



**Assemblée des Régions d'Europe  
Assembly of European Regions  
Versammlung der Regionen Europas  
Asamblea de las Regiones de Europa  
Assemblea delle Regioni d'Europa**

***The most Youth-friendly  
European Region  
2001***



***General Assembly Award Ceremony  
Prize to Nordland  
(Sopron, 30 November 2001)***

## *Contents*

*Foreword by Mrs Liese Prokop*

*Foreword by Dr Bruno Hosp*

*Foreword by Mr Jörgen Hedberg*

*Cup design*

*Presentation of the artist*

*List of participating Regions*

*Decision of the Jury*

*Nordland, the winner of the Award 2001*

*Thüringen, Prize of Recognition 2001*

*Timis, Prize of Recognition 2001*

*Innovative projects*



## **Foreword by the AER President "Most Youth-friendly European Region"**



*Citizens of the European Regions,*

*The competition for the "Most Youth-friendly European Region" is an initiative which is primarily dedicated to all our young people.*

*The idea came to shape within the Youth Sub-Committee of AER Committee D, under the long and successful chairmanship of Saxon SPENCE from Devon (GB), idea which had been taken up by the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Conference in Odessa in Spring 2000 and will now be implemented by its new chairman Jörgen HEDBERG from Sörmland (S) whom I congratulate on this task and wish good luck.*

*We want this competition to enhance the development of innovative youth work and youth policy with the aim of reinforcing the integration of young people in society, increasing the participation of young people in public life in the Regions and providing adequate facilities for education, training and leisure. The aim is to improve living conditions for young people and to create understanding for youth work in society as a whole.*

*I congratulate the winner region NORDLAND in Norway which, confronted with a particularly severe geographic and remote situation, has developed a youth policy which on the one hand guarantees, through its "strategic Youth Policy Programme", the participation of young people in regional planning processes and on the other hand endeavours to strive for a forward-looking comprehensive youth policy in Regions, Cities and municipalities. Whether considering "Europrise" or the "Klara Klok" Programme, these are only some of the many initiatives which have led to the present decision of the Jury.*

*We would also like to give credit to the Region of Thüringen (D) which has set exemplary standards among others with the "Jugendleiter-Card" (Youth Leader Card) or the "Landesjugendförderungsplan" (Regional youth services plan).*

*Special attention has also to be given to the Region of Timis (RO) which, despite important economic difficulties, has accepted the challenge of the political transformation process and accompanies the European integration process and the opportunities it provides for youth orientated projects.*

*Last but not least I want to thank all Regions that have participated. They have thus demonstrated the diversity and the broad range youth work.*

*My thanks also go to the organisers, the jury and in particular to Director Alfred KAGER who has assumed the major part of the workload in relation with the competition.*

*I wish all of you good luck in your youth work and look forward to the competition in 2003.*

*Liese Prokop*

**Foreword by the President of AER Committee D  
"Most Youth-friendly European Region"**



*As President of Committee D I would like to express my satisfaction that the competition for the "most youthfriendly European Region 2001" has received encouragingly wide echos. 33 Länder and Regions have participated in it, thus providing convincing proof that the work on youth and with young people is of particular importance to them. An efficient and modern youth work is an indispensable investment in the future, as it corresponds to the period in which the the switches are set for an intact, healthy and peaceful Europe of tomorrow which we consider and experience more and more as our common native country.*

*Successful youth work goes hand in hand with cutting down many barriers in our minds, the latter being one of the most essential requisites in order that, in the respect of its cultural diversity, our common fatherland Europe develops freely and undisturbed.*

*The respect of Europe's cultural diversity is of particular importance, as it offers ground for the roots of the major forces which confer to our continent a unique quality which, in the end, benefits directly or indirectly the whole world.*

*My thanks go to those who have participated in this competition because they have demonstrated that Europe and its population, and above all the generation of tomorrow, are of great and true concern to them and, at the same time, they have become a model for those who have much left in order to make up in this respect.*

*I congratulate the prize winners, i.e. Nordland from Norway, the federal Land of Thüringen and the Romanian Region of Timis, on their success and would like to take the opportunity to appeal to all Regions in order that they seize and concretise every possible chance in youth work. Europe's youth is Europe's future!*

*Dr Bruno Hosp*

**Foreword by the President  
of the Sub Committee on Youth**



***We encourage good ideas and spread good examples!***

*The influence of young people on society and local environment is not yet a right for everyone, but a possibility for a chosen few. Selecting the most youth-friendly region is a good way of emphasizing and reminding us that by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we promised to give priority to children and the young in decisions that concern them.*

*The selection of the most Youth-friendly region is not merely a competition between the regions, but a way to produce an inventory of projects and initiatives in youth issues going on in our regions, and to spread the good experience gained in this work. The competition is a possibility to support, encourage and pay attention to the fabulous work that is going on and to let these good examples be an inspiration for other regions to start similar processes.*

*Thanks to this competition, material on many exciting and challenging youth projects from many regions has been collected. The next step is to find ways of exchanging this experience between the regions.*

*Let young people inspire you!*

*Jörgen Hedberg, Sörmland County Council*

# Cup design



## **Prize winner's Cup**

Designed by Hitoshi KAKIZAKI

The prize has been created in a studio linked to the The Swedish Glass Academy, an association of Swedish glass artists totally independent of the glass industries.

Some run their own studios, others share with fellow artists. They no longer just blow glass, but even use other techniques such as casting, slumping and fusing, as well as a variety of cold-working techniques. All of them see glass as a means of artistic expression, and are responsible for the entire production process from start to finish

The Glass Academy is a forum for Swedish studio glass with the aim of increasing the recognition and awareness of Swedish studio glass. At present, it is, among other things, committed to creating a museum for Studio Glass.

Studio glass stands for experiment, freedom of expression, creativity and a passion for Glass.



**Hitoshi Kakizaki**



**Åsa Brandt**

The glass artist Åsa Brandt is a member of The Glass Academy, the prize has been crafted in her own glass studio by Kakizaki, Hitoshi from Japan who lives in Sweden and works for Asa Brandt.

The prize - *the Gold bottle*, symbolizes the great value of young power.

The heart and the hand represent having the young people of Europe very much at heart – to take good care of their power and involvement in the development of our society.

The prize is donated to the AER by Sörmland County Council. This represents an opportunity for Sörmland to encourage and show its appreciation of the important work with young people going on in the regions.

## Presentation of the artist

### Hitoshi Kakizaki

Born: 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1960

#### EDUCATION

1996 Haystack School (Lino Tagliapietra)  
1994 Pilchuck Glass School (Rene Roubicek/ Peter Novotony)  
1993 Pilchuck Glass School (Pino Signoretto)  
1992 Pilchuck Glass School (Curtis Brock/Jan Mares)  
1979-84 Akita University, Chemical Engineering Dept.

#### EXPERIENCE

2000~ Currently living in SWEDEN, Gaffer at Asa Brandet studio  
1999-2000 Gaffer, Palazzo del vetro, Murano, Venezia, ITALIA  
1998-99 Shina Glass, Tokyo, JAPAN  
1997 Selected as a gaffer, CIRVA, Marseille, FRANCE  
1994 Assistant for Dan Dailey at Daum, Nancy, FRANCE  
T.A. For Dan Dailey at Pilchuck Glass School  
1993-94 Annette Alsio Glass Studio, Askersund SWEDEN  
1992 Pilchuck Glass School, T.A. for Makoto Ito  
1991-97 Dan Dailey, Inc., Kensington, NH, USA  
1990 Pilchuck Glass School, T.A. for Dan Dailey  
1989-91 Asa Brandt Glass Studio, Torshalla, SWEDEN  
1987-89 S.C.F. Glass Studio, Tobetsu, Hokkaido, JAPAN  
1984-87 Ida Glass Factory, Tokyo, JAPAN

#### EXHIBITION

2001 Solo Exhibition, "In Between Time And Luck"  
Brandt Contemporary Glass, Torshalla, SWEDEN  
Group Exhibition, Gallery Glasett, Stockholm, SWEDEN  
1997 Solo Exhibition, Riley-Hawk Galleries, Cleveland, OH, USA  
Group Exhibition, Dealer's Choice, Rosenfeld Gallery,  
Philadelphia, PA, USA  
1995 "Glass New England", Worcester, MA, USA  
1994-97 SOFA Miami and Chicago  
1993 S.C.F. Exhibition, Azabu-kougeikan, Tokyo, JAPAN  
1993 Pilchuck Glass Exhibition at Sea Tac Int'l Airport  
1991 Solo Exhibition, Eskilstuna, SWEDEN  
Solo Exhibition, Norborg, SWEDEN  
Group Exhibition, Sandviken, SWEDEN, "NY FANTASI  
I GLAS OCH KERAMIK"  
1990 Group Exhibition, Sodertalje, SWEDEN, "NY FANTASI  
I GLAS OCH KERAMIK"  
1989 '89 Craft Competition, Sapporo Art Park

#### AWARDS

1996 Fellowship at Creative Glass Center of America, Millvill, NJ  
1994 Francine & Benson Pillof Scholarship to Pilchuck Glass School  
1993 Pilchuck General Half Scholarship  
1991 Pilchuck General Scholarship  
1989 '89 Craft Competition, Sapporo Art Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

#### PUBLICATION

1994 Glass Review 15

## Most Youth-friendly European Region competition 2001

The following Regions entered the competition:

Austria	Burgenland Niederösterreich Oberösterreich Salzburg Vorarlberg Wien
Belgium	Vlaanderen Wallonie
Georgia	Adjara
Germany	Thüringen
Hungary	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Tolna Veszprém
Italy	Emilia-Romagna
Norway	Nordland
Poland	Slaskie Lodz
Romania	Arges Dolj Iasi Timis Tulcea Valcea Vaslui
Russia	Volgograd
Spain	Catalunya
Sweden	Sörmland
Switzerland	Aargau Obwalden Vaud
United Kingdom	Devon Dorset Fife

## Decision of the Jury

At its session on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2001 in Strasbourg, the jury, made up of the Secretary Generals of the AER and the founder organisations and member interregional organisations<sup>1</sup>, the representatives of the AER President and the President of Committee D, following close examination and evaluation of the applications, unanimously agreed to declare the Region of Nordland as the "Most Youth-friendly European Region" for 2001.

The jury also unanimously voted to nominate the free State of Thüringen (Germany) and the Region of Timis (Romania) for the prize of recognition, awarded to runners up in the competition.



**Mrs Prokop and Mr Kager with some young adults**

---

<sup>1</sup> Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), Association of European Regions with Industrial Technology (RETI), Association European Wine-Growing Regions (AREV), Working Community of the Adriatic Alps (ALPEN ADRIA), Working Community of the Western Alps (COTRAO), Working Community of the Danube countries (ARGE DONAULÄNDER), Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP), Working Community of the Alps (ARGE ALP), Jura Working Community (CTJ), Working Community Galice – Nord Portugal, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Working Community of the Lower and Middle Adriatic



## The most Youth-friendly European Region 2001

### Nordland fylkeskommune (Norway)

#### I Basic data on Nordland

Population	240 000
Surface area	38 327km <sup>2</sup>
Main industries	Fishery, Fish farming, Farming, Tourism

#### Five largest towns:

Bodø	41 000
Mo I Rana	25 000
Narvik	18 000
Mosjøen	10 000
Sandnessjøen	10 000

#### II Background

Remote areas of the county have faced severe problems with the depopulation of young adults in recent years, especially the migration of young women. We developed an increasing "leak" of young adults from the district areas to big cities in the early ninties and that was one of the main rasons why politicians in Nordland pointed out youth political issues as one of the most challenging strategic areas for the future.

Nordland County was also faced with a large unemployment problem among the young generation during the early ninties. In some areas the unemployment rate was moving towards 30% in young adults between 20 and 25. A common problem was that young adults had to change jobs frequently, some of them several times per year. Many of them were professionally qualified, but had a kind of education that was not required on the present labour market. This has led to a migration from the district area. The most resourceful young adults migrate first.

#### III The jury's decision

The decision to declare Nordland "The most Youth-friendly European Region" was founded on the following reasons:

Application of legal provisions:

- Nordland has achieved full implication and participation of young adults;

- Development and enactment of a well defined, consistent, complex and highly successful youth political programme with the following objectives:
  - \* securing a viable population structure, particularly in remote and rural areas;
  - \* maintaining a high proportion of young adults in rural communities;
  - \* developing an integral youth policy in Regions, communities and towns;
  - \* reinforcing the participation and influence of young adults with regards to decisions concerning the modeling of the future society;
  - \* preparing young adults to enable them to act at international level;

Concrete aims and outcome of the Nordland youth policy:

- Employment, training or other occupational possibility for all under 25s. Nordland has reduced its unemployment rate for this category from 25% to 2.9%;
- Provision of adequate housing with reasonable rents;
- Involvement of young adults in planning the future.

Participation of young adults in shaping the political and social life of the Region:

- Nordland created a Regional Youth Council which is actively involved in regional political decision-making. The youth Council is quite influential when setting the regional budget. From all the applications received for the award, only Nordland had created the post of a full time ombudsman for all structures relating to young adults. In reaction to the challenges of the global economy and the negative trend of the employment sector, the project undertakes to increase the number of young adults setting up their own businesses;
- The Barent youth Symphony Orchestre, which is made up of 22 young talented musicians from Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland, is going to produce a 10 day programme during the Nordland Music Festival Week.
- Nordland also improved its career guidance counselling. A regional and decentralised University concept entitled "Youth in the working life" has been launched. This project is for unemployed people and leads to practical work and training for young adults;
- Another initiative which merits mention is "Europrise", a European junior enterprise for regional development and the reinforcement of the participation of free market structures for students in higher education or training;

Measures to deal with specific problems or situations:

- Nordland created a specific follow-up service for pupils and students of secondary and higher education having failed exams or had serious problems. This represents a proper health and social programme to assist young adults undergoing training in order to improve their life and learning situation.
- The Klara-Klok internet question page for young people. The target groups of this page are teenagers and young adults. The question page gives information and advice on specific problems concerning health, relationships, family affairs, drugs etc.



**The "Most Youth-friendly European Region" award  
2001**

**Prize of Recognition**

**Freistaat Thüringen  
(Germany)**

**I Basic data for Thüringen**

Population	2 449 082
Surface Area	16 171.51 km <sup>2</sup>
N° of municipalities/communities	1 018

The five biggest cities: `

Erfurt	204 000
Gera	118 000
Jena	99 000
Weimar	62 000
Suhl	51 000

**II The jury's decision**

The jury decided to award the "Prize of Recognition" to the Land and free State of Thüringen for the following reasons:

Application of legal provisions:

- Thüringen established a legal framework which implies the full assessment of existing needs in relation to institutions, services, activities and events in youth policies, which are important in relation to the whole Land and the Federal Republic. This is undertaken by the "planification of youth promotion of the Land". This planification affects the necessary infrastructure, including buildings, premises and personal.
- Additionally, the municipalities declare various needs of the Community within its youth assistance planning.
- In relation to the political and social involvement of young people the laws provide for the participation of recognised representatives of voluntary youth work in the planning phase as organised by the representatives of the public youth assistance bodies

#### Promotion of voluntary youth activities:

- Another feature which merits mentioning is the "Card for youth leaders" for the voluntary sector, in addition to the support given to public authorities and youth organisations. This card allows the holder to obtain reductions for travel by rail, telephone and also on participation in educational facilities, camping and recreational facilities. The card entitles the bearer to act in advisory capacity for minors, when dealing with public authorities in the field of health, culture, police or consulates. On 14<sup>th</sup> August 2001, the Land handed out 1 105 cards to youth leaders.
- A special server for young people of the Land publishes opinion polls on topics relating to youth and on major social themes on a regular basis.
- The Land assists the youth activities of municipalities and communities, assisted by districts and cities which are administrative bodies in their own right, on a voluntary basis via a so called "youth flat rate" of nearly 10 million Euros.
- The Land gives assistance to existing or future teenage and youth Parliaments, new initiatives with emphasis on participatory concepts and experimental projects.
- The Land collaborated in founding a "working community of children and youth Parliaments".
- A further highlight is the setting up of a "new participatory movement" with the slogan: "Participate - get involved and make decisions". This movement aims to strengthen the commitment and raise political conscience in the society leading to the increased participation of young people.
- The free State of Thüringen took the initiative of creating a specific youth advisory department in each labour office helping in career guidance
- Thüringen also provides for special advice and conflict mediation for underage mothers and young people with problems.
- Special attention is also paid to providing adequate housing with affordable rents for young adults.



**The "Most Youth-friendly European Region" award  
2001**

**Prize of Recognition**

**Consiliul Judetean Timis  
(Romania)**

**I Basic data for Timis**

Population: 693 506  
Surface area: 8,697 km<sup>2</sup>  
N° of communities: 75

The five biggest cities:

Timisoara	333 000
Lugoj	50 000
Sannicolaul Mare	14 000
Buzias	10 000
Faget	8 000

**II The jury's decision**

The jury decided to award the "Prize of Recognition" to the Region of Timis for the following reasons:

Application of legal provisions:

- Timis, although acting within and under a very centralised and unitary system, has been very active in exploiting all possible opportunities in central State laws in favour of a more regional orientation in youth policy, adapted to the needs of Timis and its communities. It is more than evident that the regional authority of Timis makes many efforts in developing a "youth policy", which meets the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Timis established County Boards for Youth and Sport as decentralised services which cooperate with the authorities of the local administrations in the organisation and promotion of youth activities.
- In addition, young people and children have their own local Councils which, in cooperation with elected Councillors, tackle the problems and needs of the municipalities and communities in the Region. It is impressive to note that the Region dedicates 28% of its own budget to supporting youth activities, with

some emphasis on the promotion of more cultural orientated projects. It is worth mentioning that youth assistance is a high priority on the regional agenda despite the enormous economic and social difficulties. Timis has taken up the challenges of the transformation process and regards an innovative youth policy as the best contribution when trying to adapt to the requirements of the European integration process. Timis develops a youth policy which meets the objectives of applied subsidiarity and decentralisation by transferring decisions on youth policy to the local level with active involvement of young people in the planning process. This results in a high horizontal mobilisation of young people.

#### Political and social participation:

- It has been recognised that specific efforts are made to create awareness of the role of the media in democratic societies by supporting the editing of newspapers and magazines by schools and youth groups. The fact that most of the active journalists in the Region are young adults (between 20 and 35) demonstrates the success of this policy. The emphasis that the regional Council of Timis places on the support for youth activities for various ethnic and cultural minorities is also impressive. Timis assists in organising special festivals such as the Ethnical Festival of the Festival of Hearts.

#### Promotion of youth activities:

- The Region of Timis recognises, above all, the value of cultural and artistic activities in the development of a quality orientated youth policy which focuses both on the promotion of individuals and on the maintaining of a viable social network between communities. The list of activities in this field is impressive. Special reference should be made to projects such as the Popular Art School, the Hungarian and German Theatre or the support for youth orchestras. A system of price reductions for young people has been introduced for the attendance of courses or for entry to special events. There are a number of projects which reflect the creative potential of youth organisations and other voluntary groups such as the Timisoara Puppet Show with performances in all districts of the Region, participation in archeological excavation camps, music festival marking important cultural tourist routes or music competitions.

#### Specific activities:

- Timis supports career guidance by offering work experience in various regional departments.
- The Region provides for careers advice through its Council centre for Employment and Professional training. Free professional training courses are offered.
- Timis offers facilities for young adults to build their own homes through subsidies and low interest rates.
- The European orientation is shown through an impressive number of activities included school twinning and exchange programmes, including youth groups and schools from Germany, Hungary, former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom and France.

## **Innovative projects**

The "Most youth-friendly European Region" competition brings to light the great wealth of new models in youth policy and of innovative projects in the Regions of Europe.

The following list presents some of these projects. A comprehensive report covering all entries in the award will be published in 2002.

### **1. The DII S by Wallonie (B) Direction Interdépartementale de l'intégration sociale, Regional partner for combatting exclusion.**

This service between the various departments of the Government of Wallonie attempts to promote social inclusion by providing links between people at grass-roots level, the administration and the political sector.

#### Planning of social integration:

Since 1992 this service provides the means of coordinating on a long term basis between towns and communities and the actions of various services and partners. Social inclusion encompasses social, cultural and professional aspects alongside of the promotion of harmonious co-existence and cooperation between communities, building social links between different residential areas and the prevention of tension between different social environments.

- setting up of small social infrastructures in residential areas or helping neighbourhood infrastructures through leisure or sport facilities, creating an atmosphere of "a caring neighbourhood".
- social encouragement activities assisting young adults to get involved in the housing area and take responsibilities for leading projects.
- "Showing solidarity, youth partner" activities, in support of the elderly in the community.
- providing public transport for handicapped people.
- highlighting the aspect of social integration in relation to the factors in the Market economy by assisting young people in seeking employment through training or negotiation with enterprises.

### **2. "Under trenta/Under thirty" programme by Emilia-Romagna (I)**

This Region has set up a special budget and advice programme for young adults to obtain their own housing.

### **3. Catalunya**

Catalunya has produced a guide on the training of educational personnel in the field of intercultural activities and immigration in Spanish and in CD format.

The Region has also launched a youth Art Gallery supporting 25 artists and invented a "learn by play" game which exists in Arabic and in Catalan.

#### **4. Salzburg Pinzgau youth project**

The project implies experimental testing and implementation of a new regional youth policy and structure, based on the idea of having a specific regional centre for assistance in the field of youth activities in each of the 5 districts of the Land of Salzburg.

#### **5. Vorarlberg**

Setting standards concerning industrial and social legislation in relation to professionals in open youth work. The project attacks issues such as payment for further training, regulations on vacation jobs and night working etc. in view of reducing existing inequality in treatment.

#### **6. Wien Netbridge project**

The aim of this ambitious project is to link traditional youth work with the use of new media. Netbridge is media-based innovation and makes use of new technology. It coordinates and assists media-based projects.

Wien undertakes trendscouting projects and projects for further staff training.

#### **7. Volgograd interregional cooperation project**

Volgograd organises trilateral or bilateral seminars for social workers with French, German and Dutch Regions, for example, exchanges between the youth collaboration committee of Volgograd and the Munich youth institute on youth problems among immigrants.

#### **8. Fife Leisure Direct**

This incentive package to make more use of health and leisure centres by card provides unlimited access to activities such as swimming, use of the health suite, the fitness suite, and tuition or multi-activity classes.

#### **9. Sörmland Baltic Sea Youth Forum**

The aim of this project is to support youth in their commitment, creativity and initiatives in finding ways of participating in social development.

- Interregional and international action striving to influence environmental and democratic issues in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Influencing young people, teachers, politicians and the general public in the creation of personal contacts and networks using IT, and building relationships between Regions and young citizens that show interest in social policies.

#### **10. Lodz - President - Youth dialogue**

The dialogue aims to have direct contact with young people on a regular basis and was first established by the mayor of Belchatow. Meetings take place in the city of Pork.