



# III CALRE AWARD “Stars of Europe”

## Participation form

**Regional Legislative Assembly:** PARLIAMENT OF ANDALUSIA

**Country:** SPAIN

**President:** JUAN PABLO DURÁN SÁNCHEZ

### Contact person for the project

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### Type of project:

- a) Regional law:
- b) Administrative act:
- c) Procedure:



d) Other:

## FIRST PARLIAMENT DEBATE TOURNAMENT

**Date of issuing of the initiative:** September 2016 - January 2017 (biennial activity)

**Reference period:** 2016-2017

**Short description of the initiative:**



On January 25 and 26, 2017, the Parliament of Andalusia hosted the first edition of the "Parliament Debate Tournament", organized by the Autonomous Andalusian Parliament with the collaboration of the University of Córdoba (UCO) and the Debate Class of the UCO . Previously, since September 2016 the preliminary phase was developed in the universities to choose the participants of the January appointment.

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The tournament was born with the aim of promoting the participation of the various discussion groups of all Andalusian universities in a forum for discussion and dialogue for university students, in order to improve the importance of debate as a tool for life, promote the necessary exercise of oral expression and favor critical thinking.

In the first edition a hundred students from Andalusian universities participated and debated on: *"Has the implementation of the autonomy system for Spain been positive?"*, having the opportunity to reflect on the role of the regions in Spain and in Europe, as well as on the work of the regional legislative body.

After the success of the first edition, it was decided to continue with the initiative by convening a biennial tournament, which next edition will be in January 2019.





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### **Role of the regional Assembly:**

The Parliament of Andalusia organized the debate with the collaboration with the University of Córdoba (UCO) and Debate Class of the UCO. The two days of the final phase were held at the Parliament's facilities and the final debate took place in the Plenary Hall. Both the President of Parliament and the deputies participated in the activity.

### **Main features of the initiative:**

The First Parliament Debate Tournament initiative is part of the "Open Parliament" project of the Parliament of Andalusia, developed throughout the current legislature, and which aims to open the doors of the Autonomous Chamber to citizenship with the organization of activities of different nature that contribute, among other issues, to the knowledge of the institution by citizens.

In the case of the Debate Tournament, this objective acquires a greater meaning. In different forums of CALRE, as well as of COPREPA, it has been reflected on numerous occasions on the need to recover the confidence of citizens towards their institutions, especially in the case of young people.

The Parliament Debate Tournament fulfills this function by opening the doors of the Legislative Chamber to university students, who have the opportunity, following the rules established in the bases, to reproduce and participate in the parliamentary debate model.

In this sense, the Parliament of Andalusia considers that both rhetoric and debate are fundamental tools for life and that it is vital to encourage the youngest the necessary exercise of oral expression and critical thinking.

Finally, by focusing the debate on the model of the Spanish autonomies, that is, on the role of the regions, reflection is favoured around issues present in discussion forums such as CALRE and COPREPA: financing, cohesion policy, cooperation between regions, solidarity, the role of citizens and the role of regions in Europe.



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

The initiative as the Debate Tournament meets the premise of European institutions that aim to involve citizens in institutions, with special attention to young people.

To this we must add the implications from the educational point of view, knowledge of the regional legislative power, collaboration between institutions (involving universities) and the reflection on the role of the regions in Europe by proposing the topics under discussion.

Forms with the description of the initiative must be sent by 30 May 2018 to the CALRE General Secretariat, at the following e-mail:

[calre@alra.pt](mailto:calre@alra.pt)

Tel. +351 292 207 688/632

Award