



European Young Leaders



With the support of



Bold leadership, ground-breaking ideas, unparalleled passion – the European Young Leaders are one of a kind and represent a wide variety of sectors including politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media.

For almost a decade the European Young Leaders programme has brought together the brightest minds and outside the box leaders to put their innovative thinking to work at building a more forward-thinking Europe that is a global champion for a better world.

The European Young Leaders represent a new generation of leaders, able to think innovatively in order to tackle the increasing disconnects between citizens and political elites, rebuilding the trust that is vital to democracies. They are selected from promising, established leaders from across the continent, with a wide variety of backgrounds including: politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science, and the media.

“The European Young Leaders are already starting to shoulder the burden of pulling the European Union out of the deep crisis it finds itself in and will become ever more important in providing a positive vision for the EU”

Sony Kapoor,
Managing Director of Re-Define and
Senior Visiting Fellow at the
London School of Economics and
2014 European Young Leader



OVERVIEW

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 aim to shape Europe's future.

The EYL40 programme was launched in 2012, harnessing the talents of 40 of the brightest 40-and-under minds to debate challenges facing the continent. The Young Leaders represent promising European leadership from all over the continent, with a wide variety of backgrounds including politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media.

Every year, the new class of European Young Leaders is invited to meet during two 3-day seminars that take place in symbolic European cities. They are joined by the alumni of the programme, together with 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.





“The European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme provides a fresh and unique opportunity to harness the untapped potential and passion of a diverse group of young citizens whose joint mission is to make the difference in Europe and beyond. Regardless of what you think about the EU, the EYLs demonstrate every year that bottom-up Europe not only exists but also works”

Alberto Alemanno,
Jean Monnet Professor
of European Law at HEC Paris and
Founder of eLabEurope and 2014
European Young Leader



OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the European Young Leaders programme are:

- ... To connect established young leaders to one another, building bonds across nationalities, areas of work and political outlooks
- ... To enable young leaders to engage directly with leaders and decision makers across Europe and beyond to gain an appreciation of leadership constraints, policy and delivery challenges
- ... To stimulate change through a network of young leaders to devise, develop and implement thoughtful and creative responses to challenges facing Europe.
- ... To foster and build a community of young leaders with a passion and commitment for Europe that offers leadership and inspiration to young people across the continent
- ... To stimulate promising young talent to engage in the politics by providing them with the tools (network, leadership development and knowledge) to become active and influential European citizens



“Sharp, fun and with a true European vision – these are the characteristics of my fellow European Young Leaders, met through this unique programme”

André Loesekrug-Pietri,
Speaker at Joint European
Disruptive Initiative (J.E.D.I,
founder of ACAPITAL and 2013
European Young Leader

SELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW

The European Young Leaders are carefully selected by a selection committee chaired by a senior European personality and made up of alumni of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme, foundation representatives and trustees of Friends of Europe.

The selection criteria for nominees are: under 40 years of age; have proven track records as established thought leaders in their fields of activity; reached or are on track to reaching the highest ranks of their field of expertise.

A LASTING IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN STAGE

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.

They form a powerful and tightly-knit group that meets each year for two seminars hosted in cities across Europe where they engage with leading European figures.

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.

A STRONG NETWORK OF ALUMNI

The European Young Leaders now represent a network of 250+ alumni who are constantly in touch with each other through social media. They form hubs in several European cities and develop concrete and multi-stakeholder projects that matter to the community. They are also involved in working groups, allowing their input from afar into the topics and projects of their choice based on their availability and interest.

They regularly interact on our online platform Debating Europe with its 4.3 million strong community of citizens and contribute insightful articles in our policy journal Europe’s World.

THEY HAVE ENGAGED WITH OUR YOUNG LEADERS:



Laurence Tubiana,
CEO European Climate
Foundation (ECF)



Geoff Mulgan, CEO
Nesta



Isabelle Durant, Vice
President of the
European Parliament
(2009-2014)



Cristina Gallach, UN
Under Secretary
General for
Communications and
Public Information



Anthony L. Gardner,
Visiting Fellow at the
College of Europe and
US Ambassador to the
EU (2014-2017)



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



Carlos Moedas,
European
Commissioner for
Research, Science and
Innovation



Marcelo Rebelo de
Sousa, President of
Portugal



Taavi Rõivas, Vice-
President of the
Estonian Parliament
and Prime Minister of
Estonia (2014-2016)



Zanny Minton
Beddoes, Editor-in-
chief of The Economist



Herman Van Rompuy,
President of the
European Council
(2009-2014)



Vera Jourová, EU
Commissioner for
Justice, Consumers
and Gender Equality

“Being a European Young Leader means more than just a title! This programme emphasizes leadership, results, academic background and character. This network has empowered me to dare more, to stand and speak up on behalf of Europe and all the opportunities and challenges we face. I am so ever thankful for this recognition and network”

Soulaima Gourani,
Chief Executive Officer
of Capital Aid and 2014 European
Young Leader

PROGRAMME EXPANSION

Faced with Europe’s migration crisis and the election of Donald Trump in the United States, Friends of Europe decided to expand the programme with Young Leaders from **North America** and from the **Middle East and North Africa** to meet and discuss issues of common concern with their European counterparts.

The initiative was successful in promoting structural dialogue and fostering better mutual understanding between established leaders from the three regions, and the EYL40 programme is therefore continuing to seek ways to facilitate similar inter-regional dialogue as part of its ongoing work.

Following the surge of populism in the Western Balkans, Friends of Europe will extend the programme in 2020 to include the **Balkan region**, inviting Young Leaders from the Balkan states currently on the path towards EU integration (Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro).

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Xavier Damman, Founder of OpenCollective, co-founder of Storify and 2018 European Young Leader 2. Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, Founder & President of Women’s Worldwide Web and 2012 European Young Leader 3. Mehdi Hassan, Award-winning journalist and political commentator, named one of the 500 Most Influential Muslims and 2017 European Young Leader 4. Joss Garman, UK Director of the European Climate Foundation and 2019 European Young Leader 5. Magid Magid, Member of the European Parliament and 2019 European Young Leader 6. Viktoria Modersta, bionic pop artist, creative director, futurist and 2019 European Young Leader 7. Ricardo Batiste, Member of the Portuguese Parliament and 2016 European Young Leader 8. Anne Marie Imafidon, Co-Founder & CEO of Stemettes and 2018 European Young Leader 9. Eneko Atxa, Chef at three-Michelin-starred restaurant Azurmendi and 2017 European Young Leader | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Marta Krupinska, Co-Founder FreeUp & Azimo, Head of Google for Startups UK and 2019 European Young Leader 11. Jens Spahn, German Minister of Health and 2012 European Young Leader 12. Nasima Razmyar, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki and 2018 European Young Leader 13. Antonia Meszaros, Executive Director, UNICEF Hungary and 2014 European Young Leader 14. John Colisson, President & Co-Founder of Stripe and 2018 European Young Leader 15. Francesca Cavallo, Author & Entrepreneur, Founder of Timbuktu Labs and 2019 European Young Leader 16. Nina Rawal, Head of Life Science Swedish Industrial Development Fund (Industrifonden) and 2014 European Young Leader 17. Kaja Kallas, Leader of Estonia’s winning liberal Reform party and 2017 European Young Leader 18. Jesse Klaver, Leader of the green party in The Netherlands and 2018 European Young Leader |
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OUR
YOUNG
LEADERS
FROM
EUROPE





“The European Young Leaders are inspirational, courageous, action-oriented individuals who commit both their time and talent to making Europe a better place – it’s an essential programme for Europe to reinvent itself”

Carl Bildt, Prime Minister of Sweden (1991-1994)



“Having been part of the programme myself, I can say that the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme connects the work happening on the ground to discussion happening at the highest level”

Franziska Brantner, Member of the German Bundestag and Member of the European Parliament (2009-2013)



“The multi-stakeholder nature of Friends of Europe’s programme is helping to cover difficult conversations, such as how to address migration, get going at the European level and finding solutions collectively”

António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations



“European Young Leaders demonstrate courage of conviction – the reason why this programme is truly vital. These days it takes a lot of courage to face the public with a real European message”

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council (2009-2014)



“What we need in Europe today [...] is political leaders with not only national but also European perspectives. Friends of Europe’s European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme makes this possible”

Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia (2006-2016)



“European Young Leaders should be encouraged to design and disseminate new ideas [...]. Europe’s political leadership needs inspiration and unconventional solutions to the challenges facing the EU and its member states. These solutions can come from Friends of Europe’s group of committed leaders”

Marietje Schaake, International Policy Director of the Cyber Policy Center, Stanford University

Every year, European Young Leaders meet during two 3-day seminars in symbolic European cities, joined by decision-makers, stakeholders and key European actors.

These two meetings kick-start a year-round engagement that turns ideas into actions.

ATHENS

BERLIN

BRUSSELS

DUBLIN

LISBON

LONDON

MARSEILLE

PARIS

ROME

TALLINN

VALLETTA

WARSAW



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A. Programme Partner

Programme partners are actively involved in a full 12 months’ programme of European Young Leaders (EYL40) activities, including 2 annual seminars and 1 alumni meeting. They enjoy regular engagement with our extraordinary young leaders throughout a whole year, as well as benefitting from repeated association with the programme.

Seminars take place in carefully chosen European cities, while the annual alumni meeting takes place in Brussels in the margins of Friends of Europe’s annual flagship events the State of Europe high-level roundtable and President’s Gala Dinner.

As a 2020 programme partner, your organisation would be part of the following core activities of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme:

- ... European Young Leaders Spring 2020 Seminar
- ... European Young Leaders Autumn 2020 Seminar
- ... European Young Leaders 2020 Alumni meeting, mid-October, Brussels, Belgium

As a programme partner, you will:

Engage directly with the European Young Leaders -

- ... Invitations for up to 2 senior representatives of your organisation to take part in the 2 seminars and 1 alumni meeting of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme, including all networking and social activities associated with the events
- ... Invitation for a senior representative of your organisation to join our State of Europe high-level roundtable at which a number of the European Young Leaders take part
- ... Invitation to join exclusive networking events with the European Young Leaders throughout the year, including our Summer Garden Party

Contribute to the development and direction of the programme -

- ... Opportunity to suggest a high-level speaker from

your organisation or from within your organisation’s network for one of the seminars or alumni meeting

- ... Consultation on the development of the programmes of the 2 seminars and 1 alumni meeting (notwithstanding the intellectual and editorial independence and balance guaranteed by Friends of Europe)
- ... Opportunity to propose host city / organisation for future seminars

Be visible as a partner of the programme -

- ... Presentation as a partner of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme in all printed and online material associated with the seminars and alumni meeting (name/logo)
- ... Full page advert in the post-seminar report (detailed summary of the discussions by a professional rapporteur, widely promoted online as part of our communication of the prestigious European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme
- ... Logo on the Partners section of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme webpages
- ... Mention as partner of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme in all correspondence to speakers and host organisations
- ... Mention as partner of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme in all press releases of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme
- ... Publication of a ‘What the Chiefs Say’ branded article in Friends of Europe’s online policy journal Europe’s World, highlighting your priorities linked to the themes of one of the seminars or the alumni meeting

Programme partnership implies an annual financial contribution of **€ 40,000 (+VAT)**.

B. Seminar Partner

Seminar partners join forces with us on one seminar of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme. They enjoy the opportunity to engage with our extraordinary young leaders, as well as benefitting from visibility as a partner of the seminar. As a seminar partner, your organisation would join forces with us on the European Young Leaders Spring 2020 Seminar.

As a seminar partner you will:

... **Engage** directly with the European Young Leaders with invitations for up to 2 senior representatives of your organisation to take part in the seminar, including all networking and social activities associated with the event

For further information, please contact:

Nathalie Furrer, Director of Programmes and Operations +32 2 893 9813 / (nathalie.furrer@friendsofeurope.org)

... **Contribute** to the seminar programme with a speaker from your organisation invited to intervene in one of the sessions (notwithstanding the intellectual and editorial independence and balance guaranteed by Friends of Europe)

... **Be visible** as a partner of the seminar on site and in all printed and online promotional materials and seminar documentation (name/logo)

Seminar partnership implies a financial contribution of **€ 20,000 (+VAT)**.

WHY FRIENDS OF EUROPE?

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. Our insightful and timely publications and animated debates provide exclusive access to sharp analysis and information. Combining cross-sectoral outreach and an inter-connected approach to examining issues and identifying solutions, we break down silos between politicians, media, businesses and civil society.

Friends of Europe aims to stimulate new thinking on global and European issues that span political, economic, social and environmental challenges. Our publications and debates produce sharp analysis and bold solutions because we promote the confrontation of different ideas.

Friends of Europe's broad expertise on political, economic, social and environmental challenges is showcased in its innovative international summits and debates, reports containing concrete policy recommendations, op-eds and guest contributions, policy briefings and background papers. Its global network and Board of Trustees spans presidents, prime ministers, European commissioners and presidents of the European parliament. Mario Monti, Elisabeth Guigou, Joaquim Almunia, Carl Bildt, Michel Barnier, Tanja Fajon,

Pascal Lamy, and Androulla Vassiliou are all members of Friends of Europe's Board.

What we offer /

... Tap into a network that reaches high and wide: we facilitate engagement with leaders at the heart of Brussels policy making and ensure that we reach 'beyond the bubble', also bringing the 'unusual suspects' to the table at our debates

... Partner with an organisation that is both truly European and truly global in its outlook and activities

... Leverage our longstanding experience in taking a joined up view across different policy areas and priorities

... Promote latest thinking on the issues that matter to you through our dedicated fora, wide ranging activities, and via our online policy journal Europe's World

... Engage citizens globally on these issues through our online platform Debating Europe with its 4.5 million unique users

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

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

Connect. Debate. Change.

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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