

THE EUROPEAN
**CHARLEMAGNE
YOUTH PRIZE**

2020



PROJECT SUMMARIES

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AUSTRIA – First Cultural Forum of EYP Austria

From 13 to 20 September 2019, a Cultural Forum, organised by the European Youth Parliament Austria in cooperation with the association kultur-land-leben, took place in south-eastern Styria.

More than 160 participants from all over Europe came together to discuss current political topics on a European scale using the session format of the EYP, with English as their working language. This makes it one of the biggest events created by the EYP Austria in its more than twenty-year existence, as well as one of the events with the longest duration and the most participants of 2019 within the international network of the European Youth Parliament.

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is an innovative educational programme that connects young Europeans and strives to aid the development of these individuals into politically aware and responsible citizens. We aim at enabling young citizens to grasp and deal with European issues on an international level and engage in intercultural exchange in terms of mentality, language, art, and way of living. The EYP is a nonpartisan nongovernmental organisation whose methods are based on informal education, and EYP Austria is a part of this international network which is made possible by young volunteers who are the heart and soul of the organisation.

The activities of the eight-day event were split among ten different municipalities, namely Bad Gleichenberg, Riegersburg, Paldau, Gnas, Fehring, Straden, Sankt Stefan im Rosental, Kirchberg an der Raab, Kapfenstein, Sankt Anna am Aigen, Feldbach and Straden, all part of Steirisches Vulkanland (or 'Styrian Volcano Land'), a cultural region of rural character in the very south-east of Austria. This also made the event one of the most "remote" sessions conducted by the EYP Austria so far, considering its significant distance from major urban centres.

The Cultural Forum was divided into three distinct parts: first, the participants split up into committees and bonded during the two-day Teambuilding phase, in which they got to know each other and had to perform initial teamwork tasks. This allowed them to have a productive three-day Committee Work phase, during which they created resolutions addressing current issues in Europe that resemble European Parliament resolutions. The end of the event was marked by a two-day General Assembly for which all committees came together to discuss and vote on their individual resolutions.

Additionally, there was a dedicated Cultural Day, as well as cultural elements spread throughout the session programme that were used to experience the local cuisine, the musical and performative talent of session participants and local communities, so as to familiarise all participants with the region.

Website: <https://eyp.at/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eypaustria/>

Other social media: <https://www.instagram.com/eypaustria/>



BELGIUM – Young Feminist Europe

Young Feminist Europe (YFE) is an open platform that amplifies young feminist voices and activities across Europe through campaigns, advocacy and movement building. We bring together young and diverse self-identifying women aged between 18-35 years old to impact and shape a feminist Europe that promotes gender equality, equity and social justice for all.

YFE is a volunteer-led platform and a transnational project, which traces its roots back to 2017 and results from the integration of two different feminist initiatives.

To achieve YFE's vision, we harness the power of feminist grassroots and hashtag activism. We organise community building activities and campaign workshops, as well as collaborate to mobilise for demonstrations and engage with key stakeholders in the EU sphere.

By also providing online spaces for engagement beyond Brussels, we're developing a European network of young feminists that is truly co-creational and participatory.

YFE represents the vision and values of the European Charlemagne Youth Prize because YFE is an example of young Europeans working together to promote European and international understanding, and a shared sense of European identity based on feminist values.

YFE strives to be as diverse as Europe. Members come from different countries, educational backgrounds and generations. YFE has a representation of 15 different nationalities from Europe, South-central Asia and the MENA region, with 30+ volunteers based in Brussels, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Ireland. Our presence across Europe is always growing.

In YFE we work in accessible and horizontal structures and overcome geographic barriers by utilising online spaces and tools to communicate and coordinate actions.

YFE's initiatives in 2019 are a testimony of our promotion of a shared sense of European identity. In the run-up to the European Elections, YFE launched its first campaign called "Her Europe", which provided an opportunity for young women to participate in European politics and present their vision for an equal Europe.

YFE launched its new campaign #MyClitCounts on September 2019. It aims to tackle social taboos surrounding women's gynaecological health, reproductive rights and sexuality. It provides the opportunity for young women to engage in these topics in a self-empowering way and combat stigma.

2020 will be an important year for women's rights worldwide with the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. With a leading role the reviewing processes and embodying the defense of gender equality at the EU level, YFE aims to bring its European experience of young feminist leadership for transformation to the international process.

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Giving the Charlemagne Youth Prize to YFE would contribute to making YFE a sustainable solidarity network amongst young feminists across Europe, and it would also contribute to making visible the work of young feminist activists across Europe as catalysts for change.

Website: <http://www.youngfeminist.eu>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YoungFeministEU>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/youngfeministeu?lang=es> @YoungFeministEU

Instagram: youngfeministeurope



BULGARIA – Treatment Without Borders

Treatment without Borders is a Bulgarian non-governmental organization which aims to help Bulgarians in need of medical treatment abroad with on-site assistance, translation and personal consultation, while also using our platform to provide comprehensive information about patient rights and the availability of cross-border healthcare to European patients. With 2.4 mln Bulgarians living abroad, our mission is to connect those who have an excellent command of the local language and are integrated in the local society with patients who can't receive the life-saving treatment they need in Bulgaria.

With over 300 volunteers in 19 countries worldwide, we strive to develop a network of volunteers around the globe who help Bulgarians in need of life-saving treatment abroad. Insufficient information, language barriers, lack of cultural understanding and obstacles in arranging suitable accommodation and transportation are some of the common challenges our patients need to overcome during this stressful time.

Our volunteers are currently based in Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Greece, Austria, Spain, the Netherlands and many more EU countries, as well as the US, Canada and South America. They provide information and local support to patients and their families, help them by interpreting and explaining how to cope with administrative obstacles when needed. Furthermore, they provide emotional support and a degree of familiarity in an otherwise unfamiliar situation for the patients who often feel isolated and at the mercy of an unknown society and healthcare system. In doing so, we also bridge the gap between the patient and the local healthcare professionals and wider community.

In the six years since our founding, we have had more than 500 unique inquiries not only from patients seeking treatment abroad, but also, more recently, from healthcare providers across Europe striving to communicate with their Bulgarian patients.

The fact that all we do is purely voluntary, with neither funding nor profit for any of us, has been met with much incredulity over the years: "Now you'll say you're doing it out of love!". Well yes, we are. And we will continue to do so - out of love and the conviction that quality European healthcare is worth every effort.

Website: <http://lekuvam.se/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lekuvamse/>

Other social media: https://www.instagram.com/treatment_without_borders/,
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/treatment-without-borders>



CROATIA – SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Summer Universities (SU) are summer events that are organised for young Europeans by young Europeans. They take place all over the continent, stretching from Russia to Spain and from Cyprus to the UK. The whole project is coordinated and implemented by AEGEE / the European Students' Forum, Europe's largest interdisciplinary student association, which is open to all young people. Summer Universities are entirely based on the work of volunteers and receive very little to no institutional financial support.

The Summer University Project follows a unique approach of combining intercultural exchange with means of non-formal education that cover topics of utmost importance to the young generation and the future of the European Project. Organisers and participants alike dive into local culture and widen their horizons on societal issues while creating new friendships.

With thematics ranging from, sustainability to social inclusion and from photography to languages. The project's ultimate aim is to create active citizens, who stand up for a united and fair Europe, who fight for their future and feel part of a whole. Summer Universities create lasting friendships across Europe and share knowledge of places that would otherwise never have happened. Summer Universities have been taking place each year since 1988. In 2019 ca. 2.000 participants attended a SU who all had an amazing time and felt more European than ever before.

The Summer Universities follow one motto: Some call it Europe; we call it home.

Website: www.aegee.eu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AEGEE.SU>

Other social media: https://www.instagram.com/aegee_su/,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCns5PV1ImTRYpK3W9M-gXRg>



CYPRUS – Kofinou ExCHANGE

In a world abounded with asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants there is an urgent need to develop young current and future European citizens with salient human social abilities, such as empathy. However, there seems to be a mismatch between theory and practice.

To set targets in line with theory, educational institutions have to act in a coordinated fashion by redesigning education around volunteering, social integration, and international understanding.

Kofinou ExCHANGE aims to bring together students and teachers from a high school, Kykkos Lyceum, in Paphos, Cyprus, with children of refugees hosted at the Kofinou Accommodation and Reception Centre.

The idea behind the partnership is in line with the vision of the Kykkos Lyceum and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth in Cyprus, which strives to promote innovation and excellence in intercultural perception and develop competences for lifelong learning and volunteering, through involvement in several EU projects.

This partnership will create a powerful synergy among an interdisciplinary pool of instructors, professors, students and refugee children that will drive the youth to successfully accomplish their goals and instigate long-term, sustainable networking to further enrich and expand their activities.

Social media, such as Facebook, were used to promote the project and increase its visibility to the public and all interested educational stakeholders.

Kykkos Lyceum is a high school located in Paphos, Cyprus, which presents rich and wide extracurricular activities. Cyprus is an island where people have experienced and continue to experience particularly challenging situations, which have made the islanders sharply aware of refugee issues.

Currently, due to its location in the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus accepts refugees and migrants from Syria and other neighbouring countries on a daily basis. Thousands of refugees and migrants have arrived on our island in recent years looking for security and better living conditions. In light of this, school students and teachers visit the Centre regularly and help refugee children as well as adults to be integrated into the European culture, by learning the Greek language, getting to know the host culture, providing opportunities for entertainment, teaching communication skills and generally trying to contribute to the easier and smoothest integration of these people into our own society.

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This project is the first volunteer project that involves students of at least 16 years of age visiting the Centre and developing intercultural skills. The partners of the project have already established a dissemination and exploitation plan for further activities, such as the organisation of seminars, a conference, and networking with other schools on a local, national and European level.

Website: <http://lyk-kykkos-paf.schools.ac.cy>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/%CE%9B%CF%85%CE%BA%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%BF-%CE%9A%CF%8D%CE%BA%CE%BA%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%A0%CE%91%CE%A6%CE%9F%CE%A5-105021121069966>



CZECH REPUBLIC – Regional Selection Conferences in Tábor and Uherské Hradiště 2019

The Regional Selection Conference is a concept consisting of two three-day sessions held every year in autumn in different parts of the Czech Republic. The first one took place between 31st October and 3rd November in Tábor and from 21st to 24th November 2019 in Uherské Hradiště. A total of about 250 participants took part in this project, including 180 students aged 15 to 18 from secondary schools throughout the whole Czech Republic. The pupils were accompanied by their teachers and the programme of each conference was facilitated by 70 members of the international volunteer team from all over Europe. The official language of the conferences is English.

The whole project stands on four basic pillars: teambuilding, committee work, the General Assembly and the accompanying programme. Students spent all these parts of the programme with their committee under the supervision of experienced facilitators. The first part of the programme, teambuilding, usually has two parts: general teambuilding and teambuilding in committees. The main purpose of the general teambuilding is to welcome all students and acquaint them with all teams of facilitators as well as with other participants. Then follows the teambuilding in committees, where students divided into nine committees meet their team members and create a friendly and safe environment, which is crucial for further cooperation. In the second part, committee work, each group focuses on their topic, discussing it together, identifying key issues and looking for solutions. Then the whole output is summarised in a resolution, a document that contains the most important identifiers of the problems and their suggested solutions. Each committee has the opportunity to present and defend its resolution at the General Assembly, where all participants can discuss it and then vote on its adoption.

The accompanying program serves for participants primarily as an opportunity to get to know their peers and cultures from other countries, which also makes it easier to reach a consensus when working in committees. For example, at every conference there is held a so-called Eurovillage, an evening programme during which participants present their country through typical dishes, costumes or music. Another component of the accompanying program, panel debate, depends on the umbrella topic of the conference. The umbrella topic and thus the topic of the panel debate was the environment and tackling climate change in Tábor, and education and reform of the educational system in Uherské Hradiště.

Our goal is to show the reasons why students should be interested in the world around us and inspire them to become active citizens. It is important that young people are able to form their opinions and are not afraid to present them. According to our point of view, this leads to the creation of a politically active and conscious society, which is a crucial element of democracy.

Website: www.eypcz.cz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eypcz>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eypcz>



DENMARK – Odense 2019 - 3rd National Session - "Discovering New Shores", EYP Denmark

Discovering New Shores - Broadening the view on EU procedures to young people.

Between the 14th and the 16th of February 2019, the 3rd national session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) took place. Around 100 young Europeans from many different countries gathered to discuss and debate with the aim of taking action and creating solutions for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The session was arranged by Philip Kardell, 19, Andreas Brunebjerg Jørgensen, 20, and Louise Huynh, 21. Together with a team of young Europeans they managed to fundraise enough money to make the session come true. EYP Denmark is driven by voluntary hands of young people, and this means that the people involved have to balance both EYP, studies, and work.

The motto of the 3rd national session of EYP Denmark was "Discovering new shores" and incorporated many issues mentioned in today's news. Thus, topics such as the development of Copenhagen as a climate-neutral city and self-driving cars were discussed.

The delegates were encouraged to take part in the discussion, both in committee work where they discuss the topics and their views on the cases in smaller groups and, at the end of the session, in the General Assembly, where the delegates are given the opportunity to present their resolutions, and to hold speeches such as opening speech, defend speeches and attack speeches.

By this, the delegates' abilities to speak in public and in front of other people using formal English to present factual content are strengthened.

EYP is a European organization founded in 1987 in Fontainebleau, France, yet is still a fairly new concept in Denmark, as it was recognized in 2017 and passed its probation year and became a full member of the EYP umbrella organization on April 13th 2018. Since then, there have been arranged varying sessions, both national and regional sessions, and delegates and officials have been invited from all over Europe, just as EYP Denmark has sent delegates and officials to participate in sessions abroad.

The session in Odense in February 2019 was the third national session. In addition to this, the third regional session of EYP Denmark was organized in October 2019 in Sønderborg in Southern Jutland. This session showed some of the impact the national session has had, as people who were introduced to EYP for the first time in Odense also participated in this event as officials.

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One major focus EYP Denmark also had on the session in Odense was the impact on climate such a session has. Through a cooperation with a climate protection agency, EYP Denmark and the Head Organizers took action and cared about the climate, made sure speeches about the topic were made and informed the delegates that their carbon waste was being measured. Everything done so that, in the end, it was possible to regain climate neutrality via help from the climate protection agency.

EYP Denmark also received a certificate proving the status of the organization and the session specifically.

Website: <https://eypdk.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eypdenmark/>

Other social media: Instagram: @eypdanmark



ESTONIA – Summer University: Time Travel Through the Flatlands

In July 2019, AEGEE-Tartu organised an international summer university “Time Travel Through the Flatlands” which focused on the historical and political situation of Europe since the Second World War. The summer university was brought to life in collaboration with AEGEE-Eindhoven.

Out of tens of AEGEE summer universities, the one that AEGEE-Tartu organized was special due to its set focus on the political and historical topics, and the international scope of the different locations visited.

The topic of the summer university was introduced to participants by using the means of non-formal education. Trainer Roberto Meneghetti, assigned by the Politics Interest Group of AEGEE-Europe, facilitated workshops and guided the participants through the complicated history of Europe.

In addition to the workshops, we visited places which had an historical significance and were related to the content of the project. That served the purpose of combining both theoretical knowledge as well as a practical approach to reach to a deeper level of understanding.

Coming from different countries and background systems, we might take our own socio-political situation for granted.

Our project aimed to create a dialogue between the participants as representatives of different countries. The workshops were an open and safe space for them to express their views on the situation in their country as well as hear about others.

“Time Travel Through the Flatlands” gathered around 50 people in total, either as participants, organisers, helpers, or trainers. The age range was 18-34, with most involved people in their early 20s. We had representatives from 11 different nations (Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Malta, Russian Federation, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Germany, Finland) and during the course of the event we visited four different countries (Estonia, Latvia, Belgium, the Netherlands).

As an outcome of the project, the participants now have a broader understanding of the history of the (post)-soviet world in comparison to the history of western Europe.

The project was entirely planned and organised by volunteers active in AEGEE, meaning that the project team nor the helpers received no financial gain from implementing the project. Recognition by the Charlemagne Youth Prize would be the highest possible appreciation for the volunteers for all their dedication and hard work. The monetary output of the prize would be highly beneficial for implementing similar projects in the future.

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Winning the prize would give us a chance to draw attention to the regions that were deeply affected by the Soviet system and are now recovering and gaining value again from being a periphery. It is a great possibility to remind the public that history needs to be remembered and used as a learning point.

Website: <https://aegee-tartu.ee/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aegee.tartu/>



FINLAND – JEF-Finland's Castle Seminar

JEF-Finland is an NGO for young people under 29 years of age whose activities have their roots in the 1990s. The organisation is politically and religiously unaffiliated and its purpose has always been to act as a pro-European force. The aim of our activities is to promote awareness of European integration and its impact, and to act as a forum for debate and a channel through which young people interested in European affairs can exert influence.

At national level, we organise events, carry out public information work and explore new avenues in public debate. Our active regional organisations all over Finland are the backbone of our work. At international level, we form part of the pan-European organisation Young European Federalists (JEF-Europe).

In one form or another, JEF-Europe has operated as a force bringing young people together since the 1950s. In its current form, it was founded in 1972. International activities through JEF-Europe provide numerous opportunities to participate in political opinion-forming and in seminars organised in various parts of Europe. The threshold for participation in activities has also been made low, so that every young person who is interested can get involved. We are hoping to receive an award for our project 'Europe after the elections', organised in 2019. The project comprised three strands: JEF-Finland's large-scale seminar, 'The Castle Seminar - Europe after the elections', and publicity campaigns in support of the seminar. JEF-Finland's Castle Seminars are a long-standing tradition; they have been held for more than 20 years.

Over the years, the seminars have grown from an event bringing together several dozen young people into a major three-day event, in which, in 2019, 150 participants took part, together with many leading experts. The participants comprise young people and students from Finland, representatives of organisations, Finns studying abroad, and young Europeans participating in the event through the JEF-Europe network.

The main theme of the seminar was 'Europe after the elections' - and we dealt from many points of view with the future of Europe, the outcome of the European elections held in the spring, the forthcoming new Commission and the Multiannual Financial Framework. We devoted particular attention to the role of climate change as a major issue for the future. The debate was stimulated by our excellent speakers, who included Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, Yannick Lahti (a researcher at the University of Bologna) and Outi Honkatukia, Finland's chief climate negotiator.

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As an event, JEF-Finland's Castle Seminar promotes European integration and opportunities for young people to exert influence internationally by informing young people and giving them role models and a community in which they can work for a better Europe.

Website: <http://eurooppanuoret.fi/>

Facebook: Eurooppanuoret (JEF-Finland)

Twitter: @Eurooppanuoret

Other social media: Instagram: eurooppanuoret



FRANCE – Moving towards a European civic service

The Collective for a European Civic Service (CSCE), an association governed by French law, wishes to help all young Europeans to engage in civic service by volunteering both at home and in another Member State of the Union. In so doing, the Collective intends to address the EU's major societal challenges, particularly the climate and environmental emergency, while paving the way for active European citizenship.

We propose an innovative solution to overcoming the difficulties besetting Europe's bodies and mechanisms, namely:

- (a) the fact that only highly qualified, well-informed, well-off and mobile people participate,
- (b) delays in the assignment of European Solidarity Corps (ESC) missions;
- (c) reticence on the part of associations to participate in mechanisms they see as clunky and unwieldy;
- (d) the lack of coordination – even, at times, competition – between national civic services and the ESC.

Our proposal is twofold, based on two pillars, aiming to open up the possibility of mobility within Europe to all young people, in particular the most deprived amongst them.

The first pillar is operational in nature: testing a scheme for linking, for the first time, national civic services and the ESC. This one-year pilot project will be launched in the cross-border 'Greater Luxembourg' region in September 2020, and comprise around a hundred volunteers (1).

The second is political in nature and aims to get the Member States with most volunteers and the European Union cooperating on civic service and European mobility (2).

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1) Our scheme constitutes a mixed civic service, enabling young volunteers to ally a local assignment (six months of national civic service) with a European assignment (six months at the ESC).

The entire project is transnational in scope, with the volunteers organised in multinational cohorts. From the first day of their local experience, the volunteers will be immersed in an international environment and will also be provided language courses and/or language workshops, in order to prepare for their mobility assignment abroad. To that end, we have chosen first-rate operational partners: Unis-Cité (France), Citizen Service Network (Belgium), Service National de la Jeunesse (Luxembourg), DFÖJ-KUR and Haus der offenen Tür (Rhineland - Germany), Spohns haus and Zentrum für Freiwilligendienste (Saarland - Germany).

2) With a view to raising awareness of the project and to maximising its expected benefits, the CSCE is currently working with the European institutions to prepare a pilot project based on this new youth mobility scheme.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CollectifSCE>

Other social media: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/le-service-civique-européen>



GERMANY – European Archive of Voices

The European Archive of Voices is an initiative that aims to gather personal and public oral history accounts from intellectuals throughout Europe who were born before 1945.

To compile the collection, we deployed an international team of young interviewers to hold conversations with their older compatriots in their mother tongues, inviting them to reminisce, reflect on how Europe has shaped their lives, offer their thoughts on the continent's past and future, and share their hopes and fears.

By 'Europe', we mean not only the Member States of the European Union, but all countries belonging, geographically and historically, to the continent of Europe. Our young interviewers therefore come from the following countries, among others:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The interviews produced by each pair, one for each of these countries, will be stored in the archive. The European Archive of Voices that will be built up from these conversations will be made public via an interactive website (archiveofvoices.eu), a touring exhibition and publications. The initiative was the brainchild of 'Arbeit an Europa e.V.', an association of young German writers, journalists and academics.

Website: <https://arbeitaneuropa.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/arbeitaneuropa

Twitter: twitter.com/arbeitaneuropa

Other social media: archiveofvoices.eu



GREECE – 13th EFPSA European Summer School - Communication & Learning in the Digital Age

The European Summer School is a 7-day event, organized through the European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations (EFPSA), bringing European Psychology students and academics together, and promoting scientific research, inter-European collaboration and cultural exchange.

36 undergraduate or postgraduate European Psychology students have the chance to become junior researchers, meaning they can join one of six intercultural research projects, each one proposed and supervised by a PhD or Postdoctoral student or graduate.

These projects begin during the Summer School and are run by the students for the next 12 months under EFPSA's Research Programme.

The Research Programme is operated by EFPSA student volunteers, who provide guidance and support to the 6 research teams while they are working online towards implementing their research. The progress and results of the projects can be presented at other EFPSA events, and the final work can be published in the Journal of European Psychology Students.

In 2019, the European Summer School was organized by a group of Greek students between 8-15 July in Serres, Greece under the theme of "Communication and Learning in the Digital Age". 35 psychology students and 6 PhD students or graduates from a total of 18 countries participated.

During the week, the participants started developing their research projects and planning their work for the next year, and, of course, got to know each other personally and culturally through a multifaceted social programme, key-factor to a smooth collaboration. The projects, currently ongoing, are the following:

1. Social networking sites, social comparisons, and adolescent identity development
2. The effect of internet use on students' monitoring accuracy of the time spent on solving logic tasks
3. Excessive internet use and academic performance: Role of digital multitasking
4. The Uncanny Valley phenomenon across cultures: Graphic realism and empathy in viewers of video games characters
5. Fiction and empathy in the digital age: The effects of digital and non-digital modes of fiction-engagement on empathic abilities
6. Usability and feasibility of a Schema Therapy based self-help mobile application for depressive symptoms.

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The aims of the whole Research Programme are multidimensional. Firstly, it is clearly aimed at providing psychology students with the opportunity of conducting research from start to finish at an early stage of their academic career and providing the supervisors with important preliminary teaching and supervisory experience. Each research project is conducted by 6 students from different backgrounds, hence important emphasis is given to the intercultural aspect of the programme; the promotion of intercultural research and fostering a model that not only encourages European collaboration, but also deems it pivotal and necessary.

The ultimate goal is to produce new knowledge about the world and create something that will be of benefit for people.

Website: <https://www.efpsa.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EFPSA>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EFPSA>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/efpsa>

<https://www.instagram.com/efpsa>



HUNGARY – HERE WE ARE

HERE WE ARE is a transnational youth initiative connecting two mixed ability groups in Hungary and Portugal to work for (to promote) the inclusion of young people living with disabilities, which has been running for more than two years.

Young people living with disabilities still face countless barriers and exclusion when it comes to their daily lives and the majority society is often blind to these challenges. The project aimed for giving opportunity to the members of the informal groups to organise their own events, campaigns and media communication to bring attention to the matters and importance of inclusion, while developing their competences and empowering themselves through the co-operation.

The groups organised more than 12 high-visibility activities focusing on the life of young people living with disabilities – e.g. wheelchair flash mob, alternative fashion show, sensitization in schools, escape game with changed abilities etc. – beside attending regular group meeting and transnational meetings. The implemented activities and the amount of people involved in these, the group process, the documentation of the activities, videos, blog entries, media and social media appearances and a project manual including the testimonies of the participants are all results of this co-operation.

Website: www.egyutthato.eu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EgyuttHato>

<https://www.instagram.com/egyutthato/?hl=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/hereweare2017>



IRELAND – EYP 2019/2020 - Engaging Youth in Politics

It is our mission in the European Youth Parliament Ireland to develop an interest in European issues in young people in Ireland. We seek to empower the youth to question the world around them and come up with innovative solutions to global problems while emphasising concepts of cooperation and respect.

In order to do this we facilitate a running series of events designed to bring young people aged 15 to 18 from different backgrounds together. The aim is to inspire them to become engaged with politics and current affairs by simulating the European Parliament.

They learn about topical issues, European politics and culture and debate appropriate solutions. They also get the chance to interact with international students, have a dialogue with politicians, talk to engaged university students (the volunteers) in an array of disciplines and share their work with a wider community.

Website: <http://www.eyp.ie>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EYPIreland>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/EYP_Ireland

<https://www.instagram.com/eypireland/?hl=en>



ITALY – LET'S BIM - Bee International Meetup

The Bee International project was set up by a group of young volunteers from various countries in the European Union to facilitate gatherings of employees from the whole of Europe by means of themed training courses aimed at promoting the social and intercultural integration of people who are forced to move to another town or city because of their work.

We want our project to be an example for Europeans across the continent and elsewhere in the world of how to be united in diversity. We have a weekly event entitled 'LET'S BIM! Bee International Meetup', which emphasises mobility and culture as key factors in gaining knowledge about Europe and the world.

As a way of achieving greater understanding, awareness and appreciation of Europe's environment, we organise cultural PowerPoint presentations – 'Share your country' – because we believe that culture has an important role to play in promoting mutual understanding and creating a dialogue between countries, enabling individual Europeans to greet, get to know and appreciate each other and support each other without prejudice.

Website: www.beeinternational.it

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bergamointernationalmeetup/>

Other social media: <https://vimeo.com/393012135>



LATVIA – Ventspils'19 - 17th National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament Latvia

Last year, we had chosen Ventspils as the location for the 17th National Selection Conference of EYP Latvia.

The session took place from the 12th of August until the 19th of August 2019 (Note the project length included in the application features organizational matters that took place before the actual event as well). It gathered around 150 participants from different European countries.

The main theme of the session was “Healthy Europe: Growth Through Understanding”. We wanted to raise awareness of topics that are often forgotten in within the youth of Europe, focusing on different health issues within the European Union.

The event consisted of three main elements: Team building, Committee work and the General assembly.

Team Building determined how well the participants were able to cooperate with each other. It was important that they get to know each other as soon as possible to be able to discuss the assigned problem and find creative solutions. The concept of Team Building was first created in 1970s in France, and always happens in the first two days of the conference.

Committee Work was the part of the conference where participants tried to understand the details of the assigned problem and create potential solutions. Prior to coming to the conference all participants were highly advised to do some initial background research to be able to fully participate. The research continued throughout the session, and was one of the main tasks of the Committee Work, as well as discussions and evaluation of the proposed solutions. An important activity of Committee Work was preparing a resolution which is the main deliverable of the conference, and is used to present the committee's work in front of other delegates.

The most important part of the conference was the General Assembly. During the General Assembly committees had a chance to present their resolutions and answer the questions proposed by the members of other committees. This gave participants the chance for all participants to get a brief insight in all problems and critically evaluate other people's work.

The main objectives of the project were to develop access to non-formal education for young people. In order to facilitate the success of the event and to be able to critically evaluate the quality of the event, three main objectives were identified:

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- (1) Ensure a high level of preparedness for the General Assembly at the 17th National Conference of the European Youth Parliament in Latvia
- (2) Enable each member to develop and test debating skills during the 17th National Assembly of the European Youth Parliament in Latvia;
- (3) Establish long-term feedback so that the knowledge gained, and the views developed during the event can be further developed.

https://www.facebook.com/Ventspils19/?modal=admin_todo_tour



LITHUANIA – Think Fresh - Regional and National Conferences of European Youth Parliament Lithuania

The project gathered approximately 150 young minds from across Europe and Lithuania to learn about the European Union's role in shaping the future of its citizens.

The project targeted two goals:

- to empower European youth by teaching them about their role in European law-making and
- to teach them how to best utilize their voice

It was achieved through two events; one which gathered young minds to learn about the EU's role in shaping the future of its citizens and the other through an event where participants assembled to creatively solve the issues they were given.

Website: <http://eypl.lt/lt>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EYPLithuania>

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LUXEMBOURG – As an EU citizen...

Organisation: Maison des Jeunes Gasperich (Youth Club Gasperich)

Website: http://inter-actions.lu/type_portfolio/maison-des-jeunes-de-gasperich

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Maison-de-Jeunes-Gasperich-304713013723527>

As part of its youth work and more specifically to raise awareness of what European citizenship means, Inter-Actions asbl's Youth Club Gasperich has launched a project called 'As an EU citizen...'. This is an over-arching project which combines two individual projects with one single theme. The aim is: firstly, to highlight the diverse cultural roots of Europe's common history in the 'Europe Between the Lines' project; and, secondly, to show, through Europe's youth, the wealth of social diversity which exists in the European Union through which its peoples are united. This second project is called "Just a Perfect Day".



MALTA – European Civic Education

European Civic Education is all about teaching young learners about the European Union, what it is, how it affects their life and its benefits. This Programme has at its heart the dissemination of information about the European Union with the ultimate aim of promoting a more united and democratic Europe through education of the younger generation.

Even though these sessions alone are not enough to fully showcase the importance and benefits of the EU, they serve as a great stepping stone for the younger generation to feel closer to the European Project and hopefully spark an interest in European Affairs.

Moreover, this project proves to supplement the Maltese syllabi as there is lack of knowledge concerning the European Union in Maltese Primary and Secondary schools.

Facebook: JEF Malta



POLAND – Participation of first-time voters during European Parliament elections

The main motivation to undertake this project was to improve voter turnout during 2019 European Parliament Elections, mostly among young people in Poland, especially among those who would participate in the elections for the first time (as stated in the project title).

Nevertheless, we knew that values promoted in our project are both actual and important for any EU country. That is why we decided to expand our field of project recipients also to an international audience.

Our project consisted of 3 lesser interrelated projects:

1. The scientific seminar, organised consequently every year by our organisation as a part of Global Elections Day Celebration in February 2019; this year's edition was focused on developing knowledge about procedures and importance of the upcoming EU Parliament Elections and was directed to almost 200 Polish high-school students – people who would be allowed to vote for the very first time.

2. The project "My voice, Your choice, Our Europe" that consisted of two Social Media Video Spots: the international one - in which students from different EU Countries, as volunteers, shared their opinion about the importance of the EU Parliament Elections; and another one - directed mostly to Polish audience. The International project was widely promoted in Social Media around the Europe. Both video spots together reached the audience of approximately 16 000 people.

Links to the videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/sknpwElektor/videos/2306988259556798>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z67HDXH6QOg>

3. The 6th Edition of Scientific Conference "Challenges of modern election law: European Parliament Elections" in which we shared our observations, conclusions and opinions with representatives of different academic institutions and election experts, about how to successfully improve the voter turnout. The conference hosted almost 100 participants in total. More details about every part of this project are listed in Long Description.

In total:

- Our project helped to develop European Identity among Polish youth, by showing them how much we owe to European Union and why it is important to actively participate in the European Parliament Elections.
- Our actions addressed to international society show that no matter in which EU country you live in, we all have common problems to face and the same responsibilities to take – that is why every European citizen should participate in the European Parliament Elections.
- We managed to run a very complicated project based only on a voluntary work.

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- We managed to run a project in cooperation with young representatives of many European Union Countries, such as: Italy, Romania, France, Germany, Spain or United Kingdom.
- We reached to the very big audience without spending any funds on marketing – over 300 hundred spectators in person and over 16000 viewers online. We would also like to declare, that we were never awarded in any competition organised by the EU.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sknpwElektor



PORTUGAL – Coimbra 2019 - International Forum

Organization: European Youth Parliament Portugal - PEJ Portugal

In August 2019, the Portuguese city of Coimbra welcomed around 90 higher education students from all over Europe. With the indispensable collaboration of numerous European volunteers, this event counted with the participation of around 140 youngsters, in total.

Under the topic “Past the Present: a Strategic Agenda for 2030”, this international forum aimed to give its participants the unique opportunity to contribute to the position of youth in the discussion of concrete measures to be implemented in the most varied European and global issues. In addition, it created an opportunity for participants to get to know other cultures and create bonds with people from all participating countries.

During these days, participants were invited to enjoy a program full of debate and space for a constant exchange of ideas, as well as moments of cultural sharing and exchange. In the end, everyone showed a marked improvement in their ability to work under pressure, manage deadlines, mediate conflicts and achieve goals as members of multicultural teams, develop logical reasoning and defend them eloquently.

As with all events promoted by the European Youth Parliament Portugal, the session had English as its working language and featured moments of Team Building, Commission Work and General Assembly. The European Youth Parliament Portugal (EYP Portugal) is one of 40 organisations that exist across Europe and that, together, form the European Youth Parliament (EYP). EYP Portugal is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation, managed by young people on a voluntary basis. With objectives in the area of education, its mission is to develop young people's interest in political and social discussion, as well as in the democratic decision-making process.

Website: www.pejportugal.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EYPPortugal/>

Other social media: <https://www.instagram.com/eypportugal/>



ROMANIA – Bucharest EU Children’s Declaration

Organization: Romanian Children’s Board

“We, children, represent 20 percent of the total of EU citizens. One cannot ignore such a substantial proportion of the population in the decision-making process,” those are the words of Rares; a member of the Romanian Children’s Board, who initiated the “Bucharest EU Children’s Declaration”, the first child-led manifesto of its kind in the world.

Through this document, children and youth are urging European leaders to consult and involve them when making decisions that regard their future, be it on environment, on education or on the community they live in.

“Make child participation a priority and a reality”, reads the document. Developed during a period of 5 months, the process for the “Bucharest EU Children’s Declaration” started back in January 2019, when during online and offline workshops, the Romanian Children’s Board put together the preliminary version.

Afterwards, the document had been disseminated across Europe, for support and feedback from children and adolescents from all over Europe, including child rights experts from different institutions and international organizations.

After thirty years that have passed since the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by all EU countries, the Children’s Board used these months to highlight and push the agenda forward regarding the application of Article 12, which stipulates the right of all children to be heard and have their views considered in accordance with their age and maturity.

One of the key messages: “We should all have the right to participate, regardless of age, gender, origin, ethnicity, and ability. We should be learning how to be inclusive and support each other in an environment that is prepared to listen to all children and youth.” aims to transpose the voice of 1 in 5 European citizens into a tangible call for a renewal of the policy-making process when it comes to the perspective of children’s voices.

Through the Declaration we commend any authority at community, regional, national or EU level willing to seek our opinions, but our desires go forward, to providing all children with the possibility of being part of a process that is structured, continuous, meaningful, respectful and protective of our rights, values and, most importantly, our input.

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Through this important document we are asking that child participation becomes a horizontal principle guiding the investments made by the EU. We stand for participation, as we believe that this is one of the ways to make us better citizens in a better and inclusive Europe.

“We are more than our ad hoc presence at public events and the nice pictures of us smiling together with decision makers”.

That was the motto that guided the adaptation of the Declaration at the end of the “Children's Participation in Decision-Making and Policy-Making at European Union level” international conference, organized in Bucharest on 6th and 7th of May, 2019.

More than 60 children from 16 countries across the EU and representatives took part.

Website: <https://www.unicef.org/romania/bucharest-eu-childrens-declaration>

Facebook:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10157178238884788&id=333606539787



SLOVAKIA – MEMS Slovakia

MEMS Slovakia was a part of the Pan-European project My Europe My Say, which was organized by the world scout organization WOSM and the European Students' Forum AEGEE, supported by the Erasmus+ programme.

MEMS Slovakia was actively participating and implementing the project's idea in Slovakia. The main objective was to motivate people to vote in the forthcoming election to the European Parliament, as the participation was the lowest from all EU countries in all previous elections since Slovakia became a member.

It focused on expanding the youth's knowledge about the EU, motivating them to be active citizens, raising the interest in politics in their community and generally, and leading them towards critical thinking.

The organization covering this project in Slovakia is the national scout organization Scouting Slovakia, which has over 7000 members. This makes it one of the biggest educational organizations for children and youth in Slovakia. Its aim is to lead youth towards personal development, progress and acquiring moral values using the so-called scout educational method.

The MEMS Slovakia project was active for 4 months, during which we were trying to spread awareness with the use of discussions, articles, competitions, activities for the public, programme for scouts etc.

We also cooperated with the ThisTimeIamVoting initiative, which was running under the auspices of the European Commission representation in Slovakia. By our project we affected more than 19 000 people, it had impact on all regions of Slovakia, in accordance with the nationwide operations of Scouting Slovakia.

Website: www.skauting.sk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/slovensky.skauting>



SLOVENIA – Ljubljana 2019 - 5th National Selection Conference of EYP Slovenia

Društvo Evropski mladinski parlament Slovenije (EMPS) is the Slovenian branch of a Europe-wide network called the European Youth Parliament (EYP). EMPS is a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit Slovenian youth organisation, officially founded in 2012. It is led by young people for young people as a non-formal educational platform. Through its annual activities - conferences, volunteer training events and informal gatherings - it promotes democracy, shapes active young citizens who are interested in current worldwide affairs and provides young people with the opportunity to shape their own personal opinions on important matters and develop themselves and their personal skills.

The aforementioned events bring together young Europeans between the ages of 15 and 25 from different European countries and reach more than 600 youngsters annually. All events are planned, organised and managed solely by young volunteers who aim to provide their peers with the best possible experience of a non-formal educational programme without receiving any financial payment themselves.

Participants at our events, who are mainly high school and university students, are divided into international working groups, where they discuss, debate and seek for solutions to current issues Europe is facing. EMPS organises its events all over Slovenia with the view of reaching as many young people as possible as inclusion is a very important pillar of our organisation.

The European Youth Parliament is a unique educational platform that empowers young people from across Europe to be open minded, active citizens. It provides participants with a forum to develop and express their opinions on a wide range of topics. By bringing young people from different backgrounds closer together, it also promotes intercultural dialogue and exchange.

Through our activities, our EYP participants and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to positively shape the world around them. The EYP network has an open, safe and welcoming environment - run by young people, for young people. Offering a range of non-formal and peer-led educational activities, the EYP provides young people with the space to grow, learn various skills, as well as to take responsibility for themselves and for others.

Every year, more than 3500 young volunteers implement EYP activities across Europe, acting as moderators, organisers and facilitators during events. Moreover, young people jointly steer our organisation at large and shape the future of the programme. The main activities of the European Youth Parliament are "sessions".

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These events bring together over 30000 young people per year to discuss, build mutual understanding, and gain expertise. EYP sessions vary in length, from two hours to ten days. Debates cover a wide range of topics often related to international politics or human rights, but also including fields such as climate change, health and energy.

<https://eyp.org>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/ljubljana2019>

<https://twitter.com/eypslovenia?lang=en>

<https://www.instagram.com/eypslovenia>



SPAIN – EUducation: A Different Approach

Our project goes beyond traditional theoretical approaches in order to reach the teenagers who will shape the future of Europe in ways that excite and engage them. It is based on the idea that ‘when one teaches, two learn’ and, as a result, is led by our Junior Ambassadors.

From what they learn in expert talks, workshops and class, they are able to project the idea that the EU matters in their lives by developing innovative activities that engage their peers in a cooperative and active way, examples being; an escape room, a flashmob, a MEU and an art contest.

We believe this project is being highly effective in raising interest in Europe within our community. Part of an ongoing programme, it targets all year levels and goes well beyond the walls of our school thanks to the website, social networks, radio programs and etwinning projects.

Website: <https://ambassadorsfalla.wixsite.com/ourproject>

Facebook: Ambassadors Falla

Twitter: @ambassadorfalla

Instagram: @ambassadorsfalla



SWEDEN – Youth conferences of EYP Sweden

Starting spring 2019 and continuing until spring of 2020 the organisation European Youth Parliament (EYP) Sweden arranges the project “Youth conferences of EYP Sweden” to educate young swedes and Europeans in European politics and to let them debate real political issues of today.

The aim of the project is to create a platform for Swedish and invited youth from other European countries to learn about the EU and debate issues that the EU are working on. The project is also a platform for young people to explore their opinions and try them out in a setting of cultural exchange.

The goal of the project is to help developing active young European citizens. We believe that through intercultural dialogue, debating European issues of today and to learn more about Europe and European politics we can help shaping the leaders of tomorrow and get more young people to take an active role in politics and democracy.

Four regional conferences in four different cities in Sweden were held throughout November 2019 and a big national conference (with international delegates) will be held in March 2020.

All the conferences are for youth by youth, meaning that all volunteers and all the planning is done by young Europeans. The conferences are a simulation of the work of the European Parliament. The young participants are mixed into groups that represent actual committees of the parliament.

Each committee works on a specific political issue relating to for example climate, democracy, youth participation and social justice. The goal is for the committee to write a resolution on their academic topic. On the last day of the conference, there is a General Assembly where each resolution is debated and voted on.

The academic work is mixed with fun, informal activities with the goal to create a European community through cultural exchange. Eurovillage is a concept where delegates and volunteers are asked to bring food from their country and where the participants are given the opportunity to mingle and have fun.

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The conferences give the delegates a network of people all over Europe and hopefully friends for life. Each conference is planned and carried out by young project leaders with a team of organisers.

At the conferences, young volunteers from all over Europe is leading the committees, the debates and external communication. In total, the five conferences have 250 delegates and 50 international young volunteers. Five organising teams of in total 40 young people planned and carried out the conferences. 32 European political issues are debated and 32 resolutions are written.

In sum, the project "Youth conferences of EYP Sweden" is a platform for young Europeans to meet and explore their opinions on different political issues of today in a setting of cultural exchange.

Through international cooperation we want to foster a European community of young people and give them a network all over our continent.

Website: <https://eup.se/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rseypsweden/>

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

Other social media: @eupsverige at Instagram



THE NETHERLANDS – European Deaf Youth Capital 2019

In 2019, Groningen is European Deaf Youth Capital!

In 2015, the European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY) introduced the European Deaf Youth Capital (EDYC).

The purpose was to publicise local youth clubs for the deaf and to familiarise deaf young people in Europe with those clubs.

Previously, activities were always organised at European or national level. Now local youth clubs for the deaf have a chance to show what their towns have to offer!

For a particular period, their town is a European hub: European deaf young people opt to follow a programme and to exchange knowledge and experience with them.

In 2018, the local youth club for the deaf in Groningen volunteered to organise EDYC for 2019.

The slogan of EDYC 2019 is short and to the point: Nothing beats deaf. It is derived from the slogan adopted by the city of Groningen: Nothing beats Groningen.

By means of this slogan we wanted to highlight the abilities of deaf young people as trainers, entrepreneurs, travellers, role models, stars and many other things besides.

On the basis of the slogan, a programme was drawn up which was very varied and had something to offer to everybody who was interested in visiting Groningen, whatever their age.

Our deaf role models were taken from all corners of Europe, they were role models for other visitors, and EDYC was an ideal opportunity for these role models to network with one another.

Website: www.edyc2019.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EDYC2019>

<https://www.instagram.com/edyc2019>



UNITED KINGDOM - The Future is Europe - Madeleina Kay

In 2019 I completed a tour of the EU28, promoting the hashtag #TheFutureisEurope. The outcomes from my project include a book and a 42-minute documentary, both titled 'The Future is Europe', and a music video called 'Always on the Road'.

The aim of my 'EU Supergirl Tour' project was to achieve the European Cultural Foundation (ECF)'s mission statement, to 'promote a European sentiment' and to tell the story of the activists across the EU who are fighting for the future of Europe. My 'EU Supergirl Tour' project was funded by a combination of a grant awarded by the ECF and crowdfunding. Additional time was given voluntarily to produce the book and documentary after the tour was completed. In total, I raised £7488 through crowdfunding to support the project and the printing of the book manuscript. The ECF awarded me a 'Democracy Needs Imagination' grant to fund travel to the EU28 in the final year of the UK's membership, to speak and perform at canvassing events before the European Parliamentary elections and join other pro EU protests and actions.

I have spoken and/or performed protest songs at events, promoting a positive message about the EU and discuss the lessons Europe must learn from Brexit to combat the rise in populism across its member states. At these events I have also filmed interviews with other activists, discussing their actions fighting for the future of Europe, which were shared on my social media and included in my documentary.

I wrote and recorded a song, titled 'Always on the Road' expressing a pro-European sentiment, and celebrating the joys and importance of travelling. The music video, filmed by Jeff Kew in Brussels, achieved over 300K views on Twitter and was featured on Sky News in August, when I was interviewed about my tour.

'The Future is Europe' book includes my sketches and illustrations which were made during my travels across the EU28, alongside some reflective writings on Brexit and the future of Europe.

The artwork depicts the cultural diversity and beauty of architecture and landscapes across Europe which citizens must learn to cherish and celebrate. The book also includes photography of the "unheard conversations" which occur on Europe's streets and public spaces, and photomontages celebrating the activists who are standing up for the future of Europe. The book has been received into the collections at the House of European History in Brussels.

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The documentary which accompanies the book tells the story of activists across Europe fighting for its future. It features the pro and anti-Brexit protests in the UK, and interviews with activists from a variety of organisations and movements.

I also recorded selfie-cam videos during my tour, highlighting the benefits of an integrated Europe. The documentary was screened at the “Grassroots for Europe” conference in Westminster on 25/01/2020.

My oil painting titled 'European Integration 2' is a project outcome which depicts my vision for the future of Europe.

Website: www.madeleinakay.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MadeleinaKay/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MadeleinaKay>

Other social media: https://www.instagram.com/madeleina_kay/

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-y-GLehy1Yzj5akKZftvoA>

<https://soundcloud.com/madeleina-kay>