Democracy vs. Sustainability | a branched interactive story, Switzerland winner of the MEDEA Award 2022

After two long years without being able to celebrate the MEDEA Awards Ceremony face-to-face, it was finally possible to meet for this 14th edition which took place in the Leuven City Hall on Thursday 2 June as part of the Media & Learning Conference organised by the Media & Learning Association and KU Leuven. This year the MEDEA Award went to *Democracy vs. Sustainability | a branched interactive story* submitted by University of Bern, Switzerland and the Special Jury Prize went to *ViSkiLab* submitted by KU Leuven Learning Lab in Belgium.

Democracy vs. Sustainability | a branched interactive story is a flashMOOC in which viewers slip into the shoes of a small town's mayor and have to make decisions on how to deal with various social, political and economical issues. Throughout the story, viewers learn whether these decisions are not only sustainable but also democratically legitimate.

The **Virtual Skills Lab** (ViSkiLab) app is a 2019 Education Innovation project and has been developed to better prepare first year biomedical sciences bachelor students to work in a laboratory. This is a virtual learning environment where students can perform actions, acquire effective practical skills and get immediate quality feedback.

Following the announcement of the Special Jury Prize, the audience voted for their favourite entry and the prize went to **HackShield in the Class** which is an educational program made for schools all over the world. The game quests are designed to use in classes and help teachers deal with important cyber topics such as: the internet, cyber bullying and fake news.

During the ceremony, short clips from all the 8 finalists were shown before the winners were announced. Following the announcment of the winners, the remaining finalists all received commemorative medals, they are:

- *A suitcase full of images and sounds online* submitted by Karpos, Greece and represented by Maria Leonida.
- *Black Lives in Alberta: Over a Century of Racial injustice Continues* submitted by Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots and Lethbridge University, Canada and represented by Jenna Bailey & Deborah Dobbins.
- *Immersed in Media* submitted by Ulster University, United Kingdom and represented by Jessica McConkey.
- *International Spotlight Heritage Student Contest 2021* submitted by Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania and represented by Silviu Vert & Marius Tataru.
- *MOOC: Enlightening the Dark Ages: Early Medieval Archaeology in Italy* submitted by Università degli studi di Padova, Italy and represented by Marianne Araneta.

The prizes at this year's event were presented by Thomas Van Oppens, Alderman of human ressources, student affairs, city cleaning and animal welfare, who welcomed everyone to the city of Leuven and to the historic town hall. Over 50 entries were submitted this year coming from all over Europe as well as from Canada and Australia.

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