EUROPEAN YOUTH AWARD
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13 INNOVATIVE PROJECTS TACKLING EUROPE'S SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

EUROPEAN YOUTH AWARD WINNERS SELECTED IN THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL CLUJ-NAPOCA

An app encouraging people to discover pretty streets by walking instead of taking cars, and motivating youth to engage creating a trendy brand of 'social projects' through an online portal are just two of the aims this year's most outstanding and creative digital initiatives from all over Europe pursue. 17 international experts selected 13 projects having impact on society as Winners of the European Youth Award in the European Youth Capital Cluj-Napoca.

Two intense days full of constructive debates, passionate discussions and fruitful collaboration led to the most important result of the European Youth Award 2015: thirteen projects winning this year's contest for young & smart digital social start-ups.

"From the projects I have seen in this competition, there comes out a sense of "wow, I wish I could do that" and the feeling of pride and effort that these people put in their projects.", says Marsha Tarle, Communications Manager at Telecentre-Europe and member of the EYA Grand Jury.

Among the change-makers of tomorrow who convinced the 17 members of the EYA Grand Jury are two brothers, trying to fight worldwide killer number one with the means of technology: coronary artery disease. In Sweden, they developed a screening and early diagnosis tool based on a machine learning getting smarter over the time. Ultimately, this tool may save many lives.

Although each of the winning projects is unique and stands out for itself, they have one thing in common: high-impact on society through the creative use of digital technologies.

The winning teams come from 10 different countries: Austria (2), Czech Republic, France, Germany (3), Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine. They are invited to showcase their projects at the Winners Event (EYA Festival) in Graz, Austria, from November 18-21. This three-day-long Festival is a unique event combining knowledge, innovation, networking, inspiration and motivation. On the basis of their presentation, the EYA Festival Grand Jury will select the Overall Winner 2015.

Apart from being recognized on this international stage and getting access to the vibrant EYA network, EYA winners gain much more: for instance, students from all over Europe will develop project analyses and each project will be taken under a mentor's wing for two months. *"GovFaces has benefited enormously from the award which played a central role in helping to affirm, validate and legitimize the quality and aspirations of our work."* concludes Jon Mark Walls, CEO of GovFaces his expierience of winning the EYA in 2014.

Complete list of winning projects and Festival program can be found on eu-youthaward.org.

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More information for editors:

Six categories for Europe's societal challenges
Projects were submitted and evaluated in six different categories reflecting the goals of the Council of Europe and the EU strategy Europe 2020: Healthy Life, Smart Learning, Connecting Cultures, Go Green, Active Citizenship and Money Matters. All submissions have been scored different points from a technical and strategic point of view. In the first online evaluation round, 60 projects have been shortlisted by 41 Online Grand Jurors. Finally, 17 experts acting as EYA Onsite Grand Jury selected 13 projects as winners of #EYA2015 in the European Youth Capital Cluj-Napoca from September 10-12.

About the European Youth Award (EYA)
Called into life by Prof. Peter A. Bruck, honorary chairman of the International Center for New Media, in 2012, the European Youth Award (EYA) is a leading pan-European competition honoring excellence in the use of Internet and mobile applications for social empowerment. Conducted under the patronage of the Council of Europe, UNESCO and Unido, EYA as annual contest seeks to motivate young people under the age of thirty to produce socially-valuable digital projects addressing the goals defined by the Council of Europe and Europe 2020.