

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS (EYL40) PROGRAMME

Join the 2023 class of European Young Leaders

The European Young Leaders programme 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 the most 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.

The programme acts as a forum for those who have already established themselves at the forefront of their professions to meet, discuss and collaborate with their counterparts from other fields of expertise. Previous candidates include: government ministers, CEOs, Michelin-starred chefs, international film directors, and high profile journalists.

For examples of current and previous European Young Leaders, please see the last two pages of this document.

OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Since the launch of the programme, we have gradually taken steps to ensure the diversity and exceptional quality of its selection process. We have made sure that its comprehensive and competitive nature ensures the identification and selection of remarkable individuals.

We aim to select up to 46 European Young Leaders of diverse backgrounds in order to enable a broad exchange of ideas, creating the basis for a new generation of engaged European leaders.

Candidates can either apply or be nominated for the selection process of the programme.

1. NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Individuals can be nominated to the European Young Leaders programme by several means.

- Institutional partners

A wide network of European organisations is called upon to recommend high-profile individuals to Friends of Europe.

- Pre-selection by Friends of Europe's Board of Trustees and other outstanding personalities

Our Board of Trustees and a limited selection of outstanding personalities from different sectors (business, politics, media, science and the arts) are asked to nominate young leaders that could be considered in the selection process.

For a list of Friends of Europe's Board of Trustees, please [click here](#).

- Alumni

Every year, the alumni network of the European Young Leaders programme is called upon to send in recommendations to Friends of Europe. Given their experience of the programme, we consider the alumni extremely knowledgeable about who is the best fit for such a leadership programme.

2. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Candidates should send 1) a biography (including their date of birth and full contact details), 2) a recent high-resolution photo and 3) a cover letter outlining the relevant achievements and experiences that make them a viable candidate, also highlighting the means by which they hope to contribute to the European Young Leaders network and the development of the programme.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Candidates must be **between 30 and 40 years of age** (born on or after 1 January 1983);
- Candidates must be a **national of an EU member state, the UK or of one of the 6 Balkan states currently on the path towards EU integration (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia)**;
- Candidates should have established themselves at the highest levels of their chosen profession, or be on track to do so;
- Candidates must be committed to serve society at large through noteworthy contributions and have demonstrated a record of significant achievements and outstanding professional experience;
- Candidates are also evaluated based on their ability to contribute to the enrichment of the programme as a whole;
- Candidates are required to be **fluent in English** as it is the working language of the programme.
- Candidates must commit to participating in **at least one seminar** during the programme year.

*References to Kosovo in this document are used without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

TIMELINE

To be considered for the 2023 selection process, all applications and nominations must be sent to: eyl40@friendsofeurope.org

Application deadline: Monday, 30 May 2022.

AGENDA

Spring 2023	a seminar in a European city (starting Thursday lunchtime – ending Saturday lunchtime)
Autumn 2023	A seminar in a European city (starting on Thursday lunchtime – ending on Saturday lunchtime)
Ongoing	European Young Leaders are involved in working groups (both virtually and in person) throughout the year, allowing their input from afar into the topics and projects of their choice based on their availability and interest.
October 2023	Exclusive invitation to the President's Gala Dinner and Friends of Europe's annual State of Europe 'high-level' roundtable.
October 2023	Participation in the European Young Leaders alumni meeting in Brussels, open to all current and previous European Young Leaders.



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European Young Leader alumni include:

Eneko Atxa

Chef at 3-Michelin-starred Restaurant 'Azurmendi'

Eneko opened his now-renowned restaurant 'Azurmendi' in the Basque country. Within five years, the restaurant had been awarded three Michelin stars and has been named among the best and most sustainable restaurants in the world. Eneko has a creative mind, skilled hands and a work ethic based on care, precision and speed. His intense cuisine is deeply rooted in local Basque identity.

Katinka Hosszú

Competitive swimmer

Nicknamed the 'Iron Lady', Katinka is a competitive swimmer from Hungary. The three-time Olympic gold medallist, nine-time World Champion and 14-time European Champion holds 96 medals and aims to be the first swimmer with 100. Katinka is the only swimmer ever to hold all five individual medley world records at the same time. Recognised as the most versatile swimmer in the world, she has been named Female Swimmer of the Year by the International Swimming Federation (FINA) four times and Hungarian Sportswoman of the Year seven times. Katinka founded the Iron Swim Club in Budapest for recreational and professional swimmers, preparing athletes of all ages for domestic and international competitions. The swimming icon currently competes for her own team, Team Iron, as its captain and is a Founding Member of the International Swimming League, an annual team-based swimming competition established by a group of athletes.

Clément Beaune

French Secretary of State for European Affairs

Clément is the Secretary of State for European affairs in the French government. Before that, he served as the Europe and G20 advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, shadowing him during meetings with other European state heads. A passionate Europhile, his presentations on Europe even when he was still in school were so accomplished that they were widely shared. Clément became Macron's Europe advisor when Macron was still economy minister. He helped craft the French government's push against Chinese steel dumping that is now at the heart of the president's broader vision for a more defensive EU trade policy. The French president's proposals during his *En Marche* campaign for European Union reform were clearly influenced by his advisor.

Francesca Cavallo

Bestselling Author & Serial Entrepreneur

Francesca is a bestselling author of children's books, entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Undercats Media, and founder of Timbuktu Labs. She is the co-creator of 'Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls', a collection of 100 tales of extraordinary women that has become a publishing sensation. Francesca's career began in theatre, where

she worked as both a manager for a theatre company and as a playwright. In 2012, she moved to California to co-found a children's media start-up called Timbuktu Labs, Inc. Since then, she has authored nine picture books that have been translated in more than 47 languages. Her most recent international bestseller is the children's book "Doctor Li and the Crown-wearing Virus".

John Collison

President & Co-Founder of Stripe

John is an entrepreneur and Co-Founder and President of Stripe, a software development company that is expanding Internet commerce by making it easier to process transactions from anywhere in the world. John has been passionate about coding from a young age and has a proven track-record of applying his knowledge and skills to develop ways to improve online business infrastructure.

Carole Dieschbourg

Luxembourg Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development

Carole Dieschbourg is currently serving as the government as Minister of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development. She was first appointed for this role in 2013. At the time she was the youngest member of the cabinet and the only Green Minister of the Environment in Europe. Carole represented the European Union during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, which coincided with Luxembourg's Presidency of the EU Council.

Fatma Taspinar

Belgian Journalist and News Anchor at VRT

Fatma is a journalist and news anchor, specialising in justice and criminal law. She has worked at VRT for over a decade and currently hosts the "Het Journaal" evening news programme on the Flemish broadcaster's main channel, One. In the documentary series, "De Cel Vermiste Personen" ("The Missing Persons Cell"), Fatma dives into the work of the federal police unit that investigates disappearances. Her television programme, "Mij overkomt het niet" ("It does not happen to me"), explores guilt and grief through a series of interviews with people that have unintentionally caused a deadly accident. Fatma also speaks with the families, judges, prosecutors, and social workers involved in the tragic events. Throughout its first season, the programme attracted almost 900,000 viewers each week. A former newsreader at Studio Brussel and Radio 1, Fatma began her professional career as an editor at Reyers Laet, a late-night talk show on Canvas, a VRT channel.

Maria Lucia Hohan

Fashion Designer and CEO of Fashion Brand Maria Lucia Hohan

Maria Lucia is an internationally renowned fashion designer, who has seen her clothes worn by the likes of Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Madonna. After working several years in Paris and Milan as a textile designer, Maria Lucia returned home to Romania to

open her own shop with a modest 800 euros investment and two second-hand sewing machines. After gaining a substantial number of followers on social media and being discovered by Hollywood, she currently runs her celebrated fashion brand with 70-woman employees from Bucharest. Additionally, Maria Lucia is a strong advocate for women's rights and has publicly criticised the excessive consumerism upon which the fashion industry thrives.

Maïmouna Doucouré

French Filmmaker, Director of “Mignonnes”

A filmmaker, Maïmouna is the Screenwriter and Director of “Mignonnes” (“Cuties”). The critically acclaimed film follows the coming-of-age story of a Senegalese-French girl and premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Directing Jury Award. It also won the International Jury Mention at the Berlinale. Based on Maïmouna's own experiences and having spent nearly 18 months researching the hyper-sexualisation of adolescents, the script was awarded Sundance's Global Filmmaking Award. Through her artwork, Maïmouna unapologetically sheds light on alarming societal issues to spark dialogue and challenge the status quo. Among her first projects is the short film “Maman(s)”, which screened at over 200 film festivals and won nearly 60 awards, including Best Short Film at the Toronto Film Festival, Best International Short Film at Sundance and the César for Best Short Film. In recognition of her contribution to the film industry, Maïmouna is the recipient of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Gold Fellowship for Women.

Kaja Kallas

Prime Minister of Estonia

As of January 2021, Kaja Kallas is Estonia's first female Prime Minister. A competition lawyer by profession, Kaja was elected Member of the Estonian Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs in 2011. After being elected to the European Parliament in 2014, she became a prominent proponent of innovation and frequently emphasised that regulations should not hinder the technological revolution. She authored five reports in the European Parliament, including of an own-initiative report on the Digital Single Market. Kaja left the European sphere in 2018 to become leader of Estonia's Liberal Reform Party.

Frédéric Mazzella

CEO and Founder of BlaBlaCar

Frédéric is the Founder and CEO of BlaBlaCar, the leading European ridesharing community that connects drivers with empty seats and people travelling the same way, so they can share the cost. Today, with more than 20 million members worldwide, BlaBlaCar is making road travel social, money-saving and more sustainable. Frédéric is a regular speaker on the theme of sustainable development, entrepreneurship, and building trust in online communities.

Bastian Obermayer

Pulitzer-prizewinning investigative journalist

Bastian is Head of Investigations at the Munich-based newspaper ‘Süddeutsche Zeitung’ (SZ), and the reporter who received the Panama Papers in 2014 - at that time the largest leak of offshore documents in global history - and the subsequent Paradise Papers, published in 2017.

Tea Jarc

President of Sindikat Mladi plus, President of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) Youth Committee

Tea is a grassroots youth activist from Slovenia, who campaigns for social justice and actively engages in various social movements. As President of the ETUC Youth Committee, she leads the organisation in its mission to amplify the voice of the European youth workforce. Tea is also the President of Sindikat Mladi plus, a Slovenian youth trade union that represents working and unemployed Slovenian young people and students, including high school students, and seeks to protect their social and labour rights. A freelance educator, trainer and facilitator, Tea also hosts a podcast, which covers labour issues and explores labour policy alternatives that prioritise the well-being of citizens and the environment.

Johannes Schildt

Co-Founder and CEO of KRY/LIVI

Johannes is a Swedish serial entrepreneur and co-founder of KRY, which he plans to develop into the world's leading healthcare provider by combining medical expertise with state-of-the-art technology. Currently available in Sweden, Norway, France and the UK, the business has pioneered the digital healthcare model by enabling people to see a medical doctor or a psychologist via remote video connection. To date, the app has delivered over 1.1mn appointments and is set to launch in more markets this year. Long part of Europe's start-up scene, Johannes is also the founder of several other initiatives including Tieday Group and Wowallets.

Stevan Dojčinović

Investigative reporter, Editor-in-Chief of Crime and Corruption Reporting Network (KRIK)

Stevan is a Serbian reporter, specialising in the investigation of organised crime, corruption, privatisation deals and money laundering. He is the Editor-in-Chief of KRIK and the Regional Editor of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) for the Balkans, prior to which he was the founding editor-in-chief of the Center for Investigative Journalism of Serbia. The author of “Šarić”, a book which dissects the role of the Balkan mafia in international cocaine smuggling, Steven also teaches journalists how to collect and analyse business data and property records. He has received national and international recognition for his journalistic work, most notably as the recipient of the Knight International Journalism Award, the CEI SEEMO Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism and the Serbian National Award for Investigative Reporting.