

## Press Release

Berlin/Paris/Warsaw, April 16, 2018

### **The winners of the Young Europeans Award 2018 have been chosen!**

20 projects led by young Europeans from Germany, France and Poland were submitted as part of the Young Europeans Award. The initiative has been running since 2015 and is organised by the French-German Youth Office (DFJW/OFAJ), the Allianz Cultural Foundation, the Hippocrène Foundation, the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation (SDPZ/FWPN) and the German-Polish Youth Office (DPJW/PNWM).

This year's theme was **"To be or not to be ... a European?"**, setting its focus on UK as a guest country, which was represented by UK-German Connection.

### **The winning project for 2018 is "Three countries, six languages, one project: the Weimar Triangle on stage".**

The project involved 24 hearing-impaired and deaf pupils aged between 16 and 19 from the *Margarethe-von-Witzleben-Schule* in Berlin, the French institute for young deaf people *Institut de Jeunes Sourds* in Paris and the Polish school for deaf people *Instytut Gluchoniemych* in Warsaw, in cooperation with *Centre Français de Berlin* and the association *Peuple et Culture*. The groups took part in the Young Europeans Award with a theatre project and exhibition around the theme: "How are disabilities treated in the different European countries?". According to the jury, this project "brings up the fundamental question that is valid all over Europe, which is the question of inclusion of all population groups and the overcome of mental, linguistic, social and other barriers".

In addition to the winning project, a special jury prize has been awarded to a group of students, whose project **"Being a European European"** involved the creation of a blog, including street interviews, internet surveys, learning apps and video statements on the competition theme. The jury decided to reward these young people because they found their work to be "synonymous with maturity and individual commitment, combined with great creativity in a European dynamic".

The two project groups won a trip to Warsaw, the Polish capital and European metropolis, where they will be joined by a group of young people from UK.

The international jury under the presidency of the German director, **Volker Schlöndorff**, was made up of the organisers of the contest, as well as the following panel members: **Nora Hamadi** French journalist, presenter, editor in chief and film director; **Basil Kerski**, Director of the European Solidarność-Center in Gdansk and **Thomas Harding**, British journalist and writer.

The Young Europeans Award aims to encourage dialogue between young people from the three cultural landscapes of the Weimar Triangle that share a common history and lie at the core of European integration today. Inhabitants of the vast Weimar Triangle are also connected by their shared duty to shape a dynamic Europe.

More information about the competition: [www.young-europeans-award.org](http://www.young-europeans-award.org)