



## EUROPEAN YOUTH AWARD

ICNM - International Center for New Media  
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[www.eu-youthaward.org](http://www.eu-youthaward.org)  
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### PRESS RELEASE

## With creativity, team spirit & VR to Shanghai – „Ship Happens!“ wins EYA VR Game Jam in Graz

*Last weekend, 40 young people came together in seven interdisciplinary teams to collaborate, innovate, and create impressive virtual reality games, all centered around the topics „Water“ and „Family“.*

For the third time since 2015, the European Youth Award invited game developers and all young people interested in game development to be creative and develop game prototypes dealing with the given topics within teams in only 48 hours.

In order to increase awareness for two challenges that are constantly present in today's society, this year's predefined topics were water, an elixir of life and a finite resource, as well as "family" and all problem areas related to it.

The variety of games being developed on these topics was quite impressive, ranging from the challenge of supplying a family with well water in a dark forest with sounds as the only guidance up to virtual water-balloon battles.

This year, the technical focus at the Game Jam was on *Virtual Reality*, one of the most important trends these days. Therefore, the EYA Game Jam has also acted as Regional Station Austria of the Global VR Hackathon, an international competition organized by VRCORE, with its final round of competition taking place at the end of August 2017 in China.

The seven members of the expert jury selected the game „Ship Happens!“ as the best game prototype. In this two-player VR-Game, one player has to escape from a sinking ship in cooperation with another player who has a map of the ship. The well-developed implementation of the creative idea as well as the multiplayer component – which rarely exists in VR-games – was convincing enough to sway the judges.

The winners were awarded with numerous prizes, among these were an invitation to the Global VR Hackathon final round in Shanghai, where they can contribute with their experience from Graz.

Link to the descriptions of the games: <https://eu-youthaward.org/game-jam-projects/>

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### **About the European Youth Award (EYA)**

Called to life by prof. Peter A. Bruck, Honorary Chairman of the International Center for New Media in 2012, the European Youth Award (EYA) is a leading pan-European competition honouring excellence in the use of Internet and mobile applications for social empowerment. Conducted under the patronage of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, EYA is an annual contest motivating young people under the age of 33 to produce socially-valuable digital projects addressing the goals defined by the Council of Europe, Europe 2020 and the UN SDGs.