

## Winners of the European Awards for Better Journalism will be Announced on 'Difference Day', World Press Freedom Day (May 3, BOZAR – Brussels)

Brussels, May 2, 2015. *'Difference Day' – taking place on Sunday, May 3 at the Brussels BOZAR – wants to put forward the freedom of speech and of the press as part of our fundamental democratic rights. The event is being organized by the Brussels Platform for Journalism – a collaboration between VUB, ULB and Erasmushogeschool Brussel – together with BOZAR, the Evens Foundation and iMinds, under the patronage of UNESCO. As announced earlier, dissident-journalist Raif Badawi will be awarded the 'Honorary Title for Freedom of Expression' on Difference Day. His wife will accept the Prize in his name, since Raif Badawi is being kept in prison for standing up for freedom of press in Saudi Arabia.*

As firm believers in the respect for differences and other opinions, iMinds and the Evens Foundation support this day with a very special contribution. Both organizations will recognize a European project with an award.

### OBVIZ (Switzerland) Wins 'Press for More' Award

With its 'Press for More' award, iMinds – Flanders' digital research center – recognizes a European project that contributes to better journalism through the use of technological innovation. The winning project typically stimulates participation, has a strong impact and significant growth potential.

A total of 29 impressive projects from 15 European countries had been submitted for the award. Nevertheless, the jury members unanimously voted for one specific project to receive the 'Press for More' award 2015 on May 3. The winner – Swiss [OBVIZ.com](http://OBVIZ.com) (**When it's not obvious, it's ObViz**) – helps people explore and understand controversies. It addresses the lack of structured information on the internet on controversial subjects using cutting edge artificial intelligence methods. If you need to make a decision, like vaccinating your child or not, the outcome will be very different depending on what article you happen to read first. Most people don't have an authority figure that they can just ask, so they need trustworthy information. And that is exactly the role obviz.com has taken up.

Additionally, two other remarkable projects were granted an honorable mention: **The Enemy** from France ([www.theenemyishere.org](http://www.theenemyishere.org)) and **Zero CTRL** from Oslo ([www.dagbladet.no/nullctrl](http://www.dagbladet.no/nullctrl)). The winners are available for interviews.

### Mark Peepkorn (de Volkskrant) Wins the Evens Award for European Journalism

The Evens Foundation is a public benefit foundation based in Antwerp, Belgium and with offices in Paris and Warsaw. It aims to encourage people and ultimately nations to live together harmoniously in a diverse Europe. The Evens Foundation initiates and supports sustainable projects, and awards biennial prizes that contribute to the progress and strengthening of Europe based on cultural and social diversity. Within the media program



the Evens Foundation has two main scopes: to increase media literacy and to promote high-quality journalism.

Combining this latter interest with its European scope, that runs transversally through all activities, the Evens Foundation is handing out the Evens Prize for European Journalism for the second time. This biennial prize aims to reward a journalist whose written work contributes highly to making Europe more comprehensive and accessible to a broad audience. It includes the *Evens Prize for European Journalism* worth € 10,000 and the *encouragement prize for European Journalism*. € 5,000 is granted to the laureate of this second prize, which is only open to journalists aged 35 or younger.

The Evens Foundation again appointed an external jury to select the laureates: **Koen Doens** (chairman of the jury, currently Director East and Southern Africa and ACP coordination of the European Commission, previously Head of the EC's Spokespersons' Service), **Yves Bertoncini** (Director of the Jacques Delors Institute 'Notre Europe'), **Giles Merrit** (Secretary General 'Friends of Europe') and former laureates of this prize **Quentin Peel** (Financial Times) and **Valentina Pop** (Wall Street Journal, previously EUobserver).

Laureates:

- **Marc Peeperkorn** wins the Evens Prize for European Journalism: Marc works as an EU correspondent (since 2008) for de Volkskrant, the biggest quality newspaper in the Netherlands.
- **Katarzyna Zachariasz** wins the encouragement prize for European Journalism: Katarzyna is a Polish freelance journalist writing mainly for Gazeta Wyborcza and Politika.

More information about all laureates can be found in the attached document. The winners are available for interviews.

### Practical Information

- Date: Sunday May 3, starting 1.15 pm
- Location: Center for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels
- Co-production: BOZAR AGORA | Evens Foundation | Vrije Universiteit Brussel | iMinds | Université Libre de Bruxelles | Erasmushogeschool Brussel
- Under the patronage of UNESCO
- Access: free participation after registration via <http://www.vub.ac.be/en/events/2015/difference-day>
- Website: [www.differenceday.com](http://www.differenceday.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Difference-Day/687238264735178?fref=ts>
- Twitter: [#DifferenceDay](https://twitter.com/DifferenceDay)



### **About iMinds**

iMinds, Flanders' digital research center, combines the forces of its 900+ researchers at 5 Flemish universities for conducting strategic and applied research in areas such as ICT, Media and Health. Together with its research partners (companies, governments and non-profit organizations), iMinds translates digital know-how into concrete products and services. In addition, iMinds supports researchers, (young) entrepreneurs and start-ups in the successful market introduction of their ideas.

More information: [www.iminds.be](http://www.iminds.be) (Twitter: [@iMinds](https://twitter.com/iMinds))

### **Contact**

- Wim Van Daele, iMinds Press Contact – [wim.van.daele@iminds.be](mailto:wim.van.daele@iminds.be) / +32 9 331 48 23

### **About Evens Foundation**

The Evens Foundation is a public benefit foundation based in Antwerp, Belgium and with offices in Paris and Warsaw. It aims to encourage people and ultimately nations to live together harmoniously in a diverse Europe. The Evens Foundation initiates and supports sustainable projects, and awards biennial prizes that contribute to the progress and strengthening of Europe based on cultural and social diversity.

More information: [www.evensfoundation.be](http://www.evensfoundation.be) (Facebook: [theevensfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theevensfoundation))

### **Contact**

- Greet De Wilde, General Program Manager – [greet.dewilde@evensfoundation.be](mailto:greet.dewilde@evensfoundation.be) / +32 3 231 39 70

