



## EUROPEAN YOUTH AWARD

ICNM - International Center for New Media  
Leopoldskronstrasse 30, 5020 Salzburg, Austria  
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[www.eu-youthaward.org](http://www.eu-youthaward.org)

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### Press Release

## Digital Heartbeat sent out around the World: Amazing App-creation in 48 hours

**Graz and Styria are hosting the Special Olympics 2017 and young IT-developers and gaming-fans have developed astonishing innovative apps under the themes "Heartbeat for the World" and "Learning Mathematics" during the second EYA Game Jam and App Camp.**

Graz, April 17, 2016. Stefanie, Markus, Narges, Clemens and Peter were fully concentrated working on their computers, having only 48 hours to implement their idea for a digital game or app related to the motto of the "Special Olympics 2017", the worldwide biggest sports event for mentally disabled. All in all 28 young people gathered to code and design useful apps in Graz last weekend. The University of Applied Sciences FH Joanneum opened its doors for the second EYA Game Jam and App Camp. 14 students worked together with Gam Jammers from all over Austria but also refugees. Connected through passion about programming, they formed teams and collaborated intensely to bring their ideas to life.

After four inspiring keynotes on how to create functional solutions in the shortest period of time, the game jammers collected ideas in groups of two and presented them to the whole group then. After voting for the best ones, the spontaneously formed teams worked passionately on six creative apps and games until late night.

After 48 hours the developed game- and app-prototypes were evaluated by a four headed expert jury selecting three *EYA Game Jam Winners*. The games "Pass the hearts" and "The Mathematician" shared the first place. "Pass the hearts" is a skill based game where players have to move in front of a video camera, catch and collect as much hearts as possible with their hands. "The Mathematician" examines the mathematical skills of players as magician *Cosinus* who has to find the equation results in a forest.

"Nerding' and working at the same time in a relaxed atmosphere with interesting people. My first but for sure not my last game jam." says Georg Steinfelder, who travelled from Vienna to Graz to gather experience at this inspiring event. Ali Al-Faddawe, refugee from Baghdad, who has helped to organise the EYA Game Jam and App Camp, shares Georg's opinion. He is also eager to support the EYA Social Hackathon in Vienna, June 22-24, and is planning to apply as volunteer for the Special Olympics in 2017.

All games with short description can be found on <http://eu-youthaward.org/games-and-apps-2016>

**For more information please contact the project manager:**

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The EYA Game Jam has been organised by the [European Youth Award](#) together with [Games Austria](#), [Austria Game Jam](#), [Jam Today](#), [TU Graz](#), [FH Joanneum](#) and [Campus02](#).

### Supporters:





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### **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 honouring excellence in the use of Internet and mobile applications for social empowerment. Conducted under the patronage of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Unido, EYA as annual contest seeks to motivate young people under the age of thirtythree to produce socially-valuable digital projects addressing the goals defined by the Council of Europe and Europe 2020.