

About SozialMarie's Award Ceremony

SozialMarie prizes were awarded for the 13th time to 15 outstanding projects that design and apply socially innovative solutions to societal problems **on 1st of May in Vienna's ORF RadioKulturhaus.**

The first prize, endowed with 15,000 Euro, this year went to the Czech project [Studio 27 - Focused on Soul](#), where journalists with their own experiences of psychiatry publically confront mental illness to break prejudice and to fight the stigma that surrounds it.

The second prize, worth 10,000 Euro, went to the Austrian project [Welcome to Life](#), where youths living in socio-pedagogical institutions receive support beyond their 18th birthday to facilitate their transition into adult life.

The third prize (5,000 Euro) went to another Czech project, [Na Ovoce](#), a digital map, where you can register freely accessible fruit trees, thus helping to preserve a bio-diverse landscape and to make people aware again of forgotten fruit varieties.

The prize-winning projects were selected by an **expert jury**. The **award ceremony** offered them a public platform that attracts a lot of media attention.

Austrian active patronage is this year benefitting [Intercultural Mentoring for Schools](#), chosen by [Augustin \(Prince\) Pallikunnel](#). He is the founder and CEO of PROSI Group-Vienna, which well-known PROSI supermarket is part of, organizes popular festivals ("Exotic Festivals") and is also president of the PROSI Global Charity Foundation, which implements welfare projects in Austria and on several continents. Mr Pallikunnel will accompany and support the project for one year.

General Information on SozialMarie

It was in 2005 that SozialMarie was awarded for the first time – which makes it Europe's first and oldest social innovation prize. The project bearing institution is **Unruhe Private Foundation**, which was created in the year 2000 by Wanda Moser-Heindl and Friedrich Moser.

SozialMarie keeps growing: International from the start, SozialMarie is by now well established in Austria, Hungary and Czechia. On top of that, on the evening of 1st of May, SozialMarie celebrated the admission of Slovakia as a full member.

All projects that deal with social problems of the present day are entitled to submit. The projects must already have been sufficiently implemented and must still be running. Applications came from individuals, commercial firms, the social economy (civil society initiatives, NGOs, NPOs, associations) and public administration.

List of all SozialMarie prize winning projects 2017: <http://www.sozialmarie.org/en/news/5>