



Success Stories

The
GOOD
Lobby
Awards



What are The Good Lobby Awards?

The Good Lobby Awards are an annual celebration of projects, initiatives and campaigns led by citizens committed to lobby for change. We bring together individuals from different walks of life and organizations that have been successfully championing for social change.

Who participates?

The Good Lobby Awards recognize the most successful citizen-driven projects and advocacy collaborations between citizens - be they professionals or volunteers -, companies, civil society organizations, political representatives, academics and/or foundations.

Citizen Lobbyist Award rewarding the most impactful initiative - be it a campaign, project, action - in the European space;

Pro Bono Lawyer Award rewarding the most impactful pro bono project entailing the participation of law firms, in-house counsels and lawyers in the European space;

NGO Award rewarding the most impactful campaign / action in the European space;

Academic Award rewarding the civic commitment of one or more academics and researchers in the European space;

Pro Bono Professional Award rewarding the civic commitment of one or more professionals - by they lobbyists, advertisers or data analysts - in the European space who on a pro bono basis actively support citizen-driven initiatives and other collaborations by offering their expertise;

Philanthropist Award rewarding the commitment of one or more foundations/charity to foster and support advocacy projects in the European space;

Collaboration of the Year Award celebrating the outstanding collaborative projects among individuals and organisations from across Europe. This category also encompasses other broad ranging projects.

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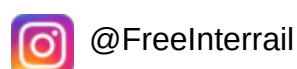
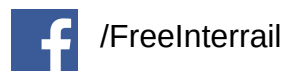


Representatives: Martin Speer, Vincent-Immanuel Herr

#FreeInterrail is a citizen lobbying project developed by Martin Speer and Vincent-Immanuel Herr. The inception of the project took place in March 2014 while Speer and Herr were on an Interrail trip. Their demand was simple – every EU citizen receives a personal letter from the European Commission upon turning 18. The letter will contain a congratulatory note, some basic information on mobility in Europe and the EU, and a voucher for a 1-month Interrail pass, which will grant free train travel to the holder.

Apart from granting every young and future citizen of Europe direct access to the continent's diversity, #FreeInterrail also aims to achieve the following goals as a consequence of this experience - increase youth mobility and youth labour mobility; provide equal access to international travel independent of financial or national background; potentially combat youth unemployment by providing access to different markets and experiences; combat stereotypes and prejudices by enabling first-hand encounters with people from different backgrounds; foster intercultural friendships and relationships; increase youth interest in EU institutions and processes; support sustainable and green way of travelling and more!

Since their open petition in 2015, after much ups and downs, #FreeInterrail has gained a firm place in the minds and hearts of many Europeans. In the summer of 2018, the first 15,000 youth embarked on a €12 million pilot project. Demand far exceeded supply: there were 100,000 applicants for the test. Another €25 million are to be made available for #FreeInterrail in 2019-2020. From 2021 the European Commission will mobilize €700 million to make #FreeInterrail an integral part of EU youth work. This will enable over 1.5 million young people to discover and appreciate Europe. The goal is to enable the idea to establish itself as a “second pillar” alongside Erasmus+.





14★10★2018

Think European

**VOTE
LOCAL**



Representative: Thomas Huddleston

The VoteBrussels campaign was launched in the beginning of 2018 with the aim to get non-Belgians to register to vote for the local elections in Brussels. This campaign is run by the Migration Policy Group, an EU-level think tank that works with networks across Europe on immigrant integration. The campaign is funded by the European Commission's DG Justice as part of the larger "Fair EU" project that looks at the obstacles that citizens face when they move to another country and want to participate in elections.

The VoteBrussels campaign aimed to reach the 300,000 non-Belgians that have the right to vote and looked towards those who have signed up to call upon their friends to do likewise. It regularly reaches 40,000 non-Belgians in Brussels and engages 12,000 every week. VoteBrussels dispatched Belgian and European volunteers to register non-Belgians to vote. There are 300,000 non-Belgians in Brussels of which 220,000 EU citizens and 65,000 non-EU citizens.

They developed brochures and information material that is easy to understand and focuses on the information that voters will need together with the 19 Brussels communes. VoteBrussels mobilises volunteers that work in and around the EU institutions turning them into grassroots activists. The volunteers have opened their networks for information sessions, trainings or lunch meetings and more.



vote.brussels



[@VoteBrussels](https://twitter.com/VoteBrussels)



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SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET

Representative: Greta Thunberg

Skolstrejk för klimatet started as a single school child civic action and has become a nationwide movement in Sweden. On August 20th Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old girl, walked out of school and sat on the ground outside the Swedish parliament to demand politicians to show that they intend to take the climate threat seriously and present measures that try to solve the problems thoroughly. Her protest captured the imagination of a country that has been struck by heatwaves and wildfires in its hottest summer since records began 262 years ago.

Every day for two weeks, Thunberg sat quietly on the cobblestones outside parliament in central Stockholm, handing out leaflets that declare: "I am doing this because you adults are shitting on my future." Since then, Thunberg has repeated her protest each Friday and thousands of people join her every week. Her protest has inspired students around the world to address climate change.

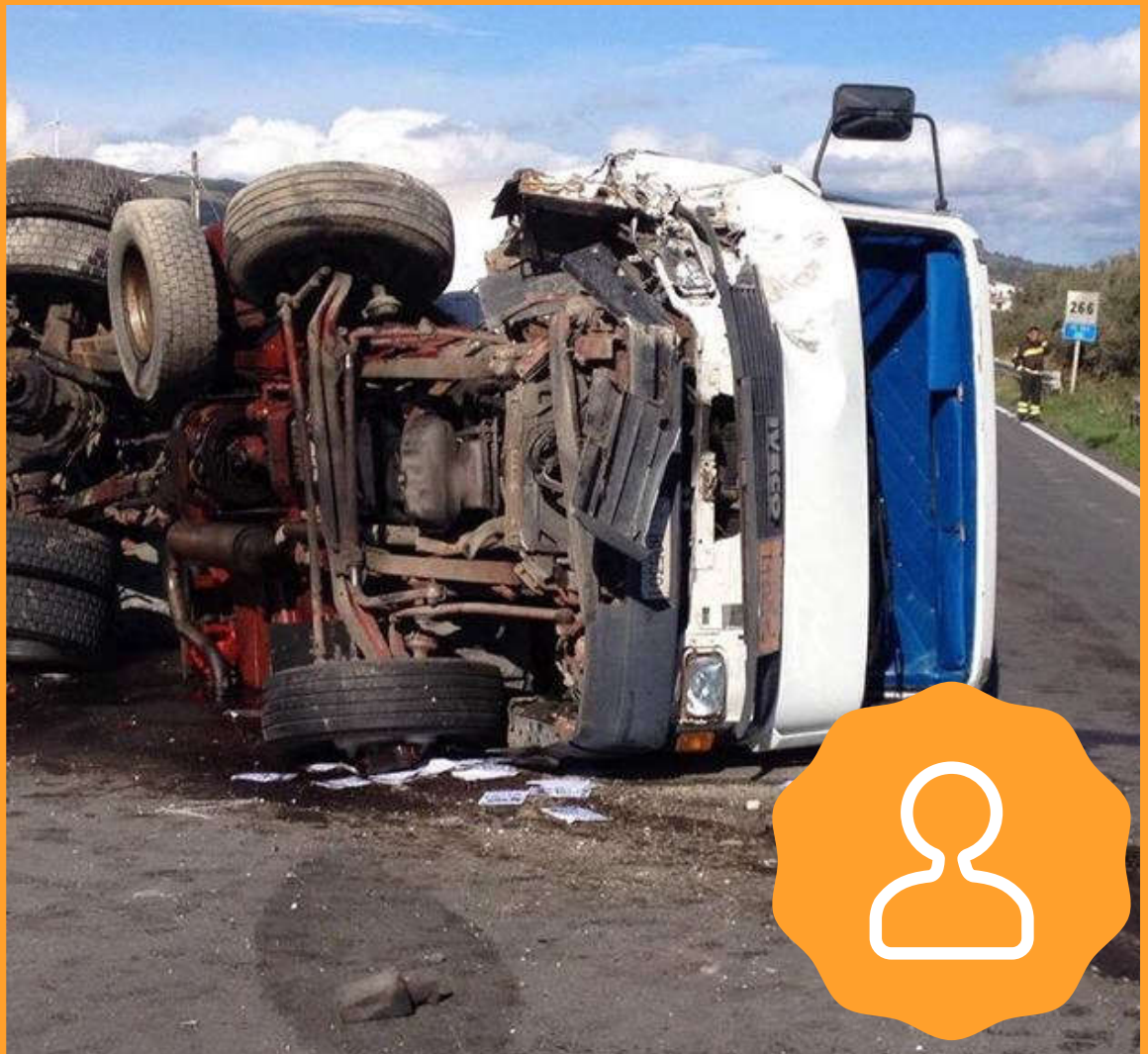


@gretathunberg



@GretaThunberg





BASTA VITTIME SULLA SS106

Representative: Marino Tino

In the past 20 years almost 500 people lost their lives on the SS106 highway in Italy. The Association “Basta vittime sulla SS106” (no more victims on SS106) was founded in 2014 and has immediately become a reference throughout the Calabria region for every problem concerning the SS106. The Association aims to raise awareness through the implementation of campaigns, conferences, events and any other useful initiative or cultural activity on any issue related or connected to the right to mobility, road safety and justice for victims and survivors of the highway SS106.

With almost 20 thousand active members, the association recently celebrated the approval of a project where €1.3 million will be invested to improve the security of this “road of death”.



/groups/bastavittimesulla106



bastavittime106.it





Certified



Corporation



Representatives: Paolo Di Cesare, Eric Ezechieli

Italian entrepreneurs Eric Ezechieli and Paolo Di Cesare founded sustainability consultancy Nativa in 2012, and they wanted the company to have a sense of purpose. In their application to register the new company, the business statute included achieving “the happiness of all those who are a part of it.” The Chamber of Commerce of Milan rejected their application three times. The reason for these rejections was that the organisation’s purpose was not an acceptable reason for a company to exist. This experience set Ezechieli and Di Cesare on a path to create a space in Italian corporate law for businesses with a purpose beyond profit.

In 2013, Nativa became a Certified B Corp, and the founders became familiar with benefit corporations that were becoming a legal option in several U.S. states. Ezechieli approached Italian politicians, with the idea of new legislation that will help make Italy a place for businesses looking to make a positive impact on society.

The legislation would create a new definition of a company, called a “società benefit” (or benefit corporation), a company with a double purpose: distributing profits and pursuing a common good. In 2015, the new legislation moved quickly from being drafted in January by a working group and the law was finally approved by the Senate and Parliament in December 2015. Once the legislation became law in early 2016, Ezechieli and Di Cesare registered Nativa as the first società benefit in Italy - with “happiness” in its corporate statute.

Thanks to them, Italy became the first country, outside the U.S., with a law for a new type of business that looks not just at profit but also at society and the environment. As of now in Italy there are more than 300 Benefit Corporations and more than 80 Certified B Corps. In Europe the total number is about 700.



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europuis

TRUL DE EXPERTIZĂ EUROPEAN

A yellow circular icon containing a white lightbulb symbol, representing an idea or expertise. The icon is positioned in the bottom right corner of the text area.

Representative: Tana Faorfa

EUROSFAT is the annual forum of European debates taking place in Romania since 2013. The aim of the event is to bring together politicians, diplomats, activists, business representatives, researchers, experts and citizens to debate on key issues on the European agenda, facilitating the positioning of Romanian actors within the EU.

Europuls, the initiator and organiser of the EUROSFAT forum, is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2010 in Brussels by a group of Romanian experts in European affairs. Its purpose is to promote the European integration process in Romania and to help develop a European public space. Europuls aims to encourage public debates on European issues through articles and studies, and by organising seminars, workshops and conferences. European commissioners, Romanian and foreign MEPs, political leaders, civil society representatives, experts and journalists are the main participants at these events.

At the latest forum, Europuls invited all the major political parties to express their vision about the future of Europe. After the forum, Europuls wrote an open letter to the political decision-makers reminding them about their statements and positions which tend to contradict their actions. The high level of trust that has been created around the forum led to their close cooperation with the European Commission's representation in Romania. EUROSFAT has become the largest forum on European Affairs in Romania by gathering more than 500 participants and 60 foreign speakers.



2018.eurosfat.ro/eng/



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NEW EUROPEANS

Representative: Roger Casale

The New Europeans launched the #GreenCard4Europe campaign in 2017. This campaign aims to unilaterally guarantee the freedom of movement rights of the three million EU27 citizens living in the UK and 1.5 million British citizens living in other EU member states. A key moment in the campaign was the decision by the European Parliament to insist on the continuation of free movement rights for Britons in the EU in its resolution of 17 December 2017, following representations led by New Europeans and other civil society campaigns and interest groups.

New Europeans launched the prototype of the Green Card at the EPA in Strasbourg.

The #GreenCard4Europe campaign is tirelessly pursuing unilateral guarantees for EU27 citizens in the UK, commitment to onward mobility rights of UK citizens in the EU, transforming the representation of EU27 citizens in the UK, and reframing Brexit as a human rights issue. Their dedicated actions have received widespread recognition and they have won the Financial Times Future of Britain Award 2017, the McKechnie Foundation People's Choice Award and the Schwarzkopf Foundation Europe Award.





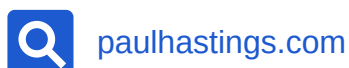
Representative: Bronwen Begakis

Jason Jones grew up in Port of Spain and faced almost daily homophobic bullying and threats of violence because of his sexual orientation. Abandoned by his family, he rebuilt his life in the United Kingdom and believes that he has the opportunity now to help his fellow LGBT Trinbagonian citizens find an equal place in Trinidad & Tobago.

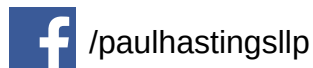
Paul Hastings LLP, a leading global law firm, assisted their pro bono client, Trinidad-born, UK-based LGBT activist Jason Jones, in his historic human rights constitutional challenge against the Attorney General and Government of Trinidad & Tobago (“T&T”), to remove sections 13 & 16 of the Sexual Offences Act criminalising adult consensual same sex relationships.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Devindra Rampersad stated in his judgment of 12 April 2018: “The court declares that sections 13 and 16 of the Act are unconstitutional, illegal, null, void, invalid and are of no effect to the extent that these laws criminalise any acts constituting consensual sexual conduct between adults”. The highest court of Appeal in T&T is the Privy Council of the United Kingdom, and as such the proceedings will have an effect not only in T&T but potentially also much wider global reach among those former British colonies, as well as considerable moral force world-wide.

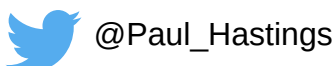
The case and associated publicity has been instrumental in providing encouragement to millions worldwide by supporting and promoting LGBT rights. It has already been cited in the Supreme Court of India this month during a hearing to remove their discriminatory laws, which could help millions in that country.



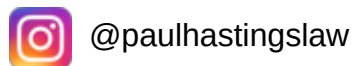
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Representative: Atanas Politov

Sadly, it is now trite to say - simply another fact of modern life – that the world is facing a global crackdown on human rights, civil society and civic freedoms. In Europe, we are witnessing an unprecedented erosion of democracy. Growing divisions among EU Member States about the meaning and importance of the rule of law and human rights - spurred by nationalist populism, the migrant crisis and Brexit - have created an uncertain environment for many non-profits and human rights defenders.

Against this backdrop, Dentons Europe (and their Warsaw office in particular) has developed a unique region-wide pro bono litigation practice to promote and protect civic freedoms and the rule of law. This work seeks to reaffirm publicly the importance of such European values. Such litigation is time consuming, politically risky and expensive. Undeterred, Litigation Partners, Agnieszka, Wojciech and their teams have sought, tentatively, to use this controversial tool to fortify civic freedoms, human rights and the rule of law in Poland.

In one notable recent example, Dentons Warsaw represented blogger Andrzej Radke in a landmark freedom of speech case that Dentons took on in cooperation with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. Mr. Radke, a retired Solidarity activist who had been imprisoned during Soviet times, published blog posts criticizing the local government's operations and posted a video that proved embarrassing for the local government. The authorities retaliated by claiming that a blog is a "periodical publication" and charged him with the petty offense of failing to register the blog in the official Polish media registry. Agnieszka tried the case in district court which initially convicted Mr. Radke. Dentons appealed to the higher court, which ruled in favor of Mr. Radke.





KIND

IDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE



Representative: Jacqueline Mulryne


Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is the pre-eminent US non-governmental organisation devoted to the legal protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children. KIND was founded in 2008, and since then they have served over 16,000 children, trained more than 25,000 attorneys, and with 526 partners, they have provided over \$187 million in pro bono support.

KIND is working towards launching new efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Europe. Arnold & Porter (A&P) is assisting KIND with strategic thinking on how to implement this expansion project in Europe - e.g., in which European countries to expand its activities, whether to partner with European NGOs, set up its own office(s) in Europe, or other models. With A&P having worked closely with KIND for a number of years in the U.S., lawyers with A&P's European offices were happy to assist with the European expansion as an even greater commitment to KIND's international activities.

In 2016 A&P worked with KIND UK to set up the corporate structure necessary to establish the KIND programme in the UK. They also worked with KIND to develop programmes to assist unaccompanied minors in Central America who were seeking to reunite with their biological parents in the United States. More specifically, for the European expansion project, A&P has assisted KIND and JRS with research on the legal position of unaccompanied minors in nine main countries (including their rights based on international treaties), as well as the current resources available to them so that KIND can target its EU operations most effectively. In particular, we have provided legal and strategic input for legal issues and protection of minors in: (i) countries of first arrival (Greece, Italy, Spain), (ii) transit countries (France, Belgium, Austria) and (iii) destination countries (Sweden, Germany and the UK), including information, statistics, trends, and a discussion of the most acute problems and politics affecting the receptivity of these nine countries to helping unaccompanied children and reunification.

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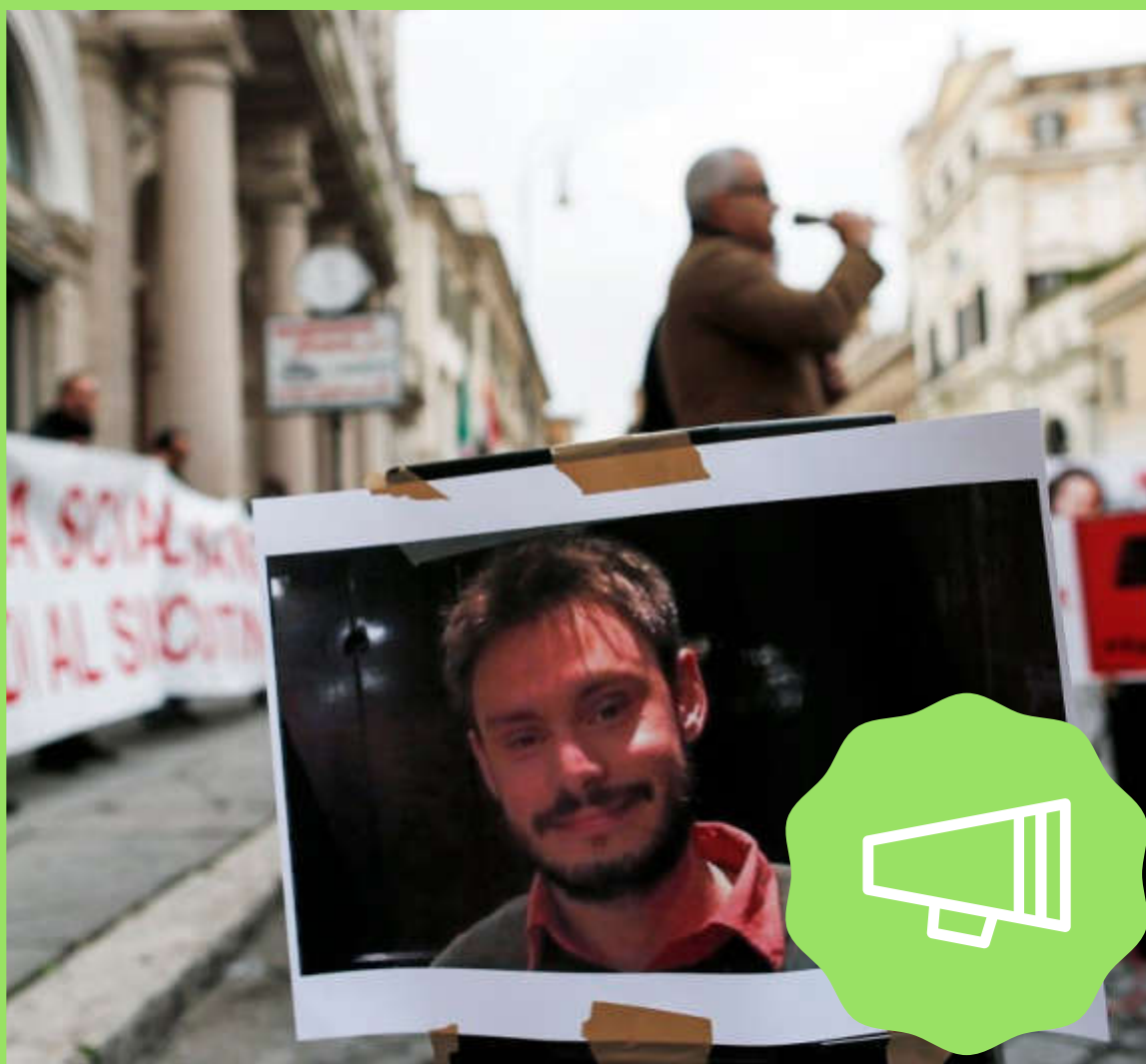
Representative: Jacquelyn MacLennan

Adrian Coman, a Romanian, and Clai Hamilton, an American, got legally married in Brussels in 2010. After their marriage, Coman wanted to return to Romania with his spouse. However, Romanian authorities refused to grant him the documentation necessary to reside there with his spouse on the grounds that Romania does not allow same-sex marriage. Hamilton could not be considered as the lawful “spouse” of an EU citizen.

Coman and Hamilton were the first to challenge the ambiguity of the directive’s language and the meaning of the word “spouse”. Through the help of ACCEPT, a Romanian gay rights NGO and its Anti-Discrimination Coalition, the couple brought a suit against the Romanian government in 2013. Years of work led to an eventual appeal to the Romanian Constitutional Court (RCC). The RCC was unable to provide a conclusive ruling on the matter and referred the case to the authority of the European Court of Justice.

When White & Case caught wind of the case and of its potential significance for LGBT rights in Europe, they reached out to ACCEPT to offer pro bono assistance. Ten White & Case lawyers from five offices, including Jacquelyn MacLennan, a partner and Global Pro Bono Practice Leader, joined ACCEPT members and human rights lawyers, Romanita Lordache and Lustina Lonescu in preparation for oral arguments in court. This partnership allowed both ACCEPT and White & Case to maximize their potential to make a significant difference in the lives of individuals and in European society as a whole. Their collaboration’s innovative arguments focusing on freedom of movement were successful, resulting in a landmark ruling from the Grand Chamber at the ECJ. The court held that the term “spouse” includes spouses of the same sex for the purpose of freedom of movement and residency rights in the EU. This case marked the first time that the Court of Justice had an opportunity to rule on such a matter and a major victory in the continuing fight for full equality for same-sex families in Europe.





Representative: Mohamed Sameh

The Egyptian commission for rights and freedoms (ECRF) started their journey in September 2013. As a membership based human rights organisation, ECRF mainly conducted trainings for activists on the basic concepts of human rights, skills of documentation of violations, strategic campaigning, and legal awareness-raising. These were well received by youth activists who were hungry for even greater engagement with human rights advocacy.

ECRF's vision is that all human beings are capable of defending human rights in their local communities. They believe that their goal is reachable through employing activism collectively in coordination with an organisation with expertise and capacity to work on pressing issues of civil, political, economic, or social rights. This approach aims at mitigating human rights violations, raising civil awareness and communal participation in human rights and development efforts.

ECRF uses its expert knowledge to contribute to direction-campaigns, such as the "Stop enforced disappearances" campaign, launched in August 2015, which managed to change the thought direction of Egyptian society regarding the issue of enforced disappearance, to become a major spearhead in the human rights militancy in Egypt. The campaign documented cases of enforced disappearances, campaigned on their behalf and provided legal aid and assistance to families of the disappeared. Recently, their work was recognized by the 2018 Award of Index on Censorship for Campaigning for Freedom of Expression.





THE ECI CAMPAIGN

Representatives: Caroline Vernailen, Marteen de Groot

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is the world's first and only tool of transnational participatory democracy. After a first wave of ECIs in 2012 and 2013, the instrument was hardly used in 2015 and 2016 and its usage remains limited up until today. Aware of the significant shortcomings, EU First Vice President Frans Timmermans announced at ECI Day 2017 that the Commission will begin the revision process of the ECI Regulation. The Commission's revision proposal, presented in September 2017, did not contain any concrete proposal on how to make the follow-up on successful ECIs more politically meaningful. The ECI Campaign, Democracy International and WeMove.EU launched a joint open letter to the European Parliament (EP) to convince MEPs of the need to take more ownership and responsibility for the follow-up on successful ECIs. The open letter was accompanied by the organisation of an ECI Day of Action on 18 June, just 2 days before the vote in the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO): democracy supporters from across Europe gathered outside the EP to hand out copies of the open letter and forget-me-not flowers, to remind MEPs of their duty towards the more than nine million citizens who have signed an ECI.

After a Thunderclap social media campaign and last minute on-the-spot lobbying in Strasbourg, ECI finally received word that the two biggest political groups had agreed on a compromise that would go a long way towards meeting their civil society demand. The relevant amendment has been submitted as part of a general revision of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, for which AFCO is once again responsible. The ECI Campaign and Democracy International are closely following this process, since it is of vital importance that the vote in AFCO and in plenary happens before the end of this parliamentary term.





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important
ourage
ort and
face



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption.



Representative: Nick Aiossa

Transparency International EU is part of the global anti-corruption movement, Transparency International, which includes over 100 chapters around the world. Since 2008, Transparency International EU has functioned as a regional liaison office for the global movement and as such it works closely with the Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin, Germany. Transparency International EU leads the movement's EU advocacy, in close cooperation with national chapters worldwide, but particularly with the 24 national chapters in EU Member States.

Transparency International has been advocating for the European Commission to come forward for a horizontal legislative proposal for an EU directive on whistleblower protection. The European Parliament has also echoed this call, as well as more than 81,000 citizens. Finally, on November 20th, the European Parliament Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) voted in favour of stronger protections in an EU-wide whistleblower directive that was proposed by the Commission in April. This will serve as the Parliament's negotiating mandate in the coming discussions with the Council.



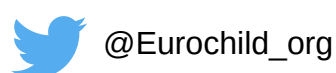
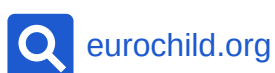


Representative: Jana Hainsworth

On the occasion of Universal Children's Day – 20 November, Eurochild has built a space for children to engage directly with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The aim of this initiative is that a delegation of children, who are active in influencing policies, participating in research and cooperating with national and local decision-makers, would travel to Brussels every year in November to share their participatory experiences with European parliamentarians and demand greater children's participation in the European Parliament.

Each year, the project has made strides in building recognition of children's participation and preparing European parliamentarians to engage effectively with children and listen to their views. As youngest citizens and residents of Europe, who may not have the right to vote, children still have a right to be heard, as per UN Convention on the Rights of the Child article 12. Recognising the need for a space for children to be heard, Eurochild has created this initiative for children from diverse backgrounds and countries to share their ideas of the Europe they want to European parliamentarians.

Over 100 MEPs had committed in 2014, ahead of their election into the European Parliament as part of the Children's Rights Manifesto to "make proactive efforts to engage children in decision making, monitoring and evaluation through promoting their involvement within [their] constituency and in EU debates, and ensuring their access to relevant and age appropriate information."





**#Istand
withCEU**

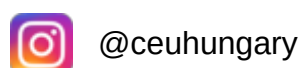
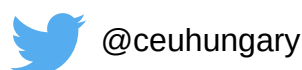
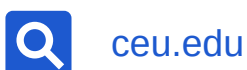
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vagyok**



Representative: Ildiko Rull

On 10 April 2017, Hungarian President Janos Ader signed into law amendments to the Higher Education Law of Hungary – without consulting the Central European University (CEU) – that set new requirements to be satisfied by universities accredited in foreign countries, within which several passages have been widely deemed as discriminatory. The move brought with it the birth of the #IStandWithCEU movement: a veritable flood of local, regional, and international responses from academia and beyond determined to keep the university – and academic freedom – in Hungary. Despite CEU’s efforts to meet Hungary’s new legal requirements, the government has refused to allow the university to stay in Budapest.

#IStandWithCEU has ignited an unprecedented degree of passion, dedication and activism. Students, faculty, and supporters of the university from Hungary and around the world have staged public protests since April 2017, complementing a flurry of advocacy efforts to rally support from political figures at the domestic, European, and international levels. While CEU has stated its plans to move the majority of its operations to Vienna as a direct result of the Hungarian government’s actions, the response from citizens around the world is loud and clear. The world stands with CEU - a university whose diverse and dynamic community is a beacon of progress, a bastion of academic freedom, and an arbiter of democratic values for Central Europe and the world.





Representative: Laurent Pech

Laurent Pech is Jean Monnet Professor of EU Public Law and Head of the Law & Politics Department at Middlesex University London. His current primary area of research is rule of law backsliding in Europe, with a focus on Poland. He advocates for restoring the rule of law in Poland in his writings, speeches and contacts – both with EU institutions and Polish people as well as media. As social media gains popularity, even among academics, he uses his knowledge of European law (both EU and the Council of Europe) to present to thousands of people how rule of law in Poland is undermined. He uses his platform to inform people from all around Europe on the reality in Poland and persuade them to advocate for Poland.

Professor Pech is also widely cited by Polish private media which raises awareness among ordinary people in Poland and helps to restore rule of law. Professor Pech provides up-to-date and pro bono legal assistance regarding the EU law. In essence, he is trying to amend the current paradigm that is spread among EU institutions that EU is not responsible for rule of law. Moreover, his work led to encourage the European Commission to rapidly submit the complaint against Poland before the Court of Justice of the EU regarding the forced retirement of the Supreme Court judges. These activities are now widely discussed in Poland.





Representative: Snjezana Vasiljevic

“EU Law & Gender Clinic” is a part of activities introduced by the Jean Monnet Module “EU Law & Gender: Making Equality Effective” (2016-2019), at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. The project delivers clinical education and trainings led by Professor Snjezana Vasiljevic and invited distinguished experts on EU law and gender equality on specific EU issues relevant for graduates in their professional life.

It is highly relevant that the Zagreb Law School offers clinical education which provides teaching in form of seminars, online training for NGOs representatives and legal practitioners who can litigate in front of national courts but have not gone through comprehensive education on EU law and gender equality and have very limited knowledge of EU equality norms. This project is also linked to the activities of the Zagreb Law School Legal Clinic where Professor Vasiljevic serves as an academic mentor of the anti-discrimination group which is responsible for providing pro bono legal aid for victims of discrimination.

In direct work with victims of discrimination it has been recognized an increasing need for legal aid and a need to reform the legal education and bring in a more practical approach to law practice. The overall aim of the Clinic is to mainstream the higher and expert education in the area of EU law on gender equality in the form of seminars, clinical education and e-learning online workshops. The main objective of the project is to better equip the students for work in practice after they completed their studies, and to allow access to legal advice and information to the poor and socially disadvantaged groups of society who do not have sufficient financial means and cannot get information in any other way simply because they cannot afford a lawyer.



@Snjezana_V



@snjeznavasiljevic





Representative: Tobias Troll

EDGE Funders Alliance organises within philanthropy to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the interconnected nature of the social, economic and ecological crises threatening our common future. EDGE works to increase resources for communities and movements creating systemic change alternatives for a transition to a society that supports justice, equity and the well-being of the planet.

EDGE Funders Alliance are funders and donors committed to global social change philanthropy, who believe that equity and justice – around gender, race, class, sexual orientation, nationality, migration status, and ability – are critical to furthering sustainable international well-being. They believe that support for local community empowerment, more democratic national and international governance and strengthened grassroots and transnational movements go hand in hand.

In order to pursue their mission, EDGE Funders Alliance facilitate peer learning, research and reflection on just transition strategies and systemic alternatives, in collaboration with partners beyond philanthropy; build trust and forge alliances between philanthropy, activists and movement partners around the world; and inspire, mobilize and organise funders to coordinate funding strategies and support movement building for systemic change.





ОБЛИЧЧЯ

БЛАГОДІЙНІ

Люди, яким Україна завдячує

Representatives: Anna Gulevska-Chernysh, Larysa Zhygun

Despite the rapid development of mobile communication, there were no opportunities for SMS-donations in Ukraine. Absence of the term "charitable SMS" at the legislative level and taxes for each SMS donation amounted to 27.5% (including 20% VAT and 7.5% pension fund contributions) were the two main reasons for this. Due to these two reasons mobile operators refused to provide SMS-donation services. The Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum came up with idea to change the situation. The Forum has appealed to several philanthropic organisations, mobile operators and law firms to combine efforts to develop and lobby changes in legislation that would allow the launch of SMS-giving in Ukraine, making this instrument transparent and accountable to the public. Together with the participants of the consortium, an advocacy campaign "Introduction of SMS-giving without taxes in Ukraine" was developed and implemented. This advocacy campaign has become one of the most striking Ukrainian examples of the unification of the initiatives of the NGO sector representatives and the professional knowledge of lawyers and employees of telecommunications companies.

The main purpose of the advocacy campaign was to develop and adopt the amendments to the current Ukrainian legislation, which would introduce the concept of "charitable SMS"; describe the implementation mechanisms of SMS-giving; and provide tax exemption for charitable SMS. In July 2018, the first six charitable organisations have signed agreements on receiving of short numbers from the mobile operators. This will allow Ukrainians to send charitable SMS and 100% of their donations will be sent to charitable purposes. The administration of these charity messages will be provided by mobile operators free of charge.





BRUSSELS DONORS' CIRCLE

Representative: Denisa Tomsa

The Brussels Donors' Circle initiative started in 2017, when a group of 8 Romanian professionals, living and working in Brussels, decided to gather around the idea that Diaspora can and should do more for the Romanian civil society. The Donors' Circle is modeled after The Funding Network, a UK registered charity which organises live crowdfunding events to raise money for grass-roots social change projects.

The Brussels Donors' Circle will support the representatives of the 3 projects to prepare their pitches for the event and will organise a rehearsal before the event. Each project will have an ambassador from the Brussels Donors' Circle's team, and the rehearsal will be done together with the 3 ambassadors. This initiative started from the wish to contribute to a better Romanian society and the founders consider that Donors' Circle to build a community of people that supports initiatives both in Romania and/or in the Romanian community in Brussels, that need financial and public support and visibility. Their aim is to support other Romanian communities, from other countries, to start a Donors' Circle and mobilise the community from those countries to get involved in supporting the civil society in Romania.



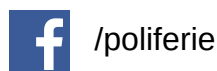


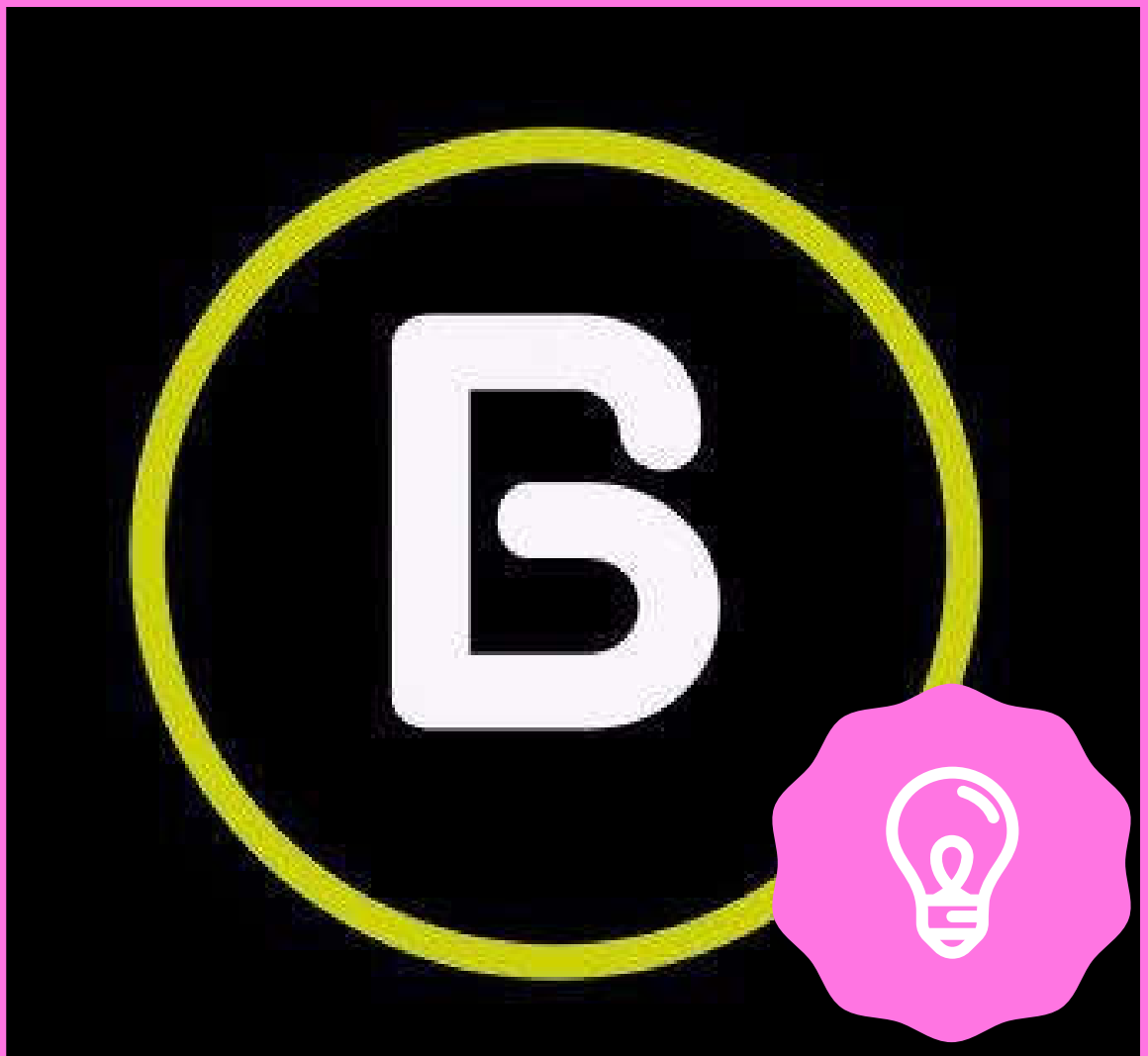
POLIFERIE, COMUNE DI TORINO, NATIONAL LEVEL HIGH SCHOOLS IN ITALY

Representative: Nicola Ortu

Poliferie is a neologism created by Italian architect Maurizio Carta, from the University of Palermo. The word represents the evolution of the Italian word “Periferie” – outskirts – towards a multifaceted and dynamic environment where young people can be given a new spark of hope for their future. Italy is the second largest EU country for number of NEET, young people who are considered as being “not engaged in education, employment or training”. Therefore, in 2017 three master projects were started with the aim to give these young people the key skills to adapt to the world of today.

Poliferie thus started as a series of collaboration campaigns with local high schools and municipalities, amongst which, that of Turin, where workshops and labs were organised for bottom-up interaction with students from technical or vocational high schools. Poliferie thus works on a confidence and merit-based approach aimed at linking disadvantaged high school students with experts from different fields, from business and digital entrepreneurship to science and culture. The main objective of Poliferie is to tackle the opportunity gap which affects young people born in some of the poorest peripheries of Italy. In other words, Poliferie is trying to bridge the gap between social reality and opportunity, by providing a bridge between what young people are offered and what they could, through their development, finally achieve.





Representatives: Maria Hidalgo, Mareike van Oosting

It isn't enough that commercial businesses aspire to being sustainable if the "ecosystem of advisers" around them does not also hold the same values. Too often what stops progress in the area of sustainability is the adoption of risk averse attitudes from advisers, who see compliance with the law as sufficient without regard to wider corporate responsibility concerns. Hogan Lovells has responded to this by developing HL BaSE Training (Hogan Lovells Business and Social Enterprise).

HL BaSE Training is an international, mini-MBA style course for trainee and junior lawyers. It gives our lawyers an in-depth understanding of some of the key commercial issues facing contemporary business, including an understanding of social and environmental impact. HL BaSE Training is run in association with Ashoka and provides a combination of mandatory, practical business training and the provision of pro bono advice directly to small businesses with social and/or environmental missions, to help them scale their impact.





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LEADING THE PRACTICE OF PRO BONO WORLDWIDE TO DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION SERVICE



THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, BLUEPRINT FOR FREE SPEECH, DECHERT LLP

Representative: Maeve Halpin

TrustLaw is the world's largest legal pro bono service for advice and guidance from lawyers on the legal process for creating an EU Directive (Thomson Reuters Foundation), Blueprint for Free Speech is a non-profit dedicated to improving freedom of expression around the globe, Dechert LLP is a leading global law firm with a longstanding tradition of Pro Bono services. TrustLaw connected Blue Print for Free Speech and Dechert LLP, creating one of the most successful collaborations of the year.

Dechert LLP provided assistance to Blue Print to draft a memorandum on the legal process for creating EU directive for non-profit supporting freedom of expression.

Whistleblowing is relatively new as a widespread concept, the laws protecting whistleblowers across European countries are limited. To date, Blue Print has been focusing on country-by-country research, education and advocacy and wanted to better inform the push for an EU Directive which they believed could provide a more comprehensive and universal standard of protection. The work by Dechert LLP, facilitated by TrustLaw, empowered Blue Print to be able to effectively form strategies at a policy and political level. Blue Print for Free Speech used Dechert's briefing notes to inform the broader European community on legal arguments, and legal barriers to improving transparency.





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