

Her Majesty Queen Letizia and Ana Botín present Santander's 11th Social Projects awards

- Each of the 12 selected organisations will receive EUR 40,367 thanks to contributions made by Banco Santander employees to the 'Euros From Your Salary' programme, whereby the Bank matches the total employee donation euro for euro.
- This programme has already supported more than 82 NGO initiatives in Spain and helped over 45,000 people in its 11 years of history.

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Her Majesty Queen Letizia and Santander Group executive chairman Ana Botín this morning presided over the award ceremony for the Bank's 11th Social Projects Event, where 12 initiatives chosen by the Bank's employees in Spain from more than 300 submissions received over EUR 40,000 each.

Since this philanthropic programme was implemented eleven years ago, it has awarded a total of EUR 3 million to 82 NGOs and provided assistance to more than 45,000 people.

Ana Botín expressed her gratitude to Queen Letizia for participating in this event again this year and to the other authorities present, saying that she is proud of this project due to its impact on the lives of people during its eleven years. "It would not be possible without the leadership of our sponsors, without the solidarity of our employees, who donate euros from their salary every month and, of course, without the organisations that run the projects, because they are the ones who work on a daily basis to fight inequality and injustice in our communities, the ones who help the most vulnerable groups," she said.

Each of the 12 winning entities will receive EUR 40,367 from the "Euros From Your Salary" fund, which is financed by donations from Banco Santander employees who participate in the programme and funding from the bank, which matches the amounts donated by each employee euro for euro.

EUR 484,412 were raised this year, which is a 24% increase over the past five years, where employee donations have risen gradually, as has the bank's donation.

According to the Group executive chairman, "we are conscious of the impact we can have on the lives of people and businesses and we must, together, be more responsible in the role we play in society to make the world a better place each day."

Winning projects

A panel of experts selected 30 finalists from the more than 300 projects submitted this year and bank employees voted on the winning projects out of these for each of the five categories: international cooperation, disability, health, social exclusion and pre-school education.

For international cooperation, the award went to the Alaine Foundation for its project of creating a shelter and training centre for girls living on the streets in Sirarou (Benin); the CONI Association, which is fighting to implement a school model to abolish child labour among children living in extreme poverty in Guatemala, and the Compañía del Salvador, a religious order that founded a school in Kalalé (Benin)

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that, with the assistance of Banco Santander, will be able to expand to incorporate secondary and pre-university class rooms and playing fields.

In the area of disability, the winning entities were the Madrid Foundation against Multiple Sclerosis (FEMM due to its Spanish initials), which is going to add a full exoskeleton for the rehabilitation of multiple sclerosis at its new centre; the DGENES Association and its programme for providing support in the classroom for children with disabilities and/or rare diseases, and the Nipace Association, with its project for purchasing innovative new technologies for use in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral paralysis.

In the category of health, the Intheos Foundation is going to search for new treatments for children diagnosed with cancer who have no access to therapy after the first treatment or who have not reacted to conventional chemotherapy. For its part, the Josep Carreras Foundation is going to finance research into childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, a sub-type of the disease that usually affects infants under the age of 12 months.

In the social inclusion category, the organisations awarded were United Way Spain for its 'Adopt a Grandparent' project, which aims to provide companionship for the elderly, and the Ana Bella Foundation for its project of creating an *online* course to help 300 abused women to recover their lives and continue as happy survivors.

Lastly, **in the pre-school education category**, the awards went to the Ampara Foundation, whose *Malala* project helps children born in prisons so that they can have a childhood like that of any other child, while also being with their mothers while they serve their sentences, and the Union of Associations of Relatives (UNAF due to its Spanish initials), which runs socio-educational workshops to improve relationships at school and prevent bullying.

Banco Santander is firmly committed to the communities where it operates and has helped more than six million people over the past four years. In 2018, it invested EUR 179 million in the community, of which EUR 121 million was earmarked for higher education (1,200 agreements with academic institutions in 21 countries) and EUR 58 million for community support programmes, which benefited 2.5 million people. Banco Santander was among the top five banks in the world for 2018 on the DJSI (Dow Jones Sustainability Index), on which it has been listed since 2000. It has also been on the FTSE4Good IBEX since 2003, as a company striving for environmental sustainability, the development of positive relationships with stakeholders and support for and preservation of universal human rights.

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