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*“Amor omnia vincit”*

# Annual Report 2020

## “Leonardo 4 Children 2020: Climate Action”

*Philanthropic non-profit initiative engaging children and young people in Europe on Climate Action and to support children in need through art & science.*



Alvarado Carano © 2018

**Leonardo 4 Children**

*“Every child can be a genius”*

[www.carano4children.org](http://www.carano4children.org)

## Executive summary

For children, families and teachers, it was a very challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We empathize with children distanced from friends, precluded from attending classes in school and in some cases suffering the loss of relatives.

This gave us renewed energy to pursue our first Leonardo 4 Children competition on Climate Action as a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “Leonardo 4 Children” non-profit initiative, with the patronage of the European Commissioner for European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, and Tuscany Region. We saw an opportunity to give children a chance to engage and develop new creative skills despite Covid.

We are glad that the competitions and events attracted hundreds of participants across Europe, and were pleased to award 10 winners for the "Fables on Climate Action", 10 winners for the "Art & Science on Climate Action" competition and 1 winner for the “Fables in music” competition. The competitions saw the participation of 124 children and teenagers despite the pandemic lockdown. We managed to organise an outstanding award ceremony and concert in Turin Conservatory of music G. Verdi on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, in partnership with MUS-E Turin and Cantabile with the patronage of the European Commission representation in Italy, and the city of Turin. The event featured the participation of some of the winners, a talented children’s choir and was attended by 200 spectators (the maximum authorized capacity given Covid restrictions).

Together with several partners we participated in a call for proposals by the European Commission on promoting gender equality with children and fighting against gender stereotypes. Despite not being successful by a small margin, this gave us the opportunity to get more involved in this important issues and liaise with relevant partners active in the field. Thus we decided we could extent the “Leonardo 4 Children” initiative for 2021 to also the topic of **gender equality**, on top of the **climate action**, enable **girls and boys to become the new “Leonardo” of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by addressing important global issues**.

The resources collected - through concerts and books – have been entirely dedicated to providing educational support on the arts and science to children in need, especially orphans, abandoned, sick or refugees in projects selected through a public call: in Jordan (in cooperation with UNICEF), Kenya (in cooperation with Action for Children in Conflict), Ukraine (in cooperation with Charity May), Florence (in cooperation with pediatric hospital Meyer), Turin (in cooperation with MUS-E and the Menuhin Foundation), thus creating a solidarity and cultural bond between children and young people of greater and lesser opportunities, especially between European and non-European children, showing that everyone has the potential to create and become "genius".

We are very grateful to the many institutions and bodies that support this initiative, the members of the Advisory Board and the children and young people who have taken part in the competitions, as well as their teachers and parents.

## 1. Governance and organisation

The "Carano 4 Children" foundation was founded in March 2018 as non-profit private foundation registered in Belgium, in memory of Luigi and Erika - Alenia Aeronautica employees who both died prematurely at the end of 2005. The foundation aims to help children in difficulty, especially orphans or abandoned children, and to help children to develop their potential and their artistic and scientific skills.

In 2020, a new Code of Conduct and child safeguarding policy has been approved by the Board as a priority and we are pleased to have had the support of one of the Trustees, Ann Start and in collaboration with the Keeping Children Safe Coalition we have a safeguarding policy and good practice adopted.

The foundation became member of the Keeping Children Safe network ([www.keepingchildrensafe.global](http://www.keepingchildrensafe.global)).

Valeria Piantedosi has been the first full-time employee of the foundation, providing exceptional work in interacting with our several partners and participants to the competition, organisation of the "Leonardo 4 Children" initiative, development of the website and social media, and administrative work. We are extremely grateful to Valeria especially for her commitment in this challenging 2020 year.

## 2. Beneficiary projects

We were thrilled to award the net funds raised during the 2019 – 2020 events and via the books went to the following beneficiary projects which truly embody the spirit of Carano 4 Children:

### ***1. Art and music for children in refugee camps in Jordan ("Makani"), with partner UNICEF***



Jamal\* 12 years old, is a Syrian refugee girl now living in Jordan. She has made friends with 7 year old Fatima\* and attends a nearby Makani centre, supported by UNICEF, to which Carano4Children contributes. Jamal says *"In Makani, I learn and play with my friends. I feel like I belong."*

\* Not their real names

***2. Art, theatre & science for children living in the suburbs of Nairobi, Kenya, with partners “Action for Children in Conflict” (AfCiC) and “Fondazione Pianoterra”***



*In the context of the pandemic crisis and to mitigate the negative consequences on the poverty, education and family conditions of the children in the suburbs of Nairobi, we are supporting the crowdfunding campaign launched by Action for Children in Conflict:*

<https://www.gofundme.com/fl/raccolta-fondi-per-action-for-children-in-conflict>

***3. Art and science for orphans and abandoned children in Ukraine, with partner “Charity May”***



Vladislav\* and Danilo\*, two boys living in the Lyubystok orphanage, were provided with materials for creative art activities. They were able to participate in the art competition along with children from many schools in Europe. This has enabled them to build confidence and self-esteem.

\* Not their real names

4. *Support to children in hospital via play-therapy, Florence, Italy, with partner "Meyer foundation"*



5. *Support to children in schools in suburban areas via art and music, in cooperation with MUS-E Turin, Italy*



Information on the **progress** and the **impact** of these projects is publicly available on the website: <https://carano4children.org/beneficiaries>

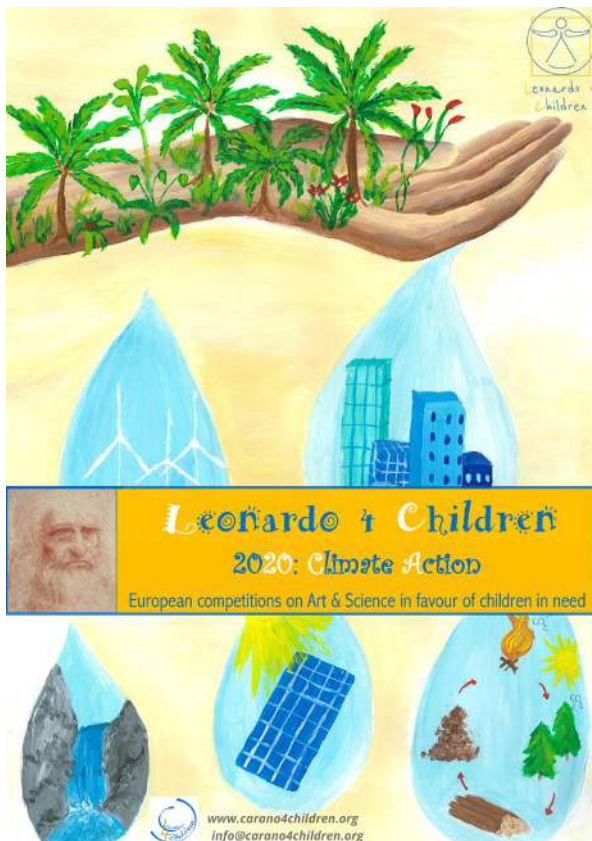
6. *Support to children affected by rare genetic disease in Belgium*

We are pleased that the "Leonardo 4 Children" books could be further distributed to partners and donors. For example Rotary Club Brussels Ouest purchased 300 copies to provide support to Hope4AT organisation ([hope4at.org](http://hope4at.org)) helping children affected by the rare genetic disease Ataxia Telangiectasia.

3. **Leonardo 4 Children initiative**

The "Leonardo 4 Children" initiative has been launched by the Carano 4 Children Foundation at the end of 2018, with the support of several partners, with the aim of stimulating the creativity of European children and young people and helping children in need through educational projects on the arts and science, on the occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci (1519-2019) and the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1989-2019). Leonardo da Vinci's can be a great example to stimulate the creativity of children and young





people, and specifically his little-known fables can illustrate to young generations the value of knowledge of nature, competence, modesty, respect and solidarity towards others.

We are pleased that the initiative has received the **Medal of the President of the Republic of Italy**, the support of **UNESCO**, the patronage of the **European Commission**, the **European Parliament**, the **Italian Committee** for the celebration of 500 years since the death of Leonardo da Vinci, the **Regions of Tuscany, Lombardy and Centre Val de Loire**, the **Ambrosiana Library** in Milan, the **Leonardian Museum** of Vinci, the **municipality of Vinci** and the **Royal Museums of Turin**.

The initiative has been promoted by the non-profit foundation "Carano 4 Children", in partnership with **European Schoolnet**, which brings together all the Ministries of Education of the European Member States, the **European Association of Conservatories and Schools of Music**, the **European Alliance of Composers and Authors of Music**, the **Yehudi Menuhin Foundation**, **MUS-E Italia**, and the **Leonardo da Vinci National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan**.

#### 4. "Leonardo 4 Children 2020: Climate Action" competitions

Within the framework of the "Leonardo 4 Children" initiative, the following **three competitions** took place in 2020 on a European scale, open to residents of the 28 EU Member States:

##### 1. "Fables on Climate Action" for 6-12 years old children

The children aged 6-12 across the EU had to interpret the issue of climate change and environmental sustainability via an original fable, illustrated with a comic strip.

There were 101 participants from 4 Member States, with 30 original fables, and the ten winning fables are published on the website:

<https://carano4children.org/leonardo4children-2020-fables>.

Webinars took place with the winners and the certificate was sent and handed over remotely due to the COVID pandemic.

## **2. “Art & Science on Climate Action” for 13-18 years old teenagers**

Children aged 13-18 years, using multidisciplinary and creative skills, had to design an original inspiring work and helps to address the issue of climate change. The work had to integrate 2 themes: an artistic theme (a choice between music, drawing & painting, sculpture, architecture & design, fashion, dance) and a scientific theme (a choice between climate & environment, aeronautics & space, energy, information technology & telecommunications, mechanics & transport, biology). Such work could for example consist of a drawing, a story or a poem, a song, a video, etc.

There were 22 participants from 2 Member States, with 18 original works, and the ten winning ones are published on the website:

<https://carano4children.org/art-science-on-climate-action>.

Webinars took place with the winners and the certificate was sent and handed over remotely due to the COVID pandemic.

## **3. “Fables in music” for 18-30 years old young music composers**

The fables who won the first competition had to be interpreted in music and songs by young musicians/composers aged 18-30 years old across Europe.

The winner is : Sathvika Krishnan, a music composer from UK for the Fable “The Rainmaker”.

### **Results:**

**The competitions closed end June 2020 with the participation of 124 children and young people from 7 EU countries with 49 original and creative works addressing Climate Change. Considering the closure of the majority of schools and the pilot nature of the competitions on Climate, this can be considered an excellent outcome.**

The works with the best scoring in each competition received the following awards and recognition:

- “Leonardo 4 Children” award certificate;
- publication on website, social media and promotional material;
- exhibition in public places and at events, and publication in “Leonardo 4 Children” book (postponed due to COVID).

## **5. “Leonardo 4 Children” Events**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, and in full respect of the applicable rules and social distancing, we managed to organise the main event in the form of a concert to promote the works of the winners of the competitions, promote young music talents, and raise funds for children in need through art and science education, in collaboration with several partners. The expenses incurred for the organization

of the concert were covered by the foundation, and we are grateful to the City of Turin for offering the patronage and the use of the Music Conservatory hall.

- **Turin, G. Verdi Music Conservatory, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (200 participants, max. capacity due to restrictions)**
  - Welcome speeches by Luca Jahier, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, City councillor of the city of Turin;
  - Presentation of the Leonardo 4 Children initiative;
  - Announcement of the winners of the competitions for children and young people;
  - Classical music concert with the participation of Young Strings Orchestra, Children's Choir by MUS-E Torino, ContabiLAB Youth Choir, directed by Giorgio Guiot;
  - Patronage: European Commission representation in Italy; European Economic and Social Committee, City of Turin;
  - Funds raised: 600 € in favour of children in the schools in periphery of Turin in collaboration with MUS-E Italy.



## 6. “Leonardo 4 Children” Book

The book “Leonardo 4 Children” published by GIUNTI aims to stimulate the creative potential of children with art and science and raise funds for children in need. During the year 2020, the Foundation distributed approximately 1,000 books, of which 300 to Rotary Club Brussels, and 300 to Leonardo Company SpA. This publication, available on the website at the price of € 10, includes:



- a) "Fables of Leonardo da Vinci", with the 12 fables selected in English, Italian and French, comic book illustrations of the children who won the relevant competition, and music/songs of the young musicians and composers who won the relevant competition.
- b) "Art & Science" works by the children winners of the relative competition.

The net funds raised by the book, which is offered to institutional entities, foundations, private companies, schools, etc will be entirely dedicated in favour of children education in art and science in the selected beneficiary projects.