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HARMONIOUSLY IN EUROPE

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IN EUROPE**

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The Evens Foundation

At a Glance

MISSION

The Evens Foundation initiates, develops and supports projects that encourage citizens and states to live together harmoniously in a peaceful Europe. It promotes respect for diversity, both individual and collective, and seeks to uphold physical, psychological and ethical integrity.

WHAT IT DOES

The Evens Foundation initiates and supports sustainable projects, and awards biennial prizes that contribute to the progress and strengthening of Europe, based on cultural and social diversity, in the fields of Peace Education, Media and European Citizenship.

This publication provides an outline of what the Foundation is all about.

16

AL BIZARRE

Manger du jambon

AL BIZARRE

Le jambon est bon pour la santé



Introductory interview

*with
Mrs Corinne Evens,
Co-Founder and Honorary
President, and Mr Luc Luyten, Chairman*

Introductory interview



The Evens Foundation is an organization with European-wide scope, but it has very personal origins. A symbol of this is that the Polish office is based in Wilcza Street – in the house once inhabited by your [Mrs Evens'] parents and grandparents. How do you see those personal, family origins?

Corinne Evens: The Foundation was set up by my parents, my brother and me, so in the beginning I was trying to carry through the spirit of my parents, to implement their wishes, what they would have expected from the Foundation. And then, little by little, the Foundation developed its own identity through the board, through our activities and experiences. For me, it's important for the Foundation to be a continuation but also a development.

Your father died in 1996. Did that galvanize you?

Mrs Corinne Evens, Co-Founder and Honorary President

Corinne Evens: The Foundation was created in 1990 and my father passed away in 1996. During those six years not so much happened, so when he died I decided that something must really happen.

You've said that your parents were very different from each other.

Corinne Evens: My mother was more intellectual, much more humanist, looking

for harmony, while my father was more practical, a businessman.

So the Foundation unites the practical with the humanistic.

Corinne Evens: Yes.

To develop the Foundation, what did you need to do?

Corinne Evens: What my parents wanted was very wide in scope, as shown in the by-laws. We had to fix priorities and decide what to focus on.

Turning to the Foundation activities, is there a risk that, in your activities, you are involved mainly with people of good intention, and might live in a bubble of positivity? Does the Foundation reach those who cause trouble or could potentially do so?

Corinne Evens: Some of our projects are run in difficult neighborhoods.

Luc Luyten: In Antwerp and also

in France, we have engaged in quite demanding projects among groups of young people, and the projects are continuing following our support.

You want the projects to become, where possible, self-sustainable?

Luc Luyten: If we support a project – for example, in north Antwerp – and it flies with the help of local people, we can bow out. We try to avoid doing the same thing year on year, to initiate and support new projects.

Corinne Evens: Yes, we try to set up things so activities become autonomous.

Luc Luyten: But other projects we do once and then change. It depends on the context and the results. More and more we look at our impact.

So you're less driven by requests, you have a clear strategy?

Luc Luyten: Exactly. But we do look carefully at the options. In the past, we received letters every day asking for help. In 2008 a staff member spent all the time replying to demands for help. There is less of that today, however. Now we have a practical strategic plan. We need to, of course. The money we have at our disposal is, in a sense, collective money. We must take care with every euro we spend.

The recession?

Luc Luyten: Our cash-flow is a simple matter. We have capital, in the bank or invested in shares or whatever. There's a yearly return. But we also have supporters who give donations. Without that, we would have to halt our activities in some years.

Also, we try every year not to spend all the money and to build up our capital for the long term. We want to make sure that, in ten years or so, there will still be an Evens Foundation.

Mr Luc Luyten, Chairman



Some non-profit boards shy away from the money side ...

Luc Luyten: In board discussions, we don't spend 80% of our time discussing money, but rather our activities. Every month the three-person Executive Committee reviews our financial situation. We show the board members that we are financially healthy, and once a year we agree formally on our balance. Corinne focuses a little more on income, while I give more time and attention to what we do with the money. This working together works well.

You can't just look at profit and loss to measure success. So how do you do it without large-scale evaluation?

Corinne Evens: We look at impact. We have criteria. For example, in an educational project, we try to measure how many teachers or pupils were affected, what changes resulted.

Luc Luyten: Yes, we introduced key performance indicators (KPIs) in all our projects, so we can measure a project's success, and the return on the money we spend.

Corinne Evens: Yes – for example, a prize is a reward, it's approval, but it has a strong effect on the recipient.

One of your three domains of activity is media education ...

Luc Luyten: Yes, the power of the media has grown, and now we also have the new media. The question is, do we do enough in basic education to teach young people to be critical of the media? Youth can be a danger to democracy when the media go wrong. Our science prize also fulfills our aim of promoting harmonious living together. Our last prize concerned an attempt to understand the aggressive behavior of young people.

An organization can get locked into its traditional way of doing things ...

Luc Luyten: In my business background, I learnt that it's never ok. Maybe one is satisfied in the evening, but the day after ... we can do it better! Or do it differently. Also, our board members combine many different disciplines. Discussion may not always be easy, but it's rich, with many points of view. We're in no danger of entering the comfort zone in our executive committee. If I ever do, I will quit – and even then Corinne would still be asking questions!

The philanthropist Andrew Grove says that government programs are not usually run by people who are passionate about their work, and stresses that people at the top in philanthropic bodies must be passionate, and even angry.

Corinne Evens: The people

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Introductory interview

who work in the Foundation are very committed. The board fixes strategy, but projects come from down-up, they're ones that the staff really believe in.

In your work with the Foundation, what is your most rewarding moment, which encapsulates what it's about?

Corinne Evens: Maybe not one moment, but when we give prizes, we meet the people, they explain the work they do, they're so happy, and we're so happy to contribute to the continuation of their work.

Luc Luyten: For me, one of the good moments was the Peace Prize ceremony in Barcelona last year. Why? First, the winner was an institution in Spain. At a meeting, all the nominees, and even some members of parliament, discussed the subject. Then, in the evening, the prize was awarded, there was a full house, everything was well organized, the speakers were excellent, the conversations at the reception were rich in content. And today we are still working with that institution and others. It was a good feeling for everyone, a great combination,

strong impact, fine organization. That was a highlight.

More generally, things can be difficult, then all is going in the right direction. It's rewarding when you see that you can change things.

What about the future?

Luc Luyten: Recently the European Commission decided to co-fund our joint project I am Europe. We're becoming more recognized, and other foundations are approaching us. That's a positive future – other organizations coming to us for our know-how, it's very motivating.

Corinne Evens: This is a bit general, but it's my wish! In these difficult times, I would like our Foundation to be an inspiration for Europe. *

15 Years the Highlights

*The work of the Foundation is organized in three key programs: **Peace Education, Media, and European Citizenship**. These highlights show the main activities in each category, organized chronologically, starting with the most recent year and moving backward through time.*

ef Peace Education

2011: *Belfedar launched*

Learning to cooperate while having fun! A cooperative game for 4–8 players aged over 10. While entertaining, it shows the importance of constructive group dynamics and positive conflict management. Is being distributed in various European languages.

Evens Prize for Peace Education

- > 26 projects submitted from 10 EU countries
- > Winner: **Escola de Cultura de Pau** (ECP), Barcelona (Spain): teacher training in conflict management
- > Award ceremony on 20th September 2011, eve of International Day of Peace, in City Hall of Barcelona

2010 *Prevention and Intervention Programs for Violent Youth in Europe*

Publication of the report Prevention and Intervention Programs for Violent Youth in Europe – European policy recommendations on effective care for young people

who engage in violent behavior. Research by Youth Mental Health Department, Antwerp University.

2000 - 2010 *Toy Libraries in Brussels and Antwerp*

The Foundation co-initiated and supported:

- > **Walala/Walalou**, Cureghem neighborhood, Brussels (2000 – 2010)
- > **De Speelvijver** (The Playing Pond), Antwerp North (2007 – 2010)

Both now receive government support.

2008 - 2009 *Vredesfabriek / Fabrique de la Paix / Peace Factory*

Convinced of its benefits, the Foundation implemented the Peace Factory (developed by Stichting Vredeseducatie in the Netherlands) in other countries:

- > 2009: **De Vredesfabriek**, launched at Peace Center of Antwerp (first stop of Flemish tour)
- 2008: **Fabrique de la Paix**, inaugurated at European Education Fair in Paris

2007 *Science Prize for conflict-related research*

Won by Professor Patrik Vuilleumier, Dr Gilles Pourtois and Roland Vocat of Laboratory for Neurology & Imaging of Cognition (LABNIC) at University of Geneva for research project **Brain correlates of intra- vs. inter-personal conflict appraisal**.

2002 - 2007 *Studio Globo Program Living on the Roof / Wonen op het Dak*

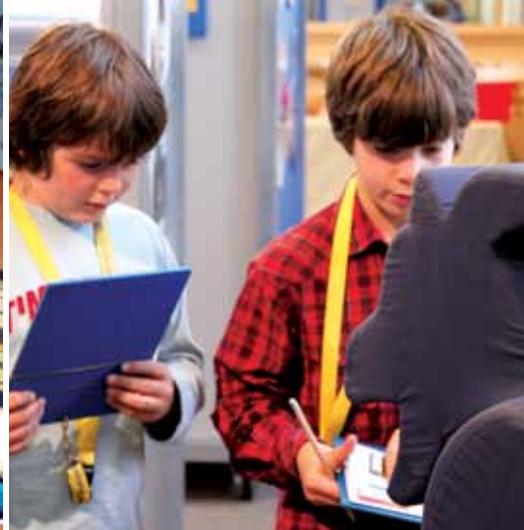
Project to teach children aged 10-12 an open attitude toward people from other cultures and/or social backgrounds.

A Classroom of Difference

An anti-bias diversity training program designed for teachers, pupils and school staff.

1999 – 2007 *Evens Prize for Intercultural Education*

Highlights good practices in intercultural



education and identifies new challenges, insights and perspectives.

2007 *Learning in Diversity – Belgium, France, Poland*

Recognized schools integrating intercultural education in the core of the educational process:

- > 21 schools in Poland, 23 in Belgium and 7 in France shortlisted
- > 9 schools presented with prizes at Musée de l'Homme, Paris

Program of the Center for Independent Journalism, in Budapest, Hungary; Bratislava, Slovakia, and Bucharest, Romania.

2000 *Prejudice and Intercultural learning*

1st prize shared by Stichting Vredeseducatie – Utrecht for Ordinary-Extraordinary and Steunpunt Intercultureel Onderwijs – Ghent for CLIM: Co-operative Learning in Multicultural Classes

2005 *Intercultural Education in the School*

1st prize to INTER: A Practical Guide to Implement Intercultural Education at School, coordinated by Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid

1999 *The Migration and Refuge Experience*

1st prize to the project Country Boxes, co-ordinated by Brussels Integration Center Foyer, concerning memories and experiences of migration and refugee-seeking

2003 *Media Careers for Young Roma*

1st prize to Roma Mainstream Internship

Media



2012

Media education: empowering teachers

Training programs developed for teachers and trainers in Poland, France and Belgium, to empower them in using media education techniques in the classroom.

Research and Media Education, Munich, for the Generationen im Dialog media education project for socially disadvantaged young people

> Presented at EuroMeduc's second European congress on media literacy, Bellaria, Italy, October

2011

YoungPress.eu Conference for Young European News and Opinion-Makers

With Antwerp as European Youth Capital in 2011, the Evens Foundation and StampMedia organized a transnational exchange on the challenges for and responsibilities of newsmakers: the YoungPress.eu conference. A total of 100 young journalists from all over Europe participated.

2010 – 2011
Medialabs, Paris

Initiation/support for local structures of media production – to enhance young people's ability to reflect critically on dominant media discourses, develop creative capacities, and engage in public life of their locality:

- > The **StreetPress** project *La Rédaction du 19^e*, a local media facility in 19th arrondissement, Paris
- > **Plus Loin** which runs non-formal learning projects in 20th arrondissement, Paris

2008 – 2012
VideAntz, Antwerp (Belgium)

VideAntz, a project developed by Evens Foundation and coordinated by Chips vzw, helps young people to acquire video-making skills and engage in active citizenship.

2009
Evens Prize for Media Education

Supported development of new sustainable projects in media education aimed at children aged 4-12.

- > Awarded to projects by British Film Institute and University of Minho

2011

Evens Prize for Media Education

- > 57 projects from 17 EU countries submitted
- > Awarded to JFF, the Institute of Media

European Citizenship



2012

IAm Europe project wins European Commission backing

European Commission agrees to fund *IAm Europe* initiative, an exploratory expedition into the heart of the European Citizenship concept, involving partnerships with 10 grassroots or civil society organizations in eight countries.

2010 – 2012

Documentary film IAm Europe

Highlights Europe as "a space of encounter". The documentary based on filmmaker Jef Vingerhoedt's selection of thought-provoking stories in six cities, is to be integrated in the format of a European exchange project.

2007 – 2012

Working locally with citizens – Buurtschatten / Trésors de quartier

> Co-initiation of and support for **Buurtschatten** project (in cooperation with community organization

Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen), which challenges residents in Antwerp-North to realize their own projects to improve the quality of life in their community

> Support for **Trésors de quartier** (in partnership with city of Sevran, France), which encourages residents to work together to develop their neighborhood

2006

Favourite Poem Presentation

Project initiated/coordinated in Poland: series of five-minute films in which person speaks about his/her life in context of presenting favorite poem, broadcast since 2006 on Polish TV to millions of viewers.

2004 – 2011

YEPP: Empowering young people in Antwerp and Warsaw

The **Youth Empowerment and Partnership Program (YEPP)**, a transnational program, aims to strengthen local communities, with particular emphasis on young people. The Evens Foundation implemented the program in Antwerp (Belgium) and Warsaw (Poland).

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2008

First Nationwide Poetry Unites – My Favorite Poem contest

Launched in Poland – 356 participants. Winners featured in short films, broadcast on Polish TV in 2009 and 2010. Contest has become an annual event in Poland.



2002 – 2011 *Evens Art Prize*

Supports artistic initiatives that help us rethink contemporary European realities and envision new perspectives for shaping our common world.

2011 Art Prize

Awarded to **Sven Augustijnen** (Belgium) from list of 20 internationally acclaimed artists, nominated by representatives of major European art institutions.

2009 Art Prize

Awarded to **Agnieszka Podgórska** for her work on the body as a 'first language'.

2004 Art Prize

Competition for short film screenplays on the theme Encounter, aimed at young directors from Europe and the Middle East. Prize awarded to **Nassim Amaouche, Ula Tabari** and **Timon Koulmasis**, whose films have won awards at international festivals.

2002 Art Prize

Won by **Sylvie Blocher** and the collective *Campement Urbain* for their reflection on the significance and possibilities of artistic interventions in the public space.

2007 – 2010 *Hoger Wal!*

Support for **Hoger Wal!** which organizes boat trips lasting at least one week for youngsters who live in difficult circumstances.

2009 *Noorderlicht* (*Northern Lights*)

From 7 to 15 March 2009, the Evens Foundation and partners presented the **Noorderlicht** event at SpoorNoord park in Antwerp, focused on "harmonious living together".

2007 *Festival of the Laureates, on 10th anniversary of Evens Foundation*

Festival of the Laureates, A Vision of 'Europe of the Future', international conference held on 13/14 November at Musée de l'Homme in Paris, gathering prize-winners over a decade and over 300 partners to reflect on Foundation's past and future work.

2007 *Floating Territories*

Part of the special programming of the International Art Biennials of Istanbul, Athens and Venice, 6–16 September 2007.

> This Evens Foundation project, involving a chartered boat, sought to stimulate the creation of a new territory, a heterotopia, to question the conditions of change in the context of the rapidly changing Euro-Mediterranean region.
> Over a 10-day journey, linking Istanbul, Athens and Venice, the project spawned many projects and events, and led to the publication *Floating Territories*, Un journal. •

The Story of the Evens Foundation

At the end of the Second World War, Mrs Irène Evens-Radzynska and Mr Georges Evens settled in Belgium, in the port city of Antwerp. As a businessman, Mr Evens forged a highly successful career in the diamond industry. Given his great success in the wake of a war that had torn Europe apart, he and Mrs Irène Evens-Radzynska felt strongly that they should give something back to Belgian society and society in general. Thus was born the Evens Foundation, in 1990. After her father's death, Mrs. Corinne Evens took the lead of the Evens Foundation.

The objectives of this new philanthropic foundation closely reflected the Evens family's experience and awareness of conflict, hatred, the demonizing of difference. Philanthropy means love of humanity but, given what had happened, it is perhaps a wonder that anyone could still 'love humanity'; have made such a leap of faith in the future and in human potential.



The Story of the Evens Foundation

Three key programs

A wide range of projects were initiated. In recent years, activities were formally grouped in three key programs: **Peace Education**, **Media**, and **European Citizenship**. For the sake of clarity, the story of the Foundation's earlier activities is told below in terms of these three domains.

The Peace Education program

When the Foundation initiated its Intercultural Education work in 1999, its aim was to emphasize the crucial role that education can play in constructing and sustaining a harmonious society. With its current focus on Peace Education and, specifically, on Conflict Management Education, the Foundation seeks to build on and further develop this work.

Peace Education includes developing self-respect along with tolerance, understanding and respect for others. It involves an understanding of structural justice and is inextricably linked to human rights and democracy. It also requires awakening to and accepting one's own responsibility within and for society.

The Peace Education program helps children, young people and adults to think critically and become agents in a culture of peace within their families, schools, social networks, communities, etc. The Foundation thus focuses in particular on attaining new and better insights into the origin of conflict and the conflictual behavior of children and youngsters, and on developing learning material that sensitizes people to the importance of conflict

management. Last but not least, it initiates and supports projects that concentrate on teaching and learning the skills and attitudes needed to manage conflicts so that they do not escalate into violence.

Intercultural Education Prizes 1999-2007

The Foundation's initial Peace Education initiative, the Evens Prize for Intercultural Education, was established in 1999 to highlight good practices in the field of intercultural education and identify new challenges, insights and perspectives.

Migrants and refugees

In 1999, the first prize was awarded to the project *Country Boxes*, coordinated by the Brussels Integration Center Foyer. This project sought to reflect memories and experiences of migration and refuge. Young people, by engaging with the work of immigrant artists, learnt to give voice to and share their memories and personal experiences.

Promoting intercultural understanding

In 2000, the first prize was shared by two organizations: Stichting Vredeseducatie, Utrecht for its project *Ordinary-Extraordinary* and Steunpunt Intercultureel Onderwijs, Ghent for *CLIM: Co-operative Learning in Multicultural Classes*.

Ordinary-Extraordinary, an interactive travelling exhibition about prejudice and the scapegoat phenomenon, was shown in seven European countries. It stimulated awareness-building and opposed prejudice and ethnocentrism by leading children aged 10-12 through the exhibition, followed by in-depth reflection in the classroom. The project sought to teach children to think (rather than what to think).

CLIM introduced a new classroom environment in order to enhance intercultural learning. It worked not only on content but also on learning strategies, thus increasing the competence of pupils and teachers when dealing with social and cultural diversity.

The jury recommended that the laureates exchange their ways of working and methods, and learn from each other's expert knowledge. Two internal debates, in Ghent and Utrecht, were incorporated in a public debate on 24th September 2001 in Antwerp. The



results of this debate were published in *Learning for Change in a Multicultural Society*.

Supporting young Roma

In 2003, following a third prize in 1999 for the Asociación Nacional Presencia Gitana book *Europe Mocks Racism*, the first prize went to the Roma Mainstream Internship Program of the Center for Independent Journalism in Budapest (Hungary), Bratislava (Slovakia) and Bucharest (Romania). The program prepared talented young Roma for media careers through intensive ten-month training.

Helping disadvantaged neighborhoods

The second prize was awarded to the project *Vlaggen en Wimpels* (With Flying Colors) of Antwerp-based De Veerman, which promotes active practice of art and neighborhood-oriented activities in primary schools in deprived neighborhoods and in those with a high concentration of immigrant pupils.

Intercultural training

In 2005, a project coordinated by the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Spanish Distance University), Madrid won the first prize. *INTER: A Practical Guide to Implement Intercultural Education at School* focused on developing, using and validating a practical guide for teacher training to facilitate analysis, implementation and improvement of intercultural education in school.

The difference that love makes ...

Love Difference of the Love Difference Association, Biella, Italy won the second prize. *Love Difference*, promoted by Fondazione Michelangelo Pistoletto, Center for Contemporary Art, with the collaboration of international institutions, cultural centers, teachers, curators and artists, aims to connect people and institutions in the Mediterranean regions interested in creating new perspectives to overcome cultural conflict.

Diversity as an asset

The fifth Evens Prize for Intercultural Education, *Learning in Diversity*, in 2007 sought to reward schools that made effective efforts to integrate intercultural education into the core educational process. In autumn 2006, the Foundation launched a call to candidate schools in Belgium, France and Poland; 21 in Poland, 23 in Belgium and seven in France were shortlisted, based on criteria formulated by the Center for Diversity and Learning of Ghent University, Belgium. Foundation staff or qualified representatives visited the schools and prepared dossiers that were reviewed by the jury.

The jury noted that the schools did not perceive diversity as a

The Peace Education program helps children, young people and adults to think critically and become agents in a culture of peace within their families, schools, social networks, communities, etc.

problem or obstacle, but as an asset they could benefit from to educate children in today's modern and multiform societies. Nine schools were awarded prizes on 14th November 2007 in Paris at the Musée de l'Homme by the Honorary President of the Education Prize, Mrs Maria Kaczynska (also wife of the President of the Republic of Poland); Emeritus Professor Jagdish Gundara, UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Studies and Teacher Education, chair of the jury, and Mrs Corinne Evens. During 2007-2008, the Foundation supported exchanges and collaborations between the laureate schools.

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The Story of the Evens Foundation



Whole-school anti-bias diversity training

In 2000, the Foundation began supporting a program closely linked to its Intercultural Education prizes: the *Classroom of Difference TM*, an anti-bias diversity training program for teachers, pupils and school staff. It provides training and curricular tools for teachers to develop effective classroom strategies. Peer training develops youth leadership and transversal skills that empower pupils to help develop a positive school climate.

In Belgium the programme was adapted to the European context by CEJI (Centre European Juif d'Information) in partnership with and financed by the Bernheim Foundation and the Evens Foundation. In Flanders, the programme is coordinated by the training center Agora vzw and in Wallonia by the Institut de Recherche, Formation et Action sur les Migrations (IRFAM). The Foundation's cycle of seed financing of the project ended in August 2007.

In 2006, the Foundation was pleased to see the cross-school teacher training maintained by Agora vzw, as well as the whole-school approach of the Antwerp-based schools, Sint Agnes Hoboken and Maris Stella/Sint Agnes Borgerhout. The long-term approach, based on needs assessment of the schools, training for teachers, peer training for pupils, and the common authoring of a program based on school needs, proved highly effective.

Toy Libraries in Brussels and Antwerp

Toy libraries promote play as essential to the physical, psychological, educational and socio-cultural development of children. They provide access to good-quality toys that match the stages of a child's development, while professional educators answer questions and give advice. They also offer parents a place where they encounter other young families and can exchange concerns about child education. In a culture often obsessed with educational results, many parents discover with surprise the pleasure and importance of play.

In 2000, the Foundation co-initiated and began to support *Walala/Walalou* in the Cureghem neighborhood of Brussels, and in 2007 it did the same for *De Speelvijver* (The Playing Pond) in

Antwerp North. In 2010 the Foundation concluded its funding for these two libraries; both now receive government support.

Opening the minds of children

In 2002, the Foundation decided to support a project encouraging primary-school children to develop an open attitude toward people from other cultures and/or social backgrounds: the *Living on the Roof/Wonen op het Dak* workshop. Teachers are trained for one day at Studio Globo and offered a media package. Teacher and pupils then work on the theme of diversity, using the teacher's manual, a CD-ROM, the pupil's workbook and a website offering the opportunity to discover the richness of diversity.

The long waiting list of schools seeking to participate in a *Living on the Roof* workshop proves the need for and value of the initiative. The six-year cycle of seed financing ended in 2007. The Foundation is convinced that the program will continue to thrive.

Making peace... in a Peace Factory

In 2007, convinced of the benefits of the *Peace Factory*, developed by Stichting Vredeseducatie in the Netherlands, the Foundation decided to develop the exhibition in other countries. The Peace Factory is an interactive exhibition designed to stimulate children aged 10-13 to reflect on their identity and consider issues such as violence, prejudice, freedom, scapegoating, conflicts, war and peace. The metaphor – a factory that produces peace and liberty – implies active engagement. Visitors to the exhibition, who work in pairs, carry out more than fifty interactive activities. The exhibition avoids any preaching; it encourages young people to think for themselves, learn how to articulate their own opinions, and get involved. It opens up a debate on everybody's role in conflict and ways to achieve compromises that permit living together in harmony.

Peace Factories launched

In November 2008 the *Fabrique de la Paix* was launched at the European Education Fair in Paris. Today the exhibition still tours France successfully. In October 2009 the Flemish edition, De

Vredesfabriek, was launched at the Peace Center of Antwerp, the first stop of the Flemish tour. In each case, the exhibition was fully adapted to country and context.

Science Prize for conflict-related research

In 2007, the Foundation set a Scientific Challenge to encourage cutting-edge thinkers and practitioners to investigate how original scientific thought and outstanding data applications can address contemporary challenges. This resulted in the award of a Science Prize, of which the winners were Professor Patrik Vuilleumier, Dr Gilles Pourtois and Roland Vocat of the Laboratory for Neurology & Imaging of Cognition (LBNIC) at the University of Geneva (UNIGE). Their research project was titled *Brain correlates of intra- vs. inter-personal conflict appraisal*.

Dealing with youth violence

In 2009, in another scientific initiative, the Foundation asked the Youth Mental Health department of the Collaborative Antwerp Psychiatric Research Institute (CAPRI), Antwerp University to draw up European policy recommendations on implementing effective care for young people who engage in serious violent behavior, based on an inventory of evidence-based care programs and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The research report, *Prevention and Intervention Programs for Violent Youth in Europe*, published in fall 2010, represents the results of this research, directed by Prof. Dirk Deboutte (CAPRI) in collaboration with the European Association for Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychology and other Involved Professions (EFCAP) and with the cooperation of European experts in the field. In November 2010, the research results were presented by Prof. Deboutte to the parliamentary commission on youth care of the Flemish Parliament.

With this research report, the Foundation aimed to bring about social change by providing recommendations and examples of good practice to youth-care professionals and policymakers at all levels.

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The Story of the Evens Foundation

The Peace Education Prize

Since its establishment, the Evens Foundation has awarded biennial prizes in various fields to fulfill part of its mission. In this tradition and following the success of the Intercultural Education Prizes, the Foundation in 2011 launched the Evens Prize for Peace Education to identify and recognize good practices in the field of conflict management education, the current focus of its Peace Education program.

Managing conflict

With the first Peace Education Prize, the Foundation honored an organization offering training programs to current and/or future teachers in learning how to manage interpersonal and/or inter-group conflict in a constructive way. In this respect, learning was considered to be a process of personal change, in the sense that how we learn is as important as the content of that learning.

For the 2011 prize, 26 projects from 10 EU countries were submitted. On 18th March 2011, the *Escola de Cultura de Pau* (ECP), Barcelona was selected as the winner from a shortlist of 11 organizations, for its teacher training in conflict management. The prize money was shared between the award winner and dissemination of its training program. The ECP is currently working on a publication that offers insights and practical experiences regarding the introduction of peace education in schools, useful for teachers and other educational agents.

Award ceremony in Barcelona

The prize was officially presented to the ECP on 20th September 2011, the eve of the International Day of Peace, in the City Hall of Barcelona, in the presence of representatives of the City of Barcelona and the Catalan Ministry of Education, members of the Flemish Parliament, and the Board of the Evens Foundation. In his keynote speech, Mr Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO and President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, stressed the importance of education and, in particular, the role of teachers in changing the world. He also stressed that the presentation of such a prize at a time of crisis and uncertainty was very meaningful; it encourages people to keep working to realize a true culture of peace, and at the same time it sets out the course ahead.

Exchange seminar for practitioners in Barcelona

The Evens Foundation seized the opportunity of the award ceremony to invite the jury members and the other selected candidate organizations to Barcelona for an exchange seminar, to encourage the sharing of good practice and lessons learned around Europe, to envisage new perspectives, to forge European partnerships, etc.

The Flemish Peace Institute, experienced in the field of peace education research and keen to know more about conflict management education, agreed to co-organize and facilitate the meeting. Nine of the 11 selected organizations participated.

Belfedar – playful promotion of peace

On a lighter note, in 2011 the Evens Foundation partnered with the University of Peace, Namur, Belgium to promote a novel way of managing conflict and preventing violence. *Belfedar*, a cooperative board-game for 4–8 players aged over 10, encourages constructive communication and a sense of belonging to a group. It also helps to develop social skills in order to manage conflict. Through amusing exercises, players better understand both themselves and others, develop self-esteem, and learn creative expression, management of emotions, listening, cooperation, etc. The 250 challenges offered are active and interactive: mime, drawings, word-games, writing, movement, singing, and so on.

The Foundation plans to present this game in various European languages to raise awareness among educators about the importance of constructive group dynamics and positive conflict management. The distribution of the game is the first step. In a second phase, Foundation partners will be organizing workshops and training related to the game. The game's French version, the first to appear, is on sale at the University of Peace (Belgium and other countries) and Non-Violence Actualité (France).

The Evens Foundation and the University of Peace organized the first transnational Belfedar meeting in Namur, from 27-29 June 2012, to prepare the next editions with partners from Poland, Spain and Flanders.



According to the European Commission, media literacy “should help citizens to recognize how the media filter their perceptions and beliefs, shape popular culture and influence personal choices”.

The Media program

Media is of crucial importance for our democracy and for promoting a harmonious and peaceful Europe. According to the European Commission, media literacy “should help citizens to recognize how the media filter their perceptions and beliefs, shape popular culture and influence personal choices”. The Evens Foundation supports projects that develop critical understanding of the media and promote active participation in the media.. By helping citizens to become judicious consumers and producers of information, such projects also develop highly aware, active and responsible citizens.

Prize for Media Education 2009

The Foundation thus launched in 2009 the biennial Evens Prize for Media Education. The 2009 prize supported the development of new sustainable projects in media education aimed at children aged 4-12.

A jury of independent experts gave awards to:

- > The *British Film Institute* (BFI) proposal – a tool for teachers to address media education, raise critical awareness and promote intercultural and language education. The jury aimed to reward the BFI for its long experience in and commitment to media education, and specifically for promoting media literacy.
- > The *University of Minho* proposal, *Media Education in Booklets: Learning, Knowing and Acting* – because it seeks to directly target parents and because the Minho team has played a pioneering role in the development of media education in Portugal.

The prizes were presented on 22nd October 2009 in Bellaria, Italy, at EuroMeduc’s second European congress on media literacy.

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Dissemination of winning projects

The proposals of the two award-winners were worked out in 2010 and translated to other contexts. The BFI proposal included the production of a DVD with 12 French short films that are ideal for teaching a range of French-language skills, and developing children's intercultural understanding. These films are also an excellent tool for teachers to treat media education and to increase critical awareness. This DVD production was later adapted to the Flemish learning context and thus may be used in Flemish schools.

The University of Minho proposal included producing three booklets aimed at parents: one about watching television, another about mobile telephony, and the third about social network sites. The intention is to sensitize parents and arm them so they can educate their children about these issues in an informed and responsible way. These three booklets were translated from Portuguese to English so they can be distributed on a wider scale.

Active citizenship through media production

In the framework of its Media program, the Foundation initiates and supports local structures for media production. Young people aged 15–25 are introduced to the issues and techniques of audiovisual creation and news production. The objectives are to enhance their ability to reflect critically on dominant media discourses, develop their creative capacities and ability to propose a platform for expression, and involve them in local public life.

In 2007, the Foundation developed *VideAntz*, an Antwerp-based project, currently coordinated by Chips vzw. In 2010, *VideAntz* worked with almost 100 young people: with local children and

in international contexts; with individuals and with schools, and with organizations such as Unicef Belgium and RechtOp, a poverty-fighting organization.

Paris media projects

For 2010/2011, the Foundation selected two projects. StreetPress is an online, participatory media platform created in 2008 by young journalists in Paris. It runs a training program for young people to initiate them into the job of reporter, in the spirit of citizen journalism. The Foundation supported one of StreetPress's projects: *La Rédaction du 19^e*, a local media facility in the 19th arrondissement.

The association *Plus Loin* has developed non-formal learning projects in the 20th arrondissement of Paris. The Evens Foundation and the association coordinate a project where young residents learn to analyze the media and produce reports and documentaries on current issues and topics concerning local social life. A dedicated internet site serves as an online medium for the young people and is created and entirely managed by themselves.

Antwerp – the 2011 capital of young European journalists

Antwerp was European Youth Capital in 2011. The Evens Foundation decided this was a good year for a major media event. Along with StampMedia, it organized a transnational exchange on the challenges for and responsibilities of newsmakers: *the YoungPress.eu* conference. The Foundation invited 100 young journalists from all over Europe to reflect on and debate the future of news broadcasting.

The conference was launched with a memorable keynote speech by Paul Lewis, special projects coordinator at *The Guardian* newspaper. Despite concerns about the future of journalism, he concluded his talk with a positive message: "[T]he digital era could be ushering in a golden age for journalism. Today's generation of young journalists can contemplate a future in which the possibilities of what can be reported are massively expanded [...]." Although the sale of printed words on paper might be consigned to history, "audiences could be larger and more engaged than journalists would ever have imagined".



In the following days, keynote lectures and interactive workshops were given on the four conference themes:

- > The omnipresence of 'instant' media
- > High-quality journalism under threat
- > The spread of biased information
- > New models and experimentation by independent journalists

Overall, the first *YoungPress.eu* conference was a great success.

Prize for Media Education 2011

Finally, 2011 was the year of the second Evens Prize for Media Education. Out of 57 projects from 17 EU countries, an international jury selected JFF – Institute of Media Research and Media Education, Munich as winner for *Generationen im Dialog*, a media education project in which socially disadvantaged young people in Bavaria produced a media product, such as a television broadcast, an exposition relating to the internet, a documentary, or an audio guide. In this work they collaborated with a group of about 10 people aged 60 and above.

The jury described JFF as an exemplary media educational institute and characterized the *Generationen im Dialog* project as powerful and innovative. The prize money was used to create a new dimension for the project.

The European Citizenship program

Major steps have been taken towards creating a peaceful, democratic and multicultural society in Europe. The Evens Foundation seeks to contribute to this process by raising people's awareness of the need for this peacebuilding and by collaborating with

*The Evens Foundation seeks to contribute to this process by raising people's awareness of the need for this peacebuilding
Seeks to empower citizens and encourage them to take an active part in shaping the future of Europe*

others in tackling whatever threatens a sustainable peace. It also seeks to empower citizens and encourage them to take an active part in shaping the future of Europe. It thus supports projects and scientific research that enhance European citizens' awareness of the role of the European Union, while also raising people's understanding of and acceptance of 'difference'.

Arts Prize 2002 – recognizing artists who 'rethink Europe'

In the arts field, the Foundation supports initiatives that help us rethink contemporary European realities

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and envision new perspectives for shaping our common world. In 2002, it launched its first Arts Prize, 'Community Art Collaboration', to stimulate reflection on issues related to new urban conditions. The focus was on collective research projects in the urban laboratories that our cities and large suburban areas have become.

A utopian public space

The selection committee, composed of internationally acclaimed art curators, chose as winning project *Je & Nous* (I & We) of the Parisian collective Campement Urbain, which proposed creating in a zone of great urban tension – Sevran, in the northern suburbs of Paris – a place of "individual existence", open to everyone and under everybody's protection. The project was presented at the Venice Biennial in 2003 and the Force de l'Art at the Grand Palais in Paris in 2006.

The Foundation produced a catalogue, *Community Art Collaboration 2002*, that includes theoretical reflections about the significance and possibilities of artistic interventions in today's urban space (as well as listing the candidate projects).

Arts Prize 2004 – rewarding intercultural dialogue

For the second Arts Prize, in 2004, the Evens Foundation broadened its field of action to the Middle East. The objective was to open up spaces for dialogue between this region and Europe, through artistic collaborations. A contest was launched for short film screenplays, aimed at young European and Middle Eastern directors, with the theme 'Encounter'.

A prestigious international jury awarded the prize to Nassim Amaouche (Paris) for *Quelques miettes pour les oiseaux* (Some crumbs for the birds); Ula Tabari (Paris/Nazareth) for *Diaspora*, and Timon Koulmasis (Paris/Athens) for *De quelle couleur sont les murs de votre appartement?* (What color are the walls of your apartment?). In 2005, the Foundation enabled the three films to be produced, in Jordan. They were critically acclaimed and won awards at international festivals.



Arts Prize 2009 – the 'first language' we all share

The 2009 Arts Prize was awarded to recognize a young artist living or working in the EU, whose work was closely related to the Foundation's mission and objectives. The winner, Agnieszka Podgórska, uses digital photography to portray the human body, devoid of social codes and symbolic references, as 'the first language' in our relationship with others. In May 2009, in collaboration with the Fondation Hippocrène in Paris, the Foundation organized a round-table debate on the work of the artist. European Commissioner Karel De Gucht presented the prize at the University of Antwerp (Nov 2009).

Arts Prize 2011 – exploring the uncertainty of fact'

Next, in 2011, the fifth Arts Prize was awarded to Belgian artist Sven Augustijnen, out of a list of 20 acclaimed artists nominated by representatives of major European art institutions. The jury said that his work explores "a territory where the borders between fiction and documentary blur, discourses collide, and historical references overlap with historical gossip".

Alain Seban, President of the Centre Pompidou, presented the



award on 17th October at the Centre Pompidou, and the award-winner's new film, Spectres, was premièred.

Floating Territories – a voyage of discovery

In 2007, the Evens Foundation initiated *Floating Territories*, a project linking the contemporary art biennials of Istanbul, Athens and Venice (6-16 September 2007). Artists, curators, writers and philosophers were invited to explore the responsibilities and limits of art in the context of a 'Europe in motion'.

This project, involving a chartered boat, sought to stimulate the creation of a new territory, a heterotopia, to question the conditions of change in the context of the rapidly changing Euro-Mediterranean region. Over a 10-day journey, the project spawned many projects and events, created a platform for artistic exchanges and interactions between Istanbul, Athens and Venice, and led to the publication *Floating Territories, Un journal*.

Spreading the light

Following the series of Arts Prizes, we move back to 2009, when the Evens Foundation and partners presented the Noorderlicht event at SpoorNoord park in Antwerp from 7th to 15th March.

Many organizations, including schools and community groups, organized an activity, focused on 'harmonious living together', in the beautiful Tent of Magic Mirrors.

Working locally with citizens

Firm believing that European citizenship starts at the local level, the Foundation has initiated and supported local citizenship projects in disadvantaged neighborhoods in Antwerp, Warsaw and Paris. These projects are based on the Asset-Based Community Development methodology and on Can Do. Rather than focusing on problems and gaps, they start from a positive angle: identify the competences of inhabitants (they are the experts) and activate all local resources to encourage citizens to work together to develop their neighborhood, while reinforcing their social ties.

Treasures in an Antwerp neighborhood

In 2010, the Foundation and Samenlevingsopbouw Antwerpen, a community organization in Antwerp-North, founded the *Buurtschatten* (Treasures in the Neighborhood) project. The residents demonstrated a great ability to enthuse others about their ideas, and the perseverance to put them into effect. In 2011, the Foundation focused on expanding the project to other districts in Antwerp and on exploring ways to make the project self-sustaining. The residents' initiatives range from a sewing atelier to a storytelling project about migration.

An innovative municipal partnership in Paris

In spring 2010, the Foundation launched *Trésors de quartier*, in partnership with the city of Sevran, in northern Paris. Inspired by *Buurtschatten*, this initiative involves an innovative practice of collaboration between a private foundation and a municipality. A pilot project was started in the Sevran neighborhoods Montceau Pont-Blanc, in collaboration with the Maison de quartier (community center). Projects proposed by residents included: building a sports hall open to all and supervised by young volunteers; garden workshops where both children and adults tidy up streets and squares; an open-air cinema and a public terrace.

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Empowering young people – YEPP in Antwerp & Warsaw

The Foundation, a YEPP (Youth Empowerment and Partnership Program) partner from 2004 to 2011, was responsible for the program sites in Antwerp and Warsaw. The transnational program aims to strengthen local communities, with particular emphasis on young people. It is implemented and financed by a consortium of European and American foundations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The overall goal is to support a bottom-up approach to

systemic change leading to equitable, democratic societies and sustainable human development.

YEPP Antwerp started in 2004. Following a local context analysis, an operational plan was drawn up, focusing on three action domains: *work experience for young people; constructive free time and recreational activities; and community development*. From 2004 to 2011, more than a dozen projects were set up or initiated by the Evens Foundation to address the needs of young people in Antwerp-North. All projects were in partnership with local stakeholders and the young people. Many of the Foundation's key projects (such as Buurtschatten, Hoger Wall, VideAntz) have their origin in the YEPP activities in Antwerp-North.

In 2007, YEPP Warsaw, in the Bielany district, was initiated by the Evens Foundation and coordinated by the Polish Children and Youth Foundation (PCYF). Eight projects were implemented, including a video project, a youth fund, a creative-activity program, a voluntary-work project, and a work-experience project. Most projects were aimed at activating disadvantaged youth by encouraging them to do voluntary work, using the Local Youth Fund Model, a unique way of involving young people in community activity. It does this through grant-awarding committees run by young people.

Pushing the boat out for young people

In 2011, the Foundation supported another project focused on young people that arose out of the Buurtschatten project. *Hoger Wall* organizes boat trips lasting at least one week for youngsters who live in difficult circumstances. During the trip, they have to work in a responsible and disciplined way. The trip lets them think about their circumstances and future, free from day-to-day worries. The boat will be on the water for at least 15 weeks per year. This project was selected by SAM (Belgian multimedia project to support social initiatives) and covered by national media.

Exploring Europe as a space of encounter

Moving from the local to the European dimension, at the end of 2010, the Foundation initiated the creation of a European documentary aimed at highlighting Europe as 'a space of encounter' where citizens can get closer to each other. The working title is '*I am Europe*'. Six cities were selected. In the search for stories,



filmmaker Jef Vingerhoedt was guided by the 'European values' in the Treaty on European Union. The Foundation selected six of these: democracy, human rights, freedom, equality, the rule of law, and solidarity.

In the latter part of 2011, the film was presented to and discussed with stakeholders in order to refine the final version. They agreed that the potential of the film lies in the way it provokes lively reflection on the stories recounted and issues raised. It will be integrated in an educational toolkit to facilitate discussions about European values and reflection on the concept of European citizenship.

Uniting people through poetic 'in-sight'

From 2006 to 2011, the Foundation supported an initiative based on the idea that literature, by offering intimate insights (or 'in-sight') into the mind of another person, contributes to mutual understanding, revealing both deep similarities and differences between people.

In the *Poetry Unites* initiative, created by Ewa Zadrzynska for the Foundation and initiated in Warsaw in 2006, poetry enthusiasts speak to camera about their life in the context of presenting a favorite poem. The resulting five-minute films are shown on TV, on the internet and in cinemas. The presenters, aged 6–94, have ranged from a nine-year-old Roma girl to women working at

home to a 16-year old girl from a village who lived in one room with her two brothers while their parents slept in the kitchen.

Since 2006, the films have been broadcast on Polish public TV TVP2 to millions of viewers. The films connect millions of people who would otherwise probably never have had contact with each other and thus not seen how much they have in common.

Start of the Poetry Unites contest

In September 2008, the Evens Foundation launched the first nationwide Poetry Unites – *My Favorite Poem* contest, under the patronage of the Minister of Education Katarzyna Hall. It attracted 356 participants countrywide. Schoolchildren wrote an essay about their favorite poem and, in the context of the poem, described their own life. The five winners, selected by a jury headed by Polish poet Adam Zagajewski, were featured in short films that were broadcast on Polish TV in 2009 and 2010.

In 2011, the Foundation extended the contest, which is an annual event in Poland. On 2nd November 2011, it was launched simultaneously in Germany, in cooperation with Literaturwerksatt, Berlin, and in Poland, with the co-operation of the Ministry of Education. The State Minister of Culture and Media in Germany, Bernd Neumann, and the Polish Minister of Culture, Bogdan Zdrojewski, acted as patrons.

From around 580 entries from both countries, three winners were selected in each country. The jury members were >>>

The Story of the Evens Foundation



Adam Zagajewski, German poet and publisher Michael Kruger, and Dr Thomas Wolhfahrt, director of Literaturwerkstatt.

Going beyond stereotypes

The concluding gala, which included a screening of six films involving the winners, was organized by the Literaturwerkstatt at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin in June 2012. At the gala, Foundation chairman Luc Luyten quoted the German-language poet Paul Celan, who said: "I don't see any difference between a handshake and a poem." Mr Luyten added: "The Poetry Unites project is rooted in the same reasoning. It introduces people to each other through poetry. When people shake hands they understand each other better, stereotypes are demystified and a

real contact is established. As long as we think through the prism of stereotypes, harmonious living together in Europe won't be possible."

Festival of the Laureates 2007

In 2007, its 10th anniversary, the Foundation presented *Festival of the Laureates, A Vision of 'Europe of the Future'*, an international conference held on 13/14 November at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. The event gathered the winners of Foundation prizes throughout the 10 years with over 300 partners to reflect on the Foundation's past and future work. The 2007 Prize for Intercultural Education and 2007 Science Prize were also presented.

French media personality Ruth Elkrief opened the conference by interviewing Marianne Eshet, director of French philanthropic network Admical, on the theme 'Solidarity in Europe of the Future'. Wilhelm Krull, chair of the European Foundation Center, spoke on 'A Foundation in Europe – Partnerships and Means of Action'. He commended the Foundation for "reaching beyond national borders", "making creative use of the Foundation's autonomy, alertness and flexibility", and taking an avant-garde risk approach.

Two round-table discussions followed: 'What Vision for Europe of the Future?' and 'What Challenges for Europe of the Future?'. In the latter, all contributors, young and old, emphasized the importance of youth involvement and education.

The Evens Foundation Prizes award ceremony was hosted by Foundation Honorary President Corinne Evens in the company of Honorary President of the Education Prize Maria Kaczynska (also wife of the President of the Republic of Poland), and Member of Honor Nicole Guedj, Former Minister of Rights of Victims, Ministry of Justice, France.

French artist Yann Toma constructed an 'Observatory' from which delegates could view four screens presenting a synthesis of 10 years of work in the various domains of the Foundation. World-renowned cartoonists Plantu and Kichka presented a wide range of cartoons to illustrate the social challenges theme of the conference.

To conclude

The Foundation has initiated and supported a huge range of projects during its first 15 years. It owes its success to the ideals and strong engagement of its Honorary President Corinne Evens, the commitment, experience and skills of its Board members and staff, and the donations of its generous supporters. It has used the resources available to it wisely. By combining the donations of supporters with the build-up of capital so that various investments provide yearly income, it has ensured long-term sustainability. We can expect to see the Foundation continuing its work for a long time into the future.



**HARMONIOUSLY
IN EUROPE**

The letters of the words "HARMONIOUSLY" and "IN EUROPE" are filled with a collage of various European landscapes, cultures, and people, creating a visual representation of diversity and unity across the continent.

Colofon

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