SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE BEST REGIONAL COUNCILS INITIATIVES

The proposal aims to bring out **best practice and initiatives adopted by the European Regional Assemblies which are members of CALRE, that are concretely improving an aspect or sector of the economic, cultural and social life of their territories and communities , while underlining the positive impact of the European Institutions in regional realities.**

For this first edition, all projects referring to the period <u>2014 – 2015</u> will be taken into account.

The best initiatives will be **presented during next CALRE Plenary Assembly**.

A specific issue will be chosen every year, in order to enhance successful experiences, able to positively emphasise the relationship with the European Institutions.

If you are interested in participating, please find below some useful guidelines to the event.

<u>Selection guidelines</u>

1. **<u>Who can participate?</u>**

   The award is addressed to the regional legislative assemblies, members of the Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE).

2. **<u>What kind of projects?</u>**

   Regional laws or administrative acts and any best practice involving regional parliaments at the European level. Not only legislative initiatives, but also projects showing the participation of local and regional assemblies to the ascendant and descendant phase for the elaboration and application of the European law, as well as, the use of innovative participation tools.

3. **How to participate**

    Participants should complete the form here enclosed and send it back to CALRE General Secretariat at:
    uffrel.istituzionali@consiglio.regione.lombardia.it.
    The applications received will be uploaded on CALRE web site :
    www.calrenet.eu.

4. **Deadlines**

    The completed forms must be sent within 30 June 2016.

5. **Selection**

    The applications will be assessed during the second CALRE Standing Committee of 13th July.

6. **Closing event**

    The best projects will be awarded during CALRE Plenary Assembly which will be held in November.

Topic of the 2016 Edition

During this first edition we're proposing to keep a free topic letting each single parliament able to value and select those experiences which they are willing to submit to CALRE's attention.

Participation form

Regional legislative assembly: The Galician Parliament
Country: Spain
President: Miguel Ángel Santalices Vieira

Contact person for the project: **Name:** Pedro **Surname:** Rojo Otero **Position:** Head of Presidency Cabinet **Tel:** +34981551302 **E- mail:** **presidencia@parlamentodegalicia.gal** **Technical and operational contact:** **Name:** **Surname:** **Position:** **Tel:** **E- mail:**

Type of project:

a) Regional law:

b) Administrative act:

c) Procedure:

d) Other:

The Galician Parliament with Youth and Europe

Date of issuing of the initiative: all along 2014

Reference period: 2014-2016

Short description of the initiative

This initiative is composed by different parliamentary activities addressed to youth, our future, within an European framework. Promoting Youth taking part in European institutions open competitions, making youth plenary sessions, workshops focused on the future of Europe and vindicating the importance of the Europe day with European volunteers in order to promote a participatory democracy in diverse societies, from the local and regional level to the European level.

The Galicia Regional Parliament main aim is to involve youth students from primary school to university degree with the regional parliament life, not only at regional level but also at European level, in order to raise awareness on the importance of an European participatory democracy, to defend their rights and needs.

The goal is to show youth and all Galician citizens the importance of Europe, through free participation in activities and publication in the media of news related to the events undertaken by the Galician Parliament.

Role of the regional Assembly:

Promote the Parliamentary democracy at European level within youth.

Main features of the initiative

From 2014, within the CALRE presidency, the Galician Parliament was involved in different activities with Galician youth within an European framework.

Firstly, Students from a Galician High School who reached the final phase in the European Parliament youth competition called "Euroscola" visited the Galician Parliament where they were received by its president in order to explain them how the parliament works at European level, in particular, its belonging to the CALRE and the works developed within its network.
Regarding, Euroscola is a unique event for schools to learn about European integration by experiencing it first hand. Students from the 28 EU Member States are selected to take part on it. That it is why we are glad to help to prepare students from the regional parliamentary experience working at European level and given known them the importance of the regional parliaments at European level.

Secondly, every year the Galician Parliament hold a youth plenary session in collaboration with UNICEF, commemorating the Child's Rights protected under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, in 2014, this Convention celebrated its 25th anniversary concurring with the European Local Democracy Week o f the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe focused on "Participatory democracy: "Participatory Democracy: sharing, proposing, deciding". This initiative of the Council of Europe, shares with the Convention on the Rights of the Child the importance of empowering citizens (in this case teenagers) to be involved in the democratic system. Citizens' have to be Involved in the decision making processes, notably on those procedures affecting them, by establishing

communication tools between them and the representatives of the government's institutions.

The main aim of this event was to place children and youth in the public agenda, give them the opportunity to be heard, directly or through an appropriate organization, on those matters or procedures affecting them.

To this event participated 80 Galician youth students and it was celebrated with the aim of sharing ideas; give the youth the option of proposing initiatives to enhance the accomplishment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as boosting their right of deciding on those themes affecting them. Therefore, this participation must be concrete, possible and applicable.

To sum up, the Galician parliament bring together the European organisation in charge of protecting human rights and an international NGO in charge of protect rights of citizens in order to empower youth in a European participatory democracy system.

Third, also during the CALRE presidency the Galician parliament held an European workshop with students entitled as follows "why do we care about Europe". The session was opened by Ramón Luís Valcárcel Siso, President of the Committee of the Regions, but also took part in this workshop academic's experts on this matter as well as the President of the Euroamérica Foundation.

The main aim of this session was to undertake a reflection with university students on the importance of promote a participatory democracy from regional parliaments as well as to contribute to the dissemination of the EU citizens' rights.

Fourth, on 9th May 2016, on the occasion of the Europe Day, we open the Galician parliament to the European Volunteers taking part in the European Voluntary Service in our region. The main goal was to show to youth volunteers from all over Europe our regional parliamentary system and its importance in an integrated Europe, because the regional parliaments, placed closer to its citizens, play a key role in the European democratic system. On the other hand, the main goal was to publish it into the media in order to promote within Galician citizens the importance of Europe, in particular, regarding the European volunteering system.

Next steps of the Galician Parliament approaching youth to a democratic Europe is to give an European dimension to the "Youth Parliament" initiative, an initiative launched seven years ago by the regional government and implemented in collaboration with regional parliament, the house of democracy and thus, the house of word in our region. It consists in dialectical meetings between scholars of our regional community, from all

backgrounds who study in different regional public/private schools from rural to urban areas. This initiative intends to foster the debate between youth aged 14 to 17 years old in order to find a dialectic solution under a proposed thematic.

The Dialectical meetings aim to promote dialogue between youth as a tool to argue reasonably their own ideas, in a democratic way on issues challenging today our societies such as gender equality within youth. These activities utter to promote the debate, equipping students with knowledge, skills and understanding to defend their democratic rights and responsibilities into diverse societies.

Description of the consequences on the regions pointing out the positive European implications

Youth of all over the Galicia region are involved in the regional parliament system acknowledging the importance of its belonging to an European democratic system and its functioning.

In conclusion, the main target is to raise awareness within all Galician citizens on the importance of Europe.

Forms with the description of the initiative must be sent by 30 June 2016 to the Regional Council of Lombardy.
E-mail: uffrel.istituzionali@consiglio.regione.lombardia.it
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