was a three-day visit to Warsaw and a five-minute film profile of each winner, directed by Ewa Zadrzyńska. The eight films are expected to be broadcast on public TV in Germany, Poland and Bulgaria.

Poetry Unites - My Favorite Poem is an international program, created for the Evens Foundation by Polish filmmaker Ewa Zadrzyńska. The project's goal is to promote poetry and poetry readers, in the hope that their enthusiasm will inspire thousands, even millions, of their fellow European citizens.

In 2007 the Evens Foundation initiated the Poetry Unites contests for a best essay about a favorite poem. The contest premiered in Poland, then added Germany and this year Bulgaria. It is open to all schoolchildren.

This year's contest was granted the patronage of the Director General of UNESCO, the Ambassadors of Germany and Bulgaria, and the Mayor of Warsaw, and was partially sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Culture and the City Hall of Warsaw.

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