

THE EUROPEAN

CHARLEMAGNE YOUTH PRIZE

2024



**ECYP 2024 NATIONAL WINNERS
PROJECT SUMMARIES**

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AUSTRIA _ Europe on Track 10: Digital Voices, European Choices: Youth Impacting Tomorrow

Europe on Track is one of the flagship projects of AEGEE–Europe representing the core values of the organization: freedom, democracy, inclusion, equity, and sustainability. Conceptualised and coordinated by young volunteers of AEGEE aged 18–30, **Europe on Track aims to create a space for discussion and gather the opinion of European youth on an annually changing initiative. Two teams of young Ambassadors travel across Europe** for a month using sustainable travel means to **facilitate discussions, raise awareness and capture the opinion of young people**, with special attention to university and high school students from different backgrounds. To broaden our reach and ensure inclusivity, a third online route has been integrated into the project in recent years. With this we aim to engage a wider spectrum of young people across Europe, including those unable to participate in-person.

This year’s initiative, **Europe on Track 10: Digital Voices, European Choices: Youth Impacting Tomorrow, focuses on young people’s participation in online socio-political processes and their digital civic engagement as well as their role in addressing the digital divide in Europe. Its main aim is to encourage informed and responsible participation in digital socio-political processes among Europe’s youth.**

The project encompasses several activities, including a Live Youth Meeting in Vienna, a Training for Ambassadors in Prague, a one-month online and offline Action Tour, taking place physically across 20+ European cities and a Final Conference in Brussels. Additionally, over 50 dissemination activities are planned across Europe. Expected outcomes include the creation of booklets on various aspects of the project, including young people's perspectives on the topic, NFE workshop outlines and policy recommendations, as well as educating over 1000 young Europeans and training 10 youth educators through more than 30 educational activities.

Website:	https://www.europeontrack.org/the-project/org/the-project/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/europeontrack/

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BELGIUM _ Youth Visions for a New Economy in Europe

Amidst the ongoing challenges of ecological disasters and socio-economic inequality, there is a growing push for a 'new economy' centered on justice, democratic values, and wellbeing. Generation Climate Europe initiated **the "Youth Visions for a New Economy in Europe" project**, uniting diverse voices of European youth to envision a future rooted in democratic values, human rights, and planetary wellbeing. The project **aimed to empower over 150 young leaders with the knowledge and skills needed for active engagement in EU policy discussions** and beyond, foster solidarity among diverse youth communities, as well as amplify youth voices towards EU decision-makers. Through targeted activities including empowerment, consultation, co-creation, and advocacy, **the project trained young leaders on a variety of topics to promote prosperity and wellbeing in their communities.**

The culmination has been **the creation of the "Manifesto for an Intergenerationally Just Post-Growth European Economy"** supported by millions of young people and leading thought leaders. The Manifesto was **launched at the Beyond Growth Conference gathering over 7000 people** and reached diverse audiences across civil society, academia, the private sector, grassroots movements and EU institutions. **The resulting youth priorities were showcased to high-level EU decision-makers.**

These efforts have ignited a new momentum within the youth movement on the new economy, fostering greater solidarity and engagement among young people across Europe. As the movement moves forward, it is imperative to continue strengthening the representation of youth within civil society and decision-making spaces, ensuring that their perspectives and priorities are central to shaping a just future for all.

Website:	https://gceurope.org/manifesto-for-an-intergenerationally-just-post-growth-european-economy/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/generationclimateeurope/?hl=en

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BULGARIA _ Urban Spaces Design Build Academy Sofia/Berlin

The Urban Spaces Design Build Academy Sofia/Berlin was born out of the recognition that Sofia's urban landscape is dotted with degraded and underutilized spaces. **Vibrant public spaces serve as vital catalysts for the successful development of any city, initiating a sense of social belonging and overall well-being.** Adopting a multidisciplinary approach to activate and manage these spaces contributes to improving public life and ensuring stronger bonds between individuals and their surroundings.

The Collective observed that the absence of such place-making initiatives on the part of young people in Sofia was due to the lack of awareness of how to organise and implement their ideas for improving the urban spaces. Therefore, they approached Deutsche Botschaft Sofia to arrange **the Academy, focused on guiding participants - students and recent graduates - through the entire process of implementing urban projects, from conception to maintenance. The Academy was structured into two phases: lectures and on-site work.** During the lectures, participants were exposed to diverse approaches to public space by Bulgarian and German experts. Topics ranged from **problem identification and documentation to securing funding**, providing participants with valuable insights and practical skills. The subsequent phase involved **fieldwork, where participants** conducted research and **evaluated potential intervention sites in Sofia.** By analyzing the urban environment and creating an interactive map of key spaces, participants identified common challenges and devised universally applicable solutions. Following this, participants were tasked with developing projects for specific locations, either individually or in teams. The Collective Foundation committed to supporting participants in implementing their ideas, ensuring their long-term impact. **The academy concluded with an exhibition showcasing participants' work, inviting public engagement and dialogue.** The Urban Spaces Design Build Academy Sofia/Berlin stands as a pioneering initiative in Bulgaria, bridging the gap between theory and practice in urban development. By guiding participants through each phase of project realization, the academy empowers them to transform their ideas into tangible improvements for their communities.

Website:	https://www.facebook.com/kolektiv.bg
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/kolektiv.bg/?hl=bg
Social media:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/collective-foundation/?originalSubdomain=bg

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CROATIA _ 33rd National Selection Conference of EYP Croatia

From October 10th to 14th, 2023, Zagreb hosted **the 33rd National Selection Conference of European Youth Parliament Croatia - Zagreb 2023**. Amidst what some called **the 'super-election year'** with parliamentary, presidential, and European elections in 2024, the event **became a cornerstone for youth engagement in democracy**, peer-to-peer education, and youth-led decision-making. Over 120 young participants from across the continent attended the entirely youth-organized event.

For five days, **attendees discussed pressing European issues** like sustainable urbanization, drug addiction, minority integration, and foreign relations. They aimed to **propose solutions to these challenges** while promoting democratic participation **through simulations of European Parliament committees** and interactive methods. Participants exchanged ideas, fostering cooperation and solidarity.

The project operated under the motto 'think globally, act locally,' aiming to familiarize youth with community challenges and encourage active participation in shaping their future. **It particularly targeted youth from underrepresented Croatian areas, expanding opportunities for international engagement.**

The event had a profound impact, sparking interest in EU affairs and volunteer work among Croatian youth while fostering international connections. Lastly, the ability to introduce young people to democratic processes first-hand, by letting them explore challenges and benefits of team-work, cooperation, policy critique, policy-making, and solidarity, served as an immaculate educational opportunity that students, especially from Croatia, rarely have the ability to experience through classroom-based teacher-student education.

Website:	https://linktr.ee/eypcroatiaa
Social Media:	https://www.instagram.com/eypcroatia/

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CYPRUS _ International Youth Exchange "yEUth"

The Youth Dynamics organization hosted **the international youth exchange entitled "yEUth"** in Cyprus, which **aims to bring young people into contact with European institutions and encourage the active participation of young people in civic and democratic life.** The Project was implemented within the framework of Key Action 1 of the European program for education, training and sports "ERASMUS+" and a total of **50 young people aged 18-30 from 9 European countries participate in it.** More specifically, the program was organized with the cooperation of youth organizations from Greece, Romania, Spain, Hungary, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Cyprus.

During the program, various workshops, lectures, discussions and presentations were carried out with the aim of strengthening and promoting Peace and Intercultural Dialogue as well as encouraging cooperation, in the context of a daily life without divisions, stereotypes and prejudices. Individual goals of the program are the development of tolerance, the acceptance of diversity, the promotion of multicultural diversity, the strengthening of intercultural cooperation and the consolidation of Peace.

Social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/youthdynamicscy>

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CZECH REPUBLIC _ Zvol si info (Choose your info)

Since its inception, **Zvol si info (Choose your info)** become a leading force in media education, promoting critical thinking, transparency, and inclusivity. Acknowledging the rapid spread of misinformation, **the project's workshops cater to Czech and European youth, equipping them with skills to discern fact from fiction**, nurturing an informed citizenship transcending national boundaries and fostering a cohesive European identity. Tailored for students and educators, the project's workshops cover crucial topics like **media navigation and social media understanding, integrating media literacy into curricula with innovative teaching strategies.**

The implementation strategy emphasizes interactive and participatory workshops, utilizing real-world examples to highlight the significance of media literacy. Innovation and creativity are key components of the project's approach, utilizing digital technologies and creative teaching methods to extend its reach and impact. **Sustainability is ensured through a scalable model incorporating online modules accessible to a wider audience**, maintaining the relevance and accessibility of media literacy education. Actively promoting European values of unity, democracy, and cross-border collaboration, **the project aims to strengthen European identity and foster an integrated, informed European community.**

In conclusion, the project represents a significant contribution to the European community by addressing the crucial need for media literacy and nurturing a resilient, informed, and united Europe, thereby making Zvol si info a beacon of European integration and cooperation.

Website:	https://zvol.si/info/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/zvol_si_info/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/zvol.si.info

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DENMARK _ Flowers Also Cry

Flowers Also Cry is a powerful contemporary dance performance that pays tribute to the untold stories of courageous women who have served and sacrificed during times of war. In specific, **the one-hour dance piece depicts the experiences of Ukrainian women in the ongoing war of Russia against Ukraine, aiming to humanize the conflict and evoke empathy.**

The heard and unheard stories represented span from the one of a soldier on the battlefield to someone's mother in occupation. From a little girl who just lost her family, to a volunteer working day and night to speed up a common victory. From the one in captivity to the one who is deeply afraid. From the one harmed to the one who survived by sheer luck. From Bucha to Iziym, from Mariupol to Kherson.

Flowers Also Cry is a heartfelt exploration of the human experience during wartime. In a world often numbed by news headlines and statistics of loss, **Flowers Also Cry aims to put a human face to the heart-wrenching stories of war.** Witness the beauty that emerges from even the darkest moments. The performance showcases the essence of hope and resilience, demonstrating the unyielding human spirit that rises above challenges. **Ultimately, the goal of this work is to continue to raise awareness of the human rights violations taking place every day in Ukraine.**

Initially targeting Danish residents and the artistic community, the audience has diversified to include Ukrainian refugees, Danes of all ages, expats, and international visitors. **The team plans to expand performances to other Danish and European cities to reach a broader audience.**

Website:	https://www.anastasiakrasnoshchoka.com/flowersalsocry
Social Media:	https://www.instagram.com/anastasiakrasnoshchoka/

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ESTONIA _ Samm Korraga

"One Step at a Time" (Samm Korraga) is an innovative video podcast series dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of sustainable fashion among Europe's youth. The mission of the project is to inspire viewers to make eco-conscious wardrobe choices, driving significant positive changes in the fashion industry and contributing to a more sustainable society, by focusing on the principles of slow and sustainable fashion.

With **episodes available in Estonian and English subtitles** to ensure inclusivity and broad reach, **this series has touched lives across Europe by promoting understanding and action on sustainable fashion practices.** By partnering with industry leaders like Zack Marques, Low imPACK/KIUD, Rentalier, The Rewear Company, MARIMO Fashion, and Color Analysis by Ave Ader , "One Step at a Time" has brought innovative sustainable fashion insights to an audience eager for change. With over 1,127 views on our episodes and extensive engagement across social media platforms, reaching 20,000 on Instagram and 40,000 on TikTok, our message has resonated deeply.

Beyond digital outreach, we've made tangible impacts through educational collaborations, organizing a significant textile waste exhibition that collected 600kg of materials, **and fashion shows that champion sustainable design and second-hand clothing.** This spring's Sustainability Day aims to continue our efforts, fostering dialogue among fashion industry leaders about collaboration across the product lifecycle.

Website:	https://www.youtube.com/@SAMMKORRAGA
Social Media:	https://www.instagram.com/sammkorraga/

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FINLAND _ Jyväskylä 2024 – the EYP Finland’s 30th National

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) Finland's 30th National Session, "Jyväskylä 2024," successfully concluded as a transformative five-day volunteer-organized **parliamentary simulation in Jyväskylä**. The event was organized under the patronage of the European Parliament. **The event gathered around 140 young people aged 16-24** from Finland and from a dozen other European countries and beyond. **Focusing on the theme "On the mend - Developing European health and environment standards together", participants engaged in debates, resolution writing, and cultural activities.** The session provided a platform for young people to discuss current societal challenges, particularly in the areas of climate change, public health, and welfare. The event embraced a unique perspective to the discussions, emphasizing the link between European security and sustainability.

The primary beneficiaries were 16-24, year-olds with potential as future decision-makers and their current position at a critical life stage. **The simulation strived to include participants of diverse socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.** Secondary audiences included educators, youth organizations, businesses, and the media, aiming to create a broader impact and disseminate the messages and learnings from the event. The event provided participants with a unique platform to voice their opinions, engage in constructive debates, and **develop essential skills such as public speaking, cultural awareness, and teamwork.** The emphasis on sustainability in the event's execution, such as the use of reusable materials and promotion of green travel options, showcased a commitment to responsible event management. The cultural exchange activities further connected the participants with the local community, fostering understanding and appreciation for Finnish culture.

Website:	https://eypfinland.org/en/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/eypfinland/

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FRANCE _ Penser, agir et plaider ensemble pour ne laisser aucun.e jeune de côté

The organization ATD Quart Mond launched **the project « Think, Act and Advocate Together to Leave No Young People Behind - European Youth Campaign 2022-2023»** with the **aim to mobilize European youth from very disadvantaged backgrounds**. From June 2021 to April 2023, ATD coordinated this campaign, facilitating meetings where young people could connect, exchange experiences, and explore European institutions like the European Parliament (Feb 2023) and Council of Europe (April 2023).

The project served as a platform for significant youth empowerment, enabling participants to voice their concerns and advocate for change. For over 2 years, one hundred young **people** from over 10 European countries and **with lived experiences of poverty and exclusion gathered regularly to reflect and discuss on the unfair situations they experience daily.** They addressed issues such as harassment, discrimination, isolation, unemployment, and educational barriers, drawing upon their own experiences to identify shared challenges. **The culmination of the project is the drafting of a common statement titled "Towards a Europe That Leaves No Youth Behind," intended for public advocacy during the 2024 European Elections.**

Overall, **this initiative fostered solidarity among young people across Europe,** transcending linguistic and geographical barriers, and empowered them to assert their rights and aspirations as **active European citizens** while actively engaging in shaping the European political landscape for the forthcoming elections.

Website:	https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/europe-leave-no-youth-behind/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/ATDFWEurope

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GERMANY _ Europe Magazine

Due to its complex history, diversity, and numerous institutions, Europe is a fairly complex continent. The understanding and resolution of significant issues necessitate a European context. While studies, data, and news are widely accessible, particularly within the EU, European citizens often find them challenging to comprehend. **At Europe Magazine, the focus lies on visualizing Europe's diversity through infographics, maps, and statistics, offering clarity and accessibility, so for Europe to become a little easier to understand.**

Amidst limited, and mainly text-based, coverage of Europe from a transcontinental perspective, **Europe Magazine employs visual journalism to convey information.** Instead of lengthy texts, the content shared by this journalistic project comprises **easily digestible visuals covering politics, culture, the environment, and society, catering to diverse audiences.** This makes it much easier to access the articles and also appeals to Europeans who shy away from long texts

Europe Magazine only works thanks to the voluntary commitment of a small group of people who believe in this form of journalism. In exchange, they have the opportunity to enhance their abilities, expand their professional network, and establish their portfolio. Given their constantly growing team, they had to realise a low-cost, uncomplicated but professional workflow. Since the launch in 2022, they have published almost 300 visuals on their main platform Instagram. **Europe Magazine reach well over a million accounts every month with their visuals on Instagram and have reached over 20.000 followers on all of the platforms combined.** Their visuals encourage many Europeans to engage in dialogue across borders.

"We are convinced that this exchange will increase, especially in the context of the 2024 European elections. It is our strong belief that we can play an important role in explaining Europe in all its aspects. In a world where everything seems more and more complicated, we need people who are willing to explain this continent in an understandable way. Not only because we enjoy it, but because it is an elementary component of a functioning democracy, we will continue to do so."

Website:	https://linktr.ee/europe.magazine
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/europe.magazine/

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GREECE _ EUth Voices for Social Change

EUth Voices for Social Change, an Erasmus+ KA2 project across Greece, Italy, and Spain, showcases youth-led innovation driving social impact. Focused on democratic values and European integration, the **project directly engages over 250 young minds, empowering them through digital literacy, storytelling, and inclusive education.** Employing a logical approach, it blends online and offline efforts through "phygital" methodologies. Core objectives include digital empowerment and storytelling, particularly through podcasting, fostering a sense of EU community while bridging diverse backgrounds. The project promotes gender equality, non-formal education practices, and communication among marginalized and non-marginalized individuals. **Activities include preparatory meetings, physical podcast training, webinars on EU opportunities, and thematic workshops focusing on green technology and cross-cultural collaboration.** These activities set the foundation for **promoting European understanding**, fostering a shared sense of identity and integration, encouraging democratic engagement among youth, and offering practical examples of European unity.

Noteworthy achievements include establishing a common framework in Turin, podcast training in Las Palmas, and webinars achieving 60% female participation. Moreover, hands-on events showcased the project's dedication to merging storytelling with digital technology and addressing environmental challenges. **The project's impact is evident in its social media reach, with over 22,000 impressions,** enhancing visibility and engagement. The innovative online final report captures project progress with interactive elements and live updates. EUth Voices for Social Change seamlessly aligns with democratic values, promoting European and international understanding. By fostering a shared sense of European identity and integration, the project transcends national boundaries, creating a common European community. Actively encouraging democratic engagement among youth, it serves as a model for civic participation, inspiring participants to become advocates of democratic values. In conclusion, EUth Voices for Social Change stands as a beacon of European cooperation, understanding, and youth empowerment.

Website:	https://youthmakershub.com/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/euthvoicesforsocialchange

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HUNGARY _ Youth Plastic Cup

The Youth Plastic Cup marked a significant milestone as the inaugural international event organized by the Plastic Cup, a Hungarian river-cleaning organization. **Ten high school teams from three different countries united** in a common goal: **to combat pollution in the Tisza River while also getting acquainted with the regional environment and each other's cultures.**

Equipped with paddles and determination, **these teams successfully removed over 3.2 tonnes of waste from the river**, demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship. Through collaborative efforts, **approximately 60% of the collected waste was recycled, highlighting the project's sustainable impact.**

Recognizing the transnational nature of river pollution, the initiative aimed not only to address regional issues but also to tackle the root causes of pollution. With over **150 individuals contributing to the project**, the event exemplified the power of collective action in addressing environmental challenges and fostering a sense of global responsibility among the younger generation.

Website:	https://petkupa.hu/hu_HU/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/petkupa/?hl=en

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IRELAND _ The Eurobug Spectrum Chat Podcast

The Eurobug Spectrum Chat Podcast is a monthly platform for discussing global civic engagement and social issues and it **was created in the hopes of providing more information to the public on youth work projects in a fun and accessible way.**

The project began with comprehensive **training sessions led by podcast specialists, covering podcast mechanics, radio speaking, and audio editing.** The **11 episodes produced** were meticulously planned, incorporating interviews, live panel discussions, and reflections on international projects. **Personal development was a significant outcome, with members acquiring new skills** through role rotation and diverse experiences. The project fostered a collaborative and supportive environment, promoting growth and mutual respect among team members.

Each episode of the podcast focused on a different theme like cultural celebrations or community building; or answered a question such as how to become a youth leader or how funding applications work.

Website:	https://www.eurobug-int.org/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/eurobugint/
Social media:	https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/eurobug-specchat-podcast

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ITALY _ EUROPEASY - conoscere l'UE

The European Union (EU) holds considerable influence in the lives of younger generations, yet faces significant challenges from populism. **Recent years have seen** heightened attacks on the EU's global reputation, driven by widespread discontent among European populations exacerbated by financial crises, migration waves, and the Covid-19 pandemic. These challenges have led to **the proliferation of fake news** and Eurosceptic campaigns **targeting the EU**.

Recognizing the need for accurate information about the EU, particularly among young people, the members of Mondo Internazionale initiated the Europeasy project in 2019. **The project aimed to provide comprehensive information about the EU's functions, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges.** Initially established as an online blog, Europeasy sought to foster understanding and promote a sense of community among young individuals interested in European politics. Articles focused on institutional aspects of the EU, highlighting the values of liberal democracy, rule of law, and equality that underpin its foundation. Moreover, **Europeasy addressed the lack of mainstream media coverage of EU affairs in Italy by providing monthly updates on important European political events.** This effort aimed to dispel the stereotype of Brussels as a bureaucratic hub disconnected from the concerns of ordinary citizens.

As the project gained momentum, Mondo Internazionale expanded its activities to include live discussions on Facebook and webinars featuring experts in European and international politics. In 2022, Mondo Internazionale launched **Mondo Internazionale Post**, an online news platform dedicated to providing objective and impartial coverage of European and international politics. **The Instagram page of the platform, frequented by over 80% of users under 35, is still growing: in the last month, it reached 56,000 accounts.**

Looking ahead, Mondo Internazionale aims to cultivate a new generation of young journalists passionate about European politics and international affairs. Despite the challenges, the organization remains optimistic about its ability to continue providing clear, objective, and impartial information to its audience, fulfilling its mission of fostering informed citizenship and promoting democratic values.

Website:	https://mondointernazionale.org/europeasy
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/mondointernazionalepost

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LATVIA _ Izproti, iesaisties, lem! (Understand, get involved, decide!)

The project "Understand, get involved, decide!" aimed to increase young people's political education and involvement in decision-making by raising awareness of democratic processes and opportunities for participation. The project implemented an information and education campaign that both promoted young people's activism and understanding of political processes, and ensured that young people's interests were defended at the level of public institutions.

The results achieved included increased youth participation in elections and contributed to the provision of political education and representation of youth interests. **Activities including training, debates, hackathon** and shadow days in the Parliament raised awareness of the importance of the political process and encouraged young people to participate in public life. **The project culminated in a national conference to discuss the role of young people in politics.**

Overall, the project reached an average of 100 000 people both in online and in person and involved around 50 schools in Latvia, as well as contacting representatives of more than 70 political forces, reaching around 1.5 thousand young people across Latvia. **This project is an inspiring example that encouraged young people to get involved** and understand their role in building a democratic state, laying the foundations for future generations in political life. Moreover, it underlines the need to continue to promote young people's involvement in the political process and recognises that there is still much work to be done in this direction.

Website:	https://www.klubsmaja.lv/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/klubsmaja/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/klubsmaja

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LITHUANIA _ Sisterhood Pathways

Violence against women, recognized as a violation of human rights and a form of gender-based violence (European Parliament, 2022), **encompasses various harmful acts. In response to this pressing issue in the Baltic Sea region, the Sisterhood Pathways project endeavors to combat it through multifaceted approaches.** The project incorporates:

- 1. Murals:** Wall painting across partner countries to raise awareness and provide information about violence against women, featuring QR codes for further resources (please refer to attached files).
- 2. Handbook:** A comprehensive resource compiled from interviews with victims and specialists offers insights into addressing violence against women, serving as a valuable tool for support and prevention efforts (please refer to social media section)
- 3. Local Workshops:** Engaging creative workshops facilitate social inclusion and community participation, fostering awareness and support systems for victims.
- 4. International Webinars:** Educational sessions disseminate knowledge and strategies for preventing violence against women, promoting collaboration and understanding across borders.
- 5. Social Media Campaign:** Active use of social media platforms disseminates project updates, support opportunities, and information, enhancing outreach and networking efforts.

Given that 1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 across Europe, the findings and initiatives of the Sisterhood Pathways project hold significant relevance beyond the Baltic Sea region. Grounded in European values, this project aligns with the objectives of promoting human dignity, freedom, equality, and respect for human rights, making it a competitive applicant for the Prize.

Website:	https://activeyouth.lt/portfolio/sisterhood-pathways/?lang=en
Handbook:	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UNdIDNwVKarT5dan-TXl6OTom7f-oA-U/view

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LUXEMBOURG _ Belval 2023 - 10th National Selection Conference of EYP Luxembourg

Belval 2023 - 10th National Selection Conference of the European Parliament Luxembourg was **an event organised as a simulation of the European Parliament, aimed at raising awareness, understanding of European citizenship and the mechanisms of the European Union among young Europeans.** Organised by the European Parliament Luxembourg A.S.B.L., the event brought together 127 participants from 22 different European countries in the cities of Esch-sur-Alzette and Luxembourg.

Held less than a year before the 2024 European Parliament elections, the organisers of Belval 2023 sought to encourage young people's participation in democratic life. These objectives were effectively met through informal educational methods, including team-building activities and the introduction to the decision-making process of the European Parliament.

The event unfolded in three phases:

- **Teambuilding:** Participants engaged in informal games to enhance communication, collaboration, unity, and mutual understanding among diverse backgrounds.
- **Committee work:** Participants gathered into 8 different committees mirroring those based of the European Parliament addressing innovative topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Heritage Preservation, Access to Medication, and Space Cooperation within EU member states, resulting in drafted resolutions.
- **General Assembly:** Committees presented their resolutions and underwent voting, providing participants with opportunities to hone public speaking and debating skills in an international context.

Belval 2023 offered a unique opportunity for participants to explore active citizenship at both European and local levels.

Website:	https://www.eyplu/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/eyplu/

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MALTA _ Rural Revolt: Art-Activism for Non-Urban Voices

Rural Revolt is a collaborative initiative between The Starving Artist and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), which **illuminates the profound experiences and diverse creative voices of rural youth**. This immersive exhibition delves into personal and cultural narratives, addressing issues of non-urban identity, belonging, and the unique needs of rural communities.

It **provides a platform for emerging rural creative voices to** challenge preconceptions and **share their works**, made possible through the unwavering support of project partners EYCA and Young Scot. Curators Ally Zlatar and Hailey Ciantar, **dedicated rural youth activists** and members of EYCA's Youth Panel, **sought to amplify rural youth throughout Europe, emphasizing representation, engagement, and environmental connections**. Their commitment to sustainability is evident in their curation of a virtual reality exhibition **featuring 20+ young artists from around the world** including Malta, Scotland, the Netherlands and many others.

Website:	https://starvingartist.cargo.site/rural-revolt-1
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/thestarvingartist.studio/?hl=com
Social media:	https://www.artsteps.com/view/64c66cfff4fcd74a9f3b5896

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NETHERLANDS _ Our Rule of Law Academy

The “Our Rule of Law Academy” brought together 45 bachelor students from across Europe and beyond, guided by over 20 experts, to develop policy proposals addressing the European rule of law crisis. The aim was to create concrete solutions to address rule of law issues within EU Member States, which the EU institutions can almost readily adopt.

Participants, representing 40 European universities and 24 nationalities, underwent a five-stage process. Initially, they were divided into 11 thematic working groups and engaged in lectures, discussions, and research to develop innovative policy proposals. **The final stage involved presenting these proposals at a two-day event in Brussels to decision-makers and policymakers. The result was the publication of “How to Save European Democracy – Report from the Our Rule of Law Academy”,** now accessible online.

Our Rule of Law, the organizing entity, was established with the aim to empower a new generation of legal scholars and practitioners to defend democratic principles across Europe. Built on the belief in defending democracy and the importance of student-led initiatives, the organization is committed to educating, engaging, and encouraging students to actively contribute to a democratic future within the European Union and its member states.

Website:	https://www.ourruleoflaw.eu/
Social media:	https://twitter.com/ourruleoflaw_eu
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/ourruleoflaw/

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POLAND _ I feel TRAIN to Europe

The project "I feel TRAIN to Europe" was born out of the direct experience of its organizers in the DiscoverEU program during September 2022, embarking on a month-long train journey across Europe. Inspired by this experience, the travel evolved into a social project **aimed at encouraging youth to explore Europe, engage in EU-funded initiatives, and foster a sense of European community.**

The project consisted of three main elements:

- 1. A social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram** documented the journey, sharing travel tips, interesting facts about Europe, and information about the DiscoverEU program. **This campaign reached 50 thousand recipients** through the channels.
- 2. A MEETUP event held in March 2023 in Warsaw, attended by 120 highly motivated individuals.** The event aimed to promote **free youth development programs**, eco-friendly travel, cultural openness, and the acquisition of future skills through travel. Supported by various organizations, travel cost reimbursement for less privileged youth was facilitated.
- 3. Co-organization of a September 2023 event in Warsaw**, building on the experience from the March MEETUP. The event featured **film screenings, meetings with DiscoverEU beneficiaries, networking opportunities** with DiscoverEU Ambassadors, and informational sessions about DiscoverEU programs. Valuable resources and networking opportunities were provided for youth interested in European initiatives.

Website:	https://www.facebook.com/ifeeltraintoeurope
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/i_feel_train/

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PORTUGAL _ Luxembourg Square – On Tour

The Luxembourg Square – On Tour, a citizens’ initiative stemming from the original project, **aims to promote dialogue on European issues. It organizes debates, street conversations, and cultural visits in various cities. Moderated by professional journalists**, it engages youth, influencers, and politicians.

The project, founded by David Ferreira da Silva, Milton Nunes, David Gil Gonçalves and co-led by Beatriz Capão and more than 20 young influencers of political debate, has reached multiple municipalities, **involving over 300 young participants from schools and 600 people who joined the debates in the city squares.**

Through live debates, podcasts, and social media content, **it addresses critical European topics, aiming to combat electoral abstention** and foster intergenerational dialogue. The initiative plans to expand its reach and impact, culminating in a closing event in Marvila- Lisbon.

Website:	https://www.instagram.com/pracadoluxemburgo
Social media:	https://twitter.com/PracadoLux
Social media:	https://www.youtube.com/@pracadoluxemburgo3857/streams

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ROMANIA _ Rural Youth Parliament (Parlamentul Rural al Tinerilor)

The Rural Youth Parliament project aims to **improve the lives of underprivileged youth** in certain European areas through the collaboration of four partners. The project was created in an effort to enhance young people's social lives by addressing their needs and difficulties, and together fostering youth engagement. It aims to provide youth workers, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations interested in working with young people with fresh perspectives, ideas, and resources. **The project encourages the development of skills and positive feelings toward democratic values and active citizenship through engaging, enjoyable, and interactive activities**—a powerful teaching method that allows young people to **practice public debate, express opinions, engage in public speaking, negotiation, and critical thinking**. By achieving these goals, the partners hope to create a vibrant community of involved youth who can suggest and carry out initiatives in the community, maintain democratic principles, and become involved members of society. The project contributed to the establishment and strengthening of transnational partnerships, ensuring permanent access to ideas, opinions, tools, and digital innovations to support missions and objectives of organizations at the local, regional, and international levels. **Our objective is to create a vibrant network of engaged youth who can suggest local projects and assist in their execution to promote Romania's sustainable development**. A strong network of dedicated youth was formed as a result of the effort put into creating the Rural Youth Parliament.

We organized gatherings in several counties of Romania, including Vâlcea, Bucharest, Galați, and Buzau. Through research, **we asked young people to share their needs** with us, both in terms of civic and community activities and their personal needs. Analyzing these needs, **we developed proposals for activities aligned with their wishes and needs**. We organized film nights, carried out greening actions in their living areas, and, at their initiative, created two Christmas fairs in their communities. The Rural Youth Parliament fostered deep and authentic bond among people from various communities, based on values such as solidarity, inspiration, and community development. These values guide us in our work to bring life and hope to rural areas.

Website:	https://napocaporolissum.ro/erasmus-parlamentul-rural-al-tinerilor/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/ruralyouthparliamentproject

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SLOVAKIA _ DEMDIS

DEMDIS is a multifaceted initiative centered on identifying consensus within divided societies through innovative methods. With the participation of over thirty members and media partners, **the project foster inclusive and transparent digital discussions with the broader public.** The results of previous discussions have repeatedly shown that with the right tool in hand, people can engage in effective and facilitated dialogues.

The crisis of democracy is fundamentally a crisis of communication. The growing gap between citizens and the performance of public power creates not only a sense of alienation but also distrust in democratic governance. **DEMDIS's** vision, therefore, lies in creating new ways of citizen engagement in democratic processes. The **ultimate goal is to establish new deliberative platforms which would enable meaningful civic participation.** DEMDIS believes that democracy, in the 21st century, needs to find new ways to engage citizens in its processes, including through digital technologies. With this approach we can build trust in democratic processes, educate citizens and contribute to the solution of the crisis of democracy.

Website:	https://www.demdis.sk/
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/diskusiazachranuje
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/demdis_sk/

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SLOVENIA _ Razlike nas povezujejo – projekt dveh Goric (Differences unite us – the projects of two Gorica towns)

The project was launched by a group of high schoolers in response to the lack of social spaces for young people to gather and form connections in the city of Nova Gorica and the neighbouring border town of Gorizia. Recognizing this need, **the project was conceived to address the absence of inclusive environments where both Slovenian and Italian youth could come together and engage in meaningful activities.** This initiative particularly **targets young individuals facing challenges in societal integration due to diverse backgrounds,** including socioeconomic disparities and different sexual orientations.

The project utilizes **board games as a means of fostering interaction and camaraderie among participants.** Furthermore, since some of the group members are mathematicians, games are presented to the attendees through a mathematical, yet easy-to-understand way, to demonstrate the practical and fun application of math. . **Additionally, efforts are made to combat intolerance toward immigrants by emphasizing language-neutral board games,** fostering inclusivity and acceptance.

In addition to promoting social cohesion within the local community, **the project aims to strengthen cross-border relationships between Italy and Slovenia,** leveraging Nova Gorica's status as a border town. By involving participants from different regions and nationalities, the initiative fosters cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

Furthermore, **the project addresses environmental awareness** by educating participants on the impact of climate change and advocating sustainable practices such as recycling and supporting local producers.

Beyond its broader objectives, the project also serves as a haven for young individuals facing personal challenges during their formative years. By providing a safe and nurturing environment, it offers opportunities for personal growth and development, countering negative influences and promoting a sense of belonging and acceptance among participants.

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SPAIN _ Forum on the Future of the EU

The Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union provided a crucial platform for young people, especially Spanish youth, to address the EU's challenges and advocate for youth priorities in public decision-making. Equipo Europa served as a conduit for the voices of Spanish and European youth during this period. To promote youth political participation and envision a better Europe, Equipo Europa organized the **“The Forum on the Future of the EU” conveying 250 young people from all over Europe** in Madrid on November 17-19 **to discuss democratic engagement and future-oriented proposals.**

The Forum on the Future of the EU was the result of 1 year of work of 30 young people. For several months, they have researched and developed proposals on topics such as the European Social Pillar, equality, accessibility, green transition, foreign policy and digital transition.

With this project, Equipo Europa sought to create new spaces for proactive dialogue that bring together young people and experts to propose initiatives that improve people's lives. At a time when the future of the EU and democratic values are being questioned, Spanish and European youth have become a loudspeaker for the vindication of the best European essence.

Website:	https://forumfuture.eu/
Social media:	https://www.instagram.com/forumfuture.eu/
Social media:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gBp5813YUc

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SWEDEN _ Bridges of harmony - an ode to the United Europe

Being a European citizen is often taken for granted by some, while for others it holds great significance, especially for over **200 individuals from non-European countries who found refuge in Europe due to conflicts in the Middle East. The musical education project "Bridges of harmony" brought these people together, fostering new friendships and reuniting old ones.** In fact, despite linguistic and cultural diversity, **a common thread that unites all is music.**

The project was launched in 2022 by the Swedish branch of the Syriac Scouts in Europe (SSE), an organization which provides a safe space for Syrian scouts across Europe, incorporating scout activities and a robust music department. **Through intensive training and collaboration, participants showcased their musical talents, emphasizing the power of music as a universal language that transcends borders and unites people.** Bridges of harmony took place also in 2023 in Motala, Sweden. This time emphasizing both music and **global awareness, fostering solidarity with other nations, such as Ukraine.**

The project has yielded positive outcomes, achieving its goals in enhancing unity among youth from various countries, **developing new leaders,** and effectively conveying its message through social media. Despite financial challenges, the project remains hopeful for potential awards to support its endeavors, ultimately aiming to unify European youth under the scout motto for a better world.

Website:	https://alhmlalhkim.blogspot.com/
Social media:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GfXbtkQpmk
Social media:	https://www.facebook.com/syriacscoutineurope