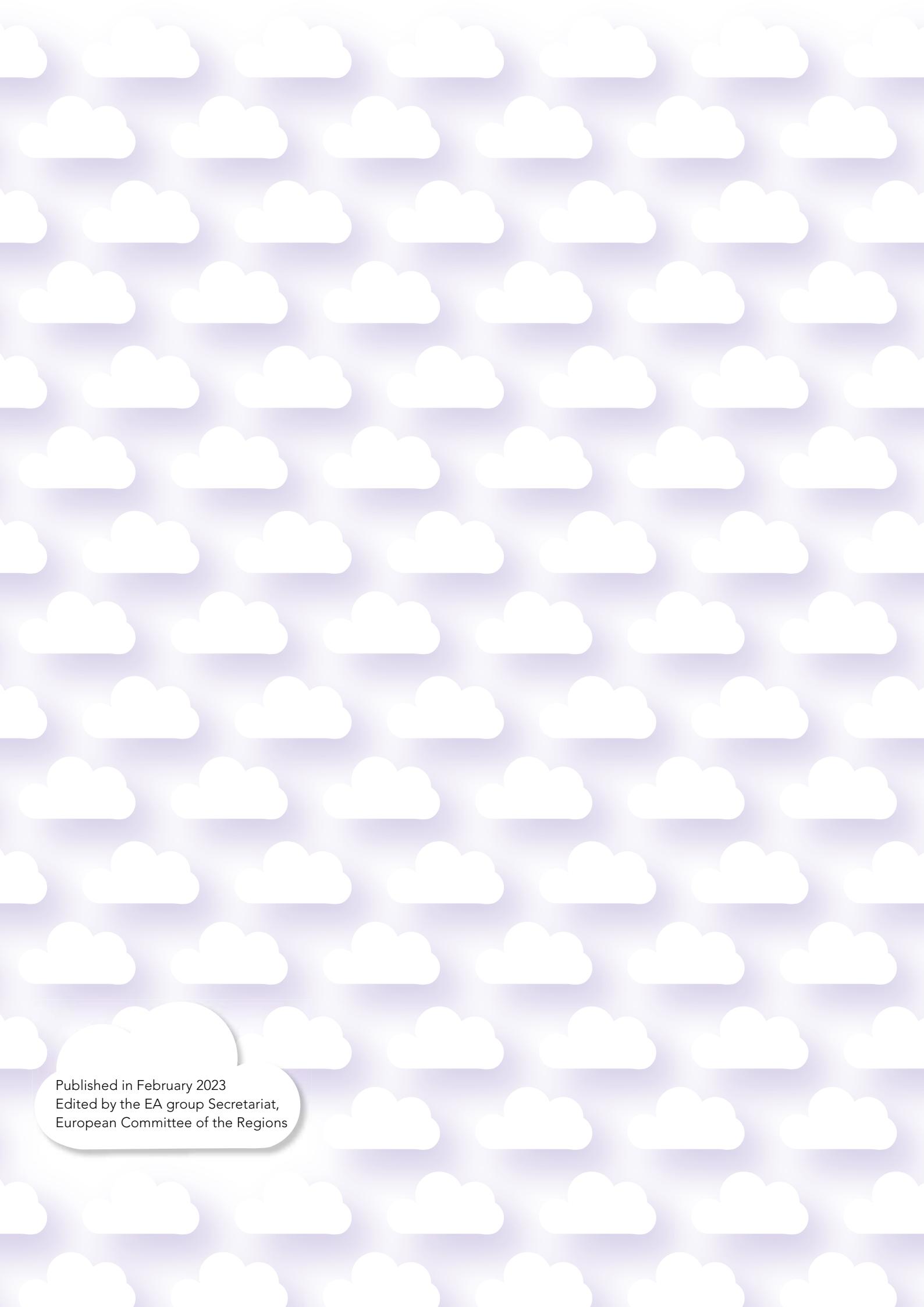


2023



My Region, our EU Region





Published in February 2023
Edited by the EA group Secretariat,
European Committee of the Regions

My Region, Our EU Region

President's Introduction

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you, on behalf of the EA Group in the Committee of the Regions, the 2023 EA Primary School Art Competition "My Region, Our EU Region". For thirteen years already, primary schools' art competition has been a platform for artistic expression for primary school children from all over Europe offering unique perspectives on their regions and the broader European context. The 2023 edition's topic, "My Region, Our EU Region", aims to inspire the children to describe their region with a view towards regional and European co-operation, our rich history, and connections between traditions across the EU.

In this booklet, you will find a range of expressive and colourful artworks that demonstrate the diversity and richness of our regions. Our aim is to facilitate the learning about the European Union in an engaging and educational manner, and to link the pupils' personal experiences in their regions with the broader European perspective.

Some of the children provided comments about the European Union along with their artworks. I am amazed by the positive and hopeful messages that they conveyed through their drawings and words.

Our competition is an excellent opportunity to interact with the young generation of Europeans and to comprehend their views and values. We hope that our competition also encouraged them to think more profoundly about their regions and their role in the European project. We are optimistic that these talented and hopeful young people will contribute to a bright future for the regions of the European Union and the Union itself.

I wish you a pleasant reading, and to learn about the present through the eyes of the future, the ones of our children.

Regards,



Mr Karl Vanlouwe

*President of the
European Alliance group
European Committee of the
Regions*

Description

The EA Group has been organizing the Primary School Art Competition every year since 2010. Each of the last 13 years we had the privilege of creating a space for the

creative expression of children's relation with their region, and its embeddedness in the different aspects of their lives. We believe that such an initiative helps them ap-

preciate their heritage and sense of belonging in their respective European region, while simultaneously fostering the youth's positive outlook on Europe

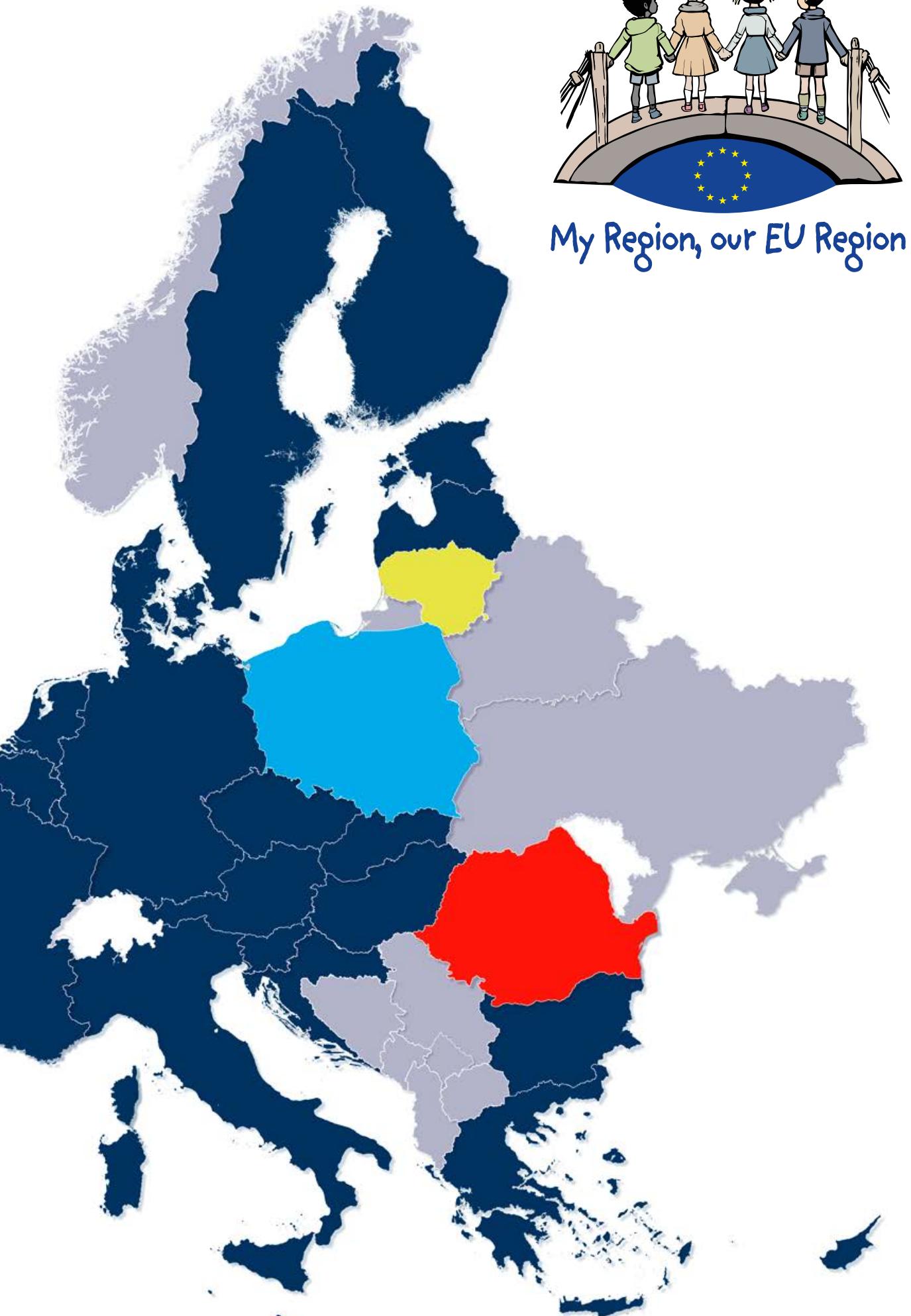


With the participating schools

Language and culture in:

- Kilnagross National School / Kilnagross /
Leitrim County / **Ireland** 6
- Paliuniskis Primary School / Paliūniškis /
Panevėžys / **Lithuania** 8
- Primary School No.51 Ludwik Zamenhof /
Białystok / Podlaskie / **Poland** 10
- Primary School of Wojciechowo
/ Wojciechowo / Jaraczewo / Wielkopolska
Province / **Poland** 12
- Berceni Middle School / Prahoca/ Berceni /
Romania 14
- Ion Mareş Middle School / Vulcana-Băi /
Romania 16

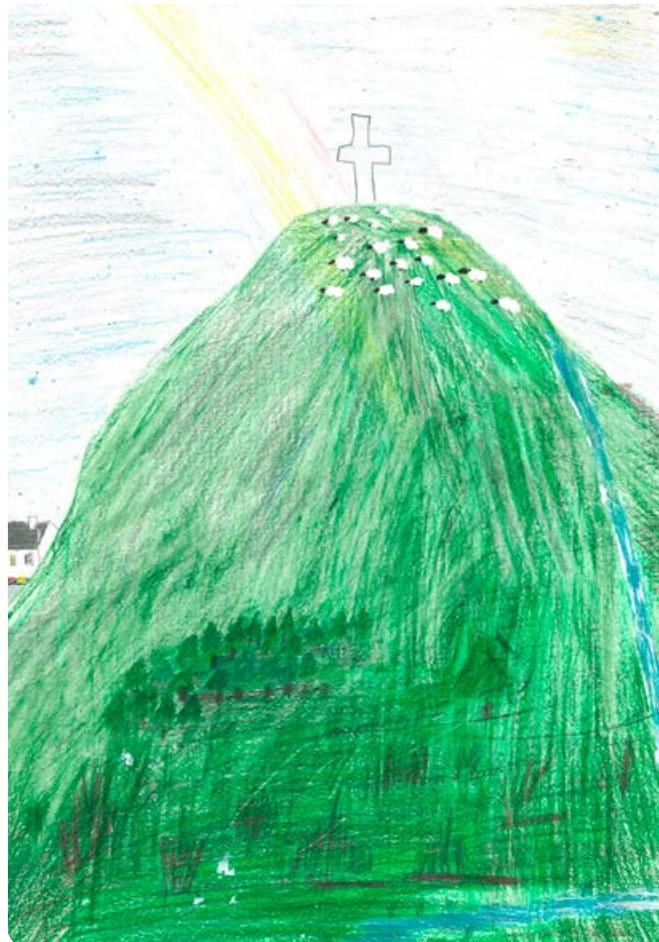




My Region, our EU Region

Kilnagross National School

Leitrim County, Ireland



1st Prize

Oran MCGOVERN (12 years old)

"Sheemore"

Sheemore is known as the "hill of the fairies" and is well known for its folklore and mythology. It is also known for being the grave of Fionn Mac Cumhaill.

Dotted along the hill are fairy forts and cairns and folklore says that if you go into the fairy forts, you have to change your clothes inside out to get back out of the fairy fort. There are also stories of fairies playing music in the dead of night. The cross that stands at the top of Sheemore is illuminated at night and can be seen for miles.





2nd Prize

Fiona MCNABOLA (11 years old)

"Beannachtaí ó Éirinn"

Greetings from Ireland.

Ireland is famous for its many beautiful landscapes. It has many old traditions that are still keeping our heritage alive today.

These are traditional Irish music, sean-nós dancing and seanchaí (storyteller).

Our national flag is green, white and orange. The shamrock and harp are symbols of Ireland.

The Irish people are all friendly and good craic!



3rd Prize

Lily GUCKIAN (9 years old)

"West is Best"

The West of Ireland attracts people from all corners of the world, with beautiful scenery and long coastlines. It is the quieter side of Ireland but has a population of 485,666 in all 5 counties of Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Galway and Mayo.

The West of Ireland has the largest off-shore island in Achill, Co. Mayo.

The Irish language is spoken in the Gaeltacht areas of Mayo and Galway and there are up to 55,000 native speakers in the province of Connacht.



Coiste Eorpach
na Réigiún

Paliuniskis Primary School / Paliūniškis

Panevėžys, Lithuania



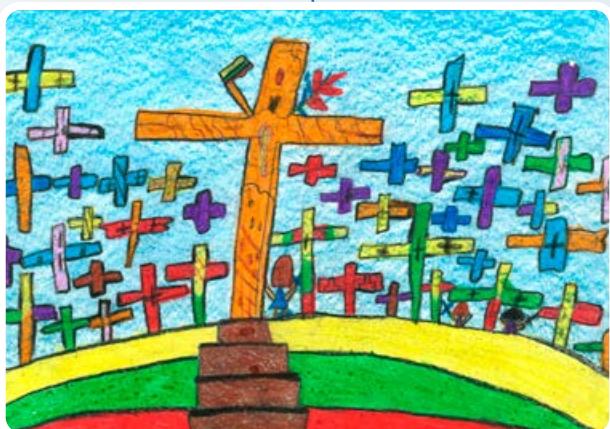
1st Prize

Ema RUTKAUSKAITĖ (10 years old)

Lithuanians have many customs and celebrate various traditional holidays.

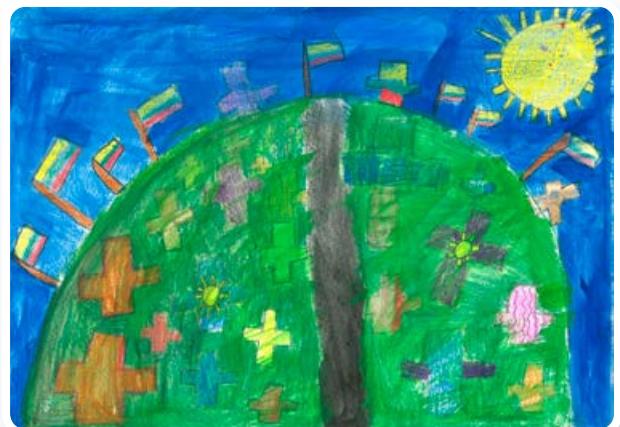
One of them is called "Three Kings". Three Kings named Kaspars, Merkel and Balthazar came to greet the birth of Jesus. According to the tradition, the first letters of their names are written on the door or door frame with a white chalk during the celebration. These letters protect the house from evil spirits and disasters. This holiday is very expressively celebrated in our capital, Vilnius. A great procession is moving through the Old city streets, and the imposing Three Kings go ahead.





2nd Prize

Rusnė JANKAUSKAITĖ (10 years old)



3rd Prize

Melita ŽURAUSKAITĖ (10 years old)

The Hill of Crosses is the strangest and most mystical place in Lithuania and even in the whole world.

Until nowadays, this place is a popular destination: some are looking for miraculous healing, family harmony, God's grace for the Motherland and people, others – want to thank for the miracles that have already happened or just to see a wonderful sight. I think it's amazing, beautiful and inspiring place and everyone visiting Lithuania should visit The Hill of Crosses.

Mounds are like the annals of the earth, which have become the oldest witnesses of history. The castles that stood on them have already collapsed and the memories of people about them have been erased, but the mounds are still standing. When the enemies attacked the castles, everyone hid into these shelters and defended their freedom together with the warriors.

Lithuania is called the Land of Mounds for a reason, because their density is really high. In addition, the search for unknown mounds continues, and various people, not just archaeologists, are involved in this process.

When we climb to a mound, we think not only about spectacular views, but also about those who once lived here, fought, and created the history of our country. In total, there are more than 900 mounds in Lithuania.

Primary School No.51 Ludwik Zamenhof / Białystok

Podlaskie / **Poland**



1st Prize

Michał LENICKI (10 years old)

My pictures is drawn only by a pencil. It represents my Polish voivodeoship, Podlasie.

On the bottom of the picture there is a man catching fish and a small family of ducks. At the top and middle of the picture are a river, a big forest and really small bridge and village.





2nd Prize

Julia SZALAJ (10 years old)

This is a picture of the prime forest Puszcza Białowieska. On the edge of the forest there is a pair of storks looking for food: frogs, mice and other small animals. The birds walk in the fields, in high, green grass. They clatter with their long, red beaks. In the warm sun, their white and black feathers shine beautifully. Around them, the trees shake their leaves in the wind. They remember very old days. Many animals hide between those trees. This forest Puszcza Białowieska is the "green lungs" of our region. Please come and visit this place, you will like it. You can find there also our bisons, they live next to storks.



3rd Prize

Zuzanna PRESNAROWICZ-ORŁOWSKA

(11 years old)

My region competition, our region of the European Union.

My painting shows one part of Podlasie, the place where I live. There are forest hills in the foreground, spreading trees and small streams. The shadows of the trees fall on a small clearing covered with thick grass. Residential houses can be seen from a distance. In the background you can also notice the emerging fog, which adds mystery to the landscape shown.

If you look closely, you will see that it is a border town. You can see the falling leaves, suggesting that it is autumn. In the nearby forest you can notice a hedgehog burrowing in the autumn leaves. High wind force bends trees. Feel the magic of Podlasie, mysterious forests and meadows where you can relax from the hustle and bustle of the city.



Europejski Komitet
Regionów

Primary School of Wojciechowo / Wojciechowo

Jaraczewo / Wielkopolska Province, Poland



1st Prize

Lena MARCINISZYN (9 years old)

My drawing shows the coat of arms and my commune of Jaraczewo. I live in the western part of Poland, in the Greater Poland Voivodeship. We belong to the European Union because Poland is one of the countries located in Europe. The picture also shows two people dressed in folk costumes from my region. They were worn only on special occasions, e.g. attending Holy Mass, going to town, celebrating holidays or family celebrations. People dressed modestly on a daily basis.

In the upper left corner there is the flag of the European Union, and in the middle there are the flags of the member states in one row.

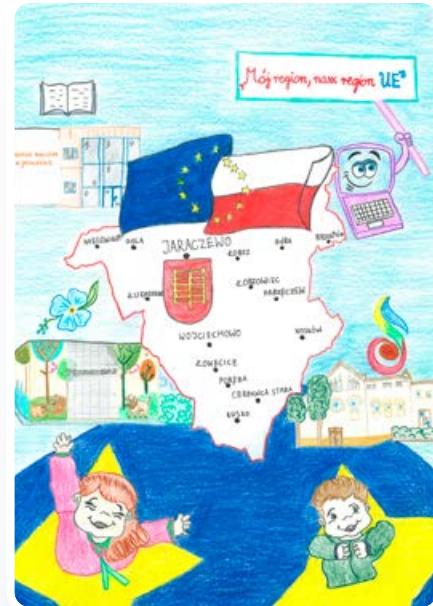




2nd Prize

Kornelia PŁONCZAK (7 years old)

My poster titled "My Region, My Neighborhood": presents three drawings of buildings from different countries of the European Union. I would place the Eiffel Tower on the outskirts of the city of Jaraczewo. At its top there would be a viewing point from which one could admire the panorama of the commune. The next building is the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. In our commune it would play a role as the entrance to the Orphanage in Góra. The third facility is the FC Barcelona stadium, the pitch would be located next to the Primary School in Wojciechów. It could host matches, concerts and meetings with famous people. This is the vision for the development of our commune.



3rd Prize

Otylia PAWLAK (9 years old)

Poland is my homeland. It is a member of the European Union. Thanks to this, the youngest children can develop in a modern kindergarten in Jaraczewo. Every student can fulfill their dreams and talents at the Municipal Cultural Center in Jaraczewo. All children travel around Europe with their parents and learn foreign languages on computers financed by European funds. I am proud that Europe is my place on Earth. Here I develop my interests, attend interesting classes and meet interesting people.



Europejski Komitet
Regionów

Berceni Middle School / Prahoca

Berceni , **Romania**



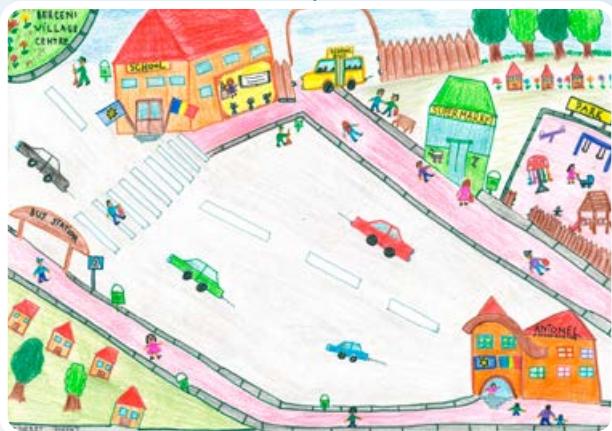
1st Prize

Vlad Stefan MUSAT (7 years old)

This is my community, Berceni. It is situated in the South-East of Romania. I love my region, we are all a happy family and we help each other. In Berceni there is a big school where we learn a lot of interesting and innovative things. We also like playing football and badminton. Dancing is also very important in our community. We have a dance group called "Mladite from Berceni". They are very talented. What I enjoy most about my community is the summer school where we learn a lot of new and educational things.

I love my community!





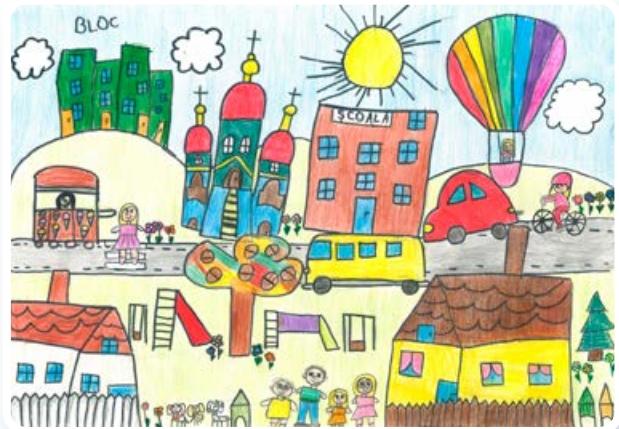
2nd Prize

Iulian PADURARU (9 years old)

I live in Berceni, which is a beautiful and rich region in Prahova, Romania. In Berceni there is a big and modern school and there is also a new kindergarten called "Antonei". Children love this kindergarten very much because there is a big park close to it and the teachers are very nice.

In Berceni people are very nice, hospitable and they always smile.

Berceni is my home, Berceni is my family!



3rd Prize

Eva MORTECI (6 years old)

Hello! My name is Eva and I live in Berceni. I love my village. It is very beautiful. There are schools, kindergartens, a church and parks. People in Berceni are hardworking and helpful with each other.

I also like my school. It is big and we learn many new things. In their free time, people go to church or work the gardens and children play in the park.

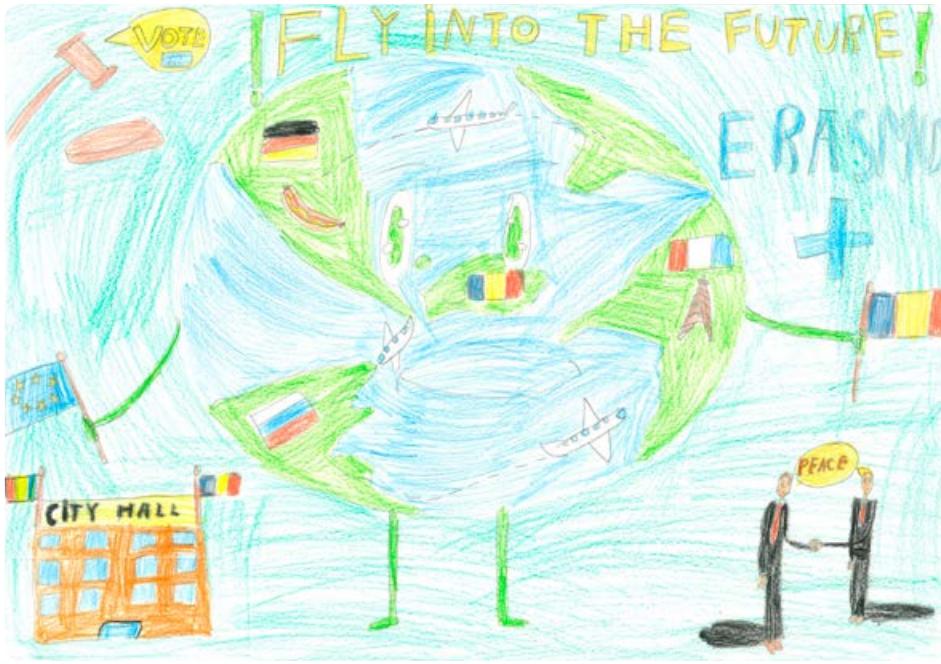
I love my community!



Comitetul European
al Regiunilor

Ion Mares Middle School

Vulcana-Băi, **Romania**



1st Prize

Diana Ioana SARU (10 years old)

When I made this drawing, I thought that my region deserves to benefit more from more European projects after the 2024 elections.

Through the Erasmus+ program that takes place in my school, me and my colleagues, we have the chance to travel in Europe, to develop ourselves, to have a better future.

I want to add -My country is beautiful with so many things to explore.

I am proud to be Romanian!





2nd Prize

Rania Cristiana ȘETREANU (10 years old)

Visiting another country as part of an Erasmus+ project, I realized how important Romania's integration into the EU is. Even we come from different countries, the European continent is our home, for all of us.

I see Europe as a puzzle, as the pieces come together, everything becomes whole. Through a drawing, I expressed my desire for all of us to become this whole, and even though we are different, we share goals and values that will unite us more in the future. I see the joy of children who love each other without boundaries and play together.



3rd Prize

Vlăduț Andrei STANCIU (10 years old)

I really, really wish our country can be a true part of the European Union. I hope everyone votes YES, not NO, so all the kids in Europe can hug each other, no matter where they're from or what they believe. I dream that soon Romania will be a happy piece in this big puzzle, and we can travel anywhere in Europe and feel just like home, together, in peace and harmony.



Responsible for editing



**European Committee
of the Regions**

EA group Secretariat
Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat, 101
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/België

Tel. +32 22822245 - Fax +32 22822334

www.ea.cor.europa.eu