

SozialMarie's Award Winners of 2012

The eighth SozialMarie award ceremony went on stage on Tuesday 1st of May at the ORF-Radiokulturhaus in Vienna. A total of 42,000 Euros were handed over to the 15 best social innovations.

SozialMarie's Main Award Winners 2012

The first prize, endowed with 15,000 Euros, went to the Viennese project Children's Hospice Network ([Kinderhospiz Netz](#)). Families with terminally ill children or adolescents are offered free medical and nursing care, as well as psychosocial care, and counselling for the financial and practical aspects of everyday life. According to the jury: „With this combination of services, Children's Hospice Network is unique in Germanosphere! What is of central importance is that illness is not considered in isolation from its social context ... Financed almost exclusively through private donations, the network strives to integrate children's palliative care into the public health system.“

[Eltern.chat – Expert talk by parents for parents](#), a project from Vorarlberg, got the second prize and thus 10,000 Euros. Roughly 100 times a year, parents and legal guardians gather in twelve communities in Vorarlberg for an 'eltern.chat' – a parents' circle, where they speak Turkish, the Vorarlberg dialect, or Russian. They discuss pedagogical topics introduced and moderated by a specially trained facilitator, topics such as how to make children strong managing television, the sibling relationship, bedtime, learning to speak, nutrition, sources of energy, and puberty. The jury appreciates: „This system is self-managing, built on a well-structured and well-equipped configuration, and it is easily expandable. It contributes to the practice of communal learning – one-eighth of communities in Vorarlberg already participate!“

The project [Junior City Farmer Schönbrunn](#) was awarded the third prize and 5,000 Euros. In the heart of Vienna, under expert, age-appropriate guidance, children and pre-teens aged between 4 and 12 plant vegetables, harvest, cook and eat together, play in a miniature (fairytale) pine forest, and frolic through nature among fruit trees ... „Fallow land has been transformed into a garden – grounds for a collective experience for children and pre-teens from the city; in this way, untapped potential can be used to accomplish social, integrative learning“, says the jury.

Audience Award

SozialMarie's first audience voting took place between 28th of February and 26th of March 2012. For the first time all those interested could choose their favourite amongst all the projects submitted in 2012. The prizes went to the Austrian project [Rückenwind](#) (Tail Wind) and the Hungarian project [Sign TV](#). Both winners on 1st of May received a three minute image video to honour their ability to elicit enthusiasm. The videos can be watched on our website as from 2nd of May.

Active Patronage 2012

Susanne Schubert-Lustig, M.A., and Francis Lustig have opted for accompanying and supporting the project [Wohnhaus „Die Schwalbe“](#) (Residence „The Swallow“), an initiative by and for women who have suffered a long stay in psychiatric care. Hungarian patron Milán Gauder will accompany the project [Creation-oriented social and integrational model programme at the Hétes-settlement of Ózd](#) which aims for the holistic development of an extremely poor Rom community.

We heartily congratulate this year's award winners!

[More about the 15 award winners](#)
[Photos of the award ceremony to download](#)