

SPRING 2016

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS

MARSEILLE SEMINAR

 friends les amis
of europe de l'europe

EUROPEAN
YOUNG
LEADERS



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.

With the support of



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Report of the three-day seminar

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of europe de l'europe**

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Rapporteur: David Koczij

Publisher: Geert Cami

Director: Nathalie Furrer

Events Manager: Laetitia Garcia Moreno

Programme Manager: Jean-Yves Stenuick

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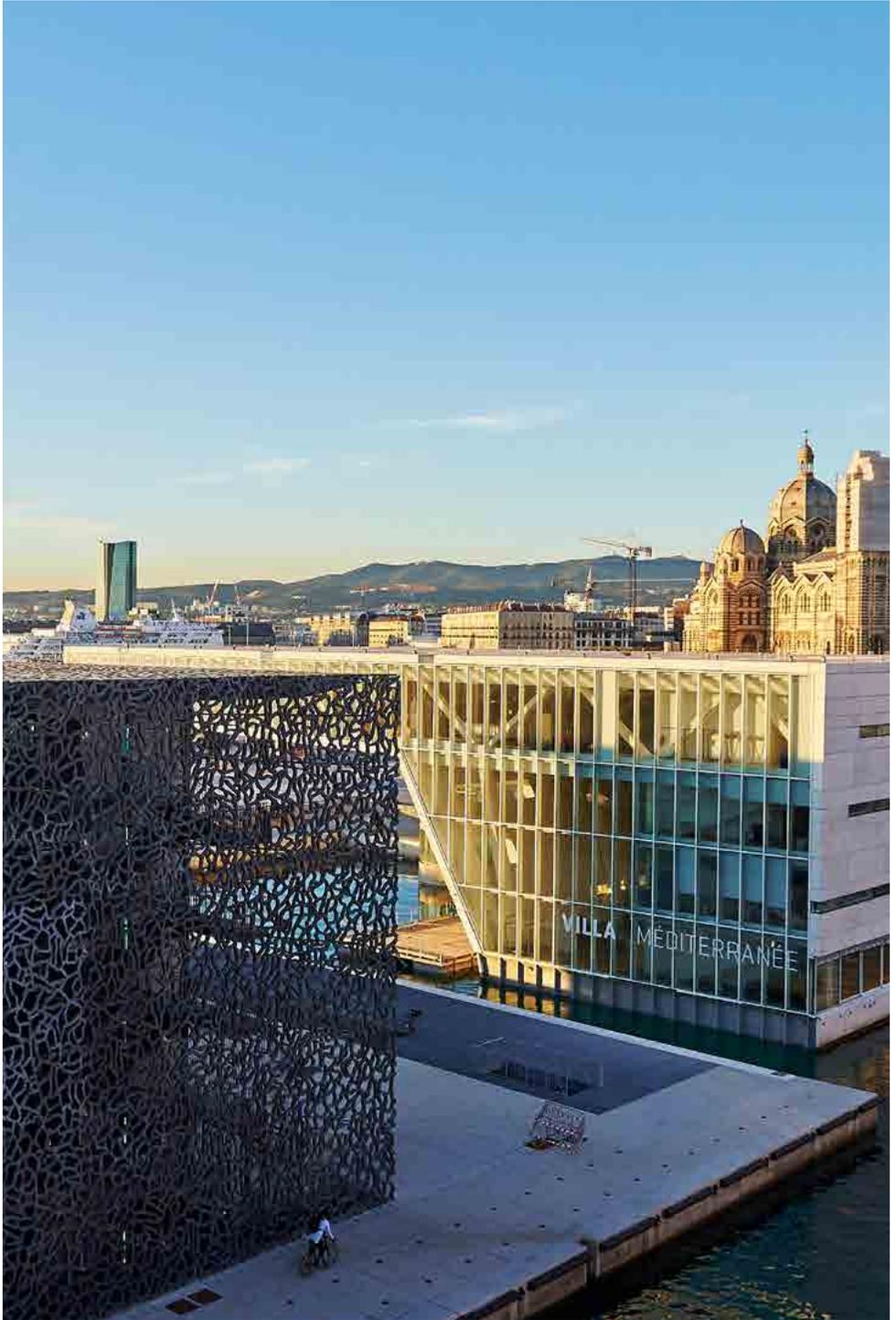
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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME



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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.

From two meetings a year to a year-round engagement, 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.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF EUROPE



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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 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, 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 1.6m-strong community of citizens across Europe and over 240,000 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. 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.

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS

THE 2015-2016 CLASS

Ana Antunes

Microbiologist, Portugal

Ricardo Baptista Leite

Member of Parliament,
Portugal

Hanke Bruins Slot

Member of Parliament,
The Netherlands

Jane Burston

Head of the Centre for Carbon
Measurement at the National
Physical Laboratory, UK

Martin Buxant

Senior Writer at L'Echo,
Belgium

Victor Capitanu

Managing Director of One
United Properties, Romania

Karima Delli

Member of the European
Parliament, France

Stefania Duico

Chief Marketing Officer of
Microsoft Italy, Italy

Lukasz Dziekonski

Member of the Management
Board of the Marguerite Fund
2020 for Energy, Climate
Change and Infrastructure,
Poland

Damien English

Minister of State for Housing
and Urban Renewal, Ireland

Clémentine Forissier

Editor-in-Chief of Contexte,
France

Edvard Glücksman

Senior Environmental and
Social Specialist at Wardell
Armstrong LLP, Sweden

Jamy Goewie

Founder & Co-Director
of Ashoka, The Netherlands

María González Veracruz

Member of Parliament, Spain

Oisín Hanrahan

Co-Founder of Handybook,
Ireland

Klen Jäärats

Director for EU Affairs at the
Office of the Prime Minister,
Estonia

Kalliopi Kalaitzi

Physician at the Charité
University Medicine, Greece



Riccardo Lattanzi

Assistant Professor at New York University, Italy

Sándor Léderer

Co-Founder and CEO of K-Monitor, Hungary

Sander Loones

Member of the European Parliament, Belgium

Frédéric Mazzella

Founder & CEO of BlaBlaCar, France

Sandro Mendonça

Professor at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE), Portugal

Michał Olszewski

Deputy Mayor of the City of Warsaw, Poland

Giovanna Pancheri

Brussels Correspondent at Sky TG 24, Italy

Michael Printzos

Program Director at The Hellenic Initiative, Greece

Shazia Saleem

Founder of ieat foods, UK

Ivan Štefanko

Managing Partner & Investment Director of Neulogy Ventures, Slovakia

Sonja Stebl

State Secretary for Administration and Public Service, Austria

Kamilla Sultanova

Equipment Sales Manager at Maersk Line, Finland

Xenios Thrasylvoulou

Founder & CEO of PeoplePerHour.com, Cyprus

Krasimira Velichkova

Executive Director at Bulgarian Donors' Forum, Bulgaria

Jan Veselý

Director at EduFórum, Czech Republic

Boštjan Videmšek

War Reporter at Delo, Slovenia

Andi Wecker

Producer at Network Movie, Germany

Eberhart Wusterhaus Gomez

International Business Director at Viessmann Carbotech, Germany



EYL MARSEILLE PARTICIPANTS

EYL 2014

**JAMILA AANZI****The Netherlands** · International Political Trainer at the Foundation Max van der Stoep

Building on a business economics, marketing and communications background, 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 (Visie NL, Pioneer, TANS) aimed at encouraging cooperation between diverse backgrounds and envisioning a new social and political vision. Jamila was appointed as a member of the European Elections Programme Committee of the Social Democratic Party of the Netherlands (PvdA) and was a supportive candidate (lijstduwer) for the PvdA during the Dutch national elections in September 2012. As Vice President of FNV Young (2008-2011), the youth network of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions, she was responsible for advocating and representing the interests of young students and employees with regards to education, employment and income.

EYL 2015-2016

**RICARDO BAPTISTA LEITE****Portugal** · Member of Parliament

Ricardo is best known as a Member of the Portuguese Parliament for 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 is working 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.

EYL 2014

**DANAE BEZANTAKOU****Greece** · Managing Director at Navigator Shipping Consultant

Danae is the Managing director of Navigator Shipping Consultants LTD. One of her important achievements is the organisation of the Navigator Conference since 2001 which is considered to be one of the biggest shipping events gathering the decision makers of the shipping community and speakers from all over the world on an annual basis. Through her participation in lectures and seminars, Danae has travelled the world to promote and strengthen women's entrepreneurship. Her latest venture includes the foundation of Greek Food Obsessions, a gourmet culinary company providing the Greek and international food market with high-quality Greek gourmet products from all over Greece. Danae holds a Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality and Tourism Management from the University of Surrey.

EYL 2015-2016



JANE BURSTON

United Kingdom · Head of the Centre for Carbon Measurement at the National Physical Laboratory

Jane has dedicated most her life to climate and environmental issues, serving first as a strategic consultant on low carbon policy to the Mayor of London and is now running a world-class climate science and low carbon technology centre at the UK's National Measurement Institute. In 2008, she founded Carbon Retirement, an award-winning social enterprise working with the EU ETS. Her dedication to sustainability and entrepreneurial drive was rewarded with being named as one of the 'Top 30 UK entrepreneurs under 30' by Real Business in 2010, a 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year' by Square Mile in 2011 and one of the 'Top 10 Outstanding Young Persons of the UK' by the Chamber of Commerce International in 2015, among others.

EYL 2015-2016



MARTIN BUXANT

Belgium · Senior Writer at L'Echo

With two Master's degrees in Communication and European Integration (Economics), Martin first entered the world of journalism in 2002 initially as a European correspondent and later a political journalist. He has been a reporter for La Libre Belgique and De Morgen, as well as an editor for the television programme "Politiquement Correct" on RTL-TVI during the most recent legislative and regional elections in Belgium. He is currently a Senior Writer at the daily business newspaper L'Echo where he serves as both a political journalist and an editor. Martin appears daily on the Bel-RTL television channel where he conducts a political interview every morning. He is an accomplished author having most recently published a biography of the current Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Didier Reynders.

EYL 2014



MALCOLM BYRNE

Ireland · Head of Communications at the Irish Higher Education Authority

Malcolm is Head of Communications at the Irish Higher Education Authority, the state agency that advises government on higher education and research and that funds the higher education institutions. He is also a councillor and former mayor for the centrist Fianna Fail party. A former Vice President of the National Youth Council of Ireland, former Education Officer with the Union of Students in Ireland and a former Executive member of the European Students Union, he also previously worked as commercial manager of myhome.ie, Ireland's most successful property website and as chief executive of a national children's organisation. Malcolm is a graduate in law and in arbitration from University College Dublin. He has also completed 20 marathons.

EYL 2015-2016

**KARIMA DELLI****France** · Member of the European Parliament

Karima from the French party Europe Écologie-Les Verts is one of the youngest Members of the European Parliament. She is the ninth of thirteen children and has written about her modest upbringing and its effect on her ecological commitments in her book *La politique ne me fait pas perdre le nord*. First elected in 2009, Delli has remained a committed activist during her tenure though work at Jeudi Noire (Black Thursday), a group dedicated to helping young people find housing, and Sauvons les Riches (Save the Rich), which demands the introduction of a maximum European income. She is a member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and a substitute member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

EYL 2015

**STEFANIA DUICO****Italy** · Chief Marketing Officer of Microsoft Italy

At Microsoft Italy, Stefania leads on all efforts to increase sales of Microsoft's interactive entertainment products. Since starting out as a PR specialist in 2000, she has shot up the career ladder joining Microsoft in 2002 as a Marketing Communications Specialist and later becoming a Senior Account Executive at Planners International Group, before returning to Microsoft and taking up her current position. Throughout her time there, Stefania has won seven different awards for diligence and the many impressive marketing campaigns that she has run. Trained in information technology and business communication, she has a passion for creative writing.

EYL 2015-2016

**LUKASZ DZIEKONSKI****Poland** · Member of the Management Board of the Marguerite Fund 2020 for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure

Lukasz is a Senior Manager responsible for European structured finance at the Warsaw-based PKO Bank Polski, where he works on projects related to energy, transport and the environment with budgets ranging from €50 million to €1 billion. 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.

EYL 2013

**MARY FITZGERALD**

Ireland · Libya Analyst, Award-Winning Journalist and Columnist for the Irish Independent

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.

EYL 2015-2016

**CLÉMENTINE FORISSIER**

France · Editor-in-Chief of Contexte

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 Editor-in-Chief 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.

EYL 2014

**JOSEP-MARIA GASCÓN**

Spain · Director for Strategy and Business Intelligence at the Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ) of the Government of Catalonia

Josep-Maria is Director for Strategy and Business Intelligence at the Agency for Business Competitiveness of the Government of Catalonia. He 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.

EYL 2013

**RABAH GHEZALI**

France · Director for European Legislative Affairs, European Government Affairs and Public Advocacy at NYSE Euronext

Rabah is Director for European Legislative Affairs, European Government Affairs and Public Advocacy at NYSE Euronext as well as Adjunct Professor of Economics at Sciences Po Paris. Rabah has had a successful diplomatic and legal career having worked as a counsellor for major corporations and states. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a Master of Laws from the University of Oxford. Rabah is also a Research Fellow at the Center for Analysis and Proposals for Middle East and North Africa (CapMENA) and is a founding member of the Transatlantic Network 2020. He is a Member of the Young Atlanticist Group of the Atlantic Council and is a UN Alliance of Civilizations Fellow.

EYL 2015-2016

**EDVARD GLÜCKSMAN**

Sweden · Senior Environmental and Social Specialist at Wardell Armstrong LLP

Edvard is a Chartered Scientist specialising in understanding environmental and social impacts of development projects around the world. His most recent work has focused on mitigating negative impacts to align mining projects in Kazakhstan with international standards. Edvard is also affiliated with the University of Exeter's Environment and Sustainability Institute, where he lectures on sustainability issues and corporate social responsibility. He has previously held a number of roles at the interface of science and society, having worked at the European Geosciences Union and the UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. He holds MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Oxford and undergraduate degrees from the University of St Andrews and McGill University.

EYL 2013

**JAKOB HAESLER**

Germany · Co-Founder of Project Alloy

Before founding Project Alloy, Jakob was CEO and Co-Founder of Tynclues SAS, a highly successful Paris-based Big Data start-up. He was previously 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 degree 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".

EYL 2015-2016

**OISÍN HANRAHAN****Ireland** · Co-Founder of Handybook

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.

EYL 2015-2016

**KLEN JÄÄRATS****Estonia** · Director for EU Affairs at the Office of the Estonian Prime Minister

As Director of the EU Secretariat in the Estonian government, Jäärats coordinates and develops all EU policy and acts as the chief European affairs adviser to the Prime Minister. A career civil servant, Jäärats 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.

EYL 2015-2016

**KALLIOPI KALAITZI****Greece** · Physician at the Charité University Medicine

“Popi” currently lives in Germany where she works as a doctor of physical medicine and rehabilitation. She aspires to become an expert in the field of anti-aging and age management medicine. Since the start of her university studies, Popi has worked and volunteered in a variety of NGOs to do with youth health and drug abuse. She later organised a special youth department in her local council when she served as the then youngest prefecture councillor ever to have been elected in Greece. She also held a variety of executive positions at the drug prevention centre, Serios, the Greek National Youth Council and the Cultural Union of Thessaloniki. Popi later spent four years as the Regional Commissioner of Lagkadas and is to this day the youngest person to have ever held the position.

EYL 2015-2016

**RICCARDO LATTANZI****Italy** · Assistant Professor at New York University

Riccardo is a biomedical scientist who develops technology to improve the diagnostic power of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Riccardo achieved his PhD in Medical and Electrical Engineering from Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2008. An Assistant Professor of Radiology, Electrical and Computer Engineering, he is also a course director and research supervisor at New York University, and has written numerous conference papers, book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles. Riccardo holds the patents for the apparatus, method and computer-accessible medium for a high-resolution magnetic resonance imager and dipole array arrangement. For his scientific research, he has won the prestigious I.I. Rabi Young Investigator Award of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and an NSF CAREER award.

EYL 2015-2016

**SÁNDOR LÉDERER****Hungary** · Co-Founder & CEO of K-Monitor

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 holds an MA in International Studies from Corvinus University of Budapest.

EYL 2015-2016

**SANDER LOONES****Belgium** · Member of the European Parliament

Sander is a Belgian MEP and member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, and is Vice President of Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (The New Flemish Alliance). In the Parliament, Sander is Vice Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, and a member of Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Sander has previously worked for the Belgian Ministry of Interior Affairs in the migration office and as a scientific researcher at the Law faculty of Catholic University Leuven, where he had earned his Master's degree in Law.

EYL 2014



ANTÓNIA MÉSZÁROS

Hungary · Anchor & Journalist at ATV

Antónia is a Hungarian journalist, television presenter, author and documentary filmmaker. She is a frequent moderator of public events and professional workshops organised by the European Commission in Budapest and has interviewed just about every EU politician that visited Hungary in recent years. She hosted Hungary's main evening current affairs programme from 2007 to 2011, but was forced to leave the national public broadcaster MTV, along with thousands of colleagues after the new government "reorganised" public broadcasting and has been working at ATV, an independent news channel ever since. Antónia has participated in charitable projects and literacy campaigns aimed at helping the Roma population. For the last few years she has also been asked to head a Hungarian foundation recognising and rewarding journalistic achievements and organising events and workshops for media professionals. She is an English Literature graduate from ELTE University in Budapest.

EYL 2015-2016



MICHAŁ OLSZEWSKI

Poland · Deputy Mayor of the City of Warsaw

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.

EYL 2015-2016



Michael PRINTZOS

Greece · Program Director at The Hellenic Initiative

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.

EYL 2014

**NINA RAWAL****Sweden** · Head of Life Science at the Swedish Industrial Development Fund

Nina is Head of Life Science at the Swedish Industrial Development Fund (Industrifonden) where she is responsible for international investments in life science companies. Previously, she was Vice President of Strategy and Ventures at Gambro, a medical technology company. Previous experience also includes work at The Boston Consulting Group in Stockholm and New York, and at Medecins Sans Frontieres. Her academic background is in biomedicine and molecular neurobiology, including a PhD from the Karolinska Institute. In 2012, she was selected as one of 20 “Rising Talents” worldwide by the Women’s Forum.

EYL 2015-2016

**IVAN STEFUNKO****Slovakia** · Managing Partner & Investment Director at Neulogy Venture

Ivan has been Managing Partner and Investment Director at Neulogy Ventures since 2013, where he was previously Chairman. He has impressive experience in building companies from scratch and is the co-founder of Diagnose.me, MONOGRAM Technologies, Pelican Travel and the Startup Awards, all of which are based in Bratislava. Ivan was nominated as a member of the New Europe 100 project, a list of outstanding leaders from Central and Eastern Europe and for Manager of the Year 2014 by TREND. Educated in Slovakia and France, he previously worked for EurActiv in Brussels before returning to his native Slovakia in 2010.

EYL 2015-2016

**KAMILLA SULTANOVA****Finland** · Equipment Sales Manager at Maersk Line

Kamilla has had a very successful professional career in corporate sales, having worked for a number of large companies in Scandinavia. From a young age, Kamilla was a high-achiever and in 1999 was awarded a full scholarship from the American Councils for International Education to attend a high school in Texas as part of the “Future Leader Exchange”. One of Kamilla’s achievements has been her work on gender equality. She regularly makes media appearances and writes on this topic and in 2013 was elected to represent Denmark as part of the European Women’s Lobby in Brussels. In this role Kamilla lobbied heavily for the increased participation of women and ethnic minorities in European politics.

EYL 2014

**WOUTER VERSCHULDEN****Belgium** · Founder & Publisher at NewsMonkey

Wouter is a journalist and entrepreneur who founded Newsmonkey.be, a social media tailor-made news website, partly funded by a successful crowd-funding action. In 2013, he made a documentary and book about the future of the news business: *Stop the Presses: the Golden Age of Journalism Starts Now*. The documentary was partly based on his experience as the Editor-in-Chief of De Morgen that he managed for over two years. Before that, he worked at De Standaard as a political journalist and won several Belfius-press prizes. During that period, he acquired his passion for politics and the inner workings of the system, which resulted in a fiction series about Belgian politics that he co-wrote for television and that aired in Belgium. He holds an MA in Political Journalism from the Columbia School of Journalism in New York. He also has a Master's degree in Business from the Vlerick Management School in Ghent and a Master's degree in Politics at Ghent University and Université de Bretagne Occidentale.

EYL 2015-2016

**JAN VESELÝ****Czech Republic** · Director at EduFórum

Jan specialises in helping start-up entrepreneurs take their first steps. He is the Director of Lean Startup CZ, a Prague-based business that aims to assist new companies in achieving financial stability, efficiency and longevity. The initiative features an accelerator programme for non-profit and social businesses and a 10-city roadshow promoting entrepreneurship, networking and workshops. In addition, Jan owns Struct s.r.o., a business development consultancy that helps businesses to monitor, upgrade and exchange the services they use as they grow. Jan is also passionate about innovation in education which led him to found EduFórum, a network designed to promote action in this area. He has been Director of EduFórum since its creation in 2012.

EYL 2015-2016

**BOŠTJAN VIDEMŠEK****Slovenia** · War Reporter at Delo

Boštjan is a journalist, author and playwright. He is currently a foreign correspondent with Slovenia's largest daily newspaper Delo. He has also written for major international media outlets including The New York Times, BBC World and the Atlantic Post. An experienced war reporter, Boštjan has covered major events ranging from conflicts in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo to natural disasters in Southeast Asia. He has so far published three books including *21st Century Conflicts: Remnants of War(s)* in 2012, which was a national best-seller in his native Slovenia and was also published in the U.S.

EYL 2015-2016

**ANDI WECKER****Germany** · Producer at Network Movie

After working in various jobs including as a camera assistant, electrician and assistant director in film and television, Andi joined the film production company Network Movie in 2002 as a producer. Projects then included the first series of the international co-production "The Team" for which Andi was Creative Producer, several series of the crime drama "Soko Köln" (PD Cologne), several TV-movies including an adaptation of Frank Schätzing's bestseller "Die Dunkle Seite" (The Dark Side). While fulfilling these responsibilities, he studied directing at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne and wrote and directed several short films and commercials.



EYL MARSEILLE SEMINAR

HIGHLIGHTS

The European Young Leaders (EYL40) meeting in Marseille took an in-depth look at the refugee crisis underway in Europe and the wider context of the debate on migration. As the European narrative on migration continues to be dominated by populists and sensationalist media, how can European leaders find a more balanced perspective on the current crisis?

While considering EU policies and European responses to the refugee crisis, it is essential to keep in mind Europe's long and predominantly beneficial history as regards migration, as well as the wealth of information available that supports the net positive effects of migration in a globalised world.

In the EU today, there is a problem of perspective and solidarity. To resolve these issues, efforts must be made to implement and reform the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). To achieve this, there must be a dialogue between people and politicians that puts the EU's needs front and centre and honestly explores what legal migration can do for Europe.

The lack of political will in Europe to decide on a common approach to asylum and migration can also be seen in the EU and member states' foreign policy. Tackling

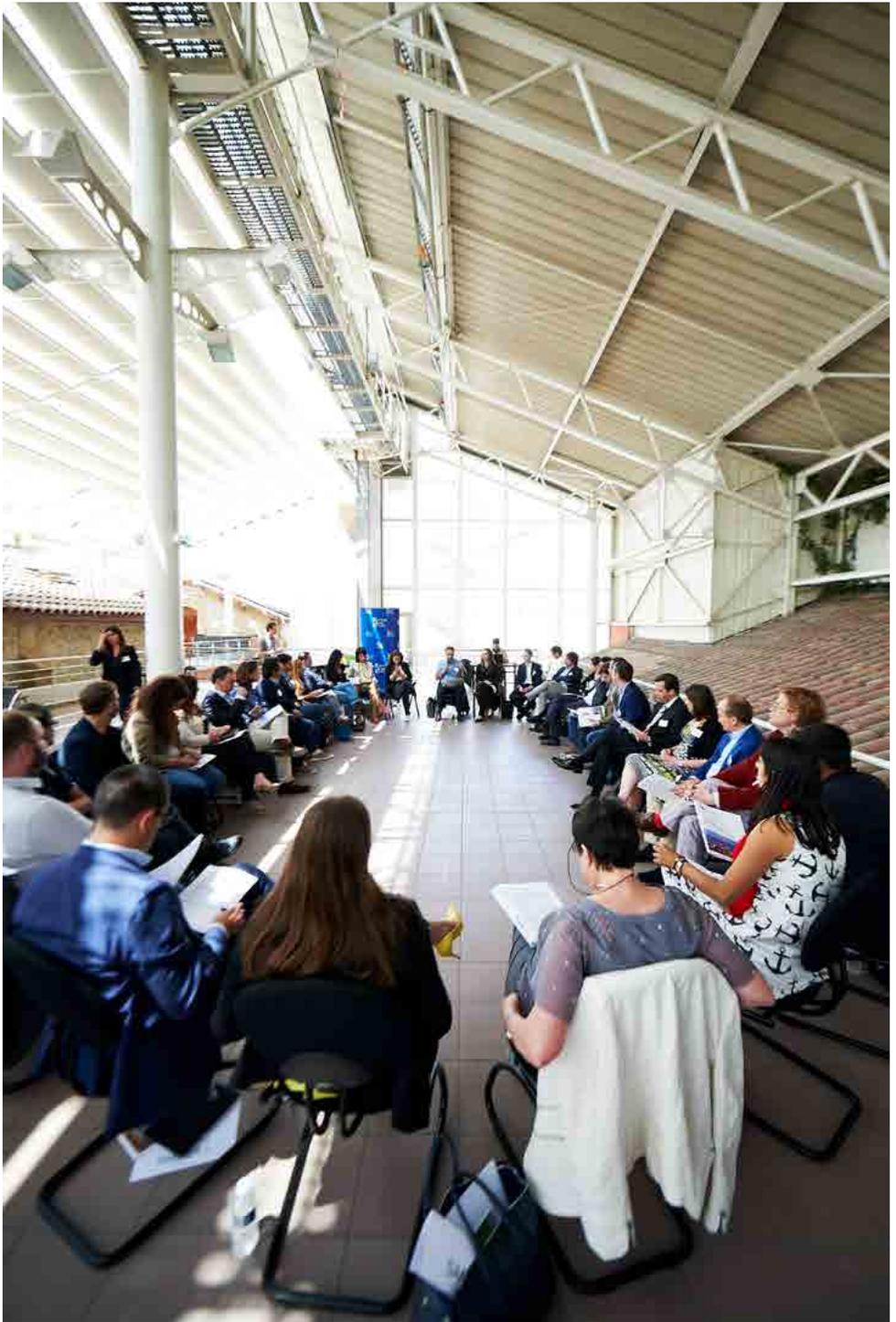
the refugee crisis means looking beyond the borders of Europe to the home countries of Europe's incoming migrants and refugees and determining policies to promote peace, solidarity and stability.

In the EU, European and national governments should work more closely with local and community leaders to find ways to promote integration and inclusive policies aimed at changing the narrative of fear and conflict that is growing throughout the continent. Education and engagement with migrant communities are the way forward to understanding the challenges faced by new arrivals and the communities in which they find themselves.

Therefore, European leaders need to consider the value of including the various diasporas in Europe in the discussion in terms of receiving refugees, strengthening ties between origin and destination countries, and long-term perspectives of rebuilding origin countries – such as Syria – torn apart by conflict.

The Middle East and North African (MENA) diaspora in particular should be seen as a valued partner in Europe for growth and stability. Though tensions are running high, a perspective of inclusion focussed on dialogue and education will help to address growing extremism and unemployment.

Finally, European reactions to the recent terror attacks on European soil should start by reinforcing the European values of democracy, freedom of movement and human rights. These values are the greatest weapon in the EU's fight against extremism and it should be stressed that they begin and are strongest on the local level. Reinforcing inclusion in local communities in the EU will do more in the long term than anti-immigration and military responses.



INTRODUCTION



With many problems facing Europe, the overall mood on the continent is bad, said [Geert Cami](#), Co-Founder & Managing Director of Friends of Europe. As the EU weathers one crisis after another, the gap between Europe's elites and its citizens grows. "It is important that our leaders accept that fear and uncertainty are a reality among our citizens," he added.

"Over the past few years, the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme has built up an interesting network based around our discussions on the future of the European project," he said. "Now, we are eager to move beyond words and decide on actions to achieve our objectives for a better world."

"It is important that our leaders accept that fear and uncertainty are a reality among our citizens."

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



“It is important to remember that migration of people within and into Europe has been a characteristic of European history for centuries.”

Sandra Pratt,
European Commission Expert on
Immigration and Asylum (1999-2007)



Against the backdrop of the refugee crisis and terrorist attacks in Brussels and Paris, the actions considered by the European Young Leaders in Marseille are geared towards addressing migrant issues and the integration of migrant communities in Europe.

Though this crisis is the biggest one in recent years, “it is important to remember that migration of people within and into Europe has been a characteristic of European history for centuries,” noted Sandra Pratt, European Commission Expert on Immigration and Asylum (1999-2007).

In addition to the steady flow of economic migrants into the EU and the substantial number of EU citizens moving freely between member states, the EU now needs consider



more effective ways of dealing with the influx of asylum seekers, irregular migrants and refugees.

“Migration is an absolute added value to every society, period,” said **Sander Loones**, Vice Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. Part of the solution to the migration crisis is the recognition that immigration is a challenge that can only be met on the European level, he stressed.

“Migration is an absolute added value to every society, period.”

Sander Loones,
Vice Chair of the European Parliament
Committee on Economic and
Monetary Affairs

IN SEARCH OF A WORKABLE EU REFUGEE AND ASYLUM POLICY

“We are talking about needing a grand strategy to address the current crisis,” Pratt said, “but we already have a common policy for asylum and migration in the EU. We have common standards and principles, a legislative framework, and institutions set up to manage the process, though recent events have shown that the system is inadequate and needs major reform.”

The European Commission has put forward substantial reforms over the past year, some of which are under discussion in the member states. If successfully implemented and reformed, these policies could be a sound basis for the future.

For the EU’s asylum and migration strategy to work, the first step is to consider the push and pull factors behind migrants’ leaving their countries – conflicts, economic reasons, wars – and to facilitate legal migration.

This entails determining Europe’s demographic and economic needs and crafting agreements and partnerships with third countries to promote mobility. Examples of these partnerships include the Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) that exist between the EU and Nigeria and the EU and Ethiopia.

Moreover, the EU must set limits as to what is achievable in Europe while shifting some attention to origin countries, Loones said. Policies concerned with trade, security and



stability in the European neighbourhood can go a long way towards removing the urgency behind the refugee crisis.

Emran Mansour, Syrian Refugee, noted that “politics created this crisis and politics can solve it. If we want to do something for Syrian refugees, we have to use the EU’s diplomatic and political strengths to effect change in Syria.”

“Our current migration schemes are insufficient,” Loones said. “We need to look deeper at the impact, origins and scale of migration to Europe.” The EU and member states must establish an effective common policy on asylum and migration in order to move forward on legal migration. As it stands, of the 160,000 refugees who were supposed to be relocated from Greece and Italy to other member states, only several hundred have actually been processed.

“Politics created this crisis and politics can solve it. If we want to do something for Syrian refugees, we have to use the EU’s diplomatic and political strengths to effect change in Syria.”

Emran Mansour,
Syrian Refugee



“To properly deal with the refugee crisis in Europe, we need to find the political will to create a single dedicated institution in each member state that can be linked together on the European level.”

Sana Bousbih,
Project Manager at the International
Rehabilitation Council for Torture
Victims (2013-2015)

The EU’s asylum policy must be reformed in such a way that it both addresses the needs of asylum-seekers and can be harmonised across the member states.

Mansour noted that basic needs such as housing and language learning are at once the most important needs for migrants and poorly managed and underfunded in many European countries, even though EU policy addressing these needs exists.

Though member state governments have committed to integrating migrants and refugees, common European policies are implemented in different ways in different countries. “To properly deal with the refugee crisis in Europe, we need to find the political will to create a single dedicated institution in each member state that can be linked together on the European level,” noted



[Sana Bousbih](#), Project Manager at the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (2013-2015).

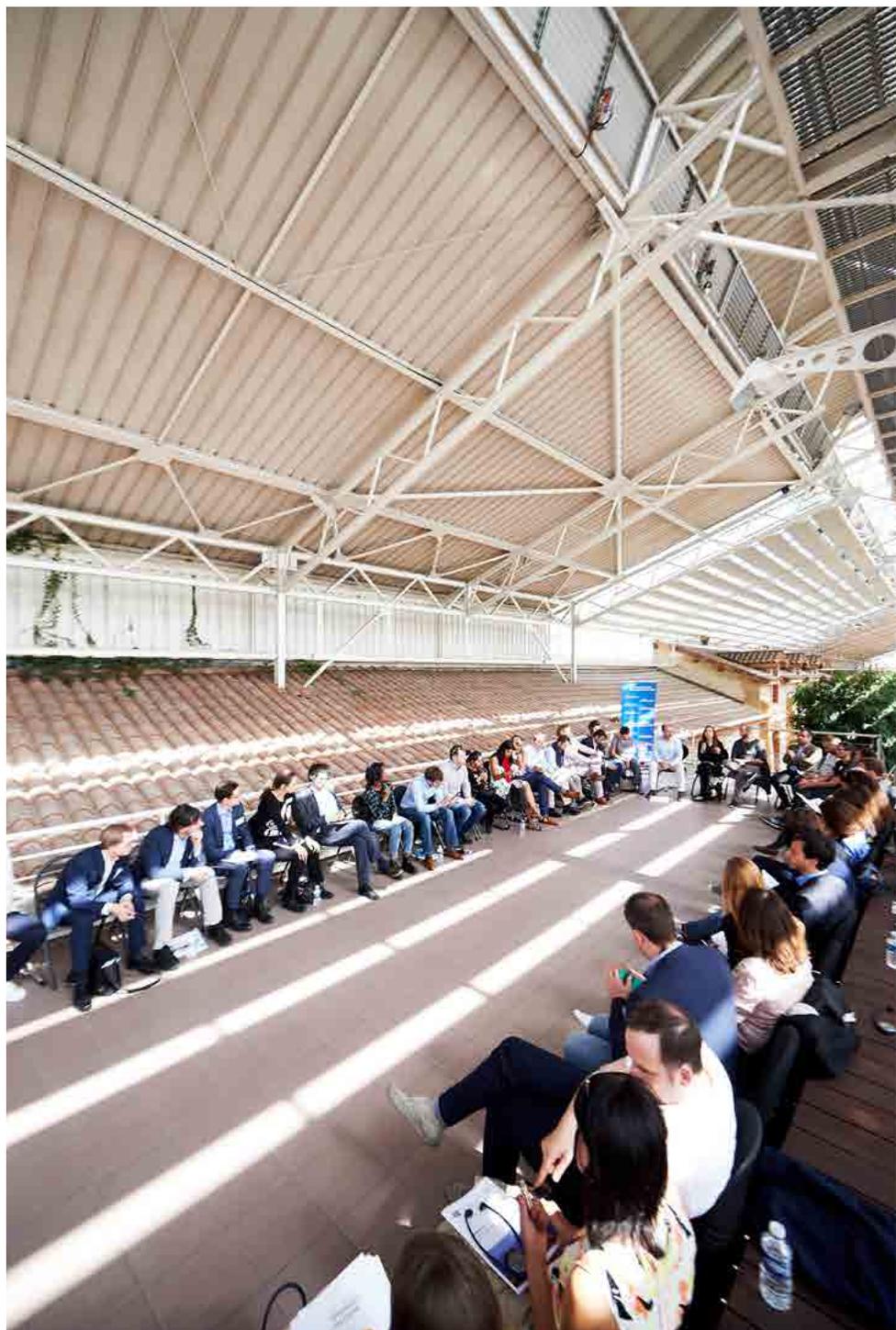
“We have to work so that refugees, when they reach Europe, can see which countries are willing to take them and have economic and education policies in place to help integrate them,” said [Ricardo Baptista Leite](#), Member of Parliament in Portugal.

“We have to work so that refugees, when they reach Europe, can see which countries are willing to take them and have economic and education policies in place to help integrate them.”

[Ricardo Baptista Leite](#),
Member of Parliament in Portugal







COUNTERING EUROPE'S ANTI-IMMIGRATION NARRATIVE



The negative narrative about the value of immigration in Europe informs the lack of political will to craft effective asylum and immigration policies. “The dialogue has been blunted and simplified,” noted [Mary Fitzgerald](#), Libya Analyst, Award-Winning Journalist and Columnist for the Irish Independent. “In the EU, we are suffering collective amnesia about migrants and refugees in our history.”

Countering this amnesia means educating citizens about the value and positive aspects of migration and finding immigrant success stories to share throughout the EU.

“In the EU, we are suffering collective amnesia about migrants and refugees in our history.”

Mary Fitzgerald,
Libya Analyst, Award-Winning
Journalist and Columnist
for the Irish Independent



“We simply cannot have a common Europe when so many people are unwilling to listen to the problems of other countries.”

Danae Bezantakou,
Managing Director of Navigator
Shipping Consultant



“It is important that Europeans understand the people who are arriving here,” Mansour said “These are people escaping bad situations to trying to live a new life.”

Building a pro-immigration narrative requires strong and resourceful minority role models and representatives, said [Kamilla Sultanova](#), Equipment Sales Manager at Maersk Line, adding that “to improve immigrant integration, we should be thinking more along the lines of immigrants teaching immigrants and educating immigrants on political involvement.”

In addition, any solution to the refugee crisis requires dialogue between the political mainstream in Europe



and the populists gaining increasing notoriety through anti-immigration rhetoric. “We simply cannot have a common Europe when so many people are unwilling to listen to the problems of other countries,” noted [Danae Bezzantakou](#), Managing Director of Navigator Shipping Consultant.

“At this moment in Europe, we are afraid,” said [Karima Delli](#), Member of the European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism. “When we talk about free movement and migration, the extreme right uses fear to shut down the discussion. We need a new narrative: the future is nothing to be afraid of, it can be great if we make it so.”

“When we talk about free movement and migration, the extreme right uses fear to shut down the discussion. We need a new narrative: the future is nothing to be afraid of, it can be great if we make it so.”

[Karima Delli](#),
Member of the European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism



“We should be engaging with and listening to Europeans who fear the economic effects of immigration, who fear Islam and more terrorist attacks.”

Malcolm Byrne,
Head of Communications at the Irish
Higher Education Authority

“We should be engaging with and listening to Europeans who fear the economic effects of immigration, who fear Islam and more terrorist attacks,” said **Malcolm Byrne**, Head of Communications at the Irish Higher Education Authority. “Education is important but solving the refugee crisis also requires engagement.”



John S. Latsis
Public Benefit Foundation

●
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.

●
HEAD OFFICE

Heiligkreuz 6
9490 Vaduz
Liechtenstein

ATHENS OFFICE

59, Diligianni st.14562 Kifissia, Athens - Greece
T +30 210 6282 888,
E info@latsis-foundation.org

www.latsis-foundation.org



REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF THE MENA DIASPORA



Part of the responsibility for finding solutions to Europe's migration challenge rests with origin countries and the various diasporas in Europe, [Theodora Xenogiani](#), Senior Economist at the OECD International Migration Division, said, adding that "many origin countries are increasingly aware of the potential of their diasporas for economic growth and human capital development."

With over 6 million people born in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) living in Europe, the implications for labour market outcomes and migrant integration are significant. Currently, however, this diaspora has a lower level of education on average than diasporas from other regions, with only 22% holding a university degree.

"Many origin countries are increasingly aware of the potential of their diasporas for economic growth and human capital development."

Theodora Xenogiani,
Senior Economist at the OECD
International Migration Division



“The EU needs to commit to visa policies that aim to retain international students. With smart policies and smart students, we can work to build bridges with our neighbours.”

Riccardo Lattanzi,
Assistant Professor at the New York University School of Medicine

This low education level among the MENA diaspora is owed in part to the fact that a greater proportion comes to Europe for passive reasons – asylum or family reunification – than other migrant groups. As it stands, only 27% of MENA migrants in the EU came to work according to OECD figures.

Whilst access to and quality of education increases in origin countries, members of the MENA diaspora continue to perform poorly in terms of education levels, employment figures and gender equality in comparison to other immigrant groups.

Statistics gathered by the OECD International Migration Division do show some improvement in education and employment levels for 2nd generation MENA immigrants, though these figures tend to be lower than other 2nd generation groups.



“What we see is that 1st and 2nd generation immigrants have few opportunities to use their skills but by the 3rd generation, they are more involved,” noted Bousbih, underlining the fact that migrant integration in the EU is effective to a limited degree, though action is required to improve the socio-economic standing of first arrivals.

During the past decade, Europe has seen an increase of more than 40% of the number of international students coming from MENA countries, Xenogiani said, adding that work remains to be done on policies aimed at labour market integration once they have completed their studies.

“The EU needs to commit to visa policies that aim to retain international students,” said [Riccardo Lattanzi](#), Assistant Professor at the New York University School of Medicine. “With smart policies and smart students, we can work to build bridges with our neighbours.”

“The migrants that we are now hosting will be the ones returning and building their home countries in the future.”

Michael Printzos,
Programme Director at
the Hellenic Initiative



“The EU Visa Directive and its national counterparts will go a long way towards fighting brain drain and creating more fluid possibilities for the various diasporas in Europe.”

Sebastian Stetter,
Policy Officer at the European
Commission Directorate General for
Migration and Home Affairs



“Think about it,” added [Michael Printzos](#), Programme Director at the Hellenic Initiative. “The migrants that we are now hosting will be the ones returning and building their home countries in the future.”

Action is being taken on the European level to improve the opportunities for international students, noted [Sebastian Stetter](#), Policy Officer at the European Commission Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs. “The EU Visa Directive and its national counterparts will go a long way towards fighting brain drain and creating more fluid possibilities for the various diasporas in Europe.”

Portuguese lawmakers have stepped up to support Syrian refugees by offering visas to Syrian students to continue their studies in Portugal, thus reducing the



disruptive effects of the conflict on their lives, noted Baptista Leite.

“We need to think about what will happen over the next decade in the MENA region,” concluded [Ivan Štefunko](#), Managing Partner and Investment Director at Neulogy Ventures. “We need to think about what we can do to support the diasporas in Europe now so that they have the right skills to help their origin countries in the future.”

“We see in the various diasporas in Europe a very real chance to create a cultural, economic and political bridge between both shores of the Mediterranean,” said [Rabah Ghezali](#), Director for European Legislative Affairs, European Government Affairs and Public Advocacy at NYSE Euronext.

“We need to think about what we can do to support the diasporas in Europe now so that they have the right skills to help their origin countries in the future.”

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Managing Partner and Investment
Director at Neulogy Ventures



“The relationship between host countries and origin countries via diasporas are more bilateral than not.”

Nina Rawal,
Head of Life Science at the Swedish
Industrial Development Fund

“The relationship between host countries and origin countries via diasporas are more bilateral than not,” said **Nina Rawal**, Head of Life Science at the Swedish Industrial Development Fund. Beyond remittances and other economic benefits of a diaspora, there are other interesting forms of exchange. Scientific, technological, and academic exchanges, for example, should be explored more deeply.

Indeed, key members of the MENA diaspora, with links to both host and origin countries, should be considered as ambassadors and experts and consulted on questions of policy. The collective image in Europe of migrants fleeing their countries and never returning is false, noted **Jakob Haesler**, Co-Founder of Project Alloy. “We need to redefine the narrative about migration



“We need to redefine the narrative about migration to be about exchange, opportunity and dynamic mobility in the European neighbourhood.”

Jakob Haesler,
Co-Founder of Project Alloy

to be about exchange, opportunity and dynamic mobility in the European neighbourhood,” he said.

The MENA diaspora is unique in Europe in the sense that its members are close to home and therefore travel more and keep closer contact with their home countries. This characteristic is an opportunity to increase understanding and reduce the fear of migration in Europe.

“People in Europe do not think that migrants have something to offer,” said [Caroline Ayoub](#), Founder of SouriaLi Radio, an online radio station dedicated to working with the Syrian people. “This is the real problem we have to address.”



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COHESION AND RESILIENCE TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN EUROPE



“Until recently, violent Islamic extremism was something that happened far away from here. After the attacks in Brussels and Paris, this is no longer the case.”

Jamila Aanzi,
International Political Trainer at the
Foundation Max van der Stoel

“Until recently, violent Islamic extremism was something that happened far away from here,” said [Jamila Aanzi](#), International Political Trainer at the Foundation Max van der Stoel. “After the attacks in Brussels and Paris, this is no longer the case.”

Political violence has existed as long as politics itself, noted [Nicolas Henin](#), Journalist, former ISIS Hostage and Author of *Jihad Academy*, adding that the current spate of terrorist attacks are a by-product of the mismanagement of affairs in the Middle East and in Europe.

The ultimate goal of terrorist attacks is to leverage the fear of a society in such a way that it reacts with panic and violence, increasing military presence and restricting citizen's rights. These reactions in turn serve to radicalise more citizens and perpetuate a vicious cycle of extremism.

“The Brussels attacks are the worst thing that could have happened to Europe and a consequence of our lack of response to violent extremism,” stressed [Boštjan Videmšek](#), War Reporter at Delo. “Our reactions – border closures, choosing reflex over reflection, growing populism, increased anti-immigration sentiment, and so on – are to be feared as much as the next attacks.”

“The real success of the 9/11 attacks was the invasion of Iraq,” Henin said, “not the collapse of the twin towers. The conclusion of a successful terrorist attack is not accomplished by its perpetrators but by its victims.”

Contrasting the reaction of EU member states with that of Great Britain to the Blitz during World War II, Henin stressed that a proper response to terrorism can be summarised with the terms cohesion and resilience. Rather than react to the attack by limiting movement and rights, the focus should be on preparedness and unity of the population, reassuring the victims, and accepting without panic that further attacks may occur.

Furthermore, he noted that the 24-hour news cycle and fearmongering in the media in general are increasing stress and putting pressure on public responses. “We need to tone down our reporting and our responses to these attacks,” he concluded. “We should respond with more democracy, more freedom. Our European values are what we are fighting for, but they are also our greatest weapon in the fight against terror and tyranny.”



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“If we do not change not only our leadership, but the criteria by which we choose our leaders, this crisis of mistrust will go on.”

Edvard Glücksman,
Senior Environmental and Social
Specialist at Wardell Armstrong LLP

One of the results of years of corruption, incompetence and mismanagement in public policy in Europe is a lack of trust in political leaders, stressed **Edvard Glücksman**, Senior Environmental and Social Specialist at Wardell Armstrong LLP. “When watching politicians in action today in Europe, one cannot help but ask – where do these people come from? If we do not change not only our leadership, but the criteria by which we choose our leaders, this crisis of mistrust will go on,” he said.

The rise of populism and the extreme right in Europe has laid bare the problems with a political system based on ideological stances untethered from facts and evidence. To begin putting Europe back on the track of human rights and universal values, the EU should be led by researchers and politicians who support evidence-based policies, he said.

“The future of Europe is organically intertwined with that of the Middle East,” stressed Videmšek. To protect this



future, the EU and its member states need to move away from policies that prolong war and build up security at the expense of citizen and human rights.

“If we are honest, bombing Syria is not going to accomplish anything,” noted Baptista Leite. Europeans need to recognise that the problems in the Arab world can only be solved by the Arab world and that the best way to resolve these problems is through reducing tensions and working with Arab leaders both abroad and at home to promote peace and stability in the MENA region.

Mokrane Boudine, Arabic Teacher in the Northern districts of Marseille, stressed that “the solution to countering violent extremism in Europe is neither military, nor political, but begins with strengthening links between children and parents and between neighbours within communities.”

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“We do not need integration to fight radicalisation. What we need is to promote inclusion through community mentoring.”

Kamilla Sultanova,
Equipment Sales Manager
at Maersk Line

“We do not need integration to fight radicalisation,” noted Sultanova. “What we need is to promote inclusion through community mentoring.” Top-down solutions aimed at countering violent behaviour and integration are often seen with suspicion by the communities they target. Instead, organic solutions coming from community and religious leaders need support in order for them to effect credible change.



fondazione cariplo

Fondazione Cariplo is a foundation, that operates with the sole purpose of pursuing social good and promoting economic development, by contributing grants to third party projects and carrying on initiatives of its own.

2016 marks a milestone anniversary for Fondazione Cariplo. On December 16 it will blow out the candles of its 25 years of philanthropic activities. Dedicated to helping the vulnerable, promoting and supporting projects in the fields of arts & culture, the environment, scientific research and in the social realm since 1991.



Over these 25 years, with its philanthropic action the Foundation has enabled the accomplishment of over 30,000 projects of nonprofit organizations with more than €2.8 billion. Since 1991 Italy's largest philanthropic organization has funded over 1,000 projects with €110 million annually. Most notably, in recent years the average value of philanthropic funds provided annually by the Foundation has surpassed €150 million.







LEARNING FROM THE 'MARSEILLE EXCEPTION'



“If you ask any Marseillais if they feel Provençal, French or European, they will tell you that they are Marseillais first and anything else second.”

Gilles Bertrand,
Head Teacher of the Second Chance
School

The rise of the Islamic State (IS) has raised questions in Europe about a new generation of European-born jihadists leaving their countries to fight in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

Following the Brussels and Paris attacks, and the revelation that many of those responsible were European citizens, many Europeans have turned their attention inwards to address the reality of home-grown terrorism and the economic, political and social environment that allows it to flourish.

Marseille, with its particular geography and openness towards the Mediterranean, has been shaped by immigration for centuries and, though a significant number of Europeans joining IS come from France, the number of Marseillais in this category is lower than from other cities. This fact is part of what is referred to as the ‘Marseille exception’, Fitzgerald said.

There are two important elements to consider when examining the city, noted [Gilles Bertrand](#), Head Teacher of the Second Chance School. Firstly, the city’s particular geography – open to the sea and surrounded on all other sides by hills – means that it has always been more inward-looking. “If you ask any Marseillais if they feel Provençal, French or European, they will tell you that they are Marseillais first and anything else second,” he said.



The second element has to do with Marseille's position as the only Mediterranean city in France. Until the 19th century, the city was in large part closed off from the rest of France. With more links to Buenos Aires than Paris, it was a globalised city before globalisation.

"In Marseille, there is much more mixing of immigrant communities, something we see less of in other cities in France," noted [Philippe Pujol](#), Journalist and 2014 Laureate of the Albert Londres Prize for his series of articles *Quartiers shit* on the northern districts of Marseille. "This is an important part of the Marseille identity."

The 'Marseille exception' is the seeming contradiction of large numbers of immigrants, many of whom come from MENA countries, and comparatively low levels of extremism, and racial and religious tension. Bousbih, herself a native Marseillaise, noted that "in Marseille, with so many immigrant groups coexisting, we tend to more easily accept the other. It is what we know."

"In Marseille, there is much more mixing of immigrant communities, something we see less of in other cities in France. This is an important part of the Marseille identity."

Philippe Pujol,
Journalist and 2014 Laureate of the
Albert Londres Prize for his series of
articles *Quartiers shit* on the northern
districts of Marseille



“In my neighbourhood, one can find North Africans, Senegalese and white Europeans all living and mixing together. We share with each other and help each other when it is needed. There is little fear.”

Vittorio Mosca,
Apprentice at the Second Chance School

Religious tension in the city is expressed not by violence, but by pride in one’s neighbourhood, said Pujol. Marseille, a city that boasts both the 5th richest neighbourhood in France, as well as the poorest, is a complicated city.

“In my neighbourhood, one can find North Africans, Senegalese and white Europeans all living and mixing together. We share with each other and help each other when it is needed. There is little fear,” said **Vittorio Mosca**, an apprentice at the Second Chance School in Marseille.

In contrast to Marseille, Brussels has become known in the past year as a hotbed of Islamist extremism, particularly in the neighbourhood of Molenbeek. This neighbourhood is overwhelmingly populated with Moroccans from one region, the Rif, and is therefore much less diverse than immigrant neighbourhoods in Marseille, Bertrand said.



“People say that Molenbeek’s main export is jihadists,” noted [Martin Buxant](#), Senior Writer at L’Echo. “In Brussels and many other cities in Western Europe, immigrant identities trump all others, while in Marseille, the Marseille identity comes first.”

In 2005, while several French cities went through the chaos of race riots in disenfranchised immigrant neighbourhoods, Marseille remained untouched, in large part due to this strong Marseille identity.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the ‘Marseille exception’, it is that Europeans should not ignore the value of cultural and social diversity in neighbourhoods and the role of community leaders and local associations in promoting unity.

“In Brussels and many other cities in Western Europe, immigrant identities trump all others, while in Marseille, the Marseille identity comes first.”

Martin Buxant,
Senior Writer at L’Echo



CONCLUSION

“In Europe today, it feels that the majority view on the future of the EU is quite cynical,” noted Cami. The European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme exists in part to combat this cynicism by keeping the facts straight and fostering hope and inspiration by enabling young leaders in Europe to offer an alternative perspective and solutions to the problems facing Europe.

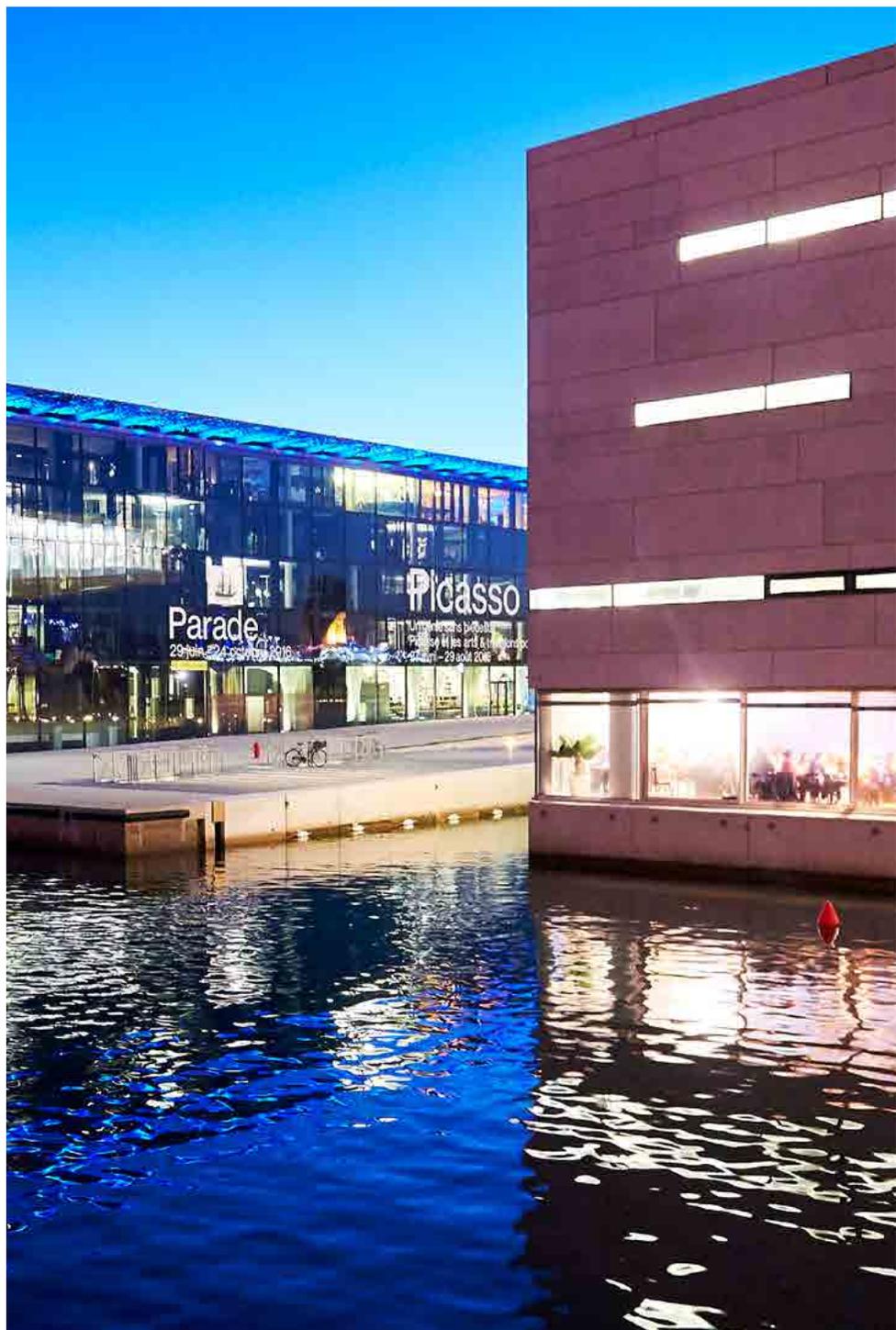
On the issue of migration, the European Young Leaders recognise the importance and value of integration for refugees while being well aware of the challenges at stake. Education policies aimed at integration of migrants and the sensitisation of Europeans towards migrants and refugees are key elements of a successful EU migration and asylum policy.

The value of migration for labour and economic markets cannot be understated in an ageing Europe. It behoves community leaders and policymakers to simplify bureaucratic processes and facilitate the process of employment for new arrivals in Europe.

In a larger context, opinion leaders supportive of immigration in Europe must be encouraged to contribute to countering the prevalent anti-immigration narrative that nationalists and populists champion throughout the EU. Creating this counter-narrative can be helped by communications technologies and social media, tools that can be used to disseminate success stories and promote immigrant role models.

In order to provide a more holistic approach to the EU's migration crisis, the European Young Leaders will be invited to work with Friends of Europe on its new initiative entitled Migration Action. This initiative aims to examine horizontal methods to connect the various communities involved in finding solutions for refugees to break down silos and foster collaboration.

“What is the future of Europe? We all must try to answer this question and to share ideas, role models, best practices, and practical approaches to ensuring our European future is the best one we can make,” Cami concluded. By setting aside differences and working together on the European level to fight for dignity and justice, it is possible to act positively and create a more inclusive, open and prosperous Europe.



AGENDA

Until last year, the arrival in Europe of migrant workers from elsewhere has been comparatively slow and manageable, and required no comprehensive policy response from national governments. The present refugee crisis, in stark contrast, is so overwhelmingly large that it demands a ‘Grand Strategy’ at EU, national, regional and local levels with the involvement of all.

DAY 1

THURSDAY, 19 MAY

Welcome by **Geert Cami**, Co-Founder & Managing Director at Friends of Europe

SESSION I

WIN-WIN SOLUTIONS TO EUROPE'S MIGRATION PROBLEMS

Europeans are waking to the scale of the refugee crisis, but the EU and its member governments have yet to forge credible responses. Tensions across Europe, from Greece to Germany to Sweden, demand realistic and comprehensive EU-wide policies ranging from social integration to job creation, but the first step will be to change the narrative shaping public opinion from threat to asset. What role should private sector employers and entrepreneurs play to speed aging Europe's integration of refugees?

Introductory remarks

Sandra Pratt, European Commission Expert on Immigration and Asylum (1999-2007)

EYL contribution

Sander Loones, Member of the European Parliament

Moderation

Danae Bezantakou, Managing Director of Navigator Shipping Consultant & 2014 European Young Leader

With the testimonial of **Emran Mansour**, Syrian refugee



SESSION II**THE LESSONS (AND WARNINGS) OF THE 'MARSEILLE EXCEPTION'**

Marseille is both a melting pot and a simmering stew, being both religiously and racially diverse. It is home to one of Europe's largest Muslim as well as Jewish populations along with a wide range of different nationalities. While boasting a greater tolerance and social harmony than Paris or Lyon's, Marseille is facing new strains as the National Front's popularity grows. Are there lessons here for the rest of Europe?

Introductory remarks

Philippe Pujol, Journalist and 2014 Laureate of the Albert Londres Prize for his series of articles *Quartiers shit* on the northern districts of Marseille

Moderation

Mary Fitzgerald, Libya Analyst, Award-Winning Journalist and Columnist for the Irish Independent & 2013 European Young Leader

Joined by **Gilles Bertrand**, Head Teacher of the Second Chance School, and **Sophie, Fahar, Myriam, Soulaymane, Natacha, Issam, Mehdi, Camilia, Anissa, Vittorio and Kamel** from the school

Dinner & Marseille by night



DAY 2

FRIDAY, 20 MAY

SESSION I

THE MENA DIASPORA'S POTENTIAL FOR EUROPE

The potential of the Middle East and North Africa diaspora in Europe has not been adequately explored in terms of building relations in the Mediterranean neighbourhood. From the Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan and Lebanese diasporas in France and other EU states to the large Libyan diaspora in the United Kingdom and Ireland, there are young entrepreneurs, business people, academics, activists and artists who straddle both worlds and can play a role in deepening links and informing policy on a range of issues including economic development in the southern neighbourhood, countering extremism and facing the refugee challenge.

Introductory remarks

Theodora Xenogiani, Senior Economist at the OECD International Migration Division

EYL contribution

Karima Delli, Member of the European Parliament

Moderation

Rabah Ghezali, Director for European Legislative Affairs, European Government Affairs and Public Advocacy at NYSE Euronext & 2013 European Young Leader

SESSION II

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The recent attacks in Brussels and Paris have brought the issue of violent extremism in Europe into sharp focus. How responsible are host countries for radicalisation and the creation of 'home grown' terrorism, given that local shortcomings on education, housing and employment opportunities combine with EU nations' foreign policy positions? Can Europe balance the protection of civil liberties with rapidly evolving security challenges it faces and win the battle of ideas?

Introductory remarks

Nicolas Henin, Journalist, former ISIS Hostage and Author of *Jihad Academy*

EYL contribution

Boštjan Videmšek, War Reporter at Delo

Moderation

Jamila Aanzi, International Political Trainer at the Foundation Max van der Stoep & 2014 European Young Leader

BREAKOUT WORKING GROUPS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

These breakout working groups offer an unusual opportunity for European Young Leaders and other guests to engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue to exchange best practices and experiences. They seek to encourage open discussions and critical engagements through testimonials and knowledge-sharing from cities, businesses and entrepreneurs. The aim is to identify policy solutions suited to immigrant communities and refugee concentrations around the EU.

Topics:

- Connection between pop culture and integration
- Housing policy and labour market in cities
- Media's role in the migration and refugee crisis
- Use of new technologies to help refugees
- Obstacles to employment for refugees and migrants

Introductory remarks

Wouter Verschelden, Founder and Publisher at NewsMonkey & 2014 European Young Leader

Visit of the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MuCEM) & dinner

DAY 3

SATURDAY, 21 MAY

BREAKOUT WORKING GROUPS

UNCONFERENCES

Aiming to move from talk to action, the unconferences' agenda promotes fresh thinking and creative solutions. European Young Leaders and other guests are invited to initiate discussion on new topics or suggest concrete actions regarding refugees' and migrants' integration in Europe. Concrete pledges and action-oriented commitments coming out of the discussions will be shared among the full group and disseminated through our broader network with the aim of creating global change.



**friends les amis
of europe de l'europe**

4, Rue de la Science,
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 893 9825 – Fax: +32 2 893 9828

info@friendsofeurope.org

www.friendsofeurope.org

