

AUTUMN 2021

European Young Leaders — Brussels seminar

Europe's generation R

regeneration, recovery, resilience

EVENT REPORT



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The 3 Rs of Europe's post-pandemic future

The coronavirus pandemic has prompted hard questions about what must be done to make Europe a better, more resilient place. Finding answers to those questions was the central objective of the first face-to-face meeting of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

Climate change, global inequality, gender discrimination, the impact of technology, as well as the rise of populism and fake news, were among the thorny issues tackled during the three-day seminar, entitled '**Europe's generation R – regeneration, recovery, resilience**'.

Held on 9-11 September at Friends of Europe's TownHall Europe centre in Brussels, the seminar was the first opportunity for the EYL40 to meet since COVID-19 forced the programme online in March 2020.

The EYL40 programme selects 40 of Europe's most promising talents under 40 every year and hosts an annual seminar to exchange ideas, build networks and discuss the most pressing issues of our times with one another, EYL40 alumni and invited experts.

This year's seminar brought together over 50 young leaders in politics, business, the arts, science, journalism and civil society to share their experience and expertise on a wide range of issues vital to the regeneration of Europe and the wider world.

Aftermath alternatives

The seminar looked in-depth at the pandemic, from the direct economic and social impact of the virus around the world, to the EU's €806bn recovery plan. A clear consensus emerged on the need for post-COVID change.

"We are no longer in a business-as-usual scenario," **Sandrine Dixson-Declève**, Co-President of the Club of Rome, told the group. "Can we please use this as a moment to demonstrate that we can transform? We need to rethink the way in which we look at our economies to create more resilience against any future shocks."

Belgium's top virologist **Marc Van Ranst**, who heads the Laboratory of Clinical and Epidemiological Virology at the University Hospitals Leuven, outlined how the coronavirus' spread caught Europe unprepared, leading to a chaotic and divided initial approach with little solidarity among EU countries. However, the EU eventually came together to produce an effective vaccine programme for European



“Can we please use this as a moment to demonstrate that we can transform? We need to rethink the way in which we look at our economies to create more resilience against any future shocks

Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome

citizens and an unprecedented joint-funded recovery plan.

Van Ranst also looked at the prospects for future health crises. He cautioned that Europe is not investing enough in preparations for the next pandemic and advocated a 'One Health' approach to build resilience, factoring in environmental, veterinary and human health risks.

A target of death threats from anti-lockdown extremists himself, Van Ranst underlined the dangers of disinformation in hampering science-based efforts to fight the pandemic. He called

for action to limit its impact while maintaining respect for free speech. "Free speech is extremely important, but if that evolves into hate speech or fake news, it is not harmless," Van Ranst said, "it is really devastating."

Young leaders agreed on the threat from disinformation, particularly on social networks. "This pandemic is the first serious wake up call for how fake news and misinformation can actually hurt," said **Negar Mortazavi**, Host of the Iran Podcast and 2017 MENA Young Leader.



Jos Boys, Founding Member of Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative and Co-Author of "Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment", **Marina Hanke**, Councillor of the city of Vienna and Chairwoman of the Wiener SPO-Frauen (Vienna) and **Dharmendra Kanani**, Director, Asia, Peace, Security & Defense, Digital & Chief spokesperson



John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation

The John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation was established in 2005 with a mission of continuing the philanthropic legacy of the late Greek entrepreneur John S. Latsis and his dedication to societal development, with a particular focus on his homeland, Greece. Since its establishment, the Foundation has sought to, on the one hand, address current pressing social challenges and, on the other hand, implement initiatives committed to creating a society of equal opportunities, meritocracy and progress. Within this framework of operation, the Foundation both designs and manages its annual targeted programs and provides grants to nonprofit organisations, across a wide range of fields including education & skills, innovation & sustainable development, social action & solidarity. An engaged funding approach guides the Foundation's activities, whereby all work is done in close collaboration with civil society partners and key players within the relevant issue areas, to maximize social impact. An additional part of the Foundation's activities is the operation of the Neraida Floating Museum, the objective of which is, among other things, to promote the country's shipping, maritime and business history, through activities of an educational, informative and scientific nature. The John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation is a member of the European Venture Philanthropy Association and the European Foundation Centre.



1. **Jamila Aanzi**, Trainer and Advisor; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campaigner and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40) and **Malcolm Byrne**, Irish Senator for the Cultural and Educational Panel, 2014 European Young Leader
2. **Anne-Solène Rolland**, Head of the Museum Department at the French Ministry of Culture and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
3. **Sophie Nivelles-Cardinale**, War Reporter and Filmmaker, Recipient of Prix Albert Londres and Bayeux-Calvados Award and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40)
4. **Alexandra Dariescu**, Award-Winning Concert Pianist, Producer of "The Nutcracker and I", Creative Entrepreneur and 2018 European Young Leader (EYL40)
5. **Wouter Verschelden**, Author and Chief Executive Officer at NewsMonkey and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)



The jabbed and the jabbed not

Another key problem highlighted by Van Ranst is the lopsided global vaccine rollout, which has seen over 41% of the world's population receive at least one dose but left low-income countries unprotected with just 1.9% of people having received a jab. He warned that inequality risks prolonging the pandemic and facilitating the emergence of new variants.

"That's actually just criminal," commented **Kirsten van den Hul**, columnist, former member of the Dutch parliament and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40).

That theme was taken up powerfully by **Agnes Binagwaho**, Vice Chancellor and Co-Founder of the University of Global Health Equity, Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Foundation Strategy Group on Health and former Rwandan health minister. She denounced the "shameful" inequality in the distribution of vaccines around the world as a flagrant breakdown of global solidarity.

"That can be explained by nothing else than nationalism, selfishness, the lack of respect for science and lack of solidarity, where the rich

countries in Europe are vaccinating people that are not at risk," she said in a video link from Kigali. "We could solve that if Africa was supported to manufacture vaccines for its people."

Addressing vaccine inequality should be part of a wider debate on the legacy of colonial exploitation, said journalist **Moha Gerehou**, Contributor at Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1 and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40). "If you don't have a conversation about the consequences of colonialism in today's economy, how can we talk about solidarity? And how can we talk about distributing vaccines?" he asked.

Suggesting the immediate focus should be on vaccinations to keep African citizens safe, Binagwaho agreed on the need for a debate on colonialism to a reset of relations between Africa and Europe. "This notion of solidarity must be the backbone of an improved African-European partnership, challenging historical exploitation," she said.

Vaccine inequality is a symptom of a wider failure of traditional multilateral structures

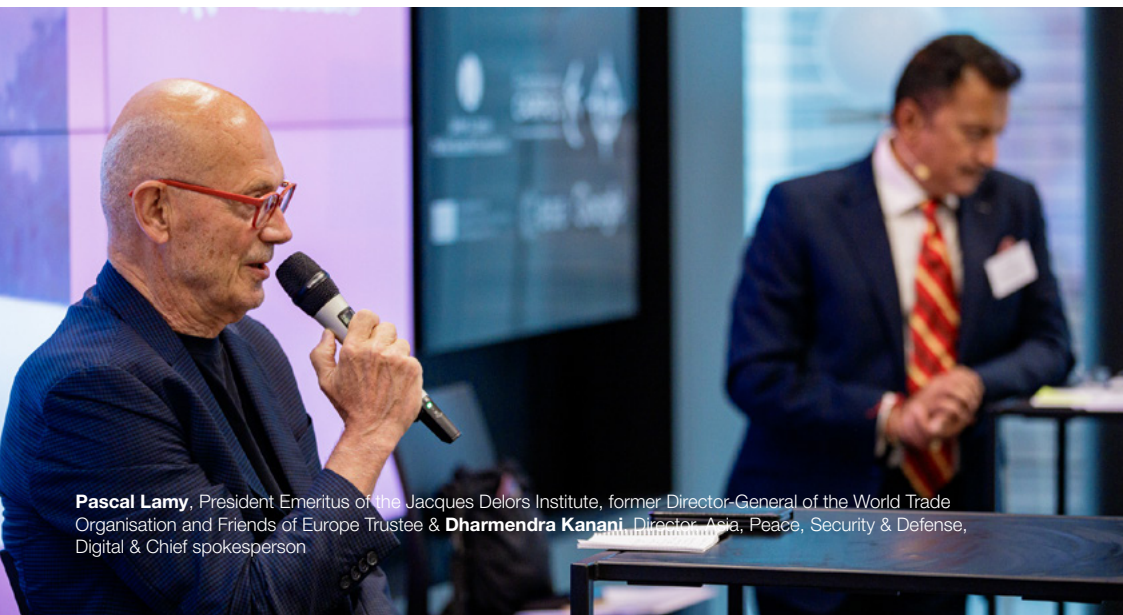
in dealing with contemporary challenges, contended **Pascal Lamy**, President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute, former director-general of the World Trade Organization and Trustee of Friends of Europe. “The traditional approach to global governance ... is not really working now, if we limit it to what is called multilateralism,” he said, calling instead for a ‘polylateralism’ that brings in other players such as NGOs, local authorities and business.

Including such non-traditional actors will increase humanity’s ability to confront challenges of the 21st century, suggested Lamy. “The way we’ve been handling multilateral traditional issues, so far, has to change and has to engage stakeholders [with] capacity to get things done, not just discuss that we have a big problem with environment or a big problem with health or a big problem with social inclusion.”



“This notion of solidarity must be the backbone of an improved African-European partnership, challenging historical exploitation

Agnes Binagwaho, Vice Chancellor and Co-Founder of the University of Global Health Equity, Co-Chair of the Africa-Europe Foundation Strategy Group on Health and former Rwandan health minister



Pascal Lamy, President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation and Friends of Europe Trustee & **Dharmendra Kanani**, Director, Asia, Peace, Security & Defense, Digital & Chief spokesperson

Big bazooka

While the EU struggled to find internal solidarity at the start of the pandemic, it united to produce a successful vaccine system and agree on its Next Generation EU plan to kickstart economic recovery. That plan, dubbed the 'big bazooka', centres around the €723.8bn Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), designed with a focus on green and digital transition. Among its key provisions are an unprecedented mechanism for the EU to borrow money on the markets and a requirement for national governments to submit spending plans for European Commission scrutiny.

"We underestimate what it means for Europe," said **Thomas Dermine**, Belgian State Secretary for Scientific Policy, Recovery Programme and Strategic Investments and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40). "It means, for the first time in its history, that the EU is behaving as a supranational power ... it is behaving in the exact same way that a federal state is behaving."

Leading the implementation of Next Generation EU, **Gert-Jan Koopman**, European Commission Director-General for Budget, explained what was at stake in the drafting of the RRF plan. "Last year, we were confronted with a common crisis of unprecedented proportions and the prospect that, because it affected countries differently, the Union would crumble," he recalled. "That was a realistic

prospect had we not intervened together. We could have faced a very, very nasty economic situation."

The plan was broadly welcomed as a contrast to the austerity imposed on some EU member states during the financial and economic crisis a decade ago. However, young leaders stressed the importance of transparency in the disbursement of the funds to make sure they make a significant impact on climate change and economic modernisation.

"I'm really worried that this money will be misused just for political campaigns, instead of being given for the purposes where it is needed," said **Małgorzata Tracz**, Member of the Polish parliament, Co-Chair of Poland's Green Party and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40).

Young leaders also highlighted the need to bring citizens on board in the implementation of climate and digital targets within the plan to avoid widespread backlash, like that of the 'yellow vest' movement in France.

"We still underestimate the impact of digital and climate transformation. It's going to be a huge social revolution ... and the question which is properly being asked by many citizens in Europe is 'who is going to benefit?' and they are not receiving any answers at the moment,"

said **Tomáš Petříček**, Senior Non-Residential Fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, former Czech minister for foreign affairs and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40).

Koopman gave assurance that, as far as its mandate allowed, the Commission would strive to address such concerns. He insisted “every single cent” disbursed under the recovery plan would be accounted for. “We are in this together and we are doing this at a pace where Europe has traditionally come up short,” he said, “this time around, Europe has not come up short.”

Speakers also urged for a greater focus on social spending in the plan and called for a shift in the measurement of progress beyond economic growth to factor in social and environmental parameters.

“If we do it properly, it will anchor a different way of looking at our budgets, our investment,” remarked Dixon-Declève. “We cannot continue to function within a GDP model. We must look beyond GDP. We must bring in social, environmental and economic indicators that have equal weight across the board in our economies.”



“We still underestimate the impact of digital and climate transformation. It's going to be a huge social revolution ...

Tomáš Petříček, Senior Non-Residential Fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, former Czech minister for foreign affairs and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

The European Space Agency (ESA)



The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.

ESA is an international organisation with 22 Member States. By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, it can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country.

What does ESA do? In short, ESA's job is to draw up the European space programme and carry it through. ESA's programmes are designed to find out more about Earth, its immediate space environment, our Solar System and the Universe, as well as to develop satellite-based technologies and services, and to promote European industries. ESA also works closely with space organisations outside Europe.

The full definition of our purpose comes from Article II, Purpose, Convention of establishment of a European Space Agency, which states:

ESA's purpose shall be to provide for, and to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European States in space research and technology and their space applications, with a view to their being used for scientific purposes and for operational space applications systems:

- by elaborating and implementing a long-term European space policy, by recommending space objectives to the Member States, and by concerting the policies of the Member States with respect to other national and international organisations and institutions;
- by elaborating and implementing activities and programmes in the space field;
- by coordinating the European space programme and national programmes, and by integrating the latter progressively and as completely as possible into the European space programme, in particular as regards the development of applications satellites;
- by elaborating and implementing the industrial policy appropriate to its programme and by recommending a coherent industrial policy to the Member States.

Who belongs to ESA? Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania are Associate Members. Canada takes part in some projects under a cooperation agreement. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta and Slovakia have cooperation agreements with ESA.

On average, every citizen of an ESA Member State pays, in taxes for expenditure on space, about the same as the price of a cinema ticket (in USA, investment in civilian space activities is almost four times as much).



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1. Małgorzata Tracz, Polish Member of Parliament, Co-Chair of Poland's Green Party and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

2. Marko Pavić, Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds for Croatia and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40)

3. Thomas Dermine, Belgian State Secretary for Scientific Policy, Recovery Programme and Strategic Investments and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

4. Yuriy Vulkovsky, Dobrica Veselinovic, Thomas Dermine and Moha Gerehou

5. Kirsten van den Hul, Former member of the Dutch Parliament; Writer, Change Agent and Columnist and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40) and **Yuriy Vulkovsky**, Country Manager, Reach for Change and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)

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The train to Valenciennes

Transport is one area where recovery fund investment will be crucial for Europe to meet its climate targets. One session of the EYL seminar was dedicated to Trains for Europe (trainsforeurope.eu), a campaign to scale up night trains founded by **Jon Worth**, political blogger and 2012 EYL40. Worth highlighted three areas where progress is needed: infrastructure; increased services, particularly long-distance night trains; and enhanced ticketing to streamline planning and purchasing for cross-border journeys.

“There are high expectations for railways and also high potential,” said **Alberto Mazzola**, Executive Director of the Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Companies (CER). Despite the efficiency and green credential of rail travel, speakers complained of a slew of obstacles preventing rail from developing as a cheap and effective competitor to high-carbon air and road traffic.

Rail infrastructure projects are too often focused on big projects instead of modest but useful local lines, Worth said. For example, just two kilometres of track could provide a direct link between Brussels and the French city of Valenciennes, home to the European Railways



“Rail infrastructure projects are too often focused on ‘sexy’ big projects instead of more modest but useful local lines

Jon Worth, Political blogger and 2012 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Agency. In other locations, tracks exist but there are too few trains and the lack of centralised ticketing services and timetables across the continent is a major drawback to cross-border rail travel.

“It might sound like a ridiculous problem, but there is no proper European railway timetable and there is no equivalent of Kayak or Skyscanner ... for booking railways,” Worth said. “It’s not actually about building tracks or building trains; these are the soft things which ought to be relatively easy to solve.”

Worth sought the support of other EYL40 to realise the “correct balance” between public service local rail operators and innovative long-distance companies.

For sleeper trains to recover their position in the European travel matrix, incumbent rail operators need to open up to competition and develop a more international mindset, argued **Elmer van Buuren**, Co-Founder and Managing Director of European Sleeper, a start-up dedicated to night trains.

“Most railway companies are organised domestically and they are serving their own markets,” van Buuren told the meeting. “It’s really a very closed sector. It’s very difficult to open these things up. There’s a lot of mistrust within the sector between the insurgents and the incumbents.”

The European Commission is taking steps to develop rail through regulation and funding.



“Rail is a simple fix if you want to decarbonise transport

Kathrin Obst, Deputy Head of the Single European Rail Area Unit at the European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

“Since December 2020, any rail company that wants to offer services in another member state can do so,” explained **Kathrin Obst**, Deputy Head of the Single European Rail Area Unit at the European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

She outlined the EU’s efforts to invest in infrastructure and overcome bottlenecks holding back the expansion of international rail travel and its green potential. “Rail is a simple fix if you want to decarbonise transport,” Obst concluded.



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1. **Moha Gerehou**, Journalist, Contributor at Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1 and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Ozan Yanar**, Green City Counsellor in Helsinki, former Member of the National Parliament of Finland and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)
3. **Matthew Caruana Galizia**, Investigative Journalist and Lead Engineer for the Paradise Papers Investigation and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
4. **Darya Yegorina**, Founder & Board Member of CleverBooks and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
5. **Agnesta Filatovė**, Executive Director of the Vilnius International Film Festival (VIFF) and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)



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Views on values

Space is another area where Europe needs to take a longer-term approach and establish a more productive relationship between the public and private sectors in order to underscore its values of cooperation and collaboration, as well as compete with the United States, China and other players in a competitive sphere.

“There's a massive international space race taking place, more so than we'd ever imagined,” said **Dharmendra Kanani**, Director for Peace, Security and Defence, Space, Digital and Chief Spokesperson of Friends of Europe. “We know that space will be that entity through which we are likely to sustain ourselves better in terms of climate change. We'll be able to create solutions and innovations around health; we'll be able to deal with crises better. It will be essential to our security [and] personal lives.”

Kanani was among those who signalled the need for effective international space governance in adherence with Europe's values as a major challenge.

Mònica Roca i Aparici, Founder and Director of isardSAT and President of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, agreed. She expressed hope about the “democratisation” of space that allows more players, including smaller businesses and consumers, to make use of space data. However, she noted that “we need to put in some rules and some regulations, so



“We need to put in some rules and some regulations, so that we don't damage space in the same way as we damaged our planet

Mònica Roca i Aparici, Founder and Director of isardSAT and President of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce

that we don't damage space in the same way as we damaged our planet."

Joining the debate, **Günther Hasinger**, Director of Science at the European Space Agency (ESA), said it was vital for European politicians to look at developing science education as space becomes increasingly vital to the economy. "If we don't continue to develop the skills and if we don't pass on the inspiration for our young generation to take up STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] professions, we will really lose out in the long run," he cautioned.

Several participants pointed the need to strike the right balance between private and public investment in space. **Alexandre Pérez Casares**, Co-Founder of Fever, President of The Altius Society and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40), said the US maintains its lead in space, in part thanks to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) backing private initiatives such as SpaceX.

"Those efforts were ... being funded and guaranteed by the government at the beginning, so that private companies could develop," he said. "Is there something we need to think about in the European policy framework on all these investments ... taking into account that private investment in the sector in Europe is 10 times smaller than in the US?"

The potential of space exploration has the capacity to overcome some of the scepticism about science, which has manifested itself in anti-vax activism during the pandemic,

suggested **André Loeseckrug-Pietri**, Chairman and Scientific Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40).

"We need science more than ever and I'm wondering what we can do collectively to explain it better, to explain that is not just beautiful to advance knowledge, but it also has an impact on everyday life. Could space be at the centre of these efforts?"

Demonstrating how the diverse nature of the EYL40 programme can help generate out-of-this-world innovation, architect **Alfredo Munoz**, Founder and CEO of ABIBOO Studio and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40), explained to the group how he drew up workable designs for a liveable city on Mars that could be built by the end of the century, together with astrophysicist, exoplanet discoverer and 2018 European Young Leader (EYL40) **Guillem Anglada-Escudé**.

"Our background as Europeans had a huge role in how we envision living on Mars," Munoz told the group in a video link from Florida. "We analysed scientifically, and coming with a European background, that living on Mars would require a sense of community and a sense of belonging very much aligned with the values that we have in Europe."



1. **Jakob Haesler**, Managing Director at Foxdixneuf , 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Jamila Aanzi**, Trainer and Advisor; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campaigner
3. **Armin Cerkez**, Founder and CEO of Youth Power and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
4. **Kirsten Brosbøl**, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish minister for the environment and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)



Feminist cities

Future cities on Mars may engender a sense of belonging but, as the group heard, many women find alienation among urban landscapes here on Earth. The Friends of Europe team showed how urban geography can be revised to empower women and tell a new story of Europe by reworking the Brussels metro map and renaming each station after women who have shaped Europe. The Capital of Europe, Women of Europe was launched on Europe Day on 9 May 2021.

“We need a new narrative, a stronger narrative in terms of remodelling our cities from a feminist perspective,” explained **Marina Hanke**, Councillor of the City of Vienna and Chairwoman of the Wiener SPO-Frauen. “It’s a fundamental question of justice, it’s a question of equal rights.”

Among the examples taken forward in the Austrian capital, she pointed to a partnership with a major supermarket chain to include on all its receipts a hotline number offering support for victims of gender-based violence; and a rejigging of the traffic light system to prioritise pedestrians – among whom women are a majority.

Jos Boys, Founding Member of Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative and Co-Author



“I see a great opportunity for us Europeans to actually elaborate on the values we want to promote in the 21st century

Katarzyna Nawrot, Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences Committee for Future Studies, Poland 2000 Plus, and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

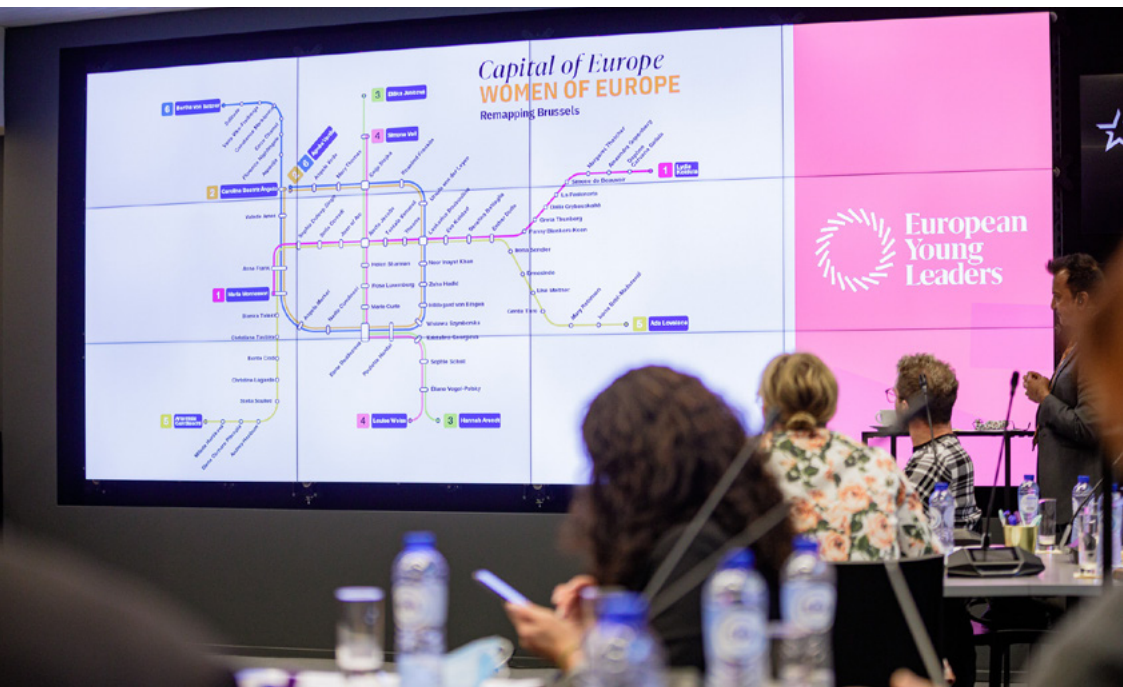
of 'Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment', also highlighted the need for city planners to take into account the requirements of disabled people.

Boys emphasised the importance of working from the bottom up to bring about change at the grassroots level that can have meaningful impacts on peoples' lives, even on a small scale. "Meeting the access needs and inclusion needs of very diverse people is never going to be a ... simple technical solution, it's always going to be complex," she said. "But what you need to do is be willing to have a commitment to a kind of collective care at an individual level right through to a state and a governmental level."

It is essential to build on shared values, argued **Katarzyna Nawrot**, Member of the

Polish Academy of Sciences Committee for Future Studies, Poland 2000 Plus, and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40). "I see a great opportunity for us Europeans to actually elaborate on the values we want to promote in the 21st century," she said. "We need more intercultural understanding of our values and, if we don't necessarily agree with some values, at least we understand them ... on that basis, we can elaborate on some common universal values we all share."

Gender should be mainstreamed into decision-making in the government, private sector and civil society, said **Claire Fourçans**, Director of Policy and Campaigns at the European Women's Lobby. "It's really about making sure that a woman's perspective is taken into account in all policies," she explained.



Culture after COVID-19

One area that is key for Europe's values is arts and culture, a sector paralysed by pandemic restrictions. With theatres and museums shut by lockdowns, several EYL40 set up a working group during the pandemic to plot paths to a cultural resurgence.

“One needs to make the business case for the cultural and creative sector in Europe in terms of putting it at the heart of the recovery package,” said journalist and researcher **Mary Fitzgerald**, 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40) and Trustee of Friends of Europe. She pointed out that, before COVID-19, the sector was responsible for 4.4% of Europe's GDP, with a turnover of €643bn, more than telecoms, pharmaceuticals or car-making. However, the arts remain neglected and culture is often the first area to face cuts when budgets are squeezed.

Even more than the economic impact, speakers stressed the importance of the arts to mental health and Europe's sense of identity. “Woven through our public spaces [and] interactions with each other, the arts, culture and creativity are key to keeping us healthy in mind and spirit,” said Fitzgerald. “They can help us dream and hope. They contribute to building resilience. They can bring us together and help us believe in a better tomorrow.”



“One needs to make the business case for the cultural and creative sector in Europe in terms of putting it at the heart of the recovery package

Mary Fitzgerald, Journalist and analyst specialising in the Euro-Mediterranean region with a particular focus on Libya, Trustee of Friends of Europe and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

"I sincerely think, as an artist, that arts and culture are just not taken seriously enough," lamented **Alexandra Dariescu**, award-winning concert pianist, creative entrepreneur and 2018 European Young Leader (EYL40). "There's a huge disconnect between the profitability of it and how people think of arts and culture."

She contrasted governments' pandemic approach to sports with the treatment of culture. While elite sports stars were allowed to travel, artists often were not; 60,000 people watched the Euro 2020 football final in London, but "six people were not allowed to sing in the same room". Dariescu suggested the launch of a 'European passport' for artists.

Despite the massive disruption and suffering caused by the COVID-19 crisis, **Jan Goossens**, Artistic Director of the Festival de Marseille and 2012 European Young Leader (EYL40), said artists could seek positive change in the aftermath of pandemic to reinforce culture's potential to transform society.

"It is a challenge not to see it only as a negative episode, not to see it only as an episode that we need to recover from and heal from to go back to business-as-usual," he said, "it should really be an invitation to reinvent our practices."

That involves not just creating beauty and togetherness, but asking: "how can we, from the arts and culture, define the major transitions, be they ecological, social and connected to inclusion, be they urban and architectural?" One step in that direction could be revitalising the

European City of Culture concept, Goossens proposed.

Jakob Haesler, Managing Director at Foxdixneuf and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40), highlighted the importance of accessibility to the arts and culture by highlighting the benefits of getting culture into kindergartens. "We need to think much more radically about access," he said. "There is no point in trying to bring 15-year-olds to a concert hall [or] a museum ... it's way too late. Start when people are three, four and five – that's where you anchor cultural practices."

Joining the conversation remotely from the US, pianist **Makiko Hirata**, Consultant at the Center for Performing Arts Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital, explained the therapeutic benefits of culture.

"A doctor can see one patient at a time but ... music can actually ease the pain of many, many people and reduce the stress level of people who are suffering from pain," said Hirata, who is widely known as Dr Pianist. "When we start thinking of the world as our collaborative artwork, we cannot [help] but recognise our human species as one big organism," contended Hirata, arguing that arts can have a health effect at a societal level.



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1. **Cristina Pozzi**, Board Member, COO and Head of Contents at Treccani Futura and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Jan Goossens**, Artistic Director of the Festival de Marseille and 2012 European Young Leader (EYL40)
3. **Markus Freiburg**, Founder and CEO of Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE) and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)
4. **Samir Abdelkrim**, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Emerging Valley and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
5. **Qëndron Kastrati**, Mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica, Kosovo, and European Young Leader



5

Constructive politics

Over the past decade, the European and international political scene has experienced wild changes, undergoing extreme polarisation, the rise of disinformation, as well as significant changes in political communication and relationships with the citizens. Political disenfranchisement and the various economic, climate and health crises have successively eroded citizens' trust in politicians, who increasingly resort to unconventional and divisive rhetoric. Extreme partisanship has led to heightened gridlock and citizen disenchantment with overall democratic capabilities, spurring calls for change.

In order to re-establish trust in our democratic institutions, from free press, to the parliaments and governments of representative democracies, there is a need to promote a democratic dialogue and political process that is more responsive to people's needs and expectations of involvement and representation.

Several young politicians in the group recalled their disillusion after hitting up against inflexible power structures, conflict-based politics, media-driven agendas and other less-savoury political realities.



“I was in awe of having been mandated by my voters and, of course, I wanted to use that in a way that was in line with my own values, but increasingly I found that was really, really difficult

Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish minister for the environment and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

“I was in awe of having been mandated by my voters and, of course, I wanted to use that in a way that was in line with my own values, but increasingly I found that was really, really difficult,” said **Kirsten Brosbøl**, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish minister for the environment and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40). “We, as elected parliamentarians, had basically been side-lined in the policy formulation process.”

Having decided to quit parliamentary politics and promote a more constructive, values-based political culture, Brosbøl has teamed up with fellow Dane and former journalist, **Ulrik Haagerup**, Founder and CEO of the Constructive Institute, who reached a similar conclusion on the need to build more constructive approaches in journalism. He set up the Constructive Institute after noting how media thrive on a vicious circle powered by conflict, violence and negativity. “Why should journalism be the only profession that we don’t have to be critical towards?” asked Haagerup.

“We covered the extreme always ... we look for the extreme person, the extreme case and we did it to such an extent that people started to believe that the extreme was normality,” he said. Terrorists know that violent acts will attract news coverage. “So, when journalists cover it, they spread the fear and spread the message ... the most important weapon is not Kalashnikovs and suicide bombs, it’s journalists,” admitted Haagerup.

Politicians have also learned that radical positions win headlines and airtime, fuelling



“What has really changed about politics and journalism is the impact of social media

Malcolm Byrne, Irish Senator and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)

the rise of populist extremism – a problem magnified by the rise of social media. “What has really changed about politics and journalism is the impact of social media,” said **Malcolm Byrne**, Irish Senator and 2014 EYL40. “It’s changed everything, how we do business traditionally in all of our countries.”

Fjoralba Caka, Professor of EU Law, former Albanian deputy minister of justice and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40), asked

how individuals can stick to their values given the pressure from powerful value systems that control media platforms. “How can this very beautiful, articulated personal dimension beat the value system or this system that is contradicting your values?” she asked.

Politicians acknowledged the detrimental impact of social media on their work. “Being a politician, it is a little bit like being a social media influencer these days,” complained **Ozan Yanar**, City Councillor, former member of the Finnish parliament and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40), who joined via video from Helsinki. “The social media posts are more important than doing your work in your commission.”

“Do we want to spend 70% of our time doing Twitter updates?” asked Brosbøl. “No, that’s not why we entered politics.”

Constructive politicians and journalists can make a difference and end the vicious circle of political conflict. Bringing together EYL40 journalists and politicians with experienced and ground-breaking leaders, the constructive politics project, supported by Friends of Europe, aims to create and disseminate a carefully crafted curricula over the coming months. The project will promote a solutions-oriented rather than discourse-oriented approach to politics in order to support the future of our democracies.

Tomáš Petříček, Senior Non-Residential Fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, former Czech minister for foreign affairs and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40) & **Alessandro Fusacchia**, Senior Non-Residential Fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, former Czech minister for foreign affairs and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)





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1. **Velibor Bošković**, Managing Director of Science and Technology Park Montenegro and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40) & **Yuriy Vulkovsky**, Country Manager, Reach for Change and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)
2. **Małgorzata Tracz**, Polish Member of Parliament, Co-Chair of Poland's Green Party and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
3. **Wietse van der Werf**, Founder & CEO of Sea Ranger Service and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
4. **Moha Gerehou**, Journalist, Contributor at Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1 and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40), **Fjoralba Caka**, Former Albanian Deputy Minister of Justice, Professor of EU Law and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40) & **Ivan Lesay**, Co-Founder and CEO of Slovak Investment Holding, Civil Servant and Fiction Writer and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)
5. **Negar Mortazavi**, Host of the Iran Podcast and 2017 MENA Young Leader



5

Conclusion

We've learned time and again that the challenges of the 21st century and our ever-complex world cannot be addressed using the rulebooks of the past. The world is screaming for a new type of leadership and a renewed social contract in which the private sector, local and multilateral institutions, alongside citizens, can collaborate and drive change.

The EYL seminar gathered young leaders to deliberate what our shared future can and should look like, take forward ideas for joint projects and bring about positive change in key areas affecting the future of our democracies and our continent.

The European Young Leaders represent an alternative infrastructure of leadership – a new generation of leaders able to inspire action and generate change. Their passion, diversity of backgrounds and opinions, coupled with their innovative thinking, create the right formula for generating fresh ideas to build a more forward-thinking Europe.



The EYL programme



EYL40.org



/EYL40



@EYL40

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

The European Young Leaders represent a promising European leadership from all over the continent and with a wide variety of backgrounds including politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media. From trailblazing biochemists to budding political leaders, and from dot-com entrepreneurs to NGO 'stars' who are shaping the social and environmental policies of tomorrow, the European Young Leaders are a unique community that crafts innovative responses to European challenges and positively affects the lives of future generations.

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

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

This programme also turns ideas into actions. That means ongoing interactions between young leaders, alumni and outside participants to boost innovative ideas and have a bigger impact on the European stage by forwarding projects that matter to the community.

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

Since 2020, young leaders of the Western Balkan region are also included in the European yearly class.

EYL40



JAMILA AANZI
2014 European
Young Leader

Trainer and Advisor

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campaigner

THE NETHERLANDS

Jamila is a leading innovator in the fields of youth involvement and social outreach in the Netherlands. She currently works as an independent strategic consultant and sits on the supervisory board of Stichting JES Rijnland, an organisation which promotes the rights of children and young people in education and society. Jamila previously worked as a senior international political trainer for the the Max van der Stoep Foundation, where she worked with political parties and politicians in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and North Africa on a range of topics, including diversity, the inclusion of young people and women, EU enlargement and democracy. She is the former Dutch women's representative to the United Nations and a former member of the European Elections Programme Committee of the Social Democratic Party of the Netherlands (PVDA). Jamila is also an alumna of Israel's future European leaders programme and the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.



**SAMIR
ABDELKRIM**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Author of Startup Lions; Entrepreneur and Founder of EMERGING Valley and StartupBRICS

FRANCE

Samir is not only a French entrepreneur but also an author and a tech reporter. Passionate about all things digital, he founded EMERGING Valley as an international summit on African innovation to connect tech start-ups with investors, thinkers and decision-makers across continents. He also leads StartupBRICS, a company that provides insights on entrepreneurship in emerging economies. Samir is a former chronicler on African tech entrepreneurs for Le Monde and has also featured in the Huffington Post, Le Point and Les Echos. His book, Startup Lions, chronicles his experience travelling the African continent in search of the most interesting and innovative tech start-ups. With French President Emmanuel Macron's initiative "Summit of the Two Shores of the Mediterranean", Samir was amongst 10 selected to make proposals to relaunch European and Mediterranean cooperation.

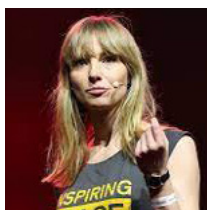


**GUILLEM
ANGLADA-
ESCUDE**
2018 European
Young Leader

Astrophysicist and Exoplanet Discoverer Ramón y Cajal Research

SPAIN

Guillem Anglada-Escudé is a well-known astrophysicist and scientist, whose current work focuses on exoplanet detection and planetary exploration. Most notably, Guillem and his team discovered the Proxima b exoplanet orbiting Proxima Centauri, our closest neighbouring star and the nearest star to the Sun. He- has previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Carnegie Institution for Science, University of Goettingen, as well as Queen Mary University of London, where he became a reader in astronomy. He has conducted research in several countries and has been actively engaged with space agencies, such as NASA and the European Space Agency. In 2016, Guillem was named among the ten most prominent scientists worldwide by Science Magazine and one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world.



**ANNE KJÆR
BATHEL**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Founder and CEO ReDI School of Digital Integration

GERMANY

Anne founded ReDI School, a vocational training programme that teaches programming and tech skills to migrants and seeks to fill vacancies in the German IT job market. With five schools throughout Germany and Denmark, ReDI hosts 1,000 students per semester, 65% of which are women and girls. She also founded the Berlin Peace Innovation Lab, which focuses on technology's role in facilitating emerging and measurable social change towards global peace. Prior to this, Anne spent two years in Japan, researching open social innovation, and received the prestigious Rotary Peace Fellowship. She previously worked as a corporate social responsibility consultant, during which time Anne developed and implemented Samsung Electronics' award-winning corporate social responsibility strategy for Scandinavia.



**VELIBOR
BOŠKOVIĆ**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader Voices

**Managing Director
Science and Technology Park Montenegro**

MONTENEGRO

Velibor is a Montenegrin economist, who was appointed by the Government of Montenegro to serve as the Managing Director of Montenegro's first science and technology park and one of its most significant scientific research and innovation projects. He also serves as the President of the Center for Development and Entrepreneurial Society. With extensive experience in both the private and public sectors, Velibor's career has focused on development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and enhancing SMEs in Montenegro. Before taking up his current post, he was the general director of FK Budućnost, Montenegro's biggest football club. He has also served as director of Montenegro's first business incubator, 'Inventivnost', and as director at an entrepreneurship and innovation centre, 'Technopolis', where he remains as President of the Board. Additionally, Velibor has co-founded two private companies, one of which works in economic consultancy and one of which operates within the pharmaceutical industry.



**KIRSTEN
BROSBØL**
2017 European
Young Leader

**Founder and CEO
2030beyond**

DENMARK

Kirsten is the CEO of 2030beyond, a do-tank which she established to accelerate action on 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, she founded the Parliamentarians for the Global Goals initiative, a global network of parliamentarians committed to the 2030 Agenda. Kirsten formerly served as the Danish minister of environment and a member of the Danish parliament, during which time she founded and chaired the All-Party Group on the Sustainable Development Goals. She is a German Marshall Fellow and former Obama Foundation scholar at Columbia University.



**MALCOLM
BYRNE**

2014 European
Young Leader

Irish Senator Cultural and Educational Panel

IRELAND

Malcolm is an Irish politician for the centrist Fianna Fáil party and currently serves as a Senator for the Cultural and Educational Panel of the Irish Parliament. Malcolm formerly served as a member of the lower house for the Wexford constituency from 2019 to 2020, prior to which he was a member of Wexford County Council from 2009 to 2019 and Mayor of Gorey. Additionally, Malcolm was the Head of Communications and Public Affairs with the Higher Education Authority, the statutory agency in Ireland that allocates public funding to higher education and advises government on higher education and research policy. Having worked for various lobbying and representative organisations throughout his career, Malcolm was also the first commercial manager with myhome.ie, Ireland's most successful property website. Outside of his professional career, Malcolm has completed over 30 marathons.



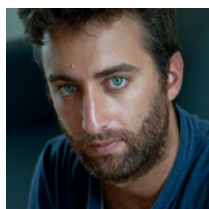
FJORALBA CAKA

2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Former Albanian Deputy Minister of Justice, Professor of EU Law

ALBANIA

Fjoralba is the former Albanian minister for justice covering European integration and anti-corruption policies. Having started her career as an academic teaching EU Law, she has maintained an ongoing cooperation with civil society organisations. She also served as a lawyer on issues related to strategic litigation and offered legal aid for people in need and for marginalised communities. In addition, she has led projects focusing on youth and national anti-corruption campaigns, including "Fighting Corruption in the Higher Education System" and "Bookworm Project – outdoors mini-library".



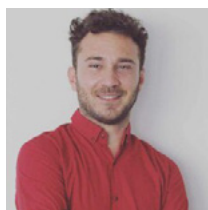
**MATTHEW
CARUANA
GALIZIA**

2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Investigative Journalist and Lead Engineer for the Paradise Papers Investigation

MALTA

Matthew is a renowned Maltese journalist and software engineer with a distinguished career that spans over a decade. Having previously worked for the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), he co-founded the organisation's Data & Research Unit in 2014 and was a lead engineer on six major investigations, namely Offshore Leaks, Swiss Leaks, Luxembourg Leaks, Fatal Extraction, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers. The Unit's core work on the Panama Papers notably won a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in 2017. He left the organisation in 2018 to continue working on the case around the assassination of his mother, Daphne Caruana Galizia.



ARMIN CERKEZ
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Founder and CEO
Youth Power**

GERMANY

Armin founded Youth Power, an influential Bosnian NGO which pushes for non-violence, human rights and tolerance in the country. The inspirational work he did on Program Y led to the inclusion of gender-based violence prevention in school curricula. Coming from a region that has historically suffered from religious violence, Armin has championed the need for more inter-faith dialogue. He has also brought his message directly to citizens, providing lessons to prevent alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and violence in schools.



**ALEXANDRA
DARIESCU**
2018 European
Young Leader

**Award-Winning Concert Pianist,
Producer of "The Nutcracker and I"**

UNITED KINGDOM

Alexandra is the creator and producer of "The Nutcracker and I", a groundbreaking multimedia performance created for a piano solo with dance and digital animation. She made her debut at the Carnegie Hall in New York and has performed in many prestigious orchestras, including the Sydney Opera House, London's Wigmore Hall, Dubai Opera House and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. She was the first female Romanian pianist to perform at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Alexandra is an Honorary Associate Artist at the Royal Northern College of Music, Patron of Music in Lyddington, Cultural Ambassador of Romania and Officer of the Romanian Crown. An activist for gender equality in classical music, she is a recipient of the UK's Women of the Future Award in the Arts and Culture category and dedicates her life to education projects, building bridges and reaching out to the younger generation.



**THOMAS
DERMINE**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Belgian State Secretary - Scientific Policy,
Recovery Programme and Strategic Investments**

BELGIUM

Thomas was appointed Secretary for Economic Recovery and Strategic Investment, with responsibility for scientific policy, in the Belgian government in 2020. Prior to his current role, he was well-known for heading l'Institut Emile Vandervelde, a research centre for the francophone Socialist Party (PS). Thomas has extensive experience in the Belgian political environment, having also served as the right hand and chief of staff to Paul Magnette, Chairman of the PS. In addition to his political work, Thomas previously held a managing role at CATCH, a public start-up aimed at coordinating and accelerating local projects in and around Charleroi, an economically modest area in Belgium. Thomas is also an affiliate of the Harvard Government Performance Lab where he leads research on Social Impact and a lecturer at Université Libre de Bruxelles.

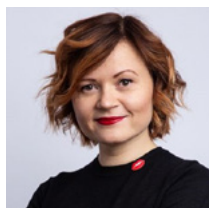


**LUKASZ
DZIEKONSKI**
2015-2016
European Young
Leade

**CEO and Managing Partner
Montis Capital Fund**

POLAND

Lukasz is the CEO and Founding Partner of Montis Capital Fund. There, Lukasz oversees the formulation of financial and operational strategies. Previously, he was head of the Marguerite Fund office for the Central and Eastern Europe and member of the management board for the Marguerite Fund 2020 for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure in Luxembourg. 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.

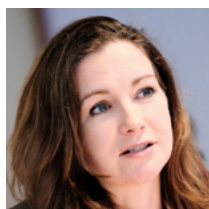


**AGNESTA
FILATOVĖ**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Executive Director
Vilnius International Film Festival**

LITHUANIA

Agneta is a Lithuanian image and executive specialist with extensive knowledge of the creative industry and public advocacy. She currently heads Lithuania's annual Vilnius International Film Festival (VIFF) 'Kino Pavasaris', one of the biggest film festivals in the Baltic States. In 2019, VIFF screened around 170 films in 17 cities, 34% of which were made by women directors. Agneta's long career in the cultural environmental also extends to the role of coordinator at the European Commission's 2007 MEDIA programme office in Lithuania, as well as a number of cultural projects, including the Latin American culture festival 'In Latino' and the educational cinema project for youths 'Cine Book' in Lithuania.



**MARY
FITZGERALD**
2013 European
Young Leader

**Journalist and Researcher specialising in the Euro-
Mediterranean region with a particular focus on Libya**

IRELAND

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, Financial Times and The Guardian. Mary has also 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, Mary 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.

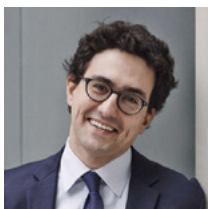


**MARKUS
FREIBURG**
2017 European
Young Leader

**Founder and CEO
Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship**

GERMANY

Markus is the Founder of the Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE), a leading financial intermediary that helps social enterprises scale their social impact by helping them raise hybrid growth capital. FASE has built an open pipeline of investment-ready social enterprises and closed sixteen transactions leveraging around €6m in impact investments. Markus is also a member of the Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES), a consultative multi-stakeholder group on social business that examines the progress of measures foreseen by the European Commission. He has experience of working with many social enterprises in finding appropriate financing solutions and scaling-up the impact of proven business models. Markus worked for seven years as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, where one of his roles was providing pro-bono consulting for social entrepreneurs.



**ALESSANDRO
FUSACCHIA**
2013 European
Young Leader

Member of the Italian Parliament

ITALY

Alessandro serves as a Member of the Italian Parliament. He is also the Co-Founder and former secretary of the Italian political organisation, Movimenta, prior to which he worked as a strategic advisor for H-Farm's Education division. Alessandro is the former head of cabinet at the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. He has prior experience as a special advisor on economic diplomacy to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and as a special advisor on innovation, entrepreneurship, youth and European affairs to the Italian Minister of Economic Development. Alessandro has also worked as an official at the Council of the European Union dealing with global economic governance and under the Italian Prime Minister's office in Rome as part of the G8 summit team.



MOHA GEREHOU
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Journalist, Contributor
Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1

SPAIN

Moha is a Spanish journalist and anti-racism activist. Prior to his current roles at Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1, he wrote for eldiario.es, a leading online newspaper in Spain, contributing op-eds and video content on issues related to race and discrimination. Moha served as president of SOS Racismo Madrid, a prominent organisation that seeks to combat racism and xenophobia. Additionally, Moha is active on the speaker circuit and is a lecturer at the University of Syracuse and the University of Stanford's campuses in Madrid. Known for utilising both print and multimedia content to advance his message, Moha is the creator of the audio-visual monologue, "How my life would be if I were a black character in a movie", and one of the authors of the book, "Lost in Media: Migrant Perspectives and the Public Sphere".

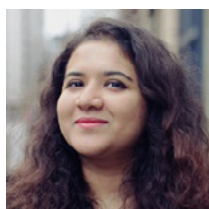


JAN GOOSSENS
2012 European
Young Leader

Artistic Director
Festival de Marseille

FRANCE

In addition to his current role at the Festival de Marseille, Jan is the Co-Artistic Director of L'Art Rue and its Dream City festival in Tunis, which promote access to culture and the democratisation of the arts. He also leads the 'Brussels 2030' project, the city's bid to be named the European Capital of Culture. During his time as the director of the Festival de Marseille, Jan received the Chevalie de l'Order des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture for his contribution to the arts. He is also the former artistic director of the Royal Flemish Theater (KVS), which became a key cultural organisation in Brussels under his leadership.



HERA HUSSAIN
2020-2021
European Young
Leader (EYL40)

Founder
CHAYN

UNITED KINGDOM

Hera is a Scottish activist, feminist and tech expert. Passionate about empowering women, she created CHAYN as a global project run by volunteers that crowdsources online resources to address gender-based violence. CHAYN has reached more than 300,000 people through its projects targeted to helping survivors of abuse. Hera is a fervent believer in the power of open source technology and open data as a tool to solve the world's pressing issues. When she is not busy running CHAYN, Hera works with governments and civil society seeking to open data sets as a way to fight corruption.



JAKOB HAESLER
2013 European
Young Leader

**Managing Director
Foxdixneuf**

FRANCE

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

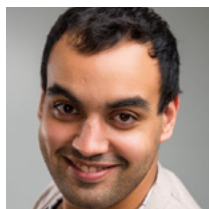


**QËNDRON
KASTRATI**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica

KOSOVO

Qëndron is the youngest mayor in Kosovo, having been elected to lead the town of Kamenica at only 29. He is known for his progressive approach, having a predominantly female cabinet. As mayor, he has been resolute in his mission to make his town a genuinely multi-ethnic community and to bridge existing ethnic divides. He reformed the local education system and created a joint multi-ethnic school for Albanians, Serbs and Roma children. He has also walked the talk by installing translation booths in the municipal assembly, so Serbs can participate fully in meetings.



**KAMAL
KHARMACH**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Belgian Stand-Up Comedian, Economics
Professor at the Karel de Grote University**

BELGIUM

Kamal is one of the rising stars of the Belgian stand-up comedy scene, winner of several awards. He openly tackles sensitive and personal issues, such as obesity, discrimination and social injustice. Kamal was previously the Director of the Flemish-Moroccan culture house Daarkom. This cultural organisation seeks to bring about cultural exchange between diverse groups. Kamal is also a well-known TV host. An immigrant and stand-up comedian, he uses his platform to bring light to social abuses through a positive and humorous approach. His mix of television shows range from providing economic guidance for struggling companies, to blending comedy with politics.



IVAN LESAY
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Co-Founder and CEO
Slovak Investment Holding

SLOVAKIA

Ivan is a political scientist, economic advisor and writer from Slovakia. Shortly after joining the Slovak Ministry of Finance as advisor to the minister, Ivan instigated the setup of the Slovak Investment Holding (SIH). Since being appointed its CEO in January 2017, Ivan has led this state-owned fund in investing in strategic sectors of the economy, and driving economic development throughout the country. He previously served as deputy finance minister, and held leading roles during the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council. Ivan is a keen writer and has seen the publication of a number of his works, including a popular study of the 2008 Financial Crisis he co-authored and a children's book.



**ANDRÉ
LOESEKRUG-
PIETRI**
2013 European
Young Leader

Chairman and Scientific Director
Joint European Disruptive Initiative

FRANCE

André is an entrepreneur and has held leadership positions in private equity, government and industry. He is currently the Chairman of JEDI, which aims to accelerate Europe's leadership by financing and nurture the development of breakthrough technologies. André previously served as a special advisor to the French Minister of Defence, where he was responsible in particular for European defence policy, as well as technology and innovation, prior to which he has 15 years of experience in private equity and venture capital. André is a lecturer at SciencesPo and a regular columnist at several international media outlets. He has also studied aerospace engineering, and is a private pilot and Colonel with the French Air Force People's Reserve.

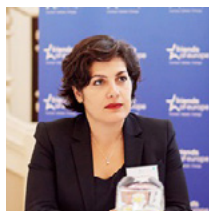


AYMAN MHANNA
2017 MENA Young
Leader

Executive Director
Samir Kassir Foundation

LEBANON

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



**NEGAR
MORTAZAVI**
2017 MENA Young
Leader

Host Iran Podcast

UNITED STATES

Negar Mortazavi is an Iranian-American journalist and columnist, who exclusively covers stories about Iran in both English and Persian. She is also the host of the Iran Podcast and a frequent commentator on Iranian affairs at MSNBC, BBC, PRI, The New York Times, Aljazeera, HuffPost and international outlets across the world, including Lebanon, Iraq, Israel, Turkey, Switzerland and Japan. Mortazavi previously worked as a TV presenter at Voice of America (VOA) Persian, where she hosted a daily hour-long interactive show that discussed current affairs with Iranians across the world.



**ALFREDO
MUNOZ**
2019 European
Young Leader

Founder & CEO ABIBOO Studio

SPAIN

Alfredo is a Spanish architect, who has designed and managed more than six million square metres across five continents. Under Alfredo's leadership, his architectural, urban and interior design firm has designed projects in a wide range of scales, from large urban developments and affordable housing townships to small temporal structures. Before founding ABIBOO, Alfredo held senior roles at Toyo Ito and SOM. Internationally-renowned, Alfredo was recognised among the most important and emerging young architects and designers by the European Centre and the Chicago Athenaeum Architecture Awards, and his work has been featured in various media outlets, including The New York Times, Wallpaper and Domus, among others.



**KATARZYNA
NAWROT**
2017 European
Young Leader

Member of Polish Academy of Sciences Committee for Future Studies Poland 2000 Plus

POLAND

A Polish economist, Katarzyna is currently a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences Committee for Future Studies Poland 2000 Plus. Her research interests include development, cultural and international economics, with a focus on East Asian markets. Katarzyna's work also explores challenges to global development. Having lectured at universities across Asia, Africa and Europe, she has worked on several research projects for the European Commission and the National Bureau of Research in Poland, among other international institutions, as well as national and local governments. Her academic achievements have been recognised by numerous awards, including one for outstanding young scholars from Poland's Minister of Science and Higher Education. Katarzyna has published numerous articles and books on issues relating to development, governance, integration and regional cooperation, most recently having co-edited "The Rise of Megacities: Challenges, Opportunities and Unique Characteristics".



**SOPHIE
NIVELLE-
CARDINALE**
2019 European
Young Leader

**War Reporter and Filmmaker, Recipient of Prix
Albert Londres and Bayeux-Calvados Award**

FRANCE

Sophie is a multi-award-winning war reporter who has covered multiple conflicts and issues across the Middle East. Starting in 2011, she reported from inside Syria on the protests and the repression of the regime. Her work was awarded with Prix Bayeux-Calvados for War Correspondents in 2013, and the Prix Albert Londres in 2016, the most important journalism award in France. In June 2017, she was the first foreign journalist to film inside Raqqa with the Kurdish forces. In 2017, Sophie also reported from Central Africa on the civil war and from Zimbabwe on the end of the Mugabe era.



MARKO PAVIĆ
2019 European
Young Leader

**Minister of Regional Development
and EU Funds for Croatia**

CROATIA

Having previously held the position of Minister for Labour and Pension Scheme, Marko Pavić is now in charge of EU funds for Croatia. Before entering the world of politics, Pavić dedicated his time to physics and oceanography. After finishing his studies, he travelled to Antarctica to study climate change developments. Among the various high-level positions he has held over the years, Pavić has worked as an Independent consultant for EU project development and has been involved in numerous organisational and educational development programmes.



**ALEXANDRE
PÉREZ CASARES**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Co-Founder
Fever**

SPAIN

Alexandre is a Spanish engineer and entrepreneur. He is President and Co-Founder of The Altius Society, a renowned international non-profit which combines the knowledge of Nobel laureates, leading researchers and policymakers to better understand the impact of technology on future societies. He also co-founded Fever, a tech start-up which is disrupting the 'experience economy' as it allows its users to browse and book nearby events from a curated collection of places and pop-ups in over a dozen cities around the world. Alexandre has been recognised for his work by the Spanish Ministry of Education with the prestigious National Prize, awarded to Spain's top three engineers.



**TOMÁŠ
PETŘÍČEK**

2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Senior Non-Residential Fellow
Institute of International Relations**

CZECH REPUBLIC

Tomáš is a leading politician from the Czech Social Democratic Party. A long-time activist, he quickly climbed through the ranks, rising from MEP assistant to deputy minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In his current portfolio, Tomáš has gained a reputation as a firm supporter of the European project and a strong advocate for human rights. He has notably been vocal about the Jamal Khashoggi assassination, Russia's annexation of Crimea and Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights. He has also called for the adoption of the UN Global Migration Pact, to ensure safe international immigration.



**EDUARDO
PORTAL MARTIN**

2019 European
Young Leader

**Founding Member and CEO
Passion for Conducting Academy**

SPAIN

Eduardo is a conductor and violinist, who founded the Conducting Academy, an online academy to share valuable information with those passionate about conducting. Having made his debut and conducted over twenty performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall and throughout England, Eduardo has been invited to conduct orchestras across Europe and the Americas, including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Madrid and Valencia Symphony Orchestras and Sao Paulo Estate Symphony Orchestra, among others. Widely acclaimed by musical critics and particularly committed to contemporary repertoire, Eduardo also founded and serves as the Music Director of Antares Ensemble in Spain, which focuses on the performance of new music and studies its links with historical and rarely-performed masterpieces.



CRISTINA POZZI

2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Board Member, COO and Head of Contents
Treccani Futura**

ITALY

Cristina is Board Member, COO and Head of Contents Treccani Futura, the new Italian cultural and education Edtech hub born from the acquisition by Treccani Scuola of Impactscool, the company she co-founded and guided as CEO for 5 years. Cristina is a poplizer, a social entrepreneur and an active citizen with the aim to impact society positively. After selling Wish Days, co-founded in 2006 with Andrea Dusi, she created a social enterprise (Impactscool) in order to bring awareness about the future and innovative education to schools, universities and organizations on technologies, ethics and future studies tools. Her mission is to give everyone access to the future in the global – fast changing society in the midst of the 4th industrial revolution. Her motto is “the future is open source”: shaped together as a co-creation activity and accessible to everyone.



**ANNE-SOLÈNE
ROLLAND**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Head of the Museum Department
French Ministry of Culture**

FRANCE

Anne-Solène heads the department of museums at the French Ministry of Culture. A fierce advocate for history and heritage, she has shaped her career around showcasing the societal benefits of cultural conservation. As a curator of heritage, she has held leading positions at the prestigious Quai Branly Museum and the French National Museum of Immigration History. Anne-Solène has also been director of research and collections at the Louvre Museum, where she oversaw the acquisition and lending of the museum's artwork. She played an instrumental role in increasing the availability of the world's finest art to a greater number of people.



**KAMILLA
SULTANOVA**
2015-2016
European Young
Leader

**Owner,
ConnectUz**

FINLAND

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



**MAŁGORZATA
TRACZ**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Polish Member of Parliament
Co-Chair of Poland's Green Party**

POLAND

Małgorzata is one of the first members of the Green Party to be elected to the Polish parliament. In her role as Co-Chair of the Green Party, she has successfully promoted a stronger climate agenda, most notably through her actions for cleaner air and the reduction of smog in Polish cities, as well as raising citizen awareness about environmental issues. A strong advocate of equality, democracy and the rule of law, Małgorzata is a vocal activist for the rights of women and minorities. She is a member of the women's rights movement, Committee Ratużymy Kobiety ("Let's save women"), which led the first against the national abortion ban from 2016 through 2018. She is also a member of the Polish Women's Congress and Ecological Association EKO-UNIA.



**KIRSTEN VAN
DEN HUL**

2013 European
Young Leader

Writer, Change Agent and Columnist

THE NETHERLANDS

Kirsten has been elected in the Dutch national Parliament in 2017. Prior to starting her political career, she was working as a 'change agent'. As such she has been involved in a number of different change projects for companies and organisations such as Nike and Amnesty International. She is also a columnist for several Dutch newspapers on issues ranging from women's rights to international relations. Trained as an Eastern Europe specialist, she has worked for several international NGOs, including international women's fund Mama Cash and the European Cultural Foundation. After working as a Communication Officer for LPG multinational SHV Gas, Kirsten also worked as a Programme Coordinator for Cultuurfabriek, a communications and production agency. While there she set up WOMEN Inc., a platform for debate and interaction, and was also involved with several other social and cultural projects.



**WIETSE VAN DER
WERF**

2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Founder & CEO
Sea Ranger Service**

THE NETHERLANDS

Wietse is an award-winning Dutch social entrepreneur and conservationist, pioneering regenerative blue economy ventures. Wietse has received wide recognition for his innovative approach to mobilising businesses, governments and citizens to form uncommon partnerships for the social, economic and ecological regeneration of European coastal and ocean areas. His current venture, the Sea Ranger Service, trains unemployed young people from port cities with the help of navy veterans to manage Marine Protected Areas in European seas. A new type of professional sailing vessel has been developed for the Sea Rangers, with cost-effective sea operation and zero emissions.

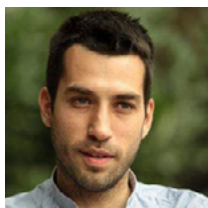


**WOUTER
VERSCHelden**
2017 European
Young Leader

**Author and Chief Executive Officer
NewsMonkey**

BELGIUM

Wouter is the founder of 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 2 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 will air in Belgium. He holds an MA in Political Journalism from the Columbia School of Journalism in New York. He also has a Master in Business from the Vlerick Management School in Ghent and a Masters in Politics at Ghent University and Université de Bretagne Occidentale.



**DOBRICA
VESELINOVIC**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

**Co-Leader
'Do not let Belgrade d(r)own' Movement**

SERBIA

Dobrica Veselinovic has been active in the civil sector in Belgrade for the past decade, working for various NGOs and jumpstarting projects related to urban development and education. It is his mission to advocate for public spaces and mobilise citizens to participate in decision-making processes. Dobrica is a co-leader of the citizen movement, 'Don't Let Belgrade D(r)own', an initiative opposing the Belgrade Waterfront redevelopment project with broader aims to encourage sustainable development and give citizens voice to influence their urban environments. He is also the Founder of the collective Ministry of Space, the Institute for Urban Policy and the new political network, Civic Front, a network of grassroots initiatives and organisations from over 10 cities in Serbia.



**YURIY
VULKOVSKY**
2014 European
Young Leader

Country Manager Reach for Change

BULGARIA

Yuriy is a Country Manager for Bulgaria of the International Foundation “Reach for Change” which supports social innovators and social entrepreneurs in 18 countries at 3 continents. He has more than 20 years of experience in the non-governmental sector in Bulgaria and Europe working for the capacity building of the independent social and cultural organisations, as well fighting for government transparency and effectiveness. He believes that the change starts from bottom up and the innovation emerges from the periphery, not from the center. German Marshall Fund and Salzburg Global Seminar Alumni. Member of the Strategy Group of the European Initiative “A Soul for Europe”.

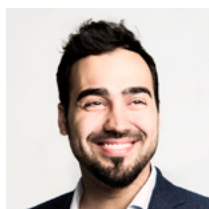


JON WORTH
2012 European
Young Leader

Political blogger

GERMANY

Jon is one the best-known political bloggers and commentators on all things EU politics and Brexit. His commentary on his blog (jonworth.eu) and Twitter account (@jonworth) are well known in Brussels and EU circles. His work around Brexit and especially his famous Brexit diagrams have been featured in international media, including The New York Times and ARD. Jon is a Visiting Lecturer on politics and online communication at the College of Europe in Bruges. He also leads workshops at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the University of Maastricht and the Italian School of Public Administration in Rome. The Founder of Trains for Europe, a campaign that demands the European Union take action on the issues surrounding long distance rail travel in Europe, Jon is an experienced campaigner, having previously organised a number of online campaigns for United Kingdom politicians and the Atheist Bus Campaign.



OZAN YANAR
2017 European
Young Leader
(EYL40)

Green City Counsellor in Helsinki

FINLAND

Ozan serves as City Councillor and Board Member of the Helsinki City Council and Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Sub-Committee. As a green politician and future economist, he is very interested in the future of work and green economic growth. At the age of 27, he was elected as a Member of the Finnish Parliament and in the past parliamentary term he advocated for social equality and the fight against discrimination. Ozan has worked at the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions, the Labour Institute for Economic Research and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Ozan has also served as the Co-Chair of the Federation of Green Youth and in 2017 he was on the 30 Under 30 list of Forbes.



**DARYA
YEGORINA**
2020-2021
European Young
Leader

Founder & Board Member CleverBooks

IRELAND

Darya is an Irish entrepreneur and influential global pioneer of the role that 'augmented reality' (AR) can play in education. She recently created CleverBooks to provide personalised educational content for students by utilising three-dimensional AR technologies. Darya has been widely recognised for her work, having won the Digital Female Leaders Award in Entrepreneurship as well as being named an Innovator by the Irish Times and a Young Irish Entrepreneur. She has been featured in Inc. com, Forbes, CBS and many other global media platforms for her efforts to bridge the technology gap in classrooms around the world and boost student outcomes.

List of participants

Jamila Aanzi

Trainer and Advisor; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campaigner and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Samir Abdelkrim

Author of Startup Lions; Entrepreneur and Founder of EMERGING Valley and StartupBRICS and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Guillem Anglada-Escudé

Astrophysicist and Exoplanet Discoverer; Ramón y Cajal Research Fellow at the Institute of Space Sciences (IEEC-CISC) and 2018 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Shora Azarnoush

Journalist at Deutsche Welle

Anne Kjær Bathel

Founder and CEO of ReDI School of Digital Integration and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Agnes Binagwaho

Vice Chancellor and co-founder of the University of Global Health Equity and co-chair of the Africa-Europe foundation strategy group on health, former Rwanda health minister

Velibor Bošković

Managing Director of Science and Technology Park Montenegro and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Dr Jos Boys

Founding Member of Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative and Co-Author of "Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment"

Kirsten Brosbøl

Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish minister for the environment and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Elmer van Buuren

Co-Founder and Managing Director of European Sleeper

Malcolm Byrne

Irish Senator for the Cultural and Educational Panel, 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Fjoralba Caka

Former Albanian Deputy Minister of Justice, Professor of EU Law and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Geert Cami

Co-Founder and Secretary General of Friends at Europe

Matthew Caruana Galizia

Investigative Journalist and Lead Engineer for the Paradise Papers Investigation and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Armin Cerkez

Founder and CEO of Youth Power and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Alexandra Dariescu

Award-Winning Concert Pianist, Producer of "The Nutcracker and I", Creative Entrepreneur and 2018 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Thomas Dermine

Belgian State Secretary for Scientific Policy, Recovery Programme and Strategic Investments and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Sandrine Dixon-Declève

Co-President of the Club of Rome

Lukasz Dziekonski

CEO and Managing Partner of Montis Capital Fund and 2015-2016 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Agnesta Filatová

Executive Director of the Vilnius International Film Festival (VIFF) and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Mary Fitzgerald

Journalist and analyst specialising in the Euro-Mediterranean region with a particular focus on Libya, Trustee of Friends of Europe and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Markus Freiburg

Founder and CEO of Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE) and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Alessandro Fusacchia

Member of the Italian Parliament and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Moha Gerehou

Journalist, Contributor at Vogue Spain and La Hora de La 1 and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Jan Goossens

Artistic Director of the Festival de Marseille and 2012 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Ulrik Haagerup

Founder and CEO of the Constructive Institute

Günther Hasinger

Director of Science at the European Space Agency (ESA)

Makiko Hirata

Pianist and Consultant at the Center for Performing Arts Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital

Marina Hanke

Councillor of the city of Vienna and Chairwoman of the Wiener SPO-Frauen (Vienna)

Jakob Haesler

Managing Director at Foxdixneuf, 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Hera Hussain

Founder of CHAYN and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Dharmendra Kanani

Director, Asia, Peace, Security & Defense, Digital & Chief spokesperson

Qëndron Kastrati

Mayor of the Municipality of Kamenica, Kosovo, and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Kamal Kharmach

Belgian Stand-Up Comedian, Economics Professor at the Karel de Grote University and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Gert Jan Koopman

European Commission Director-General for Budget (DG BUDG)

Pascal Lamy

President Emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation and Friends of Europe Trustee

Ivan Lesay

Co-Founder and CEO of Slovak Investment Holding, Civil Servant and Fiction Writer and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

André Loeseckrug-Pietri

Chairman and Scientific Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI) and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Alberto Mazzola

Executive Director of the Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Companies (CER)

Ayman Mhanna

Executive Director of the Samir Kassir Foundation and 2017 MENA Young Leader

Negar Mortazavi

Host of the Iran Podcast and 2017 MENA Young Leader

Alfredo Munoz

Founder & CEO of ABIBOO Studio and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Katarzyna Nawrot

Member of Polish Academy of Sciences Committee for Future Studies Poland 2000 Plus and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Sophie Nivelle-Cardinale

War Reporter and Filmmaker, Recipient of Prix Albert Londres and Bayeux-Calvados Award and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Kathrin Obst

Deputy Head of the Single European Rail Area Unit at the European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

Marko Pavić

Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds for Croatia and 2019 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Alexandre Pérez Casares

Co-Founder of Fever, President of The Altius Society and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Tomáš Petříček

Senior Non-Residential Fellow at the Institute of International Relations in Prague, former Czech minister for foreign affairs and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Eduardo Portal Martin

Founding Member and CEO of Passion for Conducting Academy and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Cristina Pozzi

Board Member, COO and Head of Contents at Treccani Futura and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Mònica Roca i Aparici

Founder and Director of isardSAT

Anne-Solène Rolland

Head of the Museum Department at the French Ministry of Culture and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Kamilla Sultanova

Owner, ConnectUz and 2015-2016 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Małgorzata Tracz

Polish Member of Parliament, Co-Chair of Poland's Green Party and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Kirsten van den Hul

Former member of the Dutch Parliament; Writer, Change Agent and Columnist and 2013 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Wietse van der Werf

Founder & CEO of Sea Ranger Service and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Marc Van Ranst

Head of the Laboratory of Clinical and Epidemiological Virology at the University Hospitals Leuven

Wouter Verschelden

Author and Chief Executive Officer at NewsMonkey and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Dobrica Veselinovic

Co-Leader of the 'Do not let Belgrade d(r)own' Movement and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Yuriy Vulkovsky

Country Manager, Reach for Change and 2014 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Jon Worth

Political blogger and 2012 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Darya Yegorina

Founder & Board Member of CleverBooks and 2020-2021 European Young Leader (EYL40)

Ozan Yanar

Green City Counsellor in Helsinki, former Member of the National Parliament of Finland and 2017 European Young Leader (EYL40)

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