

PRESS RELEASE

Under Embargo until 7.a.m Tuesday 22 May

Makerstown 2018: Europe's brilliant inventors showcase the town of the future

Brussels, 22 May, 2018



A humanoid, 3D-printed robot called Inmoov opened the third edition of the Makerstown start-up event, in Brussels on Tuesday 22 May. Inmoov, created by French designer Gael Langevin, is an open sourced, multilingual, life-sized robot, and epitomised the innovative spirit of Makerstown. From specialised drone services to 3D printing projects, and from miniature blood testing kits to virtual drumkits, some 40 brilliant creations by European inventors went on display at the event.

Makerstown gathered some of Europe's brightest brains for the interactive event at the Autoworld car museum, just a few steps away from the city's European quarter. It brought together makers, a new generation of entrepreneurs, innovators and do-it-yourself enthusiasts empowered by web tools, artificial intelligence, robotics and crowdfunding. Makerstown offered today's Robert Bosch, Marie Curie and Lumière brothers a platform to demonstrate technologies that might eventually become part of our daily lives.

Part fair, part conference, Makerstown was organised by the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the official thinktank of the European People's Party, and by ThinkYoung, the first thinktank to lobby for young people. It was also supported by Google, LEGO Education, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Burson Cohn & Wolfe, MSD and the US Mission to the EU.

A conference on the margins of Makerstown gathered top European Commission officials MEPs, business leaders and others to debate and discuss what needs to be done in terms of policy, private investment and education to make the Town of the Future a reality. They looked at AI for healthcare, the School of the Future, how to foster innovation, and how to nurture the open, mobile economy.

At the end of the day, two makers were awarded top prizes. Sweden's [Coala Life](#) won the 'Makerstown Jury Award' and Italy's [Tooteko](#) took home the 'Makerstown Social Impact Award'.

The event also saw the official launch of ***Transforming European Start-Ups Into Global Leaders***, a joint report by ThinkYoung, supported by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). The report explores what the EU can do to help start-ups scale up globally. The report draws on the experience and first-hand accounts of 15 European start-ups across 12 countries, as well as ThinkYoung's own insight and analysis.

ThinkYoung's Founder and Chief Thinker Andrea Gerosa said he was amazed by the ingenuity on display at Makerstown. "This year's edition included some mind-blowing new projects and concepts. It is proof that Europe has both the ideas and energy needed for a truly digital society," he said.

Wilfried Martens Centre President Mikuláš Dzurinda said Makerstown showed how innovation was picking up in Europe. *“Makerstown has already become an inspiration for young inventors and entrepreneurs. Good ideas can become viral: they spur people to take up the concepts and carry them even further. That’s what we are seeing at Makerstown,”* he said.

About Makerstown

Makerstown is a unique fair where start-ups, inventors, European top policy makers, business leaders, teachers and their students meet to discover and debate what the future will look like. Building on the success of the 2016 and 2017 editions, Makerstown returned in 2018 for its third edition, shaking up Brussels by showcasing the Town of the Future and what needs to be done in terms of policy, private investment and education to ensure it can become a reality.

About ThinkYoung

ThinkYoung is the first think-tank that focuses on young people. It was founded in 2007 and has expanded to four offices respectively in Brussels, Geneva, Madrid and Hong Kong. It is non-profit organisation aiming to make the world a better place for young people by involving them in decision making processes and giving decision makers high-quality research on key issues affecting the youth.

About the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies is the official think tank for the European People’s Party. It aims to inspire ideas for action and shape responses to European challenges.

For media enquiries, please contact Burson Cohn & Wolfe by emailing Mayssa Badr on mayssa.badr@bm.Com