

Women of Europe Awards

29 November 2017



Woman in Power

The Winner: **Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security**

(nominated by EUROMIL and the European Movement Spain)

She shows leadership when it comes to speaking with one voice for the European Union, and her comprehensive and global strategy has guided the Union through turbulent times. In an area where policies are governed by member states, Ms Mogherini succeeded in formulating a comprehensive and global - both in terms of geography and in terms of policy areas.

The other shortlisted in this category:

Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman

(nominated by the European Movement Ireland)

Emily O'Reilly is the current European Ombudsman and has held this position since 2013, the first woman to do so. Ms O'Reilly is an author and previously worked as an investigative journalist, political editor and broadcaster. In 2003, she was appointed as the Irish Ombudsman and Information Commissioner, the first woman to hold the position. Ms O'Reilly has a proven record of advancing the European project through her work as European Ombudsman, and regularly speaks about her experience as a woman in a male-dominated field.

Jana Smiggels Kavková, Director of Forum 50%

(nominated by the Czech Women's Lobby)

In 2009, Jana became the Director of Forum 50% which strives for a balanced representation of women and men in politics. From 2012-2014, Jana was the Chairwoman of Czech Women's Lobby. Since 2012, she has been a Member of the Czech Government Council for Gender Equality. Her work supports policy through seminars, mentoring, networking, and campaigns. As a lecturer she speaks for state administration and political parties about feminism and gender equality, women in politics, and decision-making processes.

Woman in Action

The Winner: **Adriana Lettrari, Co-Founder of the Third Generation of Eastern Germany Network** (Netzwerk Dritte Generation Ostdeutschland)

(nominated by the European Movement Germany)

Adriana Lettrari is part of the generation which grew up in two different systems: childhood in the then GDR and youth in the united “Western” Germany. While the unification is a German phenomenon, divisions and transitions from one political system to another not. All Central and East European countries which became members of the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2014 changed from a socialistic to democratic-capitalistic system after 1990. Adriana Lettrari co-founded the “Netzwerk Dritte Generation Ostdeutschland” which aims to support a transborder dialogue between those people. Her work is not just focused on the Western–Eastern gap, but also addresses people with migration background.

The other shortlisted in this category:

Carmen Mazijn, Former President of the Erasmus Student Network Brussels

(nominated by ESN)

Carmen engaged herself through various leadership positions in Erasmus Student Network. She is now advocating for the interest of international students, mobility opportunities for all and recognition of volunteering and youth work on European level. Therefore, she speaks up in European wide networks such as the European Youth Forum and the Erasmus Student Network. Her latest project is advocating for embedding a component of local volunteering into the next Erasmus+ programme. She has created a community of national leaders with a big female majority in Erasmus Student Network.

Jessica Chamba, Vice President of the European Movement France

(nominated by the European Movement France)

As Vice-President of the European Movement-France, Jessica Chamba is in charge of political and grassroots campaigns. For instance, she was the initiator of the “Europe en mieux” (“A better Europe”) campaign which transformed the canvassing techniques of the European Movement-France by adopting a much more pro-active approach aiming to defend the EU key accomplishments such as Schengen, euro zone, etc. Through her campaigns, she has strenuously worked to bring the EU closer to its citizens and to increase knowledge about the EU's achievements against Eurosceptic rhetoric.

Woman in Business

The Winner: **Melody Hossaini, Founder and CEO of InspirEngage International**

(nominated by the New European Business Confederation (UNITEE))

Melody Hossaini is a businesswoman and a pioneer in the youth sector and in social entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom. Born in Iran during the First Persian Gulf War, she lived in Turkey and Sweden before settling in the UK. Her first steps in entrepreneurship were at the age of 13, when she became a co-founder of a leading democratic youth organisation. In 2005, she made history by becoming the first female (and at the same time part of an ethnic minority) to be elected Chair of its Board of Trustees. In 2009, Melody set up the social enterprise InspirEngage International. The main objective was to support young people and vulnerable women to develop the essential skills in order to be successful by giving back to people and society.

The other shortlisted in this category:

Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact

(nominated by METRO AG)

Focusing on the need to balance financial success with environmental and social responsibility, she leads the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with more than 8,000 companies and 4,000 non-business signatories from 170 countries that have committed to aligning strategies and operations with universal principles, and taking actions that advance societal goals.

Maggie O'Carroll, Chief Executive of The Women's Organisation

(nominated by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions)

Having worked in the USA, Maggie returned to Europe and started a social business The Women's Organisation 21 years ago. She recognised that women were a huge untapped entrepreneurial market in the UK and decided that there were both commercial and social impact opportunities in providing business support services to help more women to start and grow their own enterprises. Further, Maggie is actively involved in female economic development policy influencing on an international, national and regional basis. Locally in the North West of England, The Women's Organisation has provided support to over 50,000 women to access or progress in employment, to start or grow their enterprises.

Woman in Youth Activism

The Winner: **Mina Jaf, Founder and Executive Director of Women Refugee Route**

(nominated by PES Women)

Mina was born in Kurdistan (Iraqi Kurdistan), a refugee from the day she was born, fleeing back and forth with her family, between Kurdistan and Iran. When she was 11, she and her family were forced to flee to Denmark as refugees and she continued to grow up determined to fight for the rights of all refugee women. Since coming to Europe, she has worked tirelessly on refugee issues and on women's rights issues, bringing her personal experience and perspective to her vocal advocacy. In 2016 she founded Women Refugee Route, an NGO that seeks to enable women refugees to become self-advocates while navigating their refugee journey, by providing them with critical information in all languages through trained multi-lingual volunteers. Her activism has also led her to be awarded the prestigious Voices of Courage Award by the Women's Refugee Commission in New York City.

The other shortlisted in this category:

Safi Sabuni, Former President of ESN and board member of Erasmus Students and Alumni Association

(nominated by ESN)

Safi has been active in the NGO world for over six years, during which she inspired young women to take on leadership roles and empowering women through her approach as a leader and mentorship of volunteers. For two years she has been the President of the Erasmus Student Network. Through non-formal education and local activism, Safi carried out the campaign "Because I am a Girl" that supports youth-led, global movement for girls' rights and gender equality.

Johanna Nejedlová, Co-founder of Konsent

(nominated by the Czech Women's Lobby)

It has just been two years since Johanna Nejedlová co-founded Konsent, an organisation aiming to change the conversation surrounding traditional Czech attitudes towards sex and sexual violence. Konsent held a workshop on street harassment at the first conference on harassment in public space in the Czech Republic. Johanna has recently joined a subcommittee of Czech Women's Lobby focusing on violence against women. She has given numerous interviews and fights tirelessly for the media to highlight the autonomy of women's bodies and has challenged traditional views on sex and sexual violence in the Czech Republic.