

13-15 SEPTEMBER 2018

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS (EYL40)

RE-KINDLING THE FIRE

REPORT OF THE 3 DAYS SEMINAR IN VALLETTA



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

We are also grateful to the Bank of Valletta, Transport Malta, Malta Tourism Authority, the Office of the President of the Republic, the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality and the Malta Council for Science and Technology for the support offered to the seminar.



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1. Malcolm Byrne, Head of Communications at Higher Education Authority in Ireland & EYL
2. Julia Kloiber, Founder of Code for Germany and Senior Fellow at Mozilla Foundation
3. Giselle Frederick, Founder & CEO of Zingr
4. Radoslaw Martin Cichy, Research Group Leader in Neuroscience at Free University of Berlin & EYL
5. Barbara Prainsack, Political Science Professor at the University of Vienna and King's College London
6. Helena Dalli, Maltese Minister for European Affairs and Equality

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Young Leaders (EYL40) seminar in Malta was all about solutions.

The main problem is clear: a populist surge threatens not only Europe's post-World War II integration, but the very foundations of the Western liberal-democratic order.

How to stem that surge, present credible alternatives for voters wooed by far-right siren calls and re-kindle enthusiasm for Europe's embattled unity project, were the core issues over the three days of debate.

The EYL40 seminar contained plenty of hopeful signs. Concrete examples from Switzerland, the Netherlands and Malta itself showed citizens and politicians thwarting populist ambitions by standing up for liberal values.

Young Leaders set themselves the task of broadening that fightback, generating ideas – from empowering citizens through participatory democracy, to values-based social-media campaigns – to wrestle back the initiative from the new nationalists.

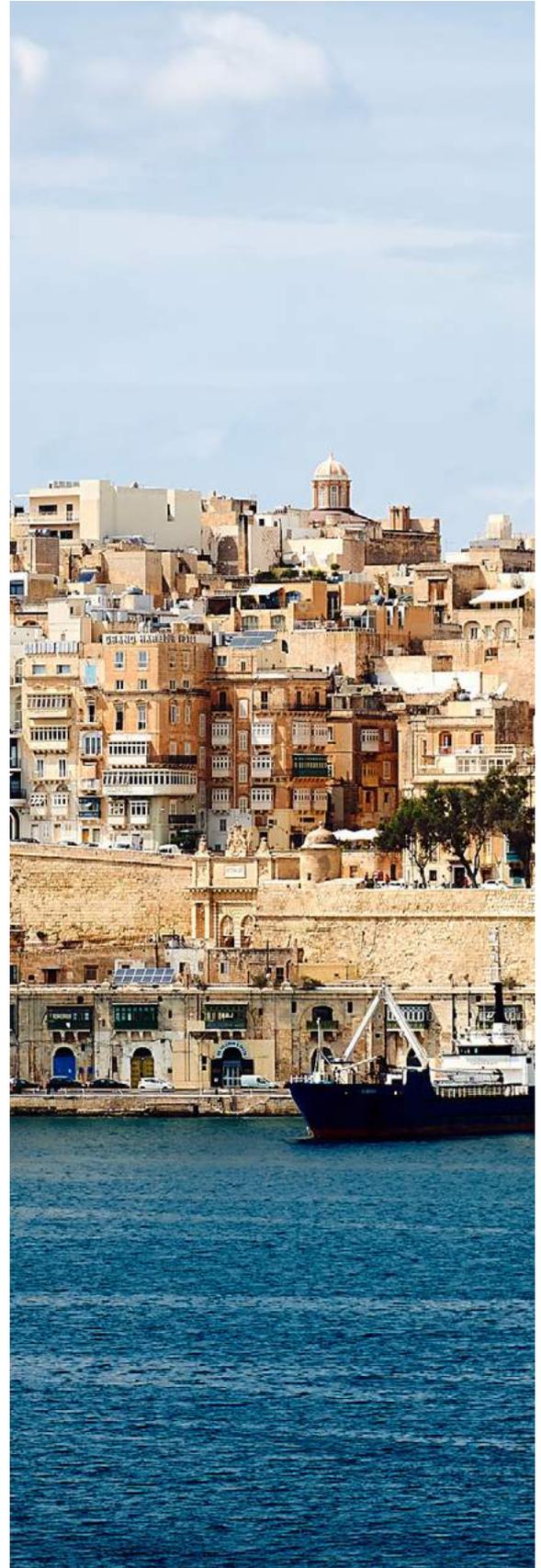
Ideas will be taken forward in Friends of Europe's #EuropeMatters initiative designed to craft recommendations for policymakers and set a fresh path for the European Union ahead of next year's European Parliament elections and the selection of a new European Commission.

Friends of Europe launched the EYL40 programme in 2011, harnessing the talents of 40 of the brightest 40-and-under minds to debate challenges facing the continent.

Under the heading "Re-Kindling the Fire", the Malta gathering was the second for the 2018 cohort who come from 25 countries and bring experience in fields ranging from politics, industry and civil society, to science, journalism and classical music.

Themes covered in the debates and roundtables, attended by almost 40 past-and-present Young Leaders in Malta, included healthcare in the digital age, housing inequality, the future of journalism, women in tech and prospects for colonising space.

As with the previous seminar, in Warsaw last March, a public session gave Maltese citizens and visiting Young Leaders a chance to brainstorm on the key question of how Europe can re-engage with voters.



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Fondazione Cariplo is an Italian grant-making foundation that operates with the sole purpose of pursuing the social good and promoting economic development.

The Foundation does not act in lieu of others: since its establishment, it has played a crucial catalyser role, convening, leveraging resources and fostering a participatory and collaborative approach among key stakeholders from the civil society, the private and the public sector.

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.

THE FIGHTBACK

Flavia Kleiner is a winner.

Her Operation Libero movement spearheads Switzerland's fightback against the far-right. In 2016, it turned around polls to secure a referendum victory against a populist initiative designed to deport foreigners convicted of even minor crimes.

"We want to protect this liberal democratic order," she told the Young Leaders. "Everyone needs to be a fighter, we need to step out of our comfort zones."

Her determination targeted voters with a simple message: the far-right's agenda was taking a wrecking ball to Switzerland's time-honoured values of liberty and tolerance. It was unpatriotic to support it.

Kleiner's story shows how to counter populist arguments and win voters back with principled arguments. "We don't want to live in a country where there are second-class citizens," Kleiner added. "To win this vote we needed to speak more to conservative voters, we don't need to speak to the left."

She insisted on taking the initiative and "creating our own moral issues battlefield" to confront populists with proactive positive agreements, rather than fighting them on their own ground and reacting to their initiatives. "It means that we don't sing their song, we sing our own song," Kleiner insisted.

Replicating Operation Libero's success on a wider scale, by crafting campaigns that can take the momentum away from the radical right at European level, was a pivotal theme of the Malta EYL meeting.

Jesse Klaver, Leader of the GroenLinks party in the Dutch Parliament and 2018 European Young Leader, explained how his party managed to more than triple its vote in last year's parliamentary elections and leapfrog the far-right in opinion polls since then. It's heading towards the European Parliament election as the Netherlands' second most-popular party.

"We have to be smarter than the right-wing," Klaver said. To do that, GroenLinks uses big-data technology to make sure it can respond to voters concerns without compromising its principles on issues such as immigration, he added.

"We have to stop them and therefore we have to make use of big data. The way to do that is through trust. We asked people if we could have their data. We tell people exactly what we are doing and what we are not doing with this data," Klaver told the group. "People love politicians who are honest."



“Creating our own moral issues battlefield. It means that we don’t sing their song, we sing our own song”

Flavia Kleiner
Co-President and Co-Founder
of Operation Libero



“If this were about austerity it would be so much easier (...). It is about values, about identities, it’s about fears that a way of life is under threat”

Matthew Goodwin

Politics and International Relations Professor at the University of Kent, writer on populism and 2018 European Young Leader

A full understanding of why voters turn to the far-right is key to building a fightback strategy, said [Matthew Goodwin](#), Politics and International Relations Professor at the University of Kent, writer on populism and 2018 European Young Leader. It’s not down to economic gripes, he insisted.

“If this were about austerity it would be so much easier,” Goodwin said. “Why people are voting for these parties: mainly because of concerns over immigration ... It is about values, about identities, it’s about fears that a way of life is under threat.”

Citing the Brexit referendum, Goodwin contended that counter-campaigns on economic data won’t work. Positive arguments that trigger an emotional response are needed. “For progressives to get back in the game, you are going to have to have an impassioned debate on what more Europe can do.”

In the discussion, [Ayman Mhanna](#), MENA Young Leader and Executive Director of the Samir Kassir Foundation which promotes media freedom in the Middle East, was concerned people are not fully aware of the risk populism poses. “Maybe we are not totally waking up to the dangers. It’s still abstract in peoples’ minds,” he said.

[Mary Fitzgerald](#), European Young Leader, Journalist and Libya analyst, highlighted the role of the press in pushing a nationalist agenda during the Brexit campaign. “These people do have a voice,” she said. “The British media is dominated by the euro-sceptic, populist press.”

Host country Malta, like Spain and Portugal, has managed to avoid the rise of the populist right which has swept over most of the European Union. [Aaron Farrugia](#), European Young Leader and Malta’s Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue asserted that direct engagement with the public by politicians from Malta’s mainstream parties had denied space to the far right.

“The reason why we don’t have any extreme parties is that there is no gap for them to fill,” he said.

On a wider level, re-building trust between citizens and politicians is key to injecting new impetus into democracy, argued [Jon Alexander](#), Founder of The New Citizenship Project, a social initiative that helps catalyse the shift towards a more participatory society. He argued for leadership that inspires change.

“We believe that people do want to make things better,” Alexander said. “Trust is reciprocal. When you put trust in the people, you get it back.” The former advertising executive said politicians need to stop viewing voters as consumers to whom solutions can be sold, but instead as citizens participating in reshaping society.

“We are still living at a time where people are treated as consumers, but the new story that’s forming is of people as citizens,” Alexander argued.

Creating trust means those in authority should not shy away from tough questions, argued European Ombudsman [Emily O’Reilly](#) in a video contribution to the debate. “Avoiding sensitive issues only seeks to accentuate public cynicism,” she said.

A final brainstorming session in Valletta’s historic Auberge of Aragon, saw the Young Leaders produce ideas on how to move forward. They ranged from engaging artists and musicians to promote positive European messages, to “weaponising Brexit” by showing EU citizens the dangers of splitting.

There were calls for a media campaign inspired by the “Humans of New York” photoblog, to tell the stories of European citizens and enhance their understanding of each other.

Interviews with older people could give new generations a better understanding of the dangers of war and dictatorship that the European unity was designed to avert. A better branding of the EU is needed to show the positive side of integration through examples such as the Erasmus student exchange programme and easier, cheaper holidays.

“Across borders we have a common ground and I think that is something people don’t realise,” added [Xavier Damman](#), Founder & CEO of OpenCollective, Co-Founder of Storify and European Young Leader. “We need to stand our ground on the values that make us European, the right wing and populists are putting those values in danger.”



“We are still living at a time where people are treated as consumers, but the new story that’s forming is of people as citizens”

Jon Alexander
Founder of The New Citizenship Project



“It has now become almost cool to stand up in the European Parliament and bash the European Union”

Roberta Metsola

a Maltese Member of European Parliament and 2018 European Young Leader

MEETING THE MALTESE

One of the most stimulating sessions brought together the Young Leaders with Maltese citizens for a debate on how to improve public participation in politics ahead of the European Parliament elections.

Speaking to the group, [Roberta Metsola](#), a Maltese Member of the European Parliament and 2018 European Young Leader, warned that the election in May could be bad news for mainstream, pro-European parties.

“My fear is that the next European Parliament will look very different from the one we see today,” she cautioned. “It has now become almost cool to stand up in the European Parliament and bash the European Union.” Politicians in the centre find it hard to generate enthusiasm with traditional arguments: “The moment you talk about democracy or values, people switch off,” Metsola added.

Among the public, however, there was optimism. “Europe is beautiful, and we can make it work again,” insisted one speaker, a theatre student and gender activist. “Europe does matter,” added a German citizen of Indian origin, currently resident in Malta. “Wherever you live, you can feel European.”

People need to feel they have a say in decision-making that goes beyond periodic calls to the polling booth, contended [Guillem Anglada-Escude](#), Professor of Astrophysics at Queen Mary University, London, and 2018 European Young Leader. “Participation in politics should be continuous and more than just putting a vote in a ballot.”

One key challenge is mobilising young people to engage in politics at the ballot box and beyond. “How do we get teenagers and youngsters to participate in society?” asked [Kamilla Sultanova](#), Chairperson of Global Dignity Finland and European Young Leader. “I think what we are missing is empathy.”

A Maltese student activist in the audience agreed: “Extremists do well because people don’t vote,” he said. “You have to start young, you have to start involving the young at all levels.”

[Malcolm Byrne](#), Head of Communications at Ireland’s Higher Education Authority and European Young Leader, underlined the constructive role of youthful voters. “Young people are interested in politics, they are more interested in issues and their impact on them,” he said.

Malta recently took a significant step to boost youth participation. In March, its parliament voted unanimously to lower the voting age to 16, the second EU country, after Austria, to do so.

“As a 16-year-old you are allowed to work and pay taxes. Even if you are not working, you should have an impact on the future of your country,” said [Michael Piccinino](#), President of Malta’s National Youth Council (KNŻ) which campaigned for the change.

Inclusiveness was a powerful theme throughout the three-days in Malta. One speaker in the open session emphasised the necessity of reaching out to small-town and less-educated voters, who tend to be among those most likely to support populists.

Clearly more needs to be done to boost women’s representation – Spain’s appointment of a female-majority government in June – turned the spotlight onto the male predominance in other EU countries, notably the all-male cabinet of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

“The situation is rather bleak,” said [Helena Dalli](#), Maltese Minister for European Affairs and Equality, who hosted a dinner for the Young Leaders. “This needs fixing ... while there have been advances, Europe has plenty more to do.”

Female potential remains under-tapped in fields as diverse as music and technology. Pianist and 2018 European Young Leader [Alexandra Dariescu](#) bemoaned the lack of women conductors and composers in the world’s concert halls. Things are a little better in the tech world, said her fellow 2018 European Young Leader [Kristel Kruustük](#), Chief Executive and Founder of Testlio – a professional testing platform that helps software developers by connecting them to the best testers all over the world.

“It’s not easy being a woman in tech and there are a lot of other industries where women are not empowered,” she said.

Ensuring inclusion for migrants and refugees was another topic that seized the Young Leaders.

“It shouldn’t be a problem to integrate refugees. It’s not about numbers, it’s about perceptions,” said European Young Leader 2018 [Diane Binder](#), Vice-President of International Development at Suez, Founder of Action Emploi Réfugiés and member of the Presidential Advisory Council for Africa to President Macron. She also called for a new partnership between Europe and Africa, one that enables Africa’s young population to achieve its potential.

“If Africa fails, Europe will fail and somehow, humanity will fail,” Binder said. “This generation has a tremendous responsibility to try and solve the problems together.”



“It’s not easy being a woman in tech and there are a lot of other industries where women are not empowered”

Kristel Kruustük
Chief Executive & Founder of Testlio
and 2018 European Young Leader



John S. Latsis
Public Benefit Foundation

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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.

The Foundation implements a venture philanthropy approach to its grant-making, which means prioritizing high engagement with grantees, tailored financing, non-financial support, involvement of networks, organisational capacity-building, performance measurement and remaining responsive to ongoing social needs.

●
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HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE

Other areas where the Young Leaders sought solutions to the moral questions raised by modern developments included healthcare and housing.

The pace of change in medical health is opening up vast new opportunities, from gene-editing to eliminate diseases and disabilities, to data analysis making healthcare increasingly predictive, preventive, participatory and personalised. EYs in Malta engaged with leading experts to look at these exciting developments, but also to consider the moral and regulatory aspects of new healthcare technologies.

“We are seeing a longer and longer life-expectancy globally,” declared [Lili Milani](#), Senior Research Fellow at Uppsala University and Research Professor at the Estonian Genome Centre. “What is important in healthcare is to extend the years of healthy life.”

Milani outlined work in Estonia to analyse DNA from 150,000 volunteers to predict risks at an early stage and eliminate them. “This presents great new opportunities in healthcare,” she said.

However, there are dilemmas.

Science may be able to eradicate breast cancer, if the pregnancies of two generations of women showing genetic risk are terminated. Gene-editing could eliminate certain types of disability, but would our humanity be reduced by not having less-able people among us? In many cases the potential side effects of the new technologies are unclear.

“Where is the line? I think it’s too early,” Milani said. “Never in history have we been able to edit DNA with such precision. It’s still not precise enough and the off-target results are still not known.”

Another note of caution came from European Young Leader [Ricardo Baptista Leite](#), a doctor and Portuguese Member of Parliament. “It’s really a Pandora’s box,” he warned. “There are tremendous risks here of believing that we can play God ... there are unforeseen consequences in every step of our evolution in science.”

[Stefánia Kapronczay](#), Executive Director at the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union and 2018 European Young Leader, also questioned the morality of using genetic intervention to eliminate conditions such as Down Syndrome, asking: “Do we need to ‘fix’ the person? Or do we need to fix our society?”



“There are tremendous risks here of believing that we can play God ... there are unforeseen consequences in every step of our evolution in science”

Ricardo Baptista Leite
a doctor and Portuguese Member of Parliament
and European Young Leader alumni



“All sorts of scary stuff is happening”

Dharmendra Kanani
Director of Insights at Friends of Europe

Eliminating ailments can have unforeseen effects, since one disease can fight another, and genomes may have protective functions that are not fully known, argued [Barbara Prainsack](#), Political Science Professor at the University of Vienna and King's College London working on the regulatory, social, and ethical dimensions of bioscience.

“There are often two sides to a story and we are only beginning to understand it,” she said.

Prainsack voiced concern about the use of data and the excessive power of the mega-businesses that control it. “Companies have stopped being market players and they've become regulators,” she said. “Data is like our body, it's something we can't sell or monetise.”

Tech entrepreneur Xavier Damman, however, suggested it was too late to hold back the data flow. “I'm wondering if we are not fighting gravity here,” he said. “In a couple of years, everybody will know the DNA of everyone.”

An over-cautious approach to medical science puts Europe at risk of lagging behind in the race to develop important technologies, contented [Gottfried Ludewig](#), Head of Digitalisation and Innovation at Germany's Federal Health Ministry and 2018 European Young Leader.

“Do we want Europe to participate in having those treatments?” he asked. “Or do we just want to wait for the Americans or Chinese to develop these solutions.”

Society should accentuate the positive side of the unstoppable advance of medical science, Ludewig said. “We tend to always discuss the misuse and the risk, and forget about the chances, the opportunities.”

Given international competition in healthcare sciences, speakers called for international rules to govern ethical considerations. “All sorts of scary stuff is happening,” cautioned [Dharmendra Kanani](#), Director of Insights at Friends of Europe. “There isn't a rulebook on this, multilateral institutions aren't thinking about it.”

Although genetic interventions are becoming cheaper, participants raised concerns that new technological developments will widen gaps between patients able to afford innovative treatments and the rest.

“How to ensure that what you are talking about does not become the next big source of inequality in our society?” asked [Alessandro Fusacchia](#), European Young Leader, Member of the Italian Parliament and former head of cabinet to the Italian minister of Education. For Prainsack, the answer is clear: “The more personalised healthcare becomes, the more important it is that we still have universal healthcare that is affordable at the point of use.”

Inequality also loomed over the debate on housing. “We have increasingly a society of the haves or have-nots,” said [Myriam François](#), European Young Leader and award-winning journalist at TRT world and BBC1.

She spoke on the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017 where a fire killed 72 people in a 24-story block built as social housing. “There are so many elements of this story that are shocking,” François said, starting with the inflammable cladding installed as a cost-cutting measure.

The disaster highlights wider problems of housing in London where soaring prices have left four-out-of-10 families just one pay-cheque away from homelessness and most people spend over half their income on rent. “Precariousness of housing is a massive source of personal instability,” François said.

The problem goes way beyond London, noted [Orna Rosenfeld](#), Independent Senior Housing Expert and Adviser to the European Commission. “We have increased fragmentation of the housing market that increases inequality and spatial segregation,” said the award-winning urban strategist.

Authorities are failing to update measures in line with the scale of the problem, Rosenfeld added. “We are still using policy and regulation and finance that is old. We have to find new ways and really challenge the assumptions we had before.”

One success story came from Finland. There, the ‘housing first’ policy giving homeless people their own personal accommodation, rather than space in communal shelters, is paying off. [Juha Kaakinen](#), Chief Executive of Y-Foundation, the Nordic nation’s biggest non-profit nationwide housing organisation, explained how that makes Finland Europe’s only country where homelessness is declining.

“When you come to Helsinki, you don’t see anybody sleeping in the streets,” he said. “It’s, first of all, a social and moral issue. You can judge the level of society by its achievements ... If you see homeless people on the streets, it says everything about the society.”

Finland is helping those on low income find homes by ensuring social housing makes up 20% of new housing areas. “It’s economically viable to solve homelessness,” Kaakinen said.

Other cities are seeing families squeezed out by tourism, as landlords seek greater income from holiday rentals. [Josep-Maria Gascón](#), European Young Leader and former director for strategy and competitive intelligence in Catalonia’s Ministry of Business and Knowledge, shared Barcelona’s experience: “We are dying thanks to the success of tourism. What we are seeing in the city centre is a desertification.”



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Juha Kaakinen
Chief Executive of Y-Foundation



1. Diane Binder - Vice President of International Development at Suez, Co-President & Founder of Action Emploi Réfugiés & EYL
2. Edoardo Camilli - Co-Founder and CEO at Hozint & EYL
3. Guillem Anglada-Escude - Professor of Astrophysics at the Queen Mary University & EYL
4. Aaron Farrugia - Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue Malta & EYL / Gottfried Ludwig - Head of Digitalisation and Innovation at German Ministry of Health & EYL / Alexandra Dariescu – Classical Pianist & EYL
5. Lukasz Dziekonski - Member of the Management Board at Marguerite Fund 2020 & EYL

GOOD ROBOT, BAD HUMAN?

The theme of adapting time-honoured moral precepts to fast changing 21st Century developments was carried over in the EYL debates on technology.

From the blockchain revolution to the spread of big data, self-driving vehicles, drone wars and the coming of artificial intelligence (AI) there's immense uncertainty over the impact of innovative new developments on the lives of humans. Techies among the Young Leaders in Malta were keen to allay concerns about the march of malevolent machines.

"If something bad happens, it hasn't come from the technology: it's come from a human," stated 2018 European Young Leader [Anne-Marie Imafidon](#), Co-Founder and CEO at Stemettes, which promotes female engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

[Sándor Léderer](#), European Young Leader, as well as Co-Founder and CEO of K-Monitor – a non-profit public funds watchdog in Hungary, agreed: "The technical part of the story, the digital part, is not the evil part."

Progress on AI is moving fast, said [Radoslaw Martin Cichy](#), a neuroscientist leading the research group on Neural Dynamics of Visual Cognition at the Free University and 2018 European Young Leader.

However, he was re-assuring on the likelihood that humanity is about to be outwitted. "We are far, far away from anything that is smarter than a human being, and humans are pretty stupid," added Cichy. "We are far, far away from anything that is autonomous."

Limits to digital dominance are also shown by Facebook's hiring of 20,000 humans to moderate content and weed out hate from its pages, said [Cristina Fonseca](#), Co-Founder of software company Talkdesk and 2018 European Young Leader.

"In order to recognise hate speech, you need to know a lot about the world ... sarcasm is difficult to code," she said. "The algorithm is not going to tell you: 'I have a problem'."

Tech discussions in Malta looked at Blockchain's ability to disrupt the tech giants of China and the United States by removing the need for centralised data platforms. Speakers included [Abdalla Kablan](#), Fintech Expert and Founder of Scheduit, a business networking app; and [Giselle Frederick](#), Founder and CEO of Zingr, which provides fintech solutions for the unbanked. Roundtable sessions debated women in STEM, neuroscience and AI, and space exploration and the potential for planetary colonisation.



"If something bad happens, it hasn't come from the technology: it's come from a human"

Anne-Marie Imafidon
Co-Founder and CEO at Stemettes
and 2018 European Young Leader

Imafidon underlined the need to improve tech education, saying digital should be up there with the traditional “3Rs” of teaching: reading, writing and ‘rithmetic. “It doesn’t take that much to be a techie,’ she said. ‘It has to be something that we are all part of.”

Several speakers complained that too much tech investment and knowhow focus on commercial ends, while not enough goes into academia and altruistic ventures. “There is very little money poured into technologies for the good,” said Lederer.

“One of the biggest problems is getting people back from industry into academia,” added Cichy. In addition, he said, continued dependence on national funding hampers cross-border research. “If I want to collaborate with somebody in Spain or England, I can’t because I can’t get the funding.”



#EUROPEMATTERS

The multitude of ideas and recommendations emerging from the Maltese debates will be channeled by Friends of Europe towards European policy makers in the run up to the elections in May.

Friends of Europe initiated #EuropeMatters, a 12-month project bringing together business leaders, policymakers, civil society and citizens to design a Europe that still matters in 2030 and present recommendations for incoming EU leaders.

For [Geert Cami](#), Co-Founder and Secretary General of Friends of Europe, the stakes could hardly be higher. “In a globalised world, we just don’t have any alternative other than to work together,” he told the Young Leaders in Malta.

Gains by populist, anti-European forces as the EU prepares for the election of the new European Parliament and the arrival of a new Commission, illustrate the urgency of finding new solutions.

“There is a possibility that this big coalition (of centre-right and socialists) in the European Parliament will no longer be there,” said Dutch lawmaker Jesse Klaver. “Are the right wing and populist movements going to win? Or are the progressives going to win?”

To counter the far right, Young Leaders argued that it’s essential to push for positive change.

“We have a pan-European community with the same challenges ahead,” said Italian MP Fusacchia. “How do we mobilise European citizens?”

“We should be launching a public campaign to change ourselves as societies,” added François, the award-winning journalist. “The forces that are in favour of the EU need to be its biggest critics ... so we are not leaving that terrain to other forces.”

Friends of Europe’s Director of Insights, Dharmendra Kanani summed up the risks and opportunities for the months ahead. “This is a time of make or break for Europe,” he said. “Things are going to change quite significantly in the next six months.”



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Jesse Klaver

Leader of the Dutch 'Groenlinks' Party
and 2018 European Young Leader





1. Kamilla Sultanova - Chairperson Global Dignity Finland & EYL / Myriam Francois - International News Correspondent at TRT World & EYL / Anne-Marie Imafidon Co-Founder and CEO at Stemettes & EYL
2. Meghan Milloy - Co-Founder of Republican Women for Progress & North American Young Leader
3. Abdalla Kablan - Fintech, AI, & Data Science Expert; Founder of Scheduit
4. Stefania Kapronczay - Executive Director at Hungarian Civil Liberties Union & European Young Leader
5. Pavla Holcova - Founder of the Czech Center for Investigative Journalism & EYL
6. Beatrice Leanza - Cultural Strategist and Co-Founder of B/Side Design & EYL
7. Alessandro Fusacchia - Member of Parliament in Italy and Secretary of Movimenta & EYL
8. Xavier Damman - Founder & CEO of OpenCollective and Co-Founder of Storify & EYL
9. Dharmendra Kanani - Director of Insights at Friends of Europe / Bastian Obermayer, Award-Winning Journalist & EYL
10. Cristina Fonseca - Co-Founder of Talkdesk & EYL



EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS



GUILLEM ANGLADA-ESCUDE

Spain · Professor of Astrophysics at the Queen Mary University & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



RICARDO BAPTISTA-LEITE

Portugal · Member, National Parliament of Portugal & 2015/16 European Young Leader

Ricardo is best known as a Member of the Portuguese Parliament representing the Social Democratic Party. He is also a medical doctor with specific training in infectious diseases, having studied at Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Medical School, and has an active role on a number of scientific and advisory boards of health-related foundations and organisations – including his role as Head of Public Health at the Catholic University of Portugal. Combining his expert medical knowledge and political career, Riccardo worked towards a PhD in Public Health/Health Management at Maastricht University. Since his election in 2011, the Portuguese-Canadian citizen has expanded his focus beyond health issues and currently serves as Coordinator and Permanent Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee as well as President of the Portugal-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group.



DIANE BINDER

France · Vice President of International Development at Suez, Co-President & Founder of Action Emploi Réfugiés & 2018 European Young Leader

Diane has more than 15 years of international experience in global corporations, consulting, government, international organisations and NGOs. As current Vice-President at Suez, a global leader in the water and waste sector, she leads their activities in Africa and the Middle East supporting cities and industries in the circular economy to preserve, optimise and secure the resources essential to our future. Diane is also the founder of the NGO Action Emploi Réfugiés, which aims to facilitate refugees' access to jobs, and advises French President Emmanuel Macron as Member of the Presidential Council on Africa. In 2014, she was listed by the French newspaper Les Echos as part of the "French touch", the 100 personalities promoting France abroad.



HALA BUGAIGHIS

Libya · Co-Founder of Jusoor Libya & MENA Young Leader

Hala is a lawyer and co-founder of Jusoor, a non-governmental organisation committed to independent policy research and human development projects for women with focus on the economic and social empowerment. As a lawyer with 15 years of experience, Hala focuses on commercial, banking, civil and investment laws, and has a sound understanding of law practice in an international context. Through her private companies, Hala has worked as a consultant to many international companies as well as Libyan private and public entities, focusing on development and capacity building. In 2015, Hala was nominated a UN Women Champion for Women Economic Empowerment – an initiative that aims to improve women's economic standing and potential around the world.



MALCOLM BYRNE

Ireland · Head of Communications at the Higher Education Authority & 2014 European Young Leader

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 and CEO at Hozint & 2017 European Young Leader

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.



RADOSLAW MARTIN CICHY

Poland · Neuroscientist & 2018 European Young Leader

Radoslaw is a neuroscientist, leading the research group "Neural Dynamics of Visual Cognition" at the Free University Berlin. His main interest is human visual cognition – that is, the way the brain represents visual objects. Radoslaw has received numerous awards and grants from private and public funders for his ground-breaking research including from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and, most recently, from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In addition to teaching and lecturing at various universities worldwide, he is also a regular on the conference trail in the US and Europe.



XAVIER DAMMAN

Belgium · Founder & CEO of OpenCollective and Co-Founder of Storify & 2017 European Young Leader

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 cofounded 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, another successful company that enables groups to collect and spend money transparently without having to create a new bank account.



ALEXANDRA DARIESCU

Romania · Pianist & 2018 European Young Leader

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 · Member of the Management Board at Marguerite Fund 2020 & 2015/16 European Young Leader

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 & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



AARON FARRUGIA

Malta · Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue at the Maltese Government & 2017 European Young Leader

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 · Libya Analyst, Award-Winning Journalist and Columnist & 2013 European Young Leader

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 of Talkdesk & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



MYRIAM FRANÇOIS

United Kingdom · International News Correspondent at TRT World & 2017 European Young Leader

Myriam is an academic, broadcaster and writer specialising in issues related to Islam and the Middle East. She is a regular contributor to the Middle East Eye, the New Statesman and the Telegraph. In 2014, she broke a headline story on an exclusive 36-page document written by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the Al-Qaeda militant behind the 9/11 attacks. Since then, she presented two BBC documentaries, 'The Muslim Pound' (2016) and 'A Deadly Warning: Srebrenica Revisited' (2015) nominated for the Sandford St Martin religious programming award. Myriam is also a Research Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies at SOAS University, where she focuses on British-Muslim integration issues. She recently completed her doctorate at Oxford University on the subject of Islamic political movements in Morocco.



MARKUS FREIBURG

Germany · Founder and Managing Director of Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE) & 2017 European Young Leader

Markus is the founder of the Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE), a leading financial intermediary that helps social enterprises scale their social impact by helping them raise hybrid growth capital. FASE has built an open pipeline of investment-ready social enterprises. Markus is also a member of the Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES), a consultative multi-stakeholder group on social business that examines the progress of measures foreseen by the European Commission. He has experience of working with many social enterprises in finding appropriate financing solutions and scaling up the impact of proven business models. Markus worked for seven years as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, where one of his roles was providing pro-bono consulting for social entrepreneurs.



ALESSANDRO FUSACCHIA

Italy · Italian member of Parliament and secretary of Movimenta & 2012 European Young Leader

Alessandro Fusacchia is an Italian member of Parliament, secretary of Movimenta - a new Italian political organisation. He is currently serving in the Chamber of Deputies as a member of the permanent commission on Culture, Science and Education and he has previously served as Head of Cabinet at the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. He was Special Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy and Special Advisor to the Minister of Economic Development for European Affairs, Youth and Innovation. Previously he was an official at the Council of the European Union dealing with global economic governance. He has also worked for the Italian Prime Minister's office in Rome as part of the G8 team, as well as for the Italian Ministry of International Trade.



KATERINA GAVRIELIDOU

Cyprus · Founder and President at the European Cyprus Society & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



MATTHEW GOODWIN

United Kingdom · Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent & 2018 European Young Leader

Matthew, a political scientist by training, has tried to bridge the gap between academia and policy-making when it comes to topics such as radicalisation, extremism and integration. He is an outward-facing researcher who shares the view that social science should be as much about contributing to wider society as to the social sciences. Before his appointment as Professor of Politics and International Relations in Kent, he served as a member of the UK government's working group on anti-Muslim hatred and spent twelve months on a full-time secondment in a central government department, working alongside policy makers on extremism and integration issues. Matthew also serves as co-editor of the Routledge book series on Extremism and Democracy and regularly contributes to news outlets such as The Guardian and Politico.



PAVLA HOLCOVA

Czech Republic · Founder of the Czech Center for Investigative Journalism & 2018 European Young Leader

Pavla is the Founder and Director of the Czech Center for Investigative Journalism, where she has been involved in examining cases of Serbian and Macedonian organised criminals and revealing fraud in the fall of the Czech Investment and Post Bank (IPB), the biggest bankruptcy in the history of the Czech Republic. Before founding the centre, Pavla was head of Cuban Section in a humanitarian and human rights NGO. Her journalistic work has been merited with the Global Shining Light Award from the Global Investigative Journalism Network, as well as the European Union Award for Investigative Journalism.



ANNE-MARIE IMAFIDON

United Kingdom · Co-Founder and CEO at Stemettes & 2018 European Young Leader

Anne-Marie co-founded and became the CEO of Stemettes in 2013. Through this social enterprise, she aims to inspire and promote the involvement of the next generation of women into scientific, technologic, engineering, and mathematics centred subjects (STEM) and careers. Within three years, Stemettes has attracted over 7000 girls across the UK, Ireland and Europe to their events. A child prodigy, Anne-Marie's passion and success in the STEM scene started at an early age, with passing two GCSEs at the age of ten, and being the youngest girl ever to pass A-Level Computing. In recognition of her influence and achievements, Anne-Marie was awarded an MBE in 2017.



STEFÁNIA KAPRONCZAY

Hungary · Executive Director at Hungarian Civil Liberties Union & 2018 European Young Leader

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

The Netherlands · Leader of the Dutch 'Groenlinks' Party & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



KRISTEL KRUUSTUK

Estonia · Founder and CEO of Testlio & 2018 European Young Leader

As CEO and co-founder of Testlio, Kristel leads a professional testing platform that helps software developers by connecting them to the best testers all over the world. The business is still growing rapidly, having already raised more than \$6.25 million in investment capital, and works with a roster of major US and international clients, including the NBA, Microsoft, CBS and Hotels.com.



BEATRICE LEANZA

Italy · Cultural Strategist and Co-Founder of B/Side Design & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



SÁNDOR LÉDERER

Hungary · Co-Founder and CEO of K-Monitor & 2015 - 2016 European Young Leader

Sándor is the Co-Founder and CEO of K-Monitor, a non-profit public funds watchdog based in Budapest. The NGO was founded to increase efforts to improve the current levels of democracy and the rule of law nationally. It does this by raising the awareness of corruption thereby increasing transparency in the Hungarian political system. K-Monitor operates open data websites, conducts research and advocates for legal reform. In 2012 K-Monitor developed a website called the Network, a database and an interactive map on political and economic elite networks, public procurements, farm subsidies and EU funding. Sándor was selected as a fellow for the Obama Foundation in 2018.



GOTTFRIED LUDEWIG

Germany · Head of Digitalisation and Innovation, Federal Ministry of Health & 2018 European Young Leader

Gottfried is appointed as Head of Digitalisation and Innovation at the Federal Ministry of Health in Germany. Before this, he was elected in 2011, 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 was particularly committed to strengthening research and innovation in the health care 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.



ROBERTA METSOLA

Malta · Member of European Parliament & 2018 Young Leader

Roberta is one of Malta's first female Members of the European Parliament, belonging to the European People's Party Group (EPP). Lawyer by training, Roberta currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petitions and contributes to several other parliamentary committees and delegations. Twotime MEP award winner for her work on justice and civil liberties, Roberta was selected to host the awards 2017 edition.



AYMAN MHANNA

Lebanon · Executive Director Samir Kassir Foundation & MENA Young Leader

Ayman Mhanna is Executive Director of the Beirut-based Samir Kassir Foundation, one of the leading press freedom NGOs in the Middle East. In this capacity, he oversees the foundation's advocacy, monitoring, research and training activities. Mhanna has previously held the position of Executive Director of the Global Forum for Media Development, focusing on monitoring violations targeting journalists and providing them with the necessary support. He has also extensively worked with issues related to election observation, electoral reform and civil society involvement. Until recently, he was a lecturer on policy development and communications at Saint Joseph University in Beirut. In 2016, he was appointed Secretary-General of the Democratic Renewal Movement, a secular, social-liberal political party in Lebanon.



MEGHAN MILLOY

USA · Co-Founder of Republican Women for Progress & North American Young Leader

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 was an intern at the National Republican Senatorial Committee and in the George W. Bush White House. She also worked in the office of Majority Leader Trent Lott and has volunteered on the campaigns of Haley Barbour, George W. Bush, John McCain, Mitt Romney, and Hillary Clinton.



KATARZYNA NAWROT

Poland · Assistant Professor at Poznan University of Economics & 2017 European Young Leader

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 amongst which her recent co-edited book "The Rise of megacities. Challenges, Opportunities and Unique Characteristics".



BASTIAN OBERMAYER

Germany · Award-Winning Journalist & 2018 European Young Leader

Bastian is a Pulitzer Prize-winning German investigative journalist with the Munich-based newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), and the reporter who received the Panama Papers over 11 million documents containing compromising financial information on several public figures from an anonymous source. Bastian recently initiated and coordinated the release of the Paradise Papers, 13 million documents related to off-shore investments.



CLAUDIA OLSSON

Sweden · Founder and CEO of Exponential AB & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



JOSEP-MARIA GASCÓN RAMIREZ

Spain · Founder and CEO of Vitaes Talent & 2014 European Young Leader

Josep-Maria is the Founder and CEO of Vitaes Talent. Former Director for Strategy and Competitive Intelligence within Ministry of Business and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia, Josep also used to be one of Solvay's leading tax lawyers with dual pan-European responsibility: International Tax Manager and Head of Tax for Spain and Portugal. Josep-Maria is a frequent speaker and publishes articles in international and national media on a diverse range of issues such as leadership, management skills, business incentives and international trade. In 2012, he was appointed as a Business Ambassador by the Government of Catalonia in recognition of a career that attracts investment and business through talent and international work. In 2011, he received a "40 under Forty" Iberian Lawyer's Award, which acknowledges the best forty young lawyers from Spain and Portugal.



NASIMA RAZMYAR

Finland · Deputy Mayor of Helsinki & 2018 European Young Leader

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.



KAMILLA SULTANOVA

Finland · Chairperson Global Dignity Finland & 2015 - 2016 European Young Leader

Kamilla is a bridge-builder and a solopreneur based in Helsinki. She has had a successful sales career in Scandinavian shipping companies including Maersk Line, where she was in charge of a global sales strategy execution in more than 20 markets spanning Eastern Europe, Nordics and Middle East. A gifted adviser and passionate advocate, Kamilla has done over 10 years' worth of activist work in influencing debates, policies and practices in the field of gender equality, inclusion, empowerment and cross-cultural dialogue in the Nordics and the EU. Kamilla is a bridge-builder and a solopreneur based in Helsinki. She has had a successful sales career in Scandinavian shipping companies including Maersk Line, where she was in charge of a global sales strategy execution in more than 20 markets spanning Eastern Europe, Nordics and Middle East.



DAVOR TREMAC

Croatia · General Manager for Southeast Europe at Uber & 2017 European Young Leader

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.

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

JON ALEXANDER · Chief Executive at New Citizenship Project

A former advertising executive, Jon co-founded UK-based innovation consultancy the New Citizenship Project (NCP) as a vehicle to bring the skills of the creative industries to bear on inspiring people to claim their agency in society as citizens instead of just selling stuff to people as consumers. Part think tank, part consultancy and still in its early years, NCP has worked with organisations ranging from The Guardian to Coop Group, and potentially soon with the European Central Bank.

GEERT CAMI · Co-Founder and Secretary General of Friends of Europe

Before co-founding Friends of Europe, Geert was Managing Director of Forum Europe and before that worked for a few years at the European Commission to help set-up the Information and Communications Unit of ECHO to raise the profile of the EU's humanitarian efforts. At the outset of his career, he also worked for two music programmes at Belgian Radio 1, and very briefly as a teacher and TV journalist.

HELENA DALLI · Maltese Minister for European Affairs & Equality

Helena is minister for European Affairs and Equality in Malta. First elected to Parliament in 1996, her experience in the Maltese Parliament has been one of the longest held by a woman in Maltese politics and the only woman to be elected from two districts in the interest of the Labour Party. During the 2013-2017 legislature she was minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. Under her direction the Government introduced several laws and policies to strengthen the equality and human rights framework placing Malta among the first in Europe in this field. In 2016 Minister Dalli won the European Diversity Award for her work in human rights and equality.

MIRIAM DALLI · Member of the European Parliament, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Miriam has an extensive political track record working within the European Parliament since 2014, as well as a background in journalism. She represents the Socialists and Democrats both as a member in the Environment Committee. She is also an active Chair member of the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing Europe and Vice-chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Biodiversity.

GISELLE FREDERICK · Founder and CEO of Zingr

Giselle has an established career working in Financial Technology Swiss and British Investment Banks. She is the Founder and CEO of Zingr, a FinTech startup providing solutions to the unbanked. Built on Blockchain technology, it reduces the cost of accepting and making payments through an app that makes online and peer-to-peer payments seamless, fast and secure. She is a passionate advocate for the growth and development of the Tech ecosystem in the Caribbean and a renowned blockchain advocate. Giselle is also the Chair of the Millennial Women Initiative at Women in Banking and Finance, a stream that tackles issues around attraction and retention of female millennial women in the finance sector.

MATTHEW GOODWIN · Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent

Matthew, a political scientist by training, has tried to bridge the gap between academia and policy-making when it comes to topics such as radicalisation, extremism and integration. Before his appointment as Professor he served as a member of the UK government's working group on anti-Muslim hatred and spent twelve months on a secondment in a central government department, working alongside policy makers on extremism and integration issues. Matthew also serves as co-editor of the Routledge book series on Extremism and Democracy and regularly contributes to news outlets such as The Guardian and Politico.

JUHA KAAKINEN · Chief Executive of Y-Foundation

Juha has worked in public administration of the City of Helsinki, as a researcher, consultant and CEO of Social Development Ltd, a company devoted to developing social and health services for cities and municipalities and as a Program Leader of a National Program to End Long-term Homelessness. He is now Chief Executive of Y-Foundation, the biggest Finnish NGO providing housing for homeless people and social housing with a housing stock of 16700 Lats. He is internationally known as an advocate of Housing First-policy.

ABDALLA KABLAN · Fintech, AI, & Data Science Expert; Founder of Scheduit

Abdalla is a serial entrepreneur, and award-winning Fintech expert. He specializes in the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in the design of complex financial systems. Throughout his career he founded several start-ups and companies specializing in deep learning, professional match making, and Fintech some of which have been showcased in 2017 at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Dr. Kablan is also an academic at the University of Malta where he lectures and researches topics related to computational intelligence, financial engineering, and financial data science. Dr Kablan is also the chairman of the Malta Stock Exchange Blockchain Committee and advises governments on matters related to strategic development and utilisation of technology, Fintech, and Blockchain/DLT technologies.

DHARMENDRA KANANI · Director of Insights at Friends of Europe

Dharmendra is Director of Insights at Friends of Europe. Prior to joining Friends of Europe, Kanani was Director of Policy at the European Foundation Centre (EFC). Previously, he was the England Director at the Big Lottery Fund, the largest independent funder in the UK and fourth largest in the world. He has held senior positions in the public and voluntary sector and adviser to numerous ministerial policy initiatives across the UK.

FLAVIA KLEINER · Co-president and co-founder of Operation Libero

Flavia founded the Swiss political movement Operation Libero, which gained national importance in Switzerland in 2016 when it successfully campaigned against the so-called 'enforcement initiative' by the Swiss People's Party. Her work focuses on the future of democracy, the rule of law, the current rise of right-wing populism and civil society engagement. Flavia is a council member of the European Council on Foreign Affairs (ECFR), one of POLITICO's '28 people who will shape Europe in 2018' and among Forbes '30 under 30' in the section 'Law & Policy'.

JULIA KLOIBER · Founder of Code for Germany; Senior Fellow at Mozilla Foundation

Julia is a researcher and designer who works at the intersection of technology and society. In 2016 she founded the Prototype Fund, Germany's first open source funding program that supports technology projects for the public good. As part of the Open Knowledge Foundation, she has been running multiple initiatives that foster the reuse of open data and promote transparency. She is a Senior Fellow at Mozilla where she focuses on building public awareness to demand ethical internet technologies. Based in Berlin, she is currently researching emerging technologies and exploring future narratives.

LILI MILANI · Senior Research Fellow at Uppsala University; Research Professor at the Estonian Genome Center

Lili's main areas of research have been epigenetics and pharmacogenetics – studying the genetics of interindividual variation in drug response. She is now a research professor and head of the personalised medicine initiative at the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu. She is actively participating in preparing and implementing the national strategy for personalised medicine in Estonia in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Institute for Health Development. She is also a SciLifeLab fellow at the Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala University.

BARBARA PRAINSACK · Political Scientist, University of Vienna and King's College London

Barbara is a Professor at the University of Vienna and at King's College London. Barbara's work explores the social, regulatory and ethical dimensions of biomedicine and bioscience. Current projects focus on personalised and "precision" medicine, on citizen participation in science and medicine, and the role of solidarity in medicine and healthcare. Barbara is also a member of the Austrian National Bioethics Committee, and of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) advising the European Commission.

ORNA ROSENFELD · Independent Senior Housing Expert and Adviser at the European Commission

Orna is a renowned housing expert and adviser serving international organisations, national governments and selected cities in their work for affordable housing provision in Europe, North America and Central Asia. She is the author of the Lagship study 'Social Housing in the UNECE region: models, trends and challenges' published by the United Nations and a co-author of the global, regional report to Habitat III. Currently supporting the European Commission, Orna has worked with several international organizations previously, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Bank. She is a global advocate for access to decent affordable housing for all.





1. Markus Freiburg - Founder and Managing Director of FASE & EYL / Nasima Razmyar - Deputy Mayor of Helsinki & EYL
2. Lili Milani - Senior Research Fellow at Uppsala University; Research Professor at the Estonian Genome Center / Gottfried Ludwig - Head of Digitalisation and Innovation at German Ministry of Health & EYL
3. Agnieszka Dziemianowicz-Bak - Social Activist & EYL
4. Claudia Olsson - Founder and CEO of Exponential AB & EYL
5. Xavier Damman - Co-Founder and CEO of OpenCollective and Co-Founder of Storify & EYL / Kararzyna Nawrot - Assistant Professor at Poznan University of Economics & EYL / Davor Tremac - General Manager for Southeast Europe at Uber & EYL
6. Nasima Razmyar - Deputy Mayor of Helsinki & EYL

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Ricardo Baptista Leite

Member, National Assembly, Portugal

Diane Binder

Vice President, Suez Environnement, France

Hala Bugaighis

Co-Founder & Executive Director, Jusoor, Libya

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