

JULY 2018

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS (EYL40)

MAKE OR BREAK EUROPE

WARSAW SEMINAR REPORT



The European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme led by Friends of Europe is a unique, inventive and multi-stakeholder programme that aims to promote a European identity by engaging the continent's most promising talents in initiatives that will shape Europe's future.

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Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

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Special thanks to: Agnija Šeiko, Choreographer, and our hosts at the City of Warsaw

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**MAKE
OR BREAK
EUROPE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Warsaw European Young Leaders seminar focused on present challenges and future solutions, but the past cast a long shadow.

Opening sessions were held in the Palace of Culture and Science, a towering reminder of Soviet rule, and the seminar closed after an inspirational meeting with Holocaust survivor, [Marian Turcki](#), who shared his experiences of rise of Nazism and warned the Young Leaders not to take their freedom for granted.

In between, the seminar explored contemporary issues stemming from the roots of populism and the meaning of “European values” in the 21st century, to cybersecurity and ocean pollution.

The European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme was launched in 2012, with the goal of bringing together 40 of Europe’s brightest minds every year - aged 40 and under - to debate challenges facing the continent and search for solutions. The programme was initially conceived by Friends of Europe in partnership with EuropaNova.

Held under the heading of ‘Make or Break Europe’, the Warsaw meeting was the first for the class of 2018, who brought experience in fields ranging from politics, business and civil society to astrophysics, architecture and the military.

The seminar was attended by 51 past and present Young Leaders. It also included a public engagement session, which opened the seminar to invite members of the Warsaw public to join the Young Leaders for a brainstorm on concrete measures to restore trust between voters and politicians.

Recommendations that emerged from this open session included: a call for more voter control over local-authority spending through participatory budget planning; stimulating political education from an early age; and more purposeful engagement between politicians and the public at local level.

A warning from the past

“Auschwitz did not happen just at once,” explained [Marian Turski](#), a survivor of the Nazi extermination camps. “It was prepared step-by-step.”

Turski’s warning to the European Young Leaders was clear: totalitarian horrors are a creeping danger, and without resistance there is an ever-present risk of history repeating itself.

“Are we today at 1934 in Europe; are we today at 1935; is 1939 inevitable?” he asked.

Now 91, Turski spoke to the Young Leaders from almost a century of experience.

A Polish Jew, he joined a resistance group as a teenager in the Łódź ghetto; saw his father taken to his death in Auschwitz; endured the death march from Buchenwald to Theresienstadt in 1945; and went on to become a renowned journalist, historian and Jewish rights activist in post-War Poland. In the 1960s, he marched alongside Martin Luther King for civil rights in Alabama.

“I’m here because of my CV,” Turski told the young leaders. “You are the future... History is like a relay and you have to pass on the baton to the next generation.”



Turski expressed concern at the return of authoritarian tendencies in Europe and exhorted his audience to seek to address the fear and discontent of voters, which are feeding support for populist politicians.

“Maybe this is a goal and a task for young leaders, to think how to exclude this alienation of great groups of people,” Turski said. “That is a challenge for you.”

The emotional encounter with Turski provided a fitting end to the three-day European Young Leaders seminar in Warsaw.

**“History is like a relay
and you have to pass
on the baton to the
next generation”**

Marian Turski
Survivor of the Nazi
extermination camps

A view on the present

“[Democratic] values now are under heavy attack and we have to fight back. I’m sure that if other forces that don’t share those values take power and we don’t fight back, we will be back at war”

Franziska Brantner

Spokeswoman on European Policy in Germany’s Bundestag, and EYL alumna

Concerns over the dangers of populism and the need for credible responses by reaching out to disaffected voters and defending democratic values were a running theme throughout the Warsaw seminar.

“Those values now are under heavy attack and we have to fight back. I’m sure that if other forces that don’t share those values take power and we don’t fight back, we will be back at war,” cautioned [Franziska Brantner](#), Spokeswoman on European Policy in Germany’s Bundestag, and EYL alumna. “If you we don’t stand up and fight for those values, we will end up with horror back again.”

In a debate on the opening day of the seminar that looked at what defines European values in the 21st Century through the prism of ‘Ethics, Accountability and Transparency’, Brantner made concrete suggestions on what Europe should do to protect its embattled values.

Her ideas included: **a European fund for human rights defenders within the European Union; a public prosecutor at EU level with powers to look into corruption – and withhold EU funding in cases of abuse; and a European witness protection programme.**

Earlier, [Marcin Walecki](#), head of the Democratisation Department at the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODHIR), made a similar appeal. He pointed out how the actions of some governments within the EU had created an urgent need for greater support to be given to civil society.



“The unthinkable is happening ... we have to defend democracy within the European Union,” Walecki warned. “If you look at attacks on civil society, attacks on the judiciary, freedom of speech, attacks on the media, we are very concerned ... We must defend our democratic institutions.”

Held days after widespread success for populist parties in Italy’s general election, the meeting looked at the fast-evolving nature of societal values, the impact of growing social divisions and economic inequality, the nature of privacy in the world of digital technologies and other changes impacting on Europe’s traditional value systems.

[Caroline de Gruyter](#), European Affairs Correspondent for leading Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad, argued that turbulent times required Europe to have a deep discussion about its values.

“Values will take centre stage in European politics. We will have many, many debates on values and I think these discussions will be full of contradictions and frictions,”

“The unthinkable is happening ... we have to defend democracy within the European Union”

Marcin Walecki

Head of the Democratisation
Department at the Office of
Democratic Institutions and Human
Rights (OSCE/ODHIR)



“We need to talk about the role of social media. People today are no longer educated on how to look at things. Fake news is starting to corrupt everybody”

Selina Juul

EYL40 & Founder and Chairman of the Board of the campaign group Stop Wasting Food

she said. “In Europe we have taken the subject for granted for a very long time.”

Values alone would not, however, allow Europe to confront the dangers facing it, de Gruyter cautioned. “Our whole neighbourhood is now on fire or getting hostile to us and we are rather defenceless,” she said. “It’s hard to fight terrorism, to combat illegal immigration, or even submarines attacking our internet cables under the ocean, by just re-iterating our values.”

2018 European Young Leader [Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bak](#), Civil Activist and Member of the National Board of Poland’s RAZEM party, said that any focus on values should not forget pressing real-life issues facing Europe’s citizens. “I agree that we should, and we have to, discuss values,” she said, “But in many cases we can simply start to talk of people’s lives at every level, material, life and death, poverty and wellbeing.”

Several participants raised the impact of digital technology, new media and social networks in influencing attitudes to values.

“We need to talk about the role of social media ... people today are no longer educated on how to look at things,” warned [Selina Juul](#), Founder and Chairman of the Board of the campaign group Stop Wasting Food and a 2018 European Young Leader from Denmark. “They no longer look at CNN or the BBC, they just look at their news feed on Facebook and this has to change because that fake news is starting to corrupt everybody.”

Underscoring the threat to free media in Europe and the dangers that poses to democratic values, 2018 European Young Leader, [Pavla Holcova](#), Founder of the Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism, was unable to attend because she had been placed under police protection following the murder on February 21 of her Slovak colleague Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová.

In his introductory comments at the start of the seminar, [Geert Cami](#), Co-Founder and Managing Director of Friends of Europe, highlighted that the programme was aimed at countering the feelings of pessimism or cynicism prevalent across much of Europe today.

“Collectively I think we have a lot of power, or a lot of potential, for change. The challenge is how to make it work,” he cautioned. “In a globalised world there is no alternative but to work together one way or another ... Europe matters.”

Welcoming the participants to Warsaw, Polish Member of Parliament and EYL alumnus [Michał Szczerba](#) also issued a call to action in defence of values and democratic institutions under threat in Europe. “Future generations will judge us by what we do or fail to do. That means that it’s time to act,” he said.



“Future generations will judge us by what we do or fail to do. That means that it’s time to act”

Michał Szczerba
EYL40 & Polish Member of Parliament



1. Max von Bismarck, Deposit Solutions
2. Oisín Hanrahan, Handybook with Blazej Moder, EC-1 Lodz – City of Culture
3. Left to right: Gottfried Ludewig, Christian Democratic Union; Helena Linder-Jess, German Navy; Sammy Mahdi, Youth wing of the Flemish CD&V party; Nathalie Furrer, Friends of Europe
4. Katerina Gavrielidou, European Cyprus Society



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Inspired by the principle of subsidiarity, the Foundation fosters the analysis and anticipation of social needs, supports the development, testing and scaling of innovative, more effective and higher impact solutions, as well as the dissemination of successful practices.

Ranked among the most important philanthropic institutions in the international arena, Fondazione Cariplo has enabled the accomplishment of over 30,000 projects of non-profit organizations – operating in the fields of Arts & Culture, Environment, Scientific Research and in the Social realm – providing over €3 billion in grants since 1991.



Those of little faith

One major problem in engaging citizens in defence of Europe's values is the widespread lack of trust in, and respect for, politicians.

"More people believe in life on Mars than trust in politicians," [Marcin Walecki](#), head of the Democratisation Department at the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODHIR) told the meeting. "Less than 1% of parents would like their children to be politicians."

The point was made repeatedly. "People believe in democracy but their trust in politicians is zilch," stated [Dharmendra Kanani](#), Director of Strategy at Friends of Europe, who moderated many of the sessions.

With the trust gap separating citizens from their politicians and institutions sapping the resilience of Europe's democracy and exploited by both outside forces and internal opponents of the European project, the seminar looked at how to rebuild confidence and re-position citizens at heart of politics.

"It's really, really important to go back to the essence of politics, to give power to people," said [Nassira El Moaddem](#), Editor of the Bondy Blog, a website which gives a voice to those living in the suburbs of Paris, and 2018 European Young Leader. "It's about how they can use their votes and how they can use their power in local ways and also at the state level."

Another of the Young Leaders of 2018, [Antonio Zappulla](#), Chief Operating Officer with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, referred to the recent Italian election to stress the need for renewal.



“One of the shortcomings of Eastern European civil society is that we have weak connections with each other. Given the challenges we share, we should reach out more about how to respond and how to tackle similar issues”

Stefania Kapronczay
EYL40 & Executive Director
of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

“The old political parties have to renovate and get new people involved,” he said. “During the campaign in Italy there was no debate about values, it was all about ‘the system doesn’t work’.”

There was a general agreement that local government has a key role to play in helping bridge the gap between politics and the public, given its ability to deliver tangible solutions to economic, social and environmental issues that affect citizens’ everyday lives. A special session was held on the role of cities in addressing voters’ concerns in areas from climate change to housing and migration.

“I truly believe in cities and the actions that cities are taking,” said [Nasima Razmyar](#), Deputy-Mayor of Helsinki, Member of the Finnish Parliament and 2018 European Young Leader.

She explained the ways in which her city works to overcome social and economic inequalities while bringing citizens close to decision-making processes through the use of participatory budgets.

“We aim to do a little bit better every day in order to make peoples’ lives better and easier,” she told the group. “Helsinki wants to be an open city, we want to be an inclusive city.”

Razmyar was not alone in pointing out that affiliation with home cities as well as with nations are part of many Europeans’ multi-layered identities. Cooperation – and competition – among cities over and above country-to-country relations are also growing in significance at a European and global level.

“Because of cities, political dialogue is no longer dominated exclusively by nation states,” said Polish MP [Michał Szczerba](#), “City leaders need to be effective



problem solvers, ready to undergo constant evaluation. They need to be creative and focused on innovative solutions.” Szerbera stood in for Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, the Mayor of Warsaw, who was prevented by illness from addressing the session.

Another example of the need for greater cross-border cooperation at a sub-state level within Europe was provided by [Stefania Kapronczay](#), Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union and 2018 European Young Leader. She stressed the importance of civil society organizations working together in the Visegrád Four group of nations – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

“One of the shortcomings of Eastern European civil society is that we have weak connections with each other,” she said. “Given the challenges that we share in the region, we should reach out more about how to respond and how to tackle similar issues that we are grappling with.”

“I truly believe in cities and the actions that cities are taking”

Nasima Razmyar
EYL40 & Deputy-Mayor of Helsinki,
Member of the Finnish Parliament



1.



1. Michael Printzos,
The Hellenic Initiative





The John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in 2005 to carry on the philanthropic legacy of John Latsis.

The Foundation plans, manages, and funds programmes across a wide range of issue areas, centered around five thematic strands:

**EDUCATION
SCIENCE
SOCIAL WELFARE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ARTS & CULTURE**

An additional, diversified branch of activities fall under the operation of the Neraida Floating Museum. The Museum runs a variety of events and offers free access to visitors, highlighting the maritime and entrepreneurial history of Greece, familiarising the youth with maritime professions, and promoting environmental conservation.

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Meeting the people



WHAT DO CITIZENS WANT?

Key questions:

1. Do you think your vote matters?
 2. Do you believe your political representatives will follow through their promises?
 3. Would you want to be involved in decision making at local, national and European level?
-

Seeking an answer to the question “What do citizens want?”, the seminar included a special open session with residents of Warsaw held in the Copernicus Science Centre besides the River Vistula. Together with a large cross-section of local citizens who joined the session – including students, state employees, retirees and members of civil society, among others – the European Young Leaders searched for antidotes to the breakdown of trust between voters and institutions, looked for ways to boost public participation, and sought practical recommendations to boost citizen engagement.

“People are engaged as citizens, but they don’t want to be engaged as politicians,” said [Sammy Mahdi](#), a 2018 European Young Leader who is Chairman of the youth wing of the Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V) party in Belgium.

In an opening debate, Mahdi said political parties needed to modernise the way they approach young voters; use simple straightforward language; and put trust in voters – if they want voters to return the favour.

“Let young people do politics as you should do it in the 21st Century,” he told the group. “People have their social and economic problems, and you need to talk with them at a level where they feel trusted.”

Stefania Kapronczay noted mainstream politicians and civil society should try to understand the fears that were leading voters to turn to populists, not dismiss them out of hand.

“There are fears in our society, there are very legitimate fears and when responding to populist politics we shouldn’t lose sight of those fears,” she said. “Sometimes those fears come from genuine experience and we shouldn’t say that what they are saying is racist and so on, but try to go to the bottom of it and try to understand why it resonates with so many people in our countries.”

Comments from Warsaw citizens made clear the problem of voter disillusionment ran deep in Poland.

“Parties got very rigid, un-transparent and unresponsive to local needs,” said one participant. “They are pursuing other interests they are not pursuing citizens’ interests.”

“Let young people do politics as you should do it in the 21st Century. People have their social and economic problems, and you need to talk with them at a level where they feel trusted”

Sammy Mahdi
EYL40 & Chairman of the youth wing of the Christian Democratic and Flemish (CD&V) party in Belgium.



A young woman named Monica said politics in Poland is often seen as the domain of older people, leaving the young feeling excluded. “Young people don’t want to get into politics,” she argued. “There is a barrier of older people that govern and they don’t want to count on the votes of young people.”

Another participant, Jakub, contended that young people in Poland often held strong political views and were active at a local level. However, he said concerns over failing to fit in often stopped them from making a stronger commitment to political life. “I think there are some things that stop people being engaged and one of them is political correctness,” he said. “They feel different, they feel ashamed.”

Moderator Dharmendra Kanani said Friends of Europe would regularly hold such outreach sessions with the public to gauge opinion and broaden debate on how politicians can re-engage with citizens. It's a debate that is especially important in the run up to next year's European Parliament elections.

"Wherever we go now we want to bring people in cities directly into the discussion with us on subjects that matter," he said. "We felt it was really important in this year to think through what citizens want ... Many on the ground feel very, very distant about the decisions that are made about them and there's a sense of cynicism."

Kanani held a snap survey of the participants, who responded by smartphone to a live poll of three questions on the subject of political engagement. In their replies, 88 % said they believe their vote matters, but 79 % did not expect politicians to follow through on election promises. Questioned over whether they wanted to be more involved in decision-making at local, national and European levels, a massive 96 % said "yes".

The questions posed were the same as those previously put to the EU-wide audience of Friends of Europe's online citizen engagement initiative, Debating Europe, in the weeks leading up to the seminar, with approximately the same results, showing a congruence of citizen opinion on political engagement both at local and European level.

Asked to name one word on politics that matters most to them, the open session group's range of answers included: involvement, trust, sincerity, solidarity, transparency, deliberation, assessment and direct democracy.

“88 % said they believe their vote matters, but 79 % did not expect politicians to follow through on election promises. Questioned over whether they wanted to be more involved in decision-making at local, national and European levels, a massive 96 % said “yes”



“We need a renaissance with a new generation of politicians. Can you create incubators for politicians?”

Xavier Damman
EYL40 & Co-Founder & CEO
of OpenCollective and Co-Founder
of Storify



The European Young Leaders and Warsaw citizens broke into small groups to brainstorm on recommendations on how to improve the participation of citizens in European democracies.

Their recommendations focused on how to better communicate with citizens, how to give citizens a greater input in policy making and how to improve transparency and accountability in politics:

COMMUNICATE BETTER WITH CITIZENS

- Be proactive in reaching out and paying special attention to those who feel left-behind and are underrepresented;
- Learn from populists to beat them at their own game; make political messaging that’s sexier and taps into people’s emotions; and build political strategies around their concerns;



- Find ways to engage and listen to people in their own settings; reenergise local constituency work on a regular basis

PUT THE CITIZEN IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT OF POLICY MAKING

- Develop new spaces, institutional mechanisms and social media tools to give citizens greater input;
- Establish participatory budget exercises to enable citizens to have a greater stake in how they are governed and the choices that are made on their behalf;
- Engage citizens in the democratic process beyond voting in elections, such as increased guidance for citizens on how to lobby and influence politics, especially at local level;

“It doesn’t matter what order of government you engage, it largely ends up depending on the individual who’s in office, do they have courage to address and invest in social, economic and environmental challenges. There’s a lot of entrenched interests, there’s a lot of dead weight in office”

Rob Shirkey
North American Young Leader
& Executive Director Our Horizon



“I think there are some things that stop people being engaged and one of them is political correctness. They feel different, they feel ashamed”

Jakub
Warsaw Citizen



- Develop democracy curricula and involve politicians more actively in schools to stimulate democratic engagement at an early age.

IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

- Develop a new watchdog mechanism to provide day-to-day accountability for politicians;
- Establish more transparency on how public money is spent by having local transparency registers so citizens can see how public money is spent;
- Use digital technology to provide more information to citizens to increase their awareness of how local decisions are made and the policies that are being developed in their name. This could be a citizens app.



These recommendations will be fed back into a wider debate with citizens across Europe through Friends of Europe's Debating Europe platform. They will also help shape a series of live, pan-European debates with EU decision-makers in the lead up to the 2019 European Parliament elections, as well as forming the basis for follow-up discussions with citizens in other cities in future EYL40 seminars



“We lose elections because we don’t know how to build roads ... These people who are now so Westernised and so Euro-centric are unable to get down to the level of the basic needs of people in a small town in Romania”

Manuel Costescu
EYL40 & Secretary of State for Foreign Investments and Public-Private Partnerships, Romania (2016-2017)



Dangers online and in the oceans

The seminar split into two parallel sessions for debates on the dangers posed by cyber-attacks and the dumping of plastic waste in the oceans.

“The more plastic we put in there, the more we kill the ocean,” said a stark assessment from [Rashid Sumaila](#), Professor & Director of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit at the University of British Columbia. “If we don’t do something by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. This really scares the hell out of me because we are not going to be eating plastic.”

He listed plastic alongside overfishing and global warming as major threats to our oceans. The problem also ties in with issues mentioned elsewhere in the seminar such as conflict prevention and migration – through the threats posed to livelihoods of fishing communities.

Joining Sumaila in the debate was [Ulrike Sapiro](#), Coca-Cola’s Director for Sustainability in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

She presented data pointing to the gravity of the plastic threat: up to 90 % of overall marine pollution by weight is believed to come from plastic; 86 million tons of plastic have accumulated in the oceans, with a further 12 million added every year; just 2 % of world plastic is recycled.



“Up to 90 % of overall marine pollution by weight is believed to come from plastic; 86 million tons of plastic have accumulated in the oceans, with a further 12 million added every year; just 2 % of world plastic is recycled”

Ulrike Sapiro

Coca-Cola’s Director for Sustainability in Europe, the Middle East and Africa



Sapiro did have some positive news from Europe, however. “Europe is an area where it works: 86 % of global marine pollution from plastics comes from Asia, and only 0.2 % from Europe,” she said. “There is a lot of regulation, there is producer responsibility ... I think we’ve come around over the past few years.”

In defence of her industry, Sapiro said most plastic pollution does not come from people dropping their discarded beverage bottles in the sea, but from bad management leading to unsecured landfill washing into rivers and then the ocean.

She saw increased awareness, improved waste management – particularly in the developing world – and expanded re-cycling as among the ways to mitigate the problem. However, with consumption of plastic containers unlikely to diminish and the high environmental costs of producing biodegradable alternatives, there are no easy solutions.



“If we had a short-term golden bullet we would have used it, but there is none,” Sapiro said. “In the longer term, the silver one is to say we want to get to 100 % collection by 2030.”

Sumaila looked at the success of countries such as Ireland and Rwanda in restricting and taxing plastic packaging use. Both speakers also highlighted successes in several European countries in introducing deposit refund schemes, offering cash incentives for consumers to return plastic containers.

From the floor, 2018 European Young Leader [Alexandra Dariescu](#), a world-renowned pianist from Romania, stressed the importance of raising consciousness. “It’s very much to do with education, kids should be made to watch a video about what happens in the ocean and we need to think about the younger generation to change things,” she said. “It’s the will to change ... awareness is very important.”

“If we don’t do something by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. This really scares the hell out of me because we are not going to be eating plastic”

Rashid Sumaila
 Professor & Director of the Fisheries
 Economics Research Unit at the
 University of British Columbia



“Cybersecurity is not just an IT issue, it’s a human issue. We can have all the technology in the world, but the problems will not be solved if it is not correctly implemented and if leaders across society, whether they are head of a bank, or a hospital, or a university, are not knowledgeable enough”

Francesca Spidalieri

Senior Fellow for Cyber Leadership at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy

In the end, people need to change their lifestyles, Sumaila said. Voting for politicians who care about environmental challenges also helps. “Another thing you need to do is vote like Canadians did last time,” he quipped. “The person you vote for and you put in that office is important.”

Making sure political leaders are aware of the problem is also key in cybersecurity.

“There’s a lot of educational work to be done at government level,” said [Ronan Murphy](#), Chief Executive Officer of Smarttech247, a leading cybersecurity centre based in Ireland. “They are nowhere near the level where we need to be.”

Joining Murphy in the debate, [Francesca Spidalieri](#), Senior Fellow for Cyber Leadership at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, agreed a greater awareness of the threats is needed across society.

“Cybersecurity is not just an IT issue, it’s a human issue. We can have all the technology in the world, but the problems will not be solved if it is not correctly implemented and if leaders across society, whether they are head of a bank, or a hospital, or a university, are not knowledgeable enough,” she said. “It does not mean that leaders need to become electro-engineers or programmers or coders, but they need to understand the key aspects of the infrastructure, of how the internet is built, of cybersecurity, so that they can devise those overarching strategies and policies to protect our infrastructure and to make our society more resilient.”

Murphy outlined a hair-raising catalogue of recent attacks by state agencies and criminal operations that reveal the massive scale of cyber threats, ranging from attempts to knockout critical national infrastructure to filching the life savings of citizens careless about opening e-mail attachments.

“It’s highly lucrative and criminals are going to follow the money. It’s going to get worse and worse and worse. I don’t want to be too negative, but I promise you’ve only seen the tip of the iceberg,” he said. “It’s a very, very challenging industry. It constantly feels like you’re firefighting.”

The growing revelations of digital interference in elections are giving an even more sinister dimension to the threat to cybersecurity, warned [Katarzyna Pisarska](#), Founder of Poland’s Casimir Pulaski Foundation, who moderated the session.

“We have been seeing throughout the past months and years a growing number of cyber-attacks not only on critical infrastructure and critical intelligence, but also on processes, notably democratic processes,” she cautioned.



“We’ve actually entered an age where cyber-attacks are undermining trust in our democratic process and the political and social foundation of our society. If we cannot trust our electoral process, if we cannot trust the media, then we are in incredible trouble”

Katarzyna Pisarska
 Founder of Poland’s
 Casimir Pulaski Foundation



“Security has a cost unless we collectively - industry, regulatory bodies, society - are willing to actually force businesses to make capital expenditure investments and spend money on covering the cost of being secure, then of course we can’t expect security”

John Collison
EYL40 & Co-Founder and President of software development company Stripe

The implications are profound. “We’ve actually entered an age where cyber-attacks are undermining trust in our democratic process and the political and social foundation of our society,” Pisarska added. “If we cannot trust our electoral process, if we cannot trust the media, then we are in incredible trouble.”

Spidalieri said a multi-layered strategy is needed to counter the threats, from improving basic cyber-hygiene to boosting international cooperation. “The European bloc could do a lot more together if we really wanted to be interoperable and take advantage of the digital economy and at the same time be more secure,” she said.

Among the comments from around the table, [John Collison](#), 2018 European Young Leader and Co-Founder and President of software development company Stripe, likened cybersecurity to airplane safety and said it was time everybody upgraded their awareness of the challenges.

“Security has a cost,” he said. “Unless we collectively - industry, regulatory bodies, society - are willing to actually force businesses to make capital expenditure investments and spend money on covering the cost of being secure, then of course we can’t expect security.”

WARSAW

is an open, diverse, inclusive city with creative, free, resourceful residents

Friendly urban infrastructure, excellent public transport, restaurants, cultural life, high percentage of green spaces.

"Warsaw: a magnet for business startups and entrepreneurs"


Euronews 2016

- Over 5 mln sq m of office space
- 70 universities
- 58 000 graduates every year

94% of the residents are happy that they live in Warsaw

- 3rd** - place in Top 10 Major European Cities - business friendliness by Financial Times
- 3rd** - place in Top Vegan Cities in the World by HappyCow
- 12th** - place in global Green Cities Index by TravelBird
- 15th** - place in global Sustainable Cities Index: People by Arcadis

 /Warsaw

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A sociable network



“Chinese people have been very good at doing something that Europeans have not, and that is managing the top-down and the bottom-up”

Beatrice Leanza
EYL40 & Creative Director and Co-Founder of B/Side Design | The Global School

Twice, the seminar broke up for a series of peer-learning roundtables, where the Young Leaders exchanged experiences from their diverse fields of expertise.

[Helena Linder-Jess](#), the first female Commanding Officer in the German Navy, talked about gender issues in the military. “It makes it better because it makes it more diverse. The working environment is better with women,” she explained. “I believe that in no area can you only look at half of the population, and that includes the military. If you just exclude people from the workforce, that doesn’t work.”

Many of the Young Leaders emphasised the importance of education and reaching out to inspire children early. “If we want people to participate in society and not be apathetic, I think we have to change things really early in school,” said [Daire Hickey](#), Managing Partner at 150 Bond, a strategic advisory firm. “We have to start at a really young age and give children choices.”

Another entrepreneurial young leader, [Claudia Olsson](#), Founder and CEO of Exponential AB in Sweden, also focused on educational improvements. “We need to speed up the process of reforming educational programmes,” she said. “We need to come up with ways to train people quicker.”

[Beatrice Leanza](#), Creative Director and Co-Founder of B/Side Design | The Global School, shared her 15 years of experience developing programmes of urban and social impact in China. “Chinese people have been very good at doing something that Europeans have not, and that



is managing the top-down and the bottom-up,” she explained. “There is a window of opportunity in which individuality and entrepreneurship can come in.”

Blending nature with architecture was the theme of [Tomas Zacek](#) from Slovakia, Co-Founder and Design Director of Ecocapsule, a start-up building sustainable portable houses. “When you are in nature, it’s really important what’s around you,” he said. His talk had a distinctly down-to-earth explanation of how his eco-homes deal with the sticky problem of waste disposal. “It’s my favourite topic, the toilet.”

By contrast, [Guillem Anglada-Escudé](#), Reader in Astronomy at Queen Mary University of London, was looking to the stars with his depiction of what space has to offer in the 21st century. “People think that space is about innovation, it is not,” he said. “You go to space with secure technology, you don’t innovate in a space mission.”

“People think that space is about innovation, it is not. You go to space with secure technology, you don’t innovate in a space mission”

Guillem Anglada-Escudé
EYL40 & Reader in Astronomy
at Queen Mary University of London

As with previous European Young Leaders events, the Warsaw seminar also included a strong social and networking element where participants could exchange contacts and ideas, as well as discover the history and culture of the host city.

Venues ranged from the Stalinist Palace of Culture and Science, to the light-filled University of Warsaw Library, opened in 1999, and the neighbouring Copernicus Science Centre. There, participants had a chance to visit an interactive exhibition examining human relations through new developments in psychology, sociology and neurology.

The Young Leaders also had an opportunity to sample a variety of Polish cuisine and sway to 1920's Warsaw dance hits in a former boxing venue newly converted into a hip food market, and to tour the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews shortly after their meeting with its chairman, Marian Turcki.

The opening day of the seminar coincided with International Women's Day, and women's rights were highlighted as an integral part of the universal values that Europe needs to defend.

Over dinner in Warsaw's historic centre, Young Leaders shared highly personal stories of the women who most inspired them. They ranged from participants' mothers, daughters, grandmothers and teachers, to superstar soprano Maria Callas and anonymous Polish anti-fascist demonstrators.

That evening, the Young Leaders also enjoyed a unique performance by the two musicians among them: renowned pianist Alexandra Dariescu and award-winning conductor and clarinetist [Dionysis Grammenos](#), who played together for the first time.



And how did the Young Leaders sum up their feelings after the three days of intense interaction in Warsaw?

“A great and inspiring seminar concludes with a unique, moving and even more inspiring conversation,” tweeted [Gottfried Ludewig](#), Leader of the Opposition CDU in Berlin’s State Parliament and one of the 2018 European Young Leaders, after the meeting with Turski.

“The conversations are so enriching on a personal level and very inspirational professionally,” added Meghan Milloy, Co-Founder, Republican Women for Progress, and North American Young Leader Alumna.

“Extraordinary,” concluded [Claudia Olsson](#), Founder & CEO Exponential AB Sweden.

[Alexandra Dariescu](#), Pianist performing with [Dionysis Grammenos](#), Award winning conductor, soloist, and founder of the Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra





About Friends of Europe



www.friendsofeurope.org



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[@friendsofeurope](https://twitter.com/friendsofeurope)

Friends of Europe is a leading think tank that connects people, stimulates debate and triggers change to create a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe.

CONNECT

Friends of Europe is an independent think tank with a difference – we believe innovation is a mindset, behaviour and action. We aim to be catalysts for change and believe that real solutions come from transforming mindsets through the confrontation of ideas and the breaking down of silos between politicians, businesses and civil society.

Believing that change is achieved through inclusive policies and action, we reach out to and work with a wide network of policymakers, international organisations, civil society representatives, business leaders, academics, the media and citizens across Europe and beyond.

We have no national or party political bias and ensure that all viewpoints are represented in our activities and publications.

DEBATE

We foster open, insightful and provocative debates to stimulate fresh ideas and creative thinking.

Our portfolio of events and reports means that Friends of Europe contributes ideas and leads the debate on a wide range of EU-related issues, including:

Energy and Climate | Health and Wellbeing | Asia, Africa and Emerging Economies | Peace, Security and Defence | Education and Skills | Migration and Integration | Digital, Skills and Inequalities | Citizens' Europe.

Our European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme connects Europe's most promising talents, and our Board of Trustees brings together the knowledge and experience of European leaders who include Presidents, Prime Ministers, European Commissioners and Presidents of the European Parliament.

The Development Policy Forum (DPF), the Asia programme and the Europe-China Forum build bridges to foster global partnerships.

Europe's World, our policy journal, is the only pan-European publication which offers a unique insight into the views of leading policymakers and opinion-makers on European and global challenges.

Our online platform Debating Europe encourages citizen-led debates with policymakers. In less than five years, it has built up a 3.5m-strong community of citizens across Europe and over 320,000 social media followers who put their questions to high-profile decision makers.

CHANGE

We offer Europe's citizens an opportunity to take an active transformational role in shaping their environment. We use ground-breaking online brainstorming to bring different stakeholder groups together from all over the world and constantly innovate in how we convene and shape discussions. Through our debates, conferences, working groups, reports and recommendations we provide bold and ambitious but practical solutions for a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE IN FIGURES (2017-2018)

Over 1.131 million unique visitors to its websites

Over 320,000 strong social media community

Over 65 events

Over 5000 senior participants and speakers

Nearly 100 publications

Over 195 op eds published

About the programme



www.EYL40.org



[EYL40.org](https://www.facebook.com/EYL40.org)



[@EYL40](https://twitter.com/EYL40)

The European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme led by Friends of Europe is a unique, inventive and multi-stakeholder programme that aims to promote a European identity by engaging the continent's most promising talents in initiatives that will shape Europe's future. The European Young Leaders represent a promising European leadership from all over the continent and with a wide variety of backgrounds including politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media.

From trailblazing biochemists to budding political leaders, and from dot.com entrepreneurs to NGO 'stars' who are shaping the social and environmental policies of tomorrow, the European Young Leaders are a unique community that crafts innovative responses to European challenges and positively affects the lives of future generations.

Every year, they meet during two 3-day seminars that take place in symbolic European cities, joined by decision-makers, stakeholders and key European actors, to discuss issues of common concern and develop concrete proposals and recommendations to tackle the challenges facing Europe and its citizens.

The relaxed tone and out-of-the-box nature of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme have brought about salient and open discussions that have facilitated the development of a strong network of committed Europeans.

This programme also turns ideas into actions. That means ongoing interactions between young leaders, alumni and outside participants to boost innovative ideas and have a bigger impact on the European stage by forwarding projects that matter to the community. The programme was initially conceived in partnership with EuropaNova, a Paris-based think-tank.

The 2017 Autumn seminar in Tallinn also increased the programme's outreach by inviting North American and Middle East and North African (MENA) Young Leaders to join the discussions for the first time. The aim is to create synergies, promote structural dialogue and foster better mutual understanding between established leaders from the three regions and develop an inter-regional, multidisciplinary network of alumni to support the leaders of tomorrow.



1. Dharmendra Kanani, Friends of Europe
2. Agnija Šeiko, Award-winning Lithuanian choreographer and dancer
3. Antonio Zapulla, Thompson Reuters Foundation with Nathalie Furrer, Friends of Europe



**EYL40 WARSAW
PARTICIPANTS**



JAMILA AANZI

Netherlands · 2017 Dutch UN Women's Representative,
Dutch Women's Council · EYL 2014

Jamila has positioned herself as one of the leading innovators in the fields of youth involvement and social outreach in the Netherlands. She has participated in numerous programmes aimed at encouraging cooperation between diverse backgrounds and envisioning a new social and political vision. In 2017, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, appointed Jamila as Dutch women's representative at the United Nations. As a senior international trainer for the Max van der Stoel foundation she trains political parties and politicians in Eastern Europe, the Middle-East and North-Africa. Jamila is an alumni of several international leadership programs like the Israeli 'future European leaders' program and the US state department's 'international visitors leadership' program.



GUILLEM ANGLADE-ESCUDE

Spain · Astrophysicist · EYL 2018

Guillem is a well-known astrophysicist and scientist, who discovered the Proxima-b exoplanet orbiting Proxima-Centauri, our closest neighbouring star. He has conducted research in several countries and has been actively engaged with space agencies, such as NASA and the European Space Agency. In 2016, Nature magazine chose him as one of the ten most prominent scientists world-wide, and the same year he was also listed by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



FRANZISKA BRANTNER

Germany · Member, National Parliament of Germany · EYL 2012

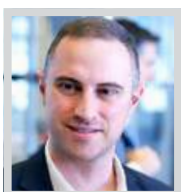
Franziska is a member of the Deutsche Bundestag for the constituency of Heidelberg. She is also the spokeswoman on European Policy for the parliamentary group of Bündnis '90/The Greens. In addition to these roles she holds the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Networked Action and is part of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Affairs of the European Union. Before her national role she was a member of the European Parliament. She is a trustee of Friends of Europe.



MALCOLM BYRNE

Ireland · Head of Communications, Higher Education Authority · EYL 2014

Malcolm is Head of Communications with the Higher Education Authority, the Irish state agency that advises government on higher education and research and funds the higher education institutions. He is also a councillor and former mayor for the centrist Fianna Fail party. He has previously served as Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Ireland, as Education Officer with the Union of Students in Ireland, as an Executive member of the European Students Union and as Youth Spokesperson for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. He previously worked as commercial manager of myhome.ie, Ireland's most successful property website and as chief executive of a national children's organisation. A graduate in law and arbitration from University College Dublin, Malcolm is currently completing a Doctorate in Governance at Queen's University Belfast. He has completed 26 marathons.



EDOARDO CAMILLI

Italy · Co-Founder & CEO, Hozint · EYL 2017

A young entrepreneur and security expert, Edoardo started working as a political and security risk consultant after graduating from the University of Bologna. In 2010, he established the International Security Observer, a web-based think tank seeking to foster the next generation of security experts. At the time, he was also working as a research analyst at the Italian Institute of Strategic Studies Niccolò Machiavelli, where his activities focused on insurgency, intelligence, national security policies and organised crime. Edoardo is the co-founder of Hozint (Horizon Intelligence), a consulting firm providing location-based media and social media monitoring services on political, safety and security risks. He is frequently interviewed on security issues by media in Italy and across Europe.



JOHN COLLISON

Ireland · Co-Founder & President, Stripe · EYL 2018

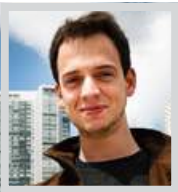
John is an entrepreneur and Co-Founder and President of Stripe, a software company that is expanding Internet commerce by making it easier to process transactions from anywhere in the world. Founded in 2010 alongside his brother, Stripe has rapidly expanded and continues to grow, its current team having over 900 employees. Before Stripe, he co-founded Auctomatic, which was sold in 2008, paving the way to his success as one of the world's most successful teenage entrepreneurs. John has been passionate about coding since childhood and has a proven track-record of applying his knowledge and skills to develop ways to improve online business processes.



MANUEL COSTESCU

Romania · Former Secretary of State, Foreign Investment and Public-Private Partnerships (2016-2017) · EYL 2017

Manuel headed until very recently the directorate in charge of implementing infrastructure projects and stimulating foreign investment and public-private partnerships in Romania. Before joining the government, he worked as an executive director at J.P. Morgan, a multinational banking and financial services holding company, where he was responsible for the relationship with various public sector clients in Europe, including central banks, debt management offices, development banks and government agencies. Manuel also worked as an independent consultant on business and development projects in Australia, South Africa, Tanzania and Peru, as well as at the Brattle Group, where he was a research analyst with a focus on risk management and strategies in the energy sector.



XAVIER DAMMAN

Belgium · Co-Founder & CEO of OpenCollective and Co-Founder of Storify · EYL 2017

Xavier is an engineer in computer science who is passionate about the digital renaissance. In 1999, while still at secondary school, he founded Tribal, a site that gathered student content from around Belgium for publication in a magazine that was distributed to 30,000 students nationwide. Ten years later, he co-founded Storify, a social media curation platform that enables users to create stories or timelines using content from social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Storify is now used by top brands, organisations and publishers around the world, including CNN, the New York Times, the United Nations and the White House. More recently, he co-founded OpenCollective, a company that enables groups to collect and spend money transparently without having to create a new bank account.



ALEXANDRA DARIESCU

Romania · Award-winning pianist · EYL 2018

Named a 'Rising Star' by the BBC Music Magazine, Alexandra made her debut at the Carnegie Hall in New York. An award-winning Romanian pianist, she has performed in many prestigious orchestras, such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Recipient of several awards and honours, she has been listed as one of the '30 Pianists under 30 Destined for a Spectacular Career' by the International Piano Magazine. In addition to her musical achievements, Alexandra received the UK's Women of the Future Award in the Arts and Culture category, making her an ambassador and symbol of success in the classical music industry. In late 2017, the world premiere of her own production, "The Nutcracker and I, by Alexandra Dariescu", took place in London – a ground-breaking multimedia performance created for a piano solo with dance and digital animation.



LUKASZ DZIEKONSKI

Poland · Head of the Central and Eastern Europe Office
Marguerite Fund 2020 · EYL 2015/2016

Lukasz is head of the Marguerite Fund office for the Central and Eastern Europe. He is also a member of the management board for the Marguerite Fund 2020 for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure in Luxembourg. There, Lukasz oversees the formulation of financial and operational strategies.

He is also on the supervisory board of Pomeranka Development, InvestGas and Energa Operator in Poland, and of PZU Ukraine Insurance Company and Kredobank, also in Ukraine. Lukasz began his career as an adviser in the European Parliament, focusing on energy policy and security as well as EU relations with Russia and Ukraine.



AGNIESZKA DZIEMIANOWICZ-BAK

Poland · Social activist · EYL 2018

Agnieszka is among Poland's most recognised social activists and a strong advocate of women's rights. In 2015, she was instrumental in leading demonstrations that became known as 'Black Monday', in which Polish women protested against anti-abortion laws. Days after Black Monday, lawmakers voted overwhelmingly against the proposal and the Minister of

Science and Higher Education Jaroslaw Gowin said the protests "caused us to think and taught us humility." Agnieszka is a board member of the leftist Razem party and, in 2016, was listed as one of top 100 most influential Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy Journal.



NASSIRA EL MOADDEM

France · Journalist and Director, Le Bondy Blog · EYL 2018

Nassira is a French journalist and one of the few female editors-in-chief of a French national media outlet. She began her career as a TV reporter and news anchor at Itele/Canal+ before joining France 2 where she worked as a reporter for the evening TV news. In 2016, she took the helm of the Bondy Blog, a news website that gives voices to the voiceless. In her work,

Nassira puts the emphasis on local investigations, especially of marginalised people living on the outskirts of cities, particularly around Paris.



AARON FARRUGIA

Malta · Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue
Government of Malta · EYL 2017

Aaron was elected to the Maltese Parliament in June of 2017, and appointed Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue within the Ministry for European Affairs. Before his current position, Aaron ran the Malta Freeport, the first transshipment hub in the Mediterranean. He served as president of the Labour Youth Forum and was elected deputy mayor of Ta' Xbiex in 2005. During the international financial crisis, he was appointed to a team of economic experts set up by the Young European Socialists and was elected as Education Secretary in the Maltese Labour Party's Central Administration. Aaron also chaired the progressive think tank IDEAT, the party's political foundation. In 2014, he founded the Anton Buttigieg Foundation, which seeks to promote social awareness in Malta, focusing on education as the primary tool for economic and social development.



MARY FITZGERALD

Ireland · Journalist & Media Analyst · EYL 2013

Mary is a journalist and analyst specialising in the Euro-Mediterranean region with a particular focus on Libya. She has worked on Libya since 2011 and lived there throughout 2014. Her work has appeared in publications including the Economist, Foreign Policy, the New Yorker, the Washington Post, the Financial Times and the Guardian. She has conducted research on Libya for the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED) among others. She is a contributing author to an edited volume on the Libyan revolution published by Oxford University Press. In her previous role as Irish Times foreign affairs correspondent, she reported from 40 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. She is a member of the Global Women's Forum 'Rising Talents' network.



CRISTINA FONSECA

Portugal · Co-Founder, Talkdesk · EYL 2018

Cristina is a software engineer and tech entrepreneur, who co-founded one of Silicon Valley's fastest growing companies, Talkdesk, a platform that allows anyone to quickly create a call centre online. Previously, Cristina has worked as a researcher at INESC-ID, a Portuguese non-profit institution conducting advanced research in electronics, energy, telecommunications and information technologies. Cristina is passionate about Artificial Intelligence and the impact of technology, and advises early-stage start-ups.



CLEMENTINE FORISSIER

France · Editor in Chief, Contexte · EYL 2015/2016

Clémentine is a journalist who has gone from freelance reporting on the radio and in magazines to later becoming Chief Editor at EurActiv, France. She is now Chief Editor of Contexte, an online newspaper that focuses on French and European public policy which she co-founded in 2013. She is also Vice-President of Europresse, the association of French journalists who cover European affairs, and AJDE, an association for journalists who specifically report on energy issues. Educated in Paris and Brussels, Clémentine is a published author and was previously in charge of opening the Brussels office of the Robert Schuman Foundation.



KATERINA GAVRIELIDOU

Cyprus · Founder and President, European Cyprus Society · EYL 2018

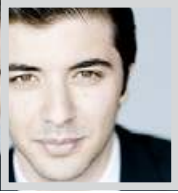
Passionate about youth empowerment, urban affairs and youth participation, Katerina is President and Founder of the European Cyprus Society, an NGO which encourages young Cypriots to engage with issues that concern them, such as education, European and international relations, and national politics. Her contribution to youth empowerment in Cyprus and worldwide has earned her various titles and awards, including the Queen's Young Leaders Award, Representative of European youth to the advisory body of the UN Habitat and UN Youth Envoy Nominee.



JAVIER GONZALEZ ALVAREZ

Spain · Former International Director, Digimarc · EYL 2012

Javier was until recently the international director of Digimarc, which develops solutions, licenses intellectual property, and provides development services to global business partners across a wide range of industries, focusing on delivering simplicity to users' interactions with media and the physical world. Previously, he was founder and CEO of aquaMobile SL, a mobile value-added services provider based in Madrid, and one of the most successful digital watermarking solutions companies. He has also worked in management roles for various start-ups, such as Alvento and Mobile 365 Inc. He is Co-founder of the tMA Foundation, which encourages innovative and entrepreneurial projects in conjunction with MIT.



DIONYSIS GRAMMENOS

Greece · Award-winning conductor & soloist; Founder, Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra · EYL 2018

As one of the most charismatic conductors of his generation, Dionysis made his debut at the age of twenty-one with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Since then, he has been awarded with several honours and was the first Greek to receive a Conducting Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival. By the age of twenty, Dionysis had won European Young Musician of the Year Prize and had been featured on a Greek postage stamp. This young virtuoso has performed in some of the world's most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Cité de la Musique in Paris and the Barbican Centre in London and has worked with orchestras such as the Vienna Symphony and the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, among others.



JAKOB HAESLER

Germany · Co-Founder, Project Alloy · EYL 2013

Prior to founding Project Alloy, Jakob was the CEO and Co-Founder of Tinyclues SAS, a Paris-based software startup with the objective of industrialising datamining on Big Data with the help of advanced machine learning algorithms in a Cloud Computing environment. Previously he was a partner and consultant at McKinsey & Company in Germany and France where he worked on topics ranging from Banking to Public Sector Reform to Global Public Health issues, notably the creation and distribution of child HIV treatments. Prior to McKinsey he briefly worked at the World Bank. He holds a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Science from the University of St. Gallen. Jakob is also a founding partner of the "Cercle du Leadership".



OISÍN HANRAHAN

Ireland · Co-Founder, Handybook · EYL 2015/2016

Oisín became an entrepreneur at the age of 18, when he set up the Clearwater Group, a real estate development company in Budapest while a student at Trinity College, Dublin. Oisín founded Handybook in May 2012 with Umang Dua to address the difficulty of finding a reliable handyman that Oisín experienced in Budapest. Oisín also established MiCandidate, which became the leading source for online election information across Europe in 2009, and set up the Undergraduate Awards, which has become the world's largest pan-discipline awards programme. Supported by Google, Microsoft and others, it is a global annual awards event hosted in Dublin with the award distributed each year by the President of Ireland.



DAIRE HICKEY

Ireland · Managing Partner, 150 Bond · EYL 2018

Daire is the Managing Partner at 150 Bond, a strategic advisory firm, and one of the co-founders of the Web Summit, Europe's largest tech start-up event and the largest technology conference in the world. In this role, he has facilitated a number of tech conferences in the United States and Europe. Daire is also a former journalist, who has worked for the Irish broadcaster RTE and several Irish newspapers. Former journalist and columnist, Daire is an active angel investor and a member of several company advisory boards.



KLEN JÄÄRATS

Estonia · Director for EU Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of Estonia · EYL 2015/2016

As Director of the EU Secretariat in the Estonian government, Klen coordinates and develops all EU policy and acts as the chief European affairs adviser to the Prime Minister. A career civil servant, Klen started out in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, rising quickly to the position of Head of the Refugees Department. In this capacity, he dealt with a variety of NGOs and international organisations including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He later moved to Brussels where he spent six years working at the Estonian Permanent Representation to the EU during which time he dealt with many issues related to the preparation, ratification and implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.



JANIS JONEVS

Latvia · Author & Literary Critic · EYL 2018

Janis is a Latvian author and literary critic. He is best known for his debut novel Jelgava'94, which explores the transition from the Soviet Union to a 'new Europe'. His novel was a bestseller upon its release in 2013, and went on to win the European Union Prize for Literature, drawing attention to Latvian and Baltic literature. Evoking the youth of his country in the post-communist 1990s, the novel describes places of counter-culture, the sound of heavy metal, of saturated guitars and scary voices. Through his work he explores the role of subcultures, such as the heavy metal scene, in shaping Latvian national identity, how they interact with the dominant culture, and shape interactions between the new and older generations.



SELINA JUUL

Denmark · Founder and Chairman, Stop Wasting Food movement
· EYL 2018

Selina is an activist widely known for her work in promoting the reduction of food waste, featured on BBC and CNN. She founded the non profit organisation Stop Wasting Food, which led Denmark to engaging in the fight against food waste from farm to fork. Selina has authored over 190 articles on food waste, she is a blogger for The Huffington Post USA and published a leftovers cookbook. She has received numerous awards for her work, the most notable are Dane of the Year 2014 and Winner of Nordic Council Nature and Environment Prize 2013. She works with the EU and the UN and is a member of global coalition against food waste Champions 12.3.



ZANDA KALNINA-LUKAŠEVICA

Latvia · Parliamentary State Secretary for European Affairs, Government of Latvia
· EYL 2017

Zanda started her professional career at Jurmala's city council in 1998. She then worked at the Ministry of Regional Development before joining the Strategic Analysis Commission, where she advised Latvian President Valdis Zatlers on strategic planning. She was elected to the Latvian Parliament in 2011. During her mandate, she chaired the Committee on European Affairs and the Reform Party parliamentary group. In 2014, Zanda was appointed Parliamentary State Secretary in the Latvian government. Her role is to ensure cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Latvian Parliament and the European Parliament.



STEFÁNIA KAPRONCZA

Hungary · Executive Director, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union · EYL 2018

Stefánia is a human rights activist working in the context of illiberal democracies. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), the leading human rights NGO in Hungary that aims to increase awareness of fundamental human rights and that gives Hungarians the ability to enforce these rights when they are abused, especially by those in position of public power. Before the large-scale demonstrations in Budapest in 2017, HCLU was named as one of the three key civil organisations that need to be restricted in Hungary by the ruling FIDESZ party. Stefánia also co-chairs the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations. Lawyer by training, she has particular expertise on the reproductive rights of people with disabilities and is a passionate defender of the rights of vulnerable groups.

**JESSE KLAVER**

Netherlands · Leader Dutch Green Party 'Groenlinks' · EYL 2018

Jesse currently serves as the green-left party leader in the Dutch Parliament, with a mandate focused on environmental and educational issues. In his time as party leader, Jesse was responsible for the party's most recent general election campaign during which he gained additional 10 parliamentary seats for the party, rising to an all-time high of 14, and making GroenLinks the

fifth most important group in the House. Previously, Jesse was the spokesperson for Finance, Environment and Education and sat on a wide range of parliamentary committees. He has publically opposed tax evasion and has co-authored a memo on protecting the Dutch flora and fauna.

**BEATRICE LEANZA**

Italy · Cultural Strategist and Co-Founder, B/Side Design · EYL 2018

Based in Beijing since 2002, Beatrice is a cultural strategist and writer with a background in Asian studies and fifteen-year experience in developing programmes of urban and social impact. She served as creative director of Beijing Design Week (2012 - 2016), China's largest and internationally best reputed design and architecture event, and was creative director of the

urban regeneration plan for Baitasi historic district in Beijing (2015-2016), shaping stakeholders' relations across the governmental, private and public sectors. In 2017 she co-founded B/Side Design an inclusive organisation currently establishing The Global School, the first independent institute for design and multidisciplinary research in the PRC. She is an advisory board member of Design Trust (Hong Kong) and an advocate of practical creativity for educational empowerment in sustainable futures.

**HELENA LINDER-JESS**

Germany · Commanding Officer, German Navy · EYL 2018

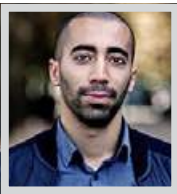
As a Commanding Officer in the German Navy (FGS Dattel), Helena has participated in several international missions under the United Nations and NATO with her crew. In this role, she has been responsible for all issues concerning her ship, crew and assignments, including extensive training and combat cycles. Helena is the first woman ever to take over the command of a German navy ship.



GOTTFRIED LUDEWIG

Germany · Politician, Christian Democratic Union · EYL 2017

Elected in 2011, Gottfried currently serves as the Deputy Chairman and the spokesperson for health issues of the Christian Democrats Union parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives. In this position, Gottfried is particularly committed to strengthening research and innovation in the healthcare sector as well as advocating for the creation of a Berlin nursing home as an institutionalised representation of the care sector in the Berlin House of Representatives.



SAMMY MAHDI

Belgium · Chairman, Youth wing of the Flemish CD&V Party · EYL 2018

Sammy, the son of an Iraqi political refugee and a Belgian mother, has become the first ever Chairman from Brussels to lead the Flemish 'Jong CD&V' party. He has previously served as a parliamentary assistant and writes a regular column for the Belgian newspaper De Morgen. Passionate about issues related to integration and equality, Sammy is viewed as a bridge builder between Belgium's Muslim and non-Muslim populations.



MEGHAN MILLOY

USA · Co-Founder, Republican Women for Progress
· North American Young Leader 2017

Meghan Milloy is the co-founder of Republican Women for Progress (RWFP) and was previously the Chair of Republican Women for Hillary (RWFH). She serves as the Director of Financial Services at the American Action Forum (AAF), a center-right think tank that provides data-driven insight to today's policy challenges where she manages the entirety of AAF's activity in its financial services and housing finance policy portfolios. Previously she was a Presidential Management Fellow working at the Small Business Administration and later at the House Committee on Small Business. She has volunteered on the campaigns of George W. Bush, John McCain, Mitt Romney, and Hillary Clinton.public procurements.

**REBECA MINGUELA**

Spain · Founder, Clarity AI · EYL 2018

As Founder of Clarity AI, Rebeca looks to solve the problem of inefficient and unequal allocation of capital by building an automated tool which rates the investment portfolios of a range of projects, companies, governments and NGOs. Rebeca is also the Founder of the Blink Booking mobile app, an award-winning last-minute booking app that is a market leader in Europe with more than 800,000 downloads, almost 3,000 hotels and available in six languages before its sale to Groupon. Previously, Rebeca served as a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group and as engineer at the German Aerospace Agency, Siemens and IBM.

**BLAZEJ MODER**

Poland · Managing Director, EC-1 Lodz – City of Culture · EYL 2014

Blazej is a Managing Director at the New Center of Lodz Authority which is one of the biggest urban, social, investment programs which is currently realised in Central Europe. He is in charge of transforming the city of Lodz – the 3rd largest Polish city – into a modern and knowledge-based metropolis focusing on the rebuilding of the old railway station and revitalising the urban area around the station (100 ha) to create a new multifunctional city centre. Blazej is also Advisor to the Board for International Affairs of the Civil Development Forum. He is an International and Political Studies graduate from the University of Lodz and a PhD student in Economics at the Warsaw School of Economics.

**KATARZYNA NAWROT**

Poland · Assistant Professor, Poznan University of Economics · EYL 2017

In addition to her position at the Poznan University of Economics, Katarzyna is a member of the Committee for Future Studies at the Polish Academy of Social Sciences. Her research interests include development and international economics, with a focus on East Asian markets. Katarzyna's work also explores challenges to global development. She led several research projects for the National Bureau of Research in Poland and finalised a recent project on the economic potential of developing countries in Africa. Her academic achievements have been recognised by numerous awards, including one for outstanding young scholars from Poland's Minister of Science and Higher Education in 2012. Katarzyna has published numerous articles and books on issues relating to development, governance, integration and regional cooperation.



CLAUDIA OLSSON

Sweden · Founder & CEO, Exponential AB · EYL 2018

Claudia is the Founder and CEO of Exponential AB, a global consultancy with a focus on digital transformation. Claudia has helped governments and businesses alike to understand the impact of new technologies and has provided smart solutions to addressing global challenges. She is the author of the Sweden 2030 Future Scenario for the Government of Sweden. Claudia

has previously worked on issues related to healthcare access, setting up think-tank ACCESS Health International that aims to provide location-independent high-quality care for everyone.



MICHAŁ OLSZEWSKI

Poland · Deputy Mayor, City of Warsaw · EYL 2015/2016

Currently Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, Michał has spent the entirety of his professional life in public service. He was already working as a senior expert in the Office of the Committee for European Integration while studying International Relations at Warsaw University. Michał rapidly rose to become Head of the EU Funds Department for the City of Warsaw in 2007, and

simultaneously became Chairman of the European Policy Commission in the Association of Polish Cities, a position he remains in to this day. Tirelessly devoted to improving the city of Warsaw, Michał sits on six municipal councils and associations including the Warsaw Innovation Council and Labour Market Council, both of which he chairs.



MICHAEL PRINTZOS

Greece · Programme Director, The Hellenic Initiative · EYL 2015/2016

Michael is Program Director at The Hellenic Initiative, a global, non-profit, secular institution aiming to mobilise support and investment for sustainable economic renewal in Greece. He is also a Committee Member at the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, dedicated to achieving Greek

competitiveness through properly informing and adequately motivating business employees. Michael is the co-owner of Green Systems, an engineering procurement and construction company in Athens, and Brainomix, a start-up company that develops medical imaging software to assess the eligibility of acute stroke patients for life saving treatment. He completed his secondary education in Greece before attending the University of Oxford where he gained a degree in mechanical engineering.



NASIMA RAZMYAR

Finland · Deputy Mayor, City of Helsinki · EYL 2018

Nasima is an Afghan-Finnish politician, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki and a former member of the Finnish Parliament, representing the Social Democratic Party. She also works with Finnish NGOs that work to promote gender and ethnic equality in Finland. Nasima's family first moved to Finland from Afghanistan in 1992, and her refugee experience has shaped her political career, in which she prioritises social welfare such as education, the environment, and housing. Nasima is the first Member of Finnish Parliament to have a refugee background, and in 2010 was named refugee woman of the year by the Finnish Refugee Council for her work to promote equality and the preservation of the Finnish welfare system.



AGNIJA ŠEIKO

Lithuania · Choreographer · EYL 2017

Agnija is an award-winning choreographer and dancer. She is the author of more than 20 choreography works, including dance films, installations and performances. Her compositions have been performed at dance festivals both in her native Lithuania and abroad. Agnija successfully collaborates with creators of various art forms, resulting in dance pieces that feature audio-visual art and sculpture installations. Along with choreographing, Agnija gives lectures at Klaipeda University and runs the dance company PADI DAPI Fish. She was named Best Choreographer of the Year in 2012 and, in 2013, was awarded the Golden Cross of the Stage, the highest Lithuanian theatre award. Her most recent show, 'Dior in Moscow', was presented at the International Contemporary Dance Festival 'New Baltic Dance'.



ROBERT SHIRKEY

Canada · Executive Director, Our Horizon · North American Young Leader 2017

Rob is a recognized authority on the subject of climate change risk disclosures or 'warning labels' for gas pumps. He has given lectures on the topic across North America and has been featured in media all over the world. Rob is a recipient of Canada's 2017 Clean50 Award and was also named a 2016 Agent of Change by the Centre for Social Innovation and Green Shield Canada Foundation. Rob is a lawyer from Toronto, Canada. Prior to founding Our Horizon and launching its unique approach to addressing climate change, Rob operated a private practice in downtown Toronto. He also has experience as an Assistant City Solicitor and Prosecutor.



KAMILLA SULTANOVA

Finland · Chairperson, Global Dignity Finland · EYL 2015/2016

Sébastien is a young businessman and entrepreneur. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Terminal du Grand Ouest (TGO), a port operations company in the Nantes-Saint Nazaire port area that covers bulk, container and general cargo activities. He manages a team of more than 150 employees at TGO. Sébastien was former French President Nicolas Sarkozy's special representative on the economy and business during his campaign to win the Republican nomination for the 2017 presidential election. Sébastien is regional councillor in the Pays de la Loire region. He is also the co-founder of Sens Commun, a right-wing youth movement that defends conservative family values.



MICHAŁ SZCZERBA

Poland · Member, National Parliament of Poland · EYL 2014

Michał is currently a Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Polish Parliament and sits on the Justice and Human Rights Committee. Before he started working for the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament, in 2007, he was the Representative of the Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and sat on the State Treasury Committee. Previously, Michał worked as an expert on EU funding for restructuring and modernising agriculture and was on the Wola District Council of Warsaw. In 2011, Michał received the Order of Honour from the President of the Republic of Georgia, and has been part of numerous leadership training programmes. He holds an MSc in Sociology from the University of Warsaw.



CEZARY TOMCZYK

Poland · Member, National Parliament of Poland · EYL 2017

Cezary began his political career on Sieradz's city council in 2006. One year later, he was elected as a Member of the Polish Parliament at the age of 23. He sat in the Committee on National Defence and the Committee on EU Affairs in addition to chairing the Permanent Subcommittee on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020. In 2010, he was awarded the Medal of Merit for National Defence by the Polish Minister of National Defence in recognition of his services to the development and strengthening of the defence of his country. In 2015, he was appointed as a Secretary of State and spokesperson in the government of Ewa Kopacz. After the 2015 parliamentary elections, he was nominated as shadow Deputy Minister of National Defence for the Civic Platform.

**DAVOR TREMAC**

Croatia · General Manager for Southeast Europe, Uber · EYL 2017

Holding a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Zagreb, Davor co-founded and served as COO of Gourmeo, a web start-up dealing in premium restaurant space, which expanded across Brazil, Germany and the United Kingdom. It partnered with the best restaurants in major cities across Europe, South America and Asia. Davor then worked for a leading consultancy firm where he managed media, technology and telecom projects in Europe and South East Asia. He is now General Manager at Uber where he is responsible for developing the transportation network company across Southeast Europe. Davor is also a member of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Croatia.

**MAX VON BISMARCK**

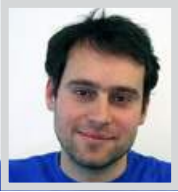
Germany · Chief Business Officer, Deposit Solutions · EYL 2014

Max is a European serial entrepreneur and Chief Business Officer of Deposit Solutions. Previously Max was Partner and CEO Europe for SkyBridge Capital, the global alternative investment firm, and Director and Head of Investors at the World Economic Forum in Geneva and New York. Furthermore, he was a Co-Founder & Managing Director at Public One Strategy Consulting, and part of the initial team of the technology company Mondus Limited that originated out of Oxford University. He serves as Senior Advisor Europe to the Berggruen Institute and is a former Senior Advisor on Global Business at the Asia-Pacific Research Center of Stanford University.

**OZAN YANAR**

Finland · Member, National Parliament of Finland · EYL 2017

Ozan is a Finnish economist and politician. He has researched issues relating to unemployment and wage differences. He has worked at the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions and in the Labour Institute for Economic Research and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. He was the Co-Chair of the Federation of Green Youth in 2015. At the age of 27, he was elected as a Green League Member of the Finnish Parliament. As an MP, he campaigns for social equality and spearheads the fight against discrimination. In 2017, he was in Forbes' 30 under 30 list.

**TOMAS ZACEK**

Slovakia · Co-Founder, CEO, and Design Director, Ecocapsule · EYL 2017

Tomas is an award-winning Slovakian architect. Apart from being a partner at the architectural firm Nice&Wise, he is the Co-founder, CEO and Design Director of Ecocapsule, a start-up that designed a portable house with long off-grid life span, worldwide portability and flexibility. As such, the Ecocapsule is suitable for a wide range of applications: from an independent research station or a tourist lodge to an emergency housing or a humanitarian-action unit. For this project, Tomas won the People's Choice Award at the Start-up Awards Slovakia and the Silver Medal at the K-design Awards in Korea.

**ANTONIO ZAPPULLA**

Italy · Chief Executive Officer, Thomson Reuters Foundation · EYL 2018

Currently serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, Antonio oversees the philanthropic arm of Thomson Reuters, leading on communications, monitoring and evaluation activities as well as the development functions of the organisation. Prior to his present role, Antonio worked as the Executive Producer at Bloomberg Television where he was in charge of news, factual programmes and documentaries for Europe, Middle East and Africa. He is also a member of the Pioneers Class at Stanford Graduate School of Business for the LEAD Program in Corporate Innovation.



1. Geert Cami, Friends of Europe
with Oisín Hanrahan, Handybook





2.



3.



4.

2. Jesse Klaver, Dutch green party 'GroenLinks' and House of Representatives

3. Franziska Brantner, National Parliament of Germany

4. Cezary Tomczyk, National Parliament of Poland

5. Helena Linder-Jess, Germany Navy



5.



AGENDA

Palace of Culture and Science

The Palace of Culture and Science was built in 1955; it was a "gift of the Soviet people to the Polish nation", offered by Joseph Stalin himself. Motivated by Polish historicism and American art deco high-rise buildings, the PKiN was designed by Soviet architect Lev Rudnev in "Seven Sisters" style.

The building was originally known as the Joseph Stalin Palace of Culture and Science (Pałac Kultury i Nauki imienia Józefa Stalina), but in the wake of destalinisation the dedication to Stalin was revoked.

Welcome and introduction to the seminar and the EYL programme
[Geert Cami](#), Co-Founder and Managing Director, Friends of Europe
[Michał Olszewski](#), EYL40 Alumnus & Deputy-Mayor of the City of Warsaw and European Young Leader Alumnus

PLENARY SESSION

TRACING OUR ROOTS

From Communism to Populism - How did we get here?

Authoritarians in Europe and the world are on the rise, and electorates are seduced by extremes that could bring down liberal democracy. To fight back, mainstream politicians need to grasp the causes of popular discontent and rebuild democracy's moral foundations.

With:

[Marcin Walecki](#), Head of the Democratization Department at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

GROUP ACTIVITY

DEFINING LEADERSHIP

Peer-to-Peer Exchange

What makes a good leader? In this session, Young Leaders will be divided into groups of 8-10 to exchange experiences and insight from their leadership journeys. Each group will present a summary of their discussion to the wider group in five minutes.

Led by:

[Agnija Seiko](#), Choreographer and European Young Leader Alumna

PLENARY SESSION**ETHICS, ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY****What defines European values in the 21st Century?**

Across the continent, populists on both sides of the political spectrum are rising; economic inequality is increasing; the advent of digital technologies is speeding up the rate of change in our societies; even the nature of privacy and social interaction has been transformed in the early part of the 21st century. This rapid pace of change has created an atmosphere of uncertainty, for good or ill, facilitating social division and increased competition to establish a dominant narrative which is capable of directing the remodelling of European values, as has is being illustrated in Britain, Poland, and Hungary.

Has Europe lost the moral high-ground? What now defines European identity and values? In which areas should we seek to protect traditional European characteristics, and which are in need of a 21st century overhaul?

Introductory remarks by:

[Caroline de Gruyter](#), Author and European Affairs Correspondent for leading Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad

[Franziska Brantner](#), Spokeswoman on European Policy at the Bundestag; European Young Leader Alumna and Friends of Europe Trustee

DINNER**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**

On the occasion of International Women's Day and the 100 anniversary of the Suffragettes' movement, this dinner will celebrate the legacy of women who have left an indelible mark on the progress of women.

European Young Leader contributions by:

[Alexandra Dariescu](#), Award-winning pianist and 2018 European Young Leader

[Dionysis Grammenos](#), Award-winning conductor & clarinetist, Founder of the Greek Youth Symphony Orchestra and 2018 European Young Leader

[Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bak](#), Social activist and member of the Razem party

[Jesse Klaver](#), Leader of the Dutch Green Party 'Groenlinks'



1.

- 1. Jamila Aanzi, Dutch Women's Council
- 2. Antonio Zappulla, Thomson Reuters Foundation with Gottfried Ludewig, Christian Democratic Union - Germany
- 3. Katarzyna Anna Nawrot, Poznan University of Economics; Janis Jonevs, Author and literary critic



2.



3.



DAY 2

FRIDAY 09 MARCH

PLENARY SESSION

CITIES IN THE DRIVING SEAT?

How cities are leading the way forward on European cooperation

By acting at the local level to solve economic, social, and environmental issues, cities can bypass national political discord to create partnerships full of opportunities that accelerate action on issues affecting the daily lives of citizens across Europe. Cities are also teaming up, creating coalitions and sharing knowledge and innovative solutions to the greatest challenges facing Europeans. From climate change to migration, these strategic partnerships are rooted in substantial projects and initiatives that reflect cities' ambitions, priorities and interests, giving them an increasingly prominent role in multilateral cooperation at the European level.

Where can cities have the greatest impact in bridging the gap between the EU and its citizens? Can European solidarity be reinvigorated at a city level? Does inter-city cooperation offer a more effective alternative to regional and international cooperation?

Introductory remarks by:

[Michal Szczerba](#), Member of the National Parliament (Sejm) and European Young Leader Alumnus

[Nasima Razmyar](#), Deputy-Mayor, City of Helsinki and European Young Leader 2018

PEER-LEARNING

PEER-LEARNING ROUNDTABLES I

Short conversations with Young Leaders on issues that matter to them, to gain expertise from this useful network.

1. Produced but never eaten – how to tackle food waste

[Selina Juul](#), Founder of the Stop Wasting Food Movement, and European Young Leader 2018

2. Getting to the top - navigating challenges to equality and diversity in the navy

[Helena Linder-Jess](#), Commanding officer in the German navy and European Young Leader 2018

3. Making sense of fake news

[Clémentine Forissier](#), Editor-in-Chief of Contexte and European Young Leader Alumna

4. How to overcome populism in relation to LGBTQ and equality issues

[Antonio Zappulla](#), COO of Thompson Reuters Foundation, and European Young Leader 2018

DAY 1

THURSDAY 08 MARCH

Palace of Culture and Science

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[Michał Olszewski](#), EYL40 Alumnus & Deputy-Mayor of the City of Warsaw and European Young Leader Alumnus

PARALLEL SESSION I

CYBERSECURITY A concern for European citizens and companies?

Cyberterrorism is fast-becoming one of the main concerns of European citizens. The shift from small-scale cyber-attacks to large-scale attacks on civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, power plants and financial services has heightened the public awareness of the vulnerability of data systems, leading to increased concern about the collection and handling of personal data, and the lack of transparency and accountability of companies and governments in the cybersphere. With much of its digital and technological infrastructure in the hands of private companies, how can Europe get ahead in ensuring that public data and resources are protected from cyber-attacks? Which areas of cyber-security should fall under the mandate of national and EU institutions, and which are the responsibility of individual citizens?

Introductory remarks by:

[Francesca Spidalieri](#), Senior Fellow for Cyber Leadership, Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy

[Ronan Murphy](#), Chief Executive Officer of Smarttech247

Moderated by:

[Katarzyna Pisarska](#), Founder of the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, Poland

PARALLEL SESSION II

OCEANS**The plastics paradox: a dilemma for consumers**

The velocity of the consumption of plastic as a cheap, disposable commodity has been exacerbated by the rise of consumer-facing digital platforms which facilitate high-speed 'click-to-buy' purchases with round-the-clock delivery. In parallel, citizens and nation states are convinced of the need to tackle environmental damage caused and climate change linked to human activity. Supermarkets and small retail outlets are pressured to reduce and recycle plastic waste whilst simultaneously feeding mass consumption. Meanwhile, oceans have become dumping grounds for all manner of plastic waste, which has now become such a blight on ecosystems that plastics are now found in the deepest and furthest reaches of the marine environment.

Introductory remarks by:

[Rashid Sumaila](#), Professor & Director of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit, University of British Columbia and recipient of the Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in Science

[Ulrike Sapiro](#), Director for Sustainability EMEA, The Coca-Cola Company

Moderated by:

[Dharmendra Kanani](#), Director of Strategy at Friends of Europe



PLENARY SESSION**TRACING OUR ROOTS****From Communism to Populism - How did we get here?**

Authoritarians in Europe and the world are on the rise, and electorates are seduced by extremes that could bring down liberal democracy. To fight back, mainstream politicians need to grasp the causes of popular discontent and rebuild democracy's moral foundations.

With:

[Marcin Walecki](#), Head of the Democratization Department at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

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What makes a good leader? In this session, Young Leaders will be divided into groups of 8-10 to exchange experiences and insight from their leadership journeys. Each group will present a summary of their discussion to the wider group in five minutes.

Led by:

[Agnija Seiko](#), Choreographer and European Young Leader Alumna

PEER-LEARNING**PARALLEL SESSION I****REACHING NEW AUDIENCES THROUGH THE ARTS**

1. **Activating 21st century skills - enabling social inclusion through volunteering**
[Kamilla Sultanova](#), Chair of Global Dignity Finland, and European Young Leader Alumna
 2. **The “Startup Stack”- what European start-ups need to succeed**
[John Collison](#), Co-Founder & President of Stripe, and European Young Leader 2018
 3. **Time for an alternative approach to banking**
[Max von Bismarck](#), Chief Business Officer & Managing Director, Deposit Solutions, and European Young Leader Alumnus
 4. **The Rebound Effect— a clean energy conundrum**
[Lukasz Dziekonski](#), Head of the Central and Eastern Europe Office, Marguerite Fund 2020 for Energy, and European Young Leader Alumnus
-

DAY 3

SATURDAY 10 MARCH

University of Warsaw Library

The library was founded in 1816 and housed mostly theological and historical books, the collection was however enlarged by papers from other scientific fields very soon. The new ultra-modern BUW building was opened in 1999 and offers all visitors unrestricted access to study desks and an immense collection of books.

OVER BREAKFAST

PEER-LEARNING ROUNDTABLES II

Short conversations with Young Leaders on issues that matter to them, to gain expertise from this useful network.

1. **One year on—are women changing the Republican party?**
[Meghan Milloy](#), Co-Founder, Republican Women for Progress, and North American Young Leader Alumna
2. **Skills & Jobs in 2030—how to prepare for the new economy**
[Claudia Olsson](#), Founder & CEO of Exponential AB and European Young Leader 2018
3. **Could going off-grid help solve our housing problems?**
[Tomas Zacek](#), CEO of Ecocapsule and European Young Leader 2018
1. **Finding a new star – what space has to offer this century**
[Guillem Anglada-Escudé](#), Astrophysicist and European Young Leader 2018

10.30-11.00

1. **Designing urban places in China - money, culture and history**
[Beatrice Leanza](#), Creative Director & Cofounder of B/Side Design & The Global School, and European Young Leader 2018
 2. **How a simple sticker can reduce pollution**
[Rob Shirkey](#), Founder and Executive Director of Our Horizon, and North American Young Leader Alumnus
 3. **Voice building by and for a new generation - why youth engagement needs a peer-to-peer approach**
[Katerina Gavriliadou](#), Founder & President of the European Cyprus Society, and European Young Leader 2018
 4. **Why humans need AI**
[Jakob Haesler](#), Co-Founder of Project Alloy and European Young Leader Alumnus
-

**A CONVERSATION
WITH****MARIAN TURSKI**
Reflecting on the past to protect Europe's future

Marian Turski is a Polish-Jewish historian and journalist. Having survived the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and two death marches in 1945, Turski has become an important personality of the Jewish community in Poland and for the memory of the Holocaust. Turski and his family were deported to the Auschwitz killing center in 1944, where his father and most likely his brother were murdered upon arrival. He was later transferred to the Buchenwald concentration camp, and was liberated at Theresienstadt after surviving a death march from Buchenwald. Since then he has had a distinguished career as a journalist, heading the historical section of the Polityka weekly since 1958 and has been involved in the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews Project since its beginning.

12.30 - 13.15**Closing remarks and what's next**



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Jamila Aanzi, UN Women's Representative,
Netherlands

Guillem Anglada-Escudé, Astrophysicist,
Queen Mary University of London, Spain

Franziska Katharina Brantner,
Spokeswoman on European Policy
Bundestag, Germany

Malcolm Byrne, Head of Communications
Higher Education Authority, Ireland

Geert Cami, Co-Founder & Managing
Director, Friends of Europe

Edoardo Camilli, Co-Founder & CEO
Hozint, Italy

John Collison, Co-Founder & President
Stripe, Ireland

Manuel Costescu, Former Secretary of
State for Foreign Investment, Romania

Xavier Damman, Co-Founder & CEO
OpenCollective, Belgium

Alexandra Dariescu, Pianist, Romania

Caroline de Gruyter, EU Correspondent
NRC Handelsblad, Norway

Sara Dominguez, Events and Database
Executive, Friends of Europe

Lukasz Dziekonski, Head of the Central
and Eastern Europe Office, Marguerite Fund
2020, Poland

Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bąk, Member
of the National Board, RAZEM, Poland

Nassira El Moaddem, Director, Bondy Blog,
France

Aaron Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary
for Social Dialogue and EU Funds Ministry of
European Affairs and Equality, Malta

Mary Fitzgerald, Award-winning journalist &
Libya analyst, Ireland

Cristina Fonseca, Co-Founder, Talkdesk,
Portugal

Clementine Forissier, Editor-in-Chief,
Contexte, France

Nathalie Furrer, Director of Programmes &
Operations, Friends of Europe

Katerina Gavrielidou, Founder & President
European Cyprus Society, Cyprus

Javier Gonzalez, Former International
Director, Digimarc, Spain

Miłosz Gos, Head of International Projects
Unit, City of Warsaw

Dionysis Grammenos, Conductor
& Musician, Greece

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor, City of
Warsaw

Jakob Haesler, Co-Founder, Project Alloy,
Germany

Oisín Hanrahan, Co-Founder
Handybook, Ireland

Daire Hickey, Managing Director
150Bond, Ireland

Pavla Holcova, Founder, Czech Center for
Investigative Journalism, Czech Republic

Klen Jäärats, Director for EU Affairs
Office of the Prime Minister, Estonia

Karolina Jasinska, International Projects
Coordinator, City of Warsaw

Janis Jonevs, Award-winning Author, Latvia

Selina Juul, Founder & Chairman of the
Board, Stop Wasting Food, Denmark

Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Parliamentary
State Secretary for EU Affairs, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Stefania Kapronczay, Executive Director
Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary

Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Strategy,
Friends of Europe

Jesse Klaver, Leader of “GroenLinks”
& Member, Tweede Kamer der Staten-
Generaal, Netherlands

Beatrice Leanza, Creative Director and Co-
Founder, B/Side Design | The Global School,
Italy

Jacek Legiewicz, Head of Public Affairs,
Samsung, Poland

Helena C. Linder- Jess, Commanding
Officer, German Navy (Deutsche Marine)
Germany

Gottfried Ludewig, Leader of the
Opposition, CDU Deutschlands, Berlin State
Parliament, Germany

Sammy Mahdi, Chairman
Jong CD&V, Belgium

Meghan Milloy, Co-Founder, Republican
Women for Progress, United States of
America

Rebeca Minguela, Founder, Clarity AI,
Spain

Blazej Moder, Managing Director, EC-1
Lodz – City of Culture, Poland

Ronan Murphy, Chief Executive,
Smarttech247, Ireland

Katarzyna Nawrot, Assistant Professor
Poznan University of Economics, Poland

Claudia Olsson, Founder & CEO
Exponential AB, Sweden

Claire O’Sullivan, Senior Programme and
Development Manager, Friends of Europe

Michał Olszewski, Deputy Mayor
City of Warsaw, Poland

Angela Pauly, Head of Communications,
Friends of Europe

Michale Printzos, Programme Director
The Hellenic Initiative, Greece

Lia Quartapelle, Leader of the Democratic
Party Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of
Deputies, Italy

Nasima Razmyar, Deputy-Mayor of Helsinki
& Member, National Parliament, Finland

Ulrike Sapiro, Director of Sustainability
The Coca-Cola Company

Agnija Seiko, Director, Padi Dapi Fish,
Lithuania

Rob Shirkey, Executive Director
Our Horizon, Canada

Wojciech Soczewica, Deputy Director of
Marketing, City of Warsaw

Francesca Spidalieri, Senior Fellow
for Cyber Leadership, Pell Center for
International Relations and Public Policy,
Salve Regina University

Michał Szczerba
Member, National Parliament (Sejm), Poland

Kamilla Sultanova, Chairman
Global Dignity, Finland

Ussif Rashid Sumaila, Professor & Director
of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit
University of British Columbia, Canada

Michał Szczerba, Member, National
Parliament (Sejm), Poland

Cezary Tomczyk, Member, National
Parliament (Sejm), Poland

Ringaile Trakymaite, Head, Civil Society
Development and Cooperation Division
Eastern Europe Studies Centre (EESC)
Lithuania

Davor Tremac, General Manager, Southeast
Europe, Uber, Croatia

Marian Turski, Deputy Chairman,
Association of the Jewish Historical Institute
of Poland

Max Von Bismark, Chief Business Officer
& Managing Director, Deposit Solutions,
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Marcin Walecki, Head of the
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