ANIMATE EUROPE PLUS

INTERNATIONAL COMICS COMPETITION 2019
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The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom is a foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany devoted to the promotion of liberal principles and to political education. The goal of the foundation is to advance the principles of freedom and dignity for all people in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation is active in over 60 countries around the world, spanning Europe, Africa, Asia, North and Central America. Within these project countries, our regional offices work to support human rights, rule of law, and democracy. In order to achieve these aims, the foundation seeks to foster both international and transatlantic dialogue through conferences, study tours, and publications, among other means. In addition, the foundation supports local, regional, and national initiatives which advance the rights of minorities, the democratic control of security forces, and the strengthening of international human rights coalitions. Within our European Dialogue Programme, with offices in Brussels, Athens and Prague, we actively encourage the political debate and develop innovative liberal approaches and solutions. A lively dialogue is based on tolerance and mutual understanding. Our activities aim at advocating these basic values through intercultural exchange. Our projects act as liberal platforms for the Foundation’s worldwide partners to debate issues of the European agenda.
In 2013, 2015 and 2017, we asked comic artists and graphic novelists from all over the world to participate in our international comic competition “Animate Europe” and to share with us their ideas about Europe. The overwhelming success of our competition proves that artists have fascinating visions to share. In the form of comic books, exhibitions and via the world wide web, our comics travel through Europe and overseas. They spark discussions and inspire people to get involved with Europe. In 2019, we launched the fourth “Animate Europe” competition round to get to know even more exciting stories. This year’s topic is “Animate Europe +” the “added value of the European Union.”

Why “Animate Europe +”? Because we believe in a unified Europe and the power of the European Union to guarantee freedom and peace. There are many achievements of the EU. We tend to take them for granted and forget too easily that the European Union is a precious project that reformed Europe and impacts our every day life. What is the added value of the EU? What are the advantages of the European Union? What did the EU do well according to you – in general terms or in personal experiences? These were the kind of questions we hoped to be answered by the artists. Again, we were overwhelmed by the number of entries we received from 27 countries! Join us to discuss Europe.

In this anthology you can find the works of our five competition finalists. As diverse as they are in terms of style, topic and vision, they share a common belief in a strong and vivid Europe, based on common understanding and trust.

Go ahead and see for yourself! Enjoy the read!

Thomas Ilka
Director European Dialogue
THE JURY

Lucie Lomová
is a comic book author and illustrator. Her most popular comic is Anča and Pepík, a series about two little mice that has also been adapted as an animated series. After a decade of creating comics for children, she turned to an adult audience with her graphic novel Anna en cavale, succeeded by Les Sauvages nad Sortie des artistes. She has also been teaching comics at the Faculty of Art and Design in Pilsen and cooperates regularly with Czech TV as an illustrator.

Julie Tait
has been working in the cultural sector for more than 29 years. She worked in almost every medium before finding her passion for running festivals. From 2008 - 2012, she ran a major outdoor arts festival programme across the whole of Cumbria in the UK as part of the London Olympics Cultural Olympiad. In 2013, she founded the Lakes International Comic Art Festival, which is the only one of its kind in the UK. Julie has won a number of awards and is Chair of Space2Create, a charity, which develops creative programmes for people with mental health issues.

Judith Vanistendael
studied at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin and earned an academic degree in Art Sciences from the University of Ghent. She did her postgraduate studies on Latin America and pursued the comics master at the Sint-Lukas Art School in Brussels. She is known for her comics When David lost his voice and Salto, as well as for her illustrations for Rosie & Moussa. Her semi-autobiographical work, Dance by the Light of the Moon, has been translated into nine languages and nominated twice for the prestigious Grand Prix de la ville d’Angoulême. Vanistendael also works as an illustrator for several publishing companies and teaches comics at an art academy. Her work has been translated into numerous languages.
It is great to see comics used in so many different ways to tell stories. The competition gives us a good peek into the variety in European culture.

**Kalle Hakkola**

Lyon BD has been working on many international projects over the passed years, and this all has really become one of the pillars of our activity. Along with that, our core DNA is to work with artists and on original creations. It then seemed very natural to take part in this initiative uniting so many countries and creators across Europe. It’s been a real pleasure to participate.

**Mathieu Diez**

After a career in the banking business, Mathieu Diez started pursuing his own projects, namely the “Café du bout du monde.” In 2006, these projects became the Lyon BD (Comics) Festival, born out of the idea that sequential art could meet all other art forms and open itself to a wider audience. After 13 years, Lyon BD has established itself as one of the most innovative comic festivals in Europe. In 2017, he was appointed comics artistic advisor for “Frankfurt in French – France, Guest of Honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2017”.

**Kalle Hakkola**

is a curator, producer and a scriptwriter of children's comic book series. He has worked as a director of the Helsinki Comics Festival and is a co-founder of the Comics Center in Helsinki. Hakkola promotes Finnish comics all over the world and works closely together with Finnish Literature Fund.
THE FINALISTS

David Shaw
United Kingdom

David Shaw was born and went to school in Northern Ireland. He studied history and expressive arts at universities in Dublin and Canterbury. He worked as a teacher of drama and theatre studies in a wide range of UK schools. He currently resides near the medieval town of Sandwich in Kent, which provided the inspiration and setting for his two illustrated historical novels for young readers, “The Little Black Prince” and “The Voyage of the Merlin”. He spent a year in Cassino in Italy, which gave him the inspiration for his recently published graphic novel Arandora Crossing.

Marta Okrasko
Poland

Marta is an artist who works in various fields of visual design. She graduated from the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts (M.A with Hons) and International School of Fashion and Costume Design. She divides her work between being a set designer and graphic designer. For several years, she designed costumes for theatre. Nowadays, she mainly designs visual identification, but in her free time, she designs books, especially for children. In her work, she tries to combine nice visual components with interesting content. At night, when she cannot sleep, she explores old printing techniques, such as relief printing.

Juliana Penkova
Bulgaria and Germany

Juliana Penkova has been developing architectural concepts for housing, kindergartens, libraries, lecture halls and theatres for the past 10 years. Creating unique spaces in colour and shape is a lifetime passion, which brings her into a vivid world of stories and few words. Although her work is mostly digital, Penkova decided for this comic to use her all-time favorite tool: the - coloured pencil. In doing so, everyone can join and colour along with her!
Bruno Cordoba
Argentina and Germany

Bruno Cordoba was born in Argentina and currently resides, works and studies in Germany. He discovered comics and Tolkien's work at an early age, both of which ruined his life forever. The complexity, richness, tangibility and depth of the Middle Earth’s mythology and the amazing narrative possibilities of the comic language left an indelible mark on Bruno's childhood creative aspirations. Ever since then, world building through storytelling with text and drawings has become an obsession. In his spare time, Bruno creates comics, graphic designs and illustrations.

Paul Rietzl
Germany

Paul Rietzl is an illustrator and comic artist from Augsburg, Germany. He grew up in Bavaria in the surrounding region of Munich. After his graduation and upon completion of an apprenticeship as a glass and porcelain painter, he moved to Augsburg to study communication design. After his studies, he settled down as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. But every free minute he has devoted to comics, which have excited him since his early childhood. In 2016, his Sci-Fi-Graphic Novel “Shipwreck” was published as a scroll by the publishing house “Round Not Square”, Berlin. New comic and scroll projects are currently in the making.
SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

border land
between
Belfast and Dublin

Sunset show’s over.
Time to go.

The mammy told me twenty years ago headlights on a lonely road filled her with dread.

AND SHE WASN’T EVEN GAY.

"The Boys" would have asked if we wereprod or catholic gays. When we said we were one of each we would have had proportionate beatings.
Look it's the IRA!
UDA! INLA!
UVF! UFF!

SHHHH!

*Paramilitary groups

It's undercover cops.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FROM OVER THE WATER.

Ghosts from the past.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ME MA AND DA RECKONED THEY WERE TAKING THEIR LIVES IN THEIR HANDS WHEN DRIVING THESE ROADS AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT.

Helicopters circling. Sinister lookin’ watch towers on every high hill.

Check-points manned by God knows who.

EVERYONE WATCHING OR BEING WATCHED. NO ONE TRUSTED.
Hearts in mouths not knowin' what was over
the brow of every rise in the road.

NERVE STRINGS SO TIGHT YOU HEAR THEM TWANG. OR...

PING

FEELING THE FEAR AT THE TURN OF EVERY CORNER.

RELIEF WHEN A SPEEDING CAR PASSED YE' BY
AND DIDN'T PULL YE OVER TO LEARN YOUR BUSINESS.
Belfast became a ghost town.

The principled ones were interned. Gangsters took over.

IRISH HEROES

Informers everywhere. Kangaroo courts and rough justice.

Or just some free-lance murder gang killing for kicks.
Back to Boomtown.

Greatest wee city in the greatest wee country in the world.

Home to George Best, Van "The Man" Morrison and Alex "The Hurricane" Higgins.

Belfast! An actual tourist destination. A modern, vibrant and, wait for it, attractive city.

WHERE A HISTORY OF RECENT VIOLENCE ADDS A FRISSON OF EXCITEMENT TO EVERY VISIT.
YET TEN MINUTES DRIVE FROM THE CENTRE OF TOWN AND THE SECTARIAN DIVIDE IS AS WIDE AND DEEP AS IT’S EVER BEEN.

How the hell does Europe stand behind a wee region as banjaxed as this?

Still all you get is guff about overpaid eurocrats in ivory towers.

FORGETTING THE EU’S ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PROCESS.

And all them millions spent on integration projects that get torpedoed by bullying bigots at the first sign of progress.

EVEN THEN THE EU WILL STEP STRAIGHT BACK IN DETERMINED TO TRY EVEN HARDER. ALWAYS TAKING THE LONG VIEW.
STILL FOR ALL THIS WEE PLACE’S FAULTS IT’S STILL HOME.

It’s our own wee neck of the woods.

WHAT?

SCREECH!!

ARDOYNE FAGGOTS GET KNEE-CAPPED.

WILL THE KNEE-CAPPINGS BE PROPORTIONATE?

One for you and two for me. They wouldn’t want to be seen as non-sectarian.

IT’S PRETTY HARD TO SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE RIGHT NOW.

Still nice to think there is someone out there doing it for us.

a little later
A small town somewhere outside E.U.

Did you ever think what is hiding in a puddle?

I think about it everyday because, no matter what the weather is, the puddle is always there waiting for me.

I love to swim but I have never tried. Sometimes I think I could just jump in and swim in this puddle.

And meet some peculiar friends........

THE PUDDLE

by Marta Okrasko
I feel free in the water. I can only imagine that when you are swimming, you forget about all your problems. In the water you can do things that are impossible on the ground. You can feel like in space without having to get into a spaceship. And you can play with gravity.

But instead, gravity plays with me......

I do not know why, but suddenly all the mud and water from the puddle magically appears on my new shoes, and on the new skirt. I think it has to be a kind of magic! Do you think my mother will believe in this magic?

But you know what, I believe in magic for certain!

Unfortunately, it is a pity that this always happens at the beginning of my way to school.
Great, only I will be all dirty again... I can not help it that I really like water.
Hey! Hurry up everyone! Lessons is about to start in 2 minutes.

I can not understand why I am leaving my home that early and I am always late at school. I am trying very hard but I can not stop thinking about certain things...

I always wonder if there is a school that has a swimming pool. The one where you can swim all year round...
During the longest lesson, abruptly and unexpectedly the view outside the window completely changed. Suddenly big fishes began to swim in the sky. Other pupils gave the impression that they did not see anything at all. I had to come closer to the window to watch the amazing view. One fish came closer and looked at me. I had looked and came a little bit closer... But unfortunately, this beautiful view actually turned out to be only...
Hey, get up my sleepyhead, today is the first day of school. You do not want to oversleep at the start of the school year!!! Adeyou will see a lot has changed... You will be surprised!!!

My mother told me that our country joined the European Union.... I wonder what does it mean. These are probably complicated matters for adults. It does not affect me. I’m not interested in politics so it probably does not matter to me.

Politics are very complicated and politicians use many difficult terms.

Yes Dad clean shoes...... but what about my old friend the puddle?

I wonder why I should be surprised???

Hurry up do not be late at your first day! Honey please, do not get your new shoes dirty!

WOOWOOWOO!!! LOOK!! We have got new school bus!!! Now the road to school will be very fast and I will not be late no more. What a great surprise!!!
Riding a school bus is an amazing experience. It's comfortable and fast. But unfortunately, although I was looking very carefully, I never saw my puddle anywhere. The whole road is now and repaired but there is no sign of the puddle.

Where is my puddle?!
What about my dreams of swimming........

My dreams come true. And to be honest, I do not need puddle. I believe in magic but these spells were made by real people. It's nice to get help but it's even nicer to help who need it. When I grow up I will help too...

My old NO actually my new school is amazing. This is a really big building! We have a new canteen, gymnasium, playground, new school lockers and teachers. I really like going to school and I'm not late anymore and my shoes are always clean all the time. And you know what? I am not sad anymore!!! I am super happyyyyy! Because something the most wonderful happened......
ANIMATE EUROPE 2019
by Juliana Penkova

something is missing
NOW WE ARE
COMPLETE ♥

END.
WHAT HAS THE EU EVER DONE FOR US?

by Bruno Cordula

IS THAT BERLIN ALREADY?

YES, THAT’S AKHAN-
DERPLATZ TOWER, CAN YOU SEE IT?

AND GRANDPA’S HOUSE?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SHORTLY WE WILL
BE LANDING, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR ST-
BANDS AND TOW BAGS ARE IN PLACE.

WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE DOING THERE?

THEY COME FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES
SO THEY NEED TO
DO SOME PAPER-
WORK.

BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED
TO ENTER GERMANY.

BUT FRANCE IS ALSO
ANOTHER COUNTRY.

SHOULDN’T WE DO THE SAME?

WELL, FRANCE AND GERM-
ANY ARE PART OF THE EU...
...AND THAT MEANS WE CAN TRAVEL ALMOST LIKE IT WERE ONE BIG COUNTRY.

BUT... THAT'S UNFAIR TO THEM, RIGHT?

WELL...

MAYBE, I DON'T KNOW.

I MEAN, CROSSING BORDERS IS A VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS...

ONLY WITHIN COUNTRIES OF THE EU—I THINK—TRAVELLING IS SO... EASY.

IF WE WERE GOING OUTSIDE OF THE EU...

...WE WOULD HAVE TO DO THE SAME THINGS THEY DO TO COME HERE.

WE COULD SAY IT'S A GROUP OF COUNTRIES THAT WORK TOGETHER LIKE A CLUB OR SOMETHING.

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, ACTUALLY...

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT...

BLAH, BLAH... SOME SORT OF CENTRAL BANK...

BLAH, BLAH... THE EURO...

2AD—OR 3RD—BIGGEST MARKET... BLAH, BLAH...

BRUSSELS...

WOW.

THAT'S... A BIT HARD TO EXPLAIN ACTUALLY...

THANKS ANYWAY...

NO, NO, NOT... HERE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE...

I'M NOT EXPLAINING IT VERY WELL, RIGHT?
THE EU WORKS PRETTY MUCH LIKE OUR HOUSE.
WHERE EACH FAMILY HAS ITS OWN APARTMENT.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE SHARED AREAS, LIKE THE GARDEN, THE BACKYARD, THE BIG KITCHEN...
WHERE WE EAT TOGETHER EVERY SUNDAY AND SO ON...

RIGHT TO TURN OUR OLD BACKYARD INTO A PLAYGROUND WAS ALSO A DECISION OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.
LIKE EVERY DECISION IT WAS REACHED THROUGH CONSENSUS. THAT MEANS WE ALL HAVE TO AGREE.

IF YOU THINK THAT EACH AGREEMENT IS A DIFFERENT COUNTRY...

...AND THAT THE BUILDING IS THE EUROPEAN UNION...

...AND THE PLAYGROUND WE LIKE BUILDINGS?

YOU GET A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ABOUT WHAT THE EU IS...

SURE, HOPE SO.

BECAUSE OF THAT THE FAMILIES SET TO DECIDE THE COMMON RULES.
LIKE... WHERE WE'LL PARK OUR BIKES OR HOW THE RECYCLING IS DONE.

EVERY MONTH, A PART OF THE RENT GOES TO A COMMON FUND WHICH IS THEN USED TO DEVELOP THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS...
LIKE MAKING COOKIES, BUILD NEW THINGS OR ORGANIZE THE SHARED AREAS...

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE TURNED A PART OF THE GARDEN...
INTO A VEGETABLES GROWING AREA... WHERE YOU HAVE YOUR TOMATOES NOW!
But is the EU really like that?

Nah, I put much thought on it...

And those things for rubbish...

Will we have a snake?

WELL, THAT'S A FAMILY THING...

Oh, she really sorry... not being able to come...

Oh, she's great...

But she's great...

OK, Sarah will you help me take care of these things?

We need to free the tree from all these banks if we want to eat, which one?

All of them?
ON YEAH... JUST DOING SOME RESEARCH.

I’LL MAKE SOME TEA WANT TO JOIN ME?

THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

OH, MR... TODAY IS MAY 1ST. I REMEMBERED.

AND I REALIZED HOW LITTLE I CARED ABOUT IT. WANTED TO CHECK IF I HAD IT RIGHT...

OH, MR... TODAY IS MAY 1ST. I REMEMBERED. I REALIZED HOW LITTLE I CARED ABOUT IT. WANTED TO CHECK IF I HAD IT RIGHT...

AND I REALIZED HOW LITTLE I CARED ABOUT IT. WANTED TO CHECK IF I HAD IT RIGHT...

FOR ME THE EU HAS ALWAYS BEEN OFTEN MORE OF A THING THAN A REALITY. IT DOESN’T REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I MEAN, SURE... IT’S EASIER TO TRAVEL, AND ALL THAT. BUT THE FIRST TIME I HAD MY PASSPORT DONE...

IT WAS TO GO TO ITALY TO ITALY. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT NOW?

BUT THEN I NOTICED THAT IF I WEREN’T BECAUSE OF THIS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THING...

I WOULDN’T HAVE BEEN HERE TO STUDY...

HE WOULDN’T HAVE... MEET WITH ANNA...

OR AT LEAST IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT HARDER TO MOVE IN TOGETHER...

ALL THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO LOCAL FARMERS, THE POLITICS TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY...

AND BETTER WORK CONDITIONS, THE SUPER-VISORS QUALITY OF FOOD, AT FAIR PRICES, AND SO ON...

ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL, WE’VE ENJOYED BETTER PARENTAL LEAVES WHEN SARAH WAS BORN. WE KNOW THAT THE TOYS WITH WHICH SHE PLAYS ARE SAFE...
I don’t know the roaming fees...

It seems like a small thing, but nonetheless...

Well, when I think about the European Union...

The things that come to my mind are quite different. I mean, don’t get me wrong, all those things are ok...

But I have lived the Second World War...

I was only a child, but still... I remember...

I remember the bombings, the death, the fear...

In the uncertain relationship, the impression that something like that could happen again was very present...

The EU brought us above all peace.

That’s what the OEEC first and the EU later meant to my generation.

Countries that were in conflict, conflict throughout history...

And the chances of an outbreak are very low because of this interdependence...

I've seen my country split in two. The wall. The cold war...

No, it’s not only peace. The EU gave me more again...

But the fear is always there. Most of all, maybe because of the things we did.

I can't help but remember that a lot of conflicts are just thinned trains to the bigger ones.

Post-war period...

I am very happy that you three have grown free from the menace of war.

Ireland, Gorizia, South Tyrol...

Well, it should be this way...

These kinds of latent conflicts are all over Europe and without the union, it would be a totally different story.
IT'S TRUE THAT WAR IS A VERY DIFFERENT CONCEPT FOR US.

I GUESS THAT FOR MY GENERATION...

THE EU IS MOSTLY ABOUT COMFORT AND ADVANTAGES...

...OF WHICH WE ARE FREELY AWARE.

WHILE FOR LEAGUE GENERATION...

IT MEANT LEAVING BEHIND A LOUD HISTORY OF WAR AND CONFLICT.

I WONDER WHAT IT WILL MEAN FOR SOME TO BE AN EUROPEAN CITIZEN...

THE DAUGHTER OF THE NATIONS OF TWO COUNTRIES, HISTORICALLY DUELS AND IN CONSTANT CONFLICT...

IN A WAY SHE IS SOME SORT OF SYMBOL OF THE EU HERSELF...

THAT NOW WORK TOGETHER...
Well, the playground is not entirely finished yet... but it has come a long way.

We have swings.

Why is it cold here?

Look, Marcus, and Emma are there... can I go play with them?

Sure, we can stay for a while...

But leave your backpack!

...the powers that be the European Court has over our legislation.

Still beating the drum for excursionism?

Hey, after all, what has the EU ever done for us?

Haha

Angela and Sheila...

Well, I could tell you a couple of things...
What is the added value of the EU? What are the advantages of the European Union? What does the EU do well according to you – in general terms or in personal experiences?
These are the questions the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom asked comic artists and graphic novelists all over the world in the fourth round of our international comic competition “Animate Europe.” Why this year’s topic “Animate Europe +”? We believe in a unified Europe and the power of the European Union for freedom, peace and stability. Let’s generate discussions about Europe! This anthology compiles the entries of the five finalists of our 2019 competition round. What do comic artists perceive to be the added value of the European Union? Have a good read and find out for yourself!