



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
AWARD OF LATVIA

AWARD CEREMONY

CATEGORIES

Nominations were accepted in one of the following categories:

- Social Responsibility Award
- Outstanding Commitment to Education Award
- Exemplary Contribution to Health and Well-being Award
- The Future of Latvia Award

EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

- Impact - demonstrable impact on the society.
- Sustainability - sustainable development.
- Innovation - innovative, creative and original approaches.
- Inspiration - actions serving as a model of practice for others.

JURY

Romāns Baumanis	Regional Advisor to <i>Nord Stream</i> for the Baltic States
Eva Birzniece	Chairman of the Board of <i>Association Pro Futuro</i> and <i>Latvian Dyslexia Association</i>
Sharon Hudson-Dean	Deputy Chief of the Mission of U.S. Embassy in Riga
Arnis Kākulis	Director, Baltic region of <i>AECOM</i> , <i>AmCham Latvia</i> Vice President
Uldis Kronblūms	Chairman of the Board, <i>Jurmala Protection Association</i>
Rasma Pīpiķe	Director of the <i>Civic Alliance in Latvia</i>
Evija Rudzīte	Administrative Head of <i>Ikšķile Free School</i>
Māra Sīmane	Consultant of <i>Cross Sectoral Coordination Center</i> Board Member and Development Director of <i>Ronald McDonald House Charities Latvija (Care Mobile)</i>
Vija Tirmale	Education Program Director, <i>Education Development Center</i> ; Board member, <i>Knowledge Creation Lab</i>
Aija Tūna	
Atiz Zakatistovs	Consultant of <i>i-bloom</i> ; Lecturer, <i>Riga Business School</i>

AWARD

Sculpture *Sprout* is made by Olga Silova as a symbol for sustainable development. The concept is a stylized figure of a young female associated with spring - vigorous, attentive and modest.

Agita Hauka, Chairperson of the Board of the Latvian Farmers Federation

Agita is Chairperson of the Board of both the Latvian Farmers Federation and the Association of women's club „Liepas” (2001) as well as its founder and inspirer. Agita is open, warm, kind and smart. She performs pro-active voluntary work in a number of organizations from the agricultural sector and employment to defense of women's rights and cooperation development. She is involved in processes that contribute to population and economic growth of the rural areas. Agita safeguards interests of the small and medium-sized farmers, where each and every small family farm should be given an opportunity to efficiently work in rural areas.

In 2015 Agita received the mandate of „Goodwill Ambassador” for performing duties “For the development of the European year 2015”. She took part in the Council of the Association „Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation” (FLYER). She is actively involved in the campaign for responsible food consumption „Stop play food circus”.

“ I am actively fighting for farmers rights in the countryside so that people could live and work the rural areas.

Agita Hauka

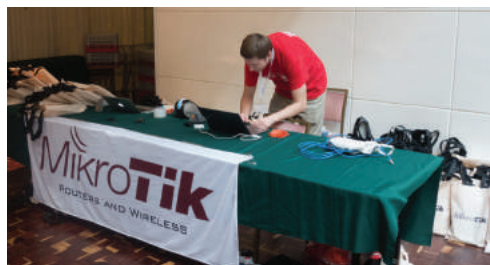


Mikrotikls Ltd.

Mikrotikls LTD. is a manufacturer of electronic communication systems that operates under the brand name MikroTik. MikroTikls was founded in 1996 and is owned in equal parts by John Martin Tully and Arnis Riekstiņš. At the end of 2015, MikroTikls transferred to the Children's Hospital Foundation € 1 million.

Mikrotikls has donated half a million euros to the University of Latvia to implement projects in the fields of natural sciences and medicine. The University students and academic staff were invited to apply for funding of projects in the areas listed above. Ltd. MikroTikls has previously provided support to the development of the Latvian University. In 2011, two sets of MikroTik routers with a wide range of functionality were provided to the University of Latvia and the students could use them in practical classes of the course "Computer management" program as well as in various other studies.

In addition, the company offers the possibility to set up a wireless network at educational establishments, donating their own manufactured hardware for free. At the end of 2015, Ropazi Secondary School received a wireless network equipment kit worth €867. The donated equipment will provide a wider wireless network coverage inside the school, providing students, visitors and staff with separate virtual wireless networks.



Zigmunds Zaļenko, Handyman of Brocēni Pre-school educational institution „Mūsmājas” and Youth Center „Kopā”

Zigmunds Zaļenko works as a handyman in two municipal institutions „Mūsmājas” and Youth Center „Kopā”, however, he does much more than his job requires. He has made kitchen appliances in bright colors – stove, washing machine, shelves and other wooden toys for each kindergarten group. In addition, he has created a floor from newspapers for the youth center, which immediately attracts attention.

Zigmunds is a true master of his trade and he generates a lot of ideas in order to contribute to the society. Last year, he implemented the environmental project “Bird hotel” together with children and young people making 80 bird cages under his leadership. The most important activity where Zigmunds involves more and more children is so called “Rolling car” classes or preparation of wooden car models and races.

People have started to appreciate his work and he has received the award “Volunteer of 2015”. His main activity where he is currently involved is the production of wooden car models in Brocēni.

“ I intend to create initiative “Rolling car” into a family center where families can gather to create something valuable.

Zigmunds Zaļenko



OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Accenture Latvia

Accenture Latvia educational project Start(IT) offers free education in the basics of programming and computer science for primary and secondary school pupils. That is the first such educational platform in Latvia with goal to increase number of schools, that learn basics of programming, increase future IT field student number and form Latvia population understanding about IT field in general.

Start(IT) project materials are used in more than 300 schools, and it contains 50 programming lectures and 140 computer science lectures. Every programming lesson has a video, presentation, structure and ready to use materials. The project also provides programming courses for teachers. The key idea is to change IT education situation in Latvia schools and universities, and reduce emigration and increase regional economic growth, by enhancing young people interest to choose IT field for studying.

Materials are available in portal www.startit.lv. The project was created with partners – RTU, State Riga 1.Gymnasium, LISA, MAKIT, Riga secondary school 22, VISC (National Centre for Education), LIKTA and Exigen Services Latvia.

“ By having a higher number of IT students who later become IT professionals, Latvia could increase the volume of exports of IT, enlarge tax collection, provide new qualitative jobs and reduce emigration.

Jānis Paksis, H&PS/RES Industry Lead



EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Children's Palliative Care Society

Children's Palliative Care Society (Society) was established in 1997 with a goal to develop united approach towards providing services in children's palliative care (PC), to encourage services availability to all families that have children with life limited and life threatening illnesses as well as to develop volunteer movement and to inform society about children's PC.

The initiators of the society establishment were doctor – pediatrician Anda Jansone and social worker Rudite Burova. The beginning of the children's PC is a joint project between Children's University Hospital and Barnes Jewish Hospital branch in St. Louis (USA), and American International Health Alliance (AIHA) where specialists had the opportunity to gain experience in the PC for the first time.

The Society has implemented 30 international and national projects and developed a teaching program "Children's Palliative Care". In 2005 the Society started to organize a charity campaign "Give a dream!" From 2013 the Society runs another charity campaign called "Tree of Angels".

“ I am pleased about what has been done during the last 19 years. We were able to introduce and further develop children's PC in Latvia – at the moment the first and the only ones in the Baltic States. The words of gratitude from the parents is the highest appreciation.

Dr. Anda Jansone, Chairman of Children's Palliative Care Society



EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Society “AGIHAS”

AGIHAS is a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS, founded in 1993 when the first patients were diagnosed with HIV in Latvia. The society has been striving to ensure that HIV/AIDS patients receive specific help and assistance that they require at particular stages of their lives. Since 1996, AGIHAS has completed about 60 projects and gained invaluable experience in how to promote integration in society.

AGIHAS has also lobbied the Latvian Health Ministry to provide funding for milk substitutes from 2017 for affected mothers thus reducing the risk of vertical transmission and the actual number of new infections.

In 2016 and the following two years, AGIHAS plans to complete two important projects with the support of ViiV Healthcare – ‘The Latvian Buddy Movement’ (in 2015/16) in collaboration with ‘DIA LOGS’ un ‘APVIENĪBA HIV.LV’) and ‘The Coalition for Change’ (in 2016/17), in collaboration with ‘Mozaika’ and the ‘Baltic HIV Association’).

“ For more than twenty years we have been striving to provide more opportunities, strength and outcomes to people affected by HIV/AIDS and their partners and families, so that they could live qualitative, active and fulfilling lives.

Andris Veikēnieks, Chairman of the Board



EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Onkoloģisko pacientu atbalsta biedrība “Dzīvības koks”

The Latvian cancer society “Dzīvības koks” (Tree of Life) is the leading Latvian non-governmental organization that brings together patients suffering from cancer and their loved ones. The society actively defends the interests of patients, issues materials for cancer patients, organizing seminars and trainings for doctors about topical issues for patients.

“Dzīvības koks” provides an important support for cancer patients and their loved ones and the development of psycho-social rehabilitation for cancer patients. Support groups in Riga and regions are significant for cancer patients for both treatment and after the period of treatment, as they have an opportunity to meet others who are struggling with cancer and it gives them the sense of support. They are currently renovating Dignaja Manor, where patients will undergo psychosocial rehabilitation program.

“ People certainly should apply for our rehabilitation programs because they help to organize and improve their lives so that it may positively affect the treatment.

Gunita Berke, Chairperson of the Board



EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Dr. Jāzepts Pogumirskis

Dr. Jāzepts Pogumirskis has graduated from the Daugavpils University and later travelled to Poland to continue his studies in medical school where he received a PhD in neurology. In Poland, he met his wife Anna and now they both live in Indra, Kraslava region.

Despite the long-standing practice and good employment prospects in Poland, he returned home to provide medical assistance to residents in Latgale. The first 4 years he worked in Daugavpils, now he lives with his family in Indra. He is a general practitioner and a neurologist in his practice in Indra, however, he also provides the assistance to people in the nearest counties.

He has 1250 patients as a general practitioner. In addition, he has treated 600 patients with neurological diseases from all over Latvia for four years.

“ I wanted to become a doctor since I was six years old, but my father told me that at first I should study physics, and then I'll become a better doctor.

Dr. Jāzepts Pogumirskis



THE FUTURE OF LATVIA

Andris Berzins, Co-founder of “TechHub Riga”

TechHub Riga Co-founder Andris Berzins has an extensive experience in the development of startups. Andris was born and raised in Australia and went to school in London. He has studied at Stanford Business School in California. Andris served as CMO of the restaurant online marketing and reservations service company Livebookings, co-founded the startup BuzzTale, as well as participated in the founding of Reach.ly. Andris is an angel investor (co-founder of the Latvian Business Angel Network) and startup mentor, actively supporting the growing Baltic startup community.

In 2012, together with three other entrepreneurs, he created TechHub Riga, the first international branch of the London-based co-working operator TechHub. TechHub Riga is one of the strongest movements of young entrepreneurs in the Baltic States, supporting technology entrepreneurs in establishing their businesses and running the leading Baltic startup conference “TechChill Baltics”. TechHub Riga gave birth to business success stories such as “Cobook” and “Infogr.am”.

“ It is a difficult process and it takes courage to start a business, particularly when building innovative technology. The challenges are huge and risks high. TechHub Riga can help entrepreneurs create an environment where they are more likely to succeed.

Andris Berzins, Co-founder of TechHub Riga



Association “Karosta Kids”

The association “Karosta Kids” is an organization for talented youth who come from disadvantaged families. Their mission is to provide educational, emotional, physical and spiritual support for young people’s needs in order to give them future opportunities, help break the cycle of poverty and decrease the criminal rate in Karosta. “Karosta Kids” work every day to renew hope and transform lives.

The goal of “Karosta Kids” is to become a platform for families, kids and the youth at risk in Karosta. The organization supports five core values: intercultural connection, friendship, life skills, education and creativity instead of criminality.

“ We believe that young people are not only our future, but also our present and that they will pass forward what once was given to them when they most needed it: support, inspiration, faith and the opportunity to be creative instead of criminal.

Tatjana Tarasova, Chairperson of “Karosta Kids”



THE FUTURE OF LATVIA

Association “Trīs reiz trīs”

The Association “Trīs reiz trīs” (3x3) is an event dedicated for maintaining the feeling of being truly Latvian that was started in the 1981 in the USA and came to Latvia in the 1990, where it is successfully continued and nurtured.

An integral part of this event since 1990 is communication between Latvians and Latvians overseas, sharing of experiences, of common and uncommon values. This event unites Latvians who may have different life experiences, social background and financial situation, but the same mentality as well as understanding of the importance of the Latvian spirit – a value to be taken care of, cultivated, developed and passed on to the future generations.

There are two “3x3” meetings in Latvia every year. “3x3” also takes place in the USA, Australia, Ireland and Great Britain.

“ We are pleased of our Latvian identity and awareness of being Latvian, that we share common values, which permeates every meeting and people who are gathering, and that we can see how much has been done.

Eduards Krūmiņš, Member of the Council



