

AUTUMN 2022

European Young Leaders – Lisbon Seminar

Who cares, do you care, do we care?

REPORT



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

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Introduction

Two themes dominated the European Young Leaders (EYL40) seminar held in Lisbon on 8-10 September: climate change and the imperative of rebuilding citizens' trust in politics to defend European democracy and revitalise the European project.

The young leaders heard how, from Europe's unprecedented summer of drought to the devastating floods in Pakistan, extreme weather phenomena are an all-too-clear warning of the need for urgent action to contain the climate emergency.

In addition, Russia's war on Ukraine underscored the political and economic consequences of dependence on fossil fuels and other vital resources sourced from potentially hostile powers.

Moscow's efforts to interfere with and undermine Europe's democracies have also added urgency to efforts to develop new models of constructive politics to counter polarisation, strengthen European integration and forge a new social contract to underpin citizens' trust in politics and institutions.

All of that featured in the three-day meeting, where the young leaders met with Lisbon Mayor **Carlos Moedas**, along with other leading

politicians and experts from the host country and beyond. They also reached out to the local population, meeting with residents squeezed by the impact of tourism on city housing, debating with university students and dining with members of Lisbon's Hindu community.

While the problems are clearly enormous, the seminar struck a positive note with signs of optimism that, with political will and commitment to change right now, solutions can be found to even the toughest challenges.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2022, the EYL40 programme every year selects talented Europeans aged 40 and under with diverse backgrounds and experiences to connect with alumni from previous years in a search for answers to the most pressing questions facing the continent.

Those joining the Lisbon seminar came from 25 countries and included leaders from politics, business, labour, civil society, healthcare, culture, education, religion, technology, sports and the media.

The vigour and insight generated in the debates clearly showed that the programme is going from strength to strength as it heads into a second decade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As with other seminars over the past decade, the EYL40 produced a range of ideas to be taken forward by the young leaders' network and brought up with European decision-makers. They included:

- Raise awareness of the power that citizens have to promote climate action and social progress through the way they vote, post and consume. Citizens should push for a public, private and civil society coalition to pursue climate priorities.
- Pressure international justice reform to secure sanctions against those who damage the environment or public health, for example, by making the destruction of our habitat a crime against humanity.
- Reinforce help for countries in the developing world to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to tackle other hard-hitting environmental challenges that are usually caused by China or the Global North.
- Increase EU-US regulatory cooperation to define common approaches that can help mitigate climate change. In particular, Europe needs to ease regulatory burdens that hold back innovative climate action.
- Europe should urgently focus on the potential of satellite-borne solar panels.
- Cities need to rethink the use of e-bikes and e-scooters to ensure they provide a viable alternative to private cars, instead of taking space from pedestrians.
- Europe's citizens and governments have to be prepared to show solidarity with those hardest hit by the economic impact of Russia's war on Ukraine.
- Encourage greater use of citizens' assemblies as a supplement to representative democracy, but with the recognition that toothless talking shops will alienate the public and such bodies will only work if they have real influence.
- The Constructive Politics agenda should be pushed forward in time for the 2024 European Parliament elections, setting out clear values and developing boot camps for political training, plus a 'buddy system' to support neophyte lawmakers.
- Politicians need to take a hard look at the impact of tourism on our cities, notably rising housing prices, and cities need to focus on maintaining communities and providing adequate social housing.



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The European Commission Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme
The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme was launched in 2021 and will run for seven years until 2027. It was created along with the 2021-2027 Justice programme under the Justice, Rights and Values Fund.

The CERV programme seeks to support and develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. That includes a vibrant and empowered civil society, encouraging people's democratic, civic and social participation and cultivating the rich diversity of European society, based on our common values, history and memory.

The CERV programme has four pillars:

1. Equality, Rights and Gender Equality - promoting rights, non-discrimination, equality (including gender equality), and advancing gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming
2. Citizens' engagement and participation - promoting citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union, exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and raising awareness of the common European history
3. Daphne - fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children
4. Union values - protect and promote Union values

Civil society organisations active at local, regional, national and transnational level, as well as other stakeholders, can apply to receive CERV funding for initiatives aimed at citizens' engagement, equality for all and the protection and promotion of rights and EU values.

Climate action now!

Climate change and the future of our embattled planet was the #1 topic. The message was stark, but not without hope: fast action can still avert the worst, but time is running out and radical decisions are needed now.



Edite Estrela, Vice-President of the Portuguese National Assembly

“The climate crisis could be the most serious crisis that humanity has faced,” warned **Edite Estrela**, Vice-President of the Portuguese National Assembly.

To face that crisis, efforts are required from us all, from governments adopting the right policies and business switching to sustainable practices, to individuals adapting their way of life. “Everybody has to work together,” Estrela said in a speech welcoming the group to the Portuguese parliament. “The climate crisis [...] will only be solved by a collective effort.”

That point was underscored by **Wouter Vermeulen**, Senior Director of Sustainability at Coca-Cola Europe. He called for the mobilisation of the public and private sectors with civil society and citizens to fight climate change with the kind of urgency displayed in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “Everyone needs to chip in. We all need to build a coalition of the willing to strive for a solution,” Vermeulen said.

Coca-Cola supported a Debating Europe focus group report that engaged with young people across the continent to seek ideas on how to build a new social contract that promotes a sustainable future. The policy recommendations they produced ranged from promoting bike use in cities to smarter taxation to support green energy. “We need massive investment in the green industry,” Felix from Germany



Emmanuel Gonçalves, Chief Scientist of Portugal's Oceano Azul Foundation

said in the report, which was presented at the Lisbon event. "It should be much cheaper." Other findings from the focus group pointed to the need to rethink society and taxes, slowing down the capitalistic model and remodelling business.

One session focused on threats to our oceans: from plastic and climate change, to new dangers such as deep-sea mining. Speakers made clear there's a clear link between ocean protection and saving the planet as a whole.

"We are destroying the planet and the ocean. There is no way around this fact. The science is there. The situation is completely out of control," warned **Emmanuel Gonçalves**, Chief Scientist of Portugal's Oceano Azul (Blue Ocean)

Foundation. It is not too late to reverse the damage done, he said, but time is running out and failure to act now could have apocalyptic consequences.

"We have a choice; this is the good news. We can choose to continue our ways or we can choose to change," Gonçalves insisted. Industries responsible for environment harm have to pay a price for helping the recovery. "The environment is an economic issue. If we continue destroying the environment, if we don't have nature, we don't have an economy," he added. Citizens – including the EYL40 – have a level of responsibility: they must vote, post and consume in ways that will make society's priorities clear to leaders.

Several speakers also pointed out that countries in the developing world are the biggest victims of climate change and environmental pollution. They need help to clean up the mess created by the Global North. "Ninety percent of the plastic that goes to the ocean comes from areas of



Wouter Vermeulen, Senior Director of Sustainability Europe, the Coca-Cola Company

extreme poverty,” noted **Gustavo Carona**, an intensive care doctor and 2022 EYL40. “We talk about plastic, but we don’t talk about poverty and wars.” Discussions also pointed to the need to consider fairness in imposing climate targets in terms of overall and historical contributions to pollution.

Given the deadly impact of environmental abuse by governments and business on human lives, some European Young Leaders suggested a greater use of economic sanctions and stricter international law against the worst polluters. “Why shouldn’t we make the destruction of our habitat a crime against humanity?” asked **Klen Jäärats**, Director for EU Affairs at the Office of the Prime Minister of Estonia and 2015-2016 EYL40. “This is about life on Earth. It’s not just about the ecosystem, it’s about us.”

Bringing citizens on board in the fight against climate change involves moving from words to action. “The vast majority of the European population does care about climate change. Even now, in this energy crisis, it ranks among the top three concerns,” noted **Jane Burston**, Executive Director of the Clean Air Fund and 2015-2016 EYL40. “The issue isn’t ‘do they care?’ because they do. The issue is ‘are they acting?’” Among the solutions she put forward were better legislation, popular public figures coming forward as ‘champions’ to explain the benefits of behavioural change and the use of citizens’ assemblies to promote pro-climate policies.

Maria Santos, Project Manager and Policy Officer at Portuguese environmental campaign

group ZERO, agreed that activist organisations need to reach beyond their usual constituencies and stop preaching to the converted. “It’s easy to say that everyone is really engaged in the topic and knows about the urgency to act, but the true challenge and the real difficulty of the grassroots movement is to burst out of the bubble, to go to those sectors of society [...] where this kind of information does not reach,” she told the group.

One way of reaching sceptical sectors of society is explaining that social justice and climate action are two sides of the same coin and that – when supported by the right policies – a just transition





to the green economy will bring benefits for all, argued **Tea Jarc**, President of Slovenian trade union Sindikat Mladi plus, President of the European Trade Union Confederation Youth Committee and 2022 EYL40. “If we want to achieve social justice [and] climate change that is not going to leave anyone behind, we have to do it together [...] by changing industry,” she said. “Both the climate movement and the trade union movement are saying that we need a just transition.”

The media also has a key role, contended **Catarina Canelas**, award-winning Senior Journalist at CNN Portugal. “I have a war every day in my job [...] to convince the board and my editors that these kinds of issues and ocean issues are actually prime time.” Thankfully, she said that message is getting through given the urgency of the situation: “The clock is ticking and the time to act is not now. The time to save the oceans is yesterday.”



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 Foundation Centre.



1. Klen Jäärats, Director for EU Affairs at the Office of the Prime Minister of Estonia and 2015-2016 EYL40

2. Catarina Canelas, award-winning Senior Journalist at CNN Portugal

3. Daria Yegorina, Founder and Board Member of CleverBooks and 2020-2021 EYL40

4. Tea Jarc, President of Slovenian trade union Sindikat Mladi plus, President of the European Trade Union Confederation Youth Committee and 2022 EYL40



A North Atlantic climate alliance



Sofia Grilo, Lead of the Reboot Team

Within the seminar, a Transatlantic Climate Dialogue brought together European and United States climate entrepreneurs, innovators, public officials and energy experts to explore how increased discussion can push forward significant policy changes. They agreed that EU-US cooperation, including through overcoming conflicting regulatory approaches, was key to mitigating climate change.

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Never has there been such unity of purpose and unprecedented ambition

Laura Cozzi, Chief Energy Modeller at the International Energy Agency

A fragmented EU financing structure has meant European climate innovators have lagged behind their US counterparts in securing green financing and that has restrained R&D and limited scale-up capacity. However, there are signs that this is changing. “Billions of dollars have been put on the table on both sides of the Atlantic. It will kickstart a new wave of clean energy investment,” said **Laura Cozzi**, Chief Energy Modeller at the International Energy Agency. “Never has there been such unity of purpose and unprecedented ambition.”

However, while there is progress in turning the narrative around, including on the potential of hydrogen energy, it still takes too long to certify green technologies in European jurisdictions, said **Enass Abo-Hamed**, Co-Founder and CEO of H2GO Power and 2022 EYL40. “We need to find a way to make it easier,” she asserted.



Laura Cozzi, Chief Energy Modeller at the International Energy Agency

Regulatory harmonisation is essential to promote the levels of investment in decarbonisation that the planet desperately needs, argued **Kevin Noertker**, Co-Founder of Ampaire, a US-based hybrid-electric aviation company. “We need to ensure similarity between different jurisdictions, so technology developed in one area is readily applicable in other areas.”

The EU and the US have similar market goals, but regulatory principles differ across the Atlantic, acknowledged **Rebecca Neff**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Lisbon. “Let’s think more about how we can put parliamentarians together with [Congress members] across the Atlantic,” she suggested.

EU-US cooperation may be essential, but they need to bring the rest of the world along with them, contended **Nicolas Brien**, Chairman of the Management Board at Eura Technologies and 2022 EYL40. “The EU and US can agree on many things, but it’s not enough to make



Nicolas Brien, Chairman of the European Start-up Network and 2022 EYL40

“

The EU and US can agree on many things, but it’s not enough to make the world move

Nicolas Brien, Chairman of the Management Board at Eura Technologies and 2022 EYL40.

the world move,” he said, urging them both to agree on a clear mandate to hold the private sector accountable at this year’s United Nations climate talks in Sharm el-Sheikh (COP27), for example, by putting technology companies’ carbon footprint on the table and dropping tax exemptions on jet fuel.



Rebecca Neff, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Lisbon



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1. **Dharmandra Kanani**, Chief Operating Officer and Spokesperson at Friends of Europe; **Geert Cami**, Co-Founder and Secretary-General of Friends of Europe; **Luke Graham**, Director of Climate & Sustainability (ESG and Net Zero) at Deloitte UK and 2019 EYL40

2. **Thibaud Febvre**, Co-Founder and COO of Vianova; **Gilberto Saccassinda**, Junior Project Manager at Grupo Casais; **Jutta Paulus**, Member of the European Parliament

3. **Kevin Noertker**, Co-Founder and CEO of Ampaire

4. **André Loeseckrug Pietri**, Chairman and Scientific Director of JEDI - Joint European Disruptive Initiative and 2013 EYL40; **Liza Gashi**, Kosovo Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, and 2017 EYL40; **Meghan Milloy**, Founder and Executive Director of Republican Women for Progress and North America Young Leader

Fondazione Cariplo is a grant making foundation based in Milan, Italy, that operates with the purpose of pursuing social good and promoting economic development. Since 1991 FC has awarded grants totalling € 3.6 billion and supported 35,600 projects in four main fields: Arts and Culture, Environment, Scientific Research, and in the Social realm.

The Foundation advances its mission by providing grants to projects solicited through calls for proposals, directly running in-house designed programmes, experimenting innovative funding approaches and tools and making impact investments consistent with its strategic priorities and the sectors it operates in.

The 2022 strategic framework sets out nine main goals towards which resources and efforts of the four philanthropic areas of the Foundation will be channelled: Demographic challenges, Climate change, Poverty, Work and Employability, Cultural participation, Scientific research, Community-based welfare, Social Housing, and Capacity building of the nonprofit sector.

Despite its regional roots and focus, Fondazione Cariplo has longstanding partnerships internationally and has been a member of Philea - Philanthropy Europe Association (formerly EFC) since 1998.

Scooters, cycles and solar in orbit

Vast banks of satellite-borne solar panels orbiting the Earth and beaming free power down to the surface by microwaves could be part of the answer. “It sounds like science fiction, but these technologies have been demonstrated since the 1970s,” explained **Angeliki Kapoglou**, Strategist and Researcher at the European Space Agency (ESA). “With a relatively small investment, we can unlock a huge new baseline power with unlimited potential.”

“

We have the most-qualified and best-educated young people we’ve ever had

Karen Burns, Co-Founder and CEO of Fyma, an urban analytics start-up helping cities find data-based solutions.

Her words were given added emphasis by the sun blazing through the glass roof of the ‘winter garden’ of the São Luiz Theatre, the main venue in Lisbon, and a warning that humanity will need annual emissions cuts on the scale of those triggered by the pandemic slowdown in order to meet current climate targets.

China, Japan and the US are already moving

ahead with space-based solar projects, Kapoglou said: “It is crucial for Europe not to fall behind and investigate the potential of this potentially game-changing technology.”

Here on earth, cities can be key drivers for change in efforts to slow global warming stated **Karen Burns**, Co-Founder and CEO of Fyma, an urban analytics start-up helping cities find data-based solutions.

“Cities are drivers of change because they are competing for talent,” she explained. “One of the ways cities will become greener is through a radical rethink of the way we move around them.” Electric bikes and scooters could be a part of that change, but their use needs to be carefully thought through. “They are currently taking away space from pedestrians. They must be taking away space from cars.”

The risks of climate catastrophe are real, but veteran Portuguese politician Estrela was confident new generations will find solutions. “We have the most-qualified and best-educated young people we’ve ever had [...] I believe in you, I believe you will succeed, I believe we will succeed,” she concluded.



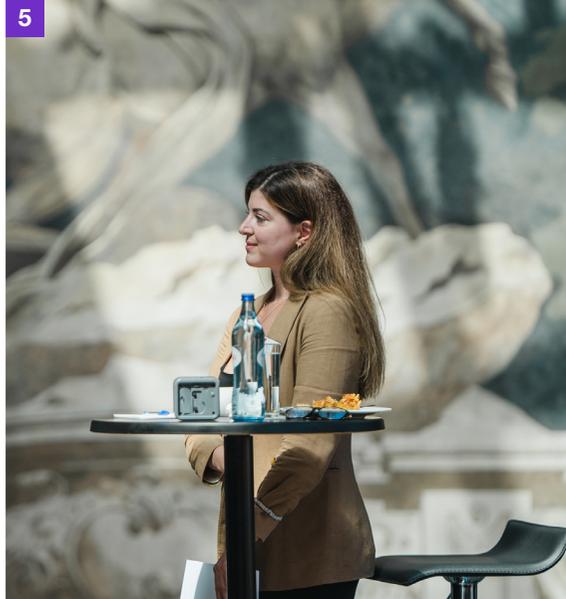
1. **Jakob Haesler**, Managing Director of Foxdixneuf and 2013 EYL40 ; **Luke Graham**, Director of Climate and Sustainability (ESG and Net Zero) at Deloitte Uk and 2019 EYL40; **Ana Antunes**, Head of Scientific Events & Communication of MabDesign and 2015-2016 EYL40

2. **Enass Abo Hamed**, Co-Founder and CEO of H2GO Power and 2022 EYL40

3. **Karen Burns**, Co-Founder and CEO of Fyma

4. **Carlos Moedas**, Mayor of the City of Lisbon, Trustee of Friends of Europe

5. **Angeliki Kapoglou**, Strategist and Researcher at the European Space Agency (ESA)



There is no alternative... but Europe

The seminar's other core themes looked at the meaning of Europe and how to regenerate trust and support for the European project and European values, at a time when European democracy is facing severe internal and external threats.

Mayor Moedas issued a rigorous appeal for the European Young Leaders to defend and reinvigorate Europe. He urged 'moonshot' style projects that citizens can get behind. "Europe is so important. Every other alternative is the wrong way to go," he said over a vegetarian dinner at City Hall. "This is the only alternative we have."

Given the array of challenges, Europe is perhaps needed more than ever, several participants suggested. The COVID-19 crisis and the Russia-Ukraine War have triggered an unprecedented wave of European solidarity, suggesting that European unity can be a catalyst for positive and sustainable change. Still, new ways have to be found to sustain and harness that solidarity, rebuild trust in politics and institutions, and foster engagement with the European project.

"This is a perfect storm with the overwhelming nature of the crisis," cautioned **Geert Cami**,

Co-Founder and Secretary-General of Friends of Europe, referring to Russian invasion and the energy and cost-of-living crunch it has triggered. "Europe is again in a defining moment. It will have deal with the crisis and make sure that it is relevant and is seen as relevant to its citizens."



Tiago Antunes, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs

European leaders have to take decisions fast to shore up support for Ukraine and make sure inflation and energy shortages do not trigger social unrest. "The time is really short, we have just a few days," warned **Michal Šimečka**,

Vice-President of the European Parliament and 2022 EYL40. “If the EU does not act [...] the result could be really dangerous social upheaval.”

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Again and again, in every crisis,
it’s about whether we are willing
to share the burden. I trust we will

Michal Šimečka, Vice-President of the European Parliament and 2022 EYL40

He warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin is banking on the energy squeeze breaking Europe’s will this winter, with divided politicians and angry citizens forcing a relaxation of sanctions and weakened support for Ukraine. European solidarity will be key in ensuring that does not happen, predicted the Progressive Slovakia party leader. “The key question is: can governments show solidarity with each other? And that also means that their voters must be able to show solidarity,” he said.

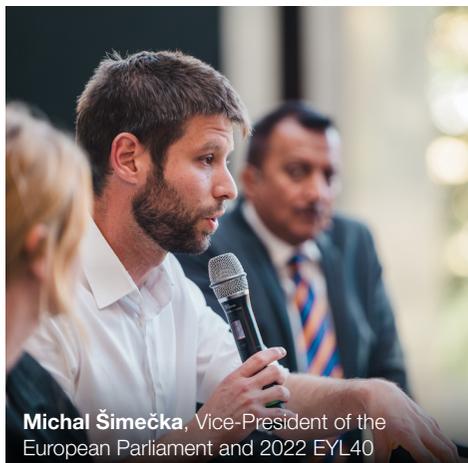
“Can you feel the pain of a single mother in Slovakia who can’t make ends meet? Can you feel the pain of a student in Warsaw who may not be able to go to university because their parents will lose their job?” Šimečka asked Lisbon citizens who joined the young leaders for the open citizens’ session. “Again and again, in every crisis, it’s about whether we are willing to share the burden. I trust we will.”

Lisbon citizens – mostly university students – were invited to the citizens’ session, entitled **‘For the people, by the people: is Europe**

delivering?’, to discuss whether Europe is delivering for them. A poll run during the session suggested most thought it was: 66% said Europe was fair to them, and most said they trusted the EU ahead of their local or national government. However, 60% said they do not trust their national government to act in their interest and 82% believed Russia’s war in Ukraine had impacted on their spending abilities.

“We cannot forget the benefit the European Union is giving us daily,” said student Eduarda. However, she and other students pointed to shortcomings, from a lack of solidarity with Africa, to domestic economic inequality and underinvestment in infrastructure.

Ways to rekindle citizens’ trust in Europe and politics more generally were also discussed in the seminar’s final session featuring **Tiago Antunes**, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, and **Yves Dejaeghere**,



Michal Šimečka, Vice-President of the European Parliament and 2022 EYL40



Yves Dejaeghere, Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy (FIDE)

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**You cannot make policy anymore
without citizens**

Yves Dejaeghere, Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy (FIDE)

Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy (FIDE), who spoke via video connection from Brussels.

“We do need to find instruments to reach directly to the people and to get a feeling of their concerns and wishes and how they see the future,” Antunes stated. “And we need to find ways to involve them and engage with citizens, beyond the formal and solemn institutions.”

Building on the findings of a focus group run with European citizens by Debating Europe, Dejaeghere argued that democracies need more direct methods to engage citizens beyond the holding of elections every few years. “You cannot make policy anymore without citizens,” he contended. “Our current system, with purely electoral politics, is too fragile. It is politics hopping on one leg. We should upgrade our capacity on how to engage citizens.”

Citizens in the focus group identified ten priorities to regenerate democracy:

- strengthen EU political transparency and accountability;
- improve and update European civic education;
- embrace Europe’s role as a big tech

‘regulatory superpower’;

- promote new varieties of democracy across all areas of life;
- ensure the Conference on the Future of Europe delivers;
- unlock greater diversity, equity and inclusion in politics;
- innovate and experiment with digital democracy;
- do not compromise on European values and rule of law;
- expand democratic suffrage and access; and
- institutionalise and empower deliberative democracy.

The European Young Leaders generally welcomed the idea of consultative assemblies, where citizens selected at random can feed into policymaking. Ireland’s Citizens’ Assembly and local consultative bodies in Belgium’s German-speaking region were held up as examples, but the EU’s Conference on the Future of Europe was criticised as not truly empowering citizens representatives and civil society bodies.

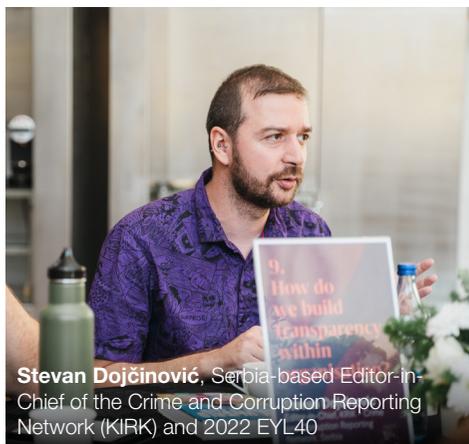
The role of digital instruments in engaging the public in politics has many limitations, speakers agreed. “Digital is a tool, it has limitations, and we have to be aware that it is not a panacea,” said Dejaeghere. “Standing on its own, it can actually create more inequalities.”

To advance the aim of rebuilding trust and strengthening democratic societies, Friends of Europe is promoting a Renewed Social Contract for Europe by 2030. It will frame lifelong development covering education, health, civil

rights and other key societal elements, while addressing collective challenges, including the environment, public health and security, and remaining rooted in democratic legitimacy.

“Our approach is to focus all our energy on a new social contract for Europe [...] questioning the relationship between the public sector, private sector, civil society and citizens,” said **Dharmendra Kanani**, Chief Operating Officer and Spokesperson at Friends of Europe.

An independent media, able to report freely and serve as a watchdog to uncover political and business wrongdoing, is essential to that social contract and to strong democracy. **Stevan Dojčinović**, Serbia-based Editor-in-Chief of the Crime and Corruption Reporting Network (KIRK) and 2022 EYL40, underscored the importance of following up on media revelations of corruption. “We are working on more and more ties with civil sector organisations who can react [...] to what is published,” he explained.



Stevan Dojčinović, Serbia-based Editor-in-Chief of the Crime and Corruption Reporting Network (KIRK) and 2022 EYL40

1. **Audrey Hanard**, Chair of the Board of Directors of Bpost and 2022 EYL40

2. **Kamilla Sultanova**, Founder of ConnectUz and 2015-2016 EYL40

3. **Meghan Milloy**, Founder and Executive Director of Republican Women for Progress and North American Young Leader; **Jamila Ananzi**, Member of the Appeal Advisory Committee on Childcare Allowance, Ministry of Finance and 2014 EYL40; **Alexandra Dariescu**, Pianist and Composer and 2018 EYL40

4. Young citizens joined the European Young Leaders for a reflexion on Europe





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1. João Wengorovius Meneses, Secretary-General of the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) and 2012 EYL40

2. Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond and 2017 EYL40

3. Chirague Bhanji, Vice-President of Hindu Community, Portugal

4. Kirsten van den Hul, Director of DutchCulture and 2013 EYL40



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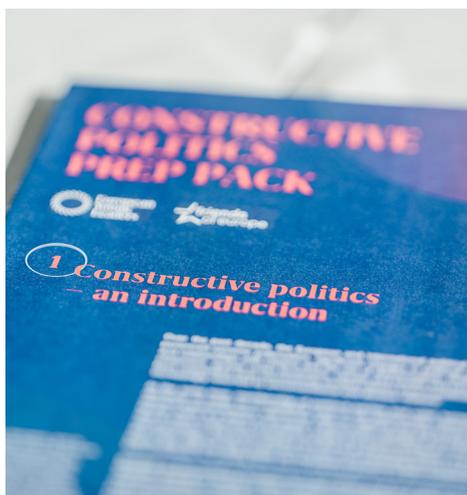
Fixing politics

The group's two Kirstens – Brosbøl and van den Hul – both ex-lawmakers, led a debate on the EYL40's Constructive Politics initiative. Launched a year ago, it aims to counter polarisation, disinformation and confrontational politics by equipping politicians with the tools to promote democratic dialogue and responsive political processes in order to regain voters' trust.

“Politicians should be attacking problems, not each other,” said **Kirsten Brosbøl**, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish environment minister and 2017 EYL40. “We all have a sense that we are moving in the wrong direction here. Our democracies are really challenged: polarisation, lack of trust [...] the behaviour that's being rewarded is not the right behaviour.”

The immediate goal is to get the project up and running in time to provide support for the new intake of MEPs after the European Parliament elections in 2024.

Politicians among the EYL40s brainstormed on the core values that should underpin constructive politics, such as integrity, solidarity and inclusion. They examined plans for boot



camp where new politicians can learn about non-violent communication and social media for good, as well as develop value-based leadership skills. The leaders also mulled the creation of a buddy network to provide support when the going gets tough.

The level of abuse and threats politicians are subjected to on social media is a major problem, young leaders said. Female lawmakers, in particular, are targeted by violent language.

“We need to talk about mental health,” said



1. Ivan Štefunko, Founding Chairman of Progressive Slovensko, Consultant in Innovation Policies and 2015-2016 EYL40

2. Andrea Fernández Benéitez, Secretary of Equality for the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and 2022 EYL40

3. Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish environment minister and 2017 EYL40; **Kirsten van den Hul**, Director of DutchCulture and 2013 EYL40; **Ricardo Marvão**, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Proxima Geração - Apolitical Academy

4. Mila Carovska, Former Minister of Education and Science and 2020-2021 EYL40; **Luke Graham**, Director of Climate and Sustainability (ESG and Net Zero) at Deloitte UK, and 2019 EYL40





Google's mission is to organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Google has been carbon neutral since 2007 and recently set an ambitious goal to run operations entirely on carbon-free energy 24/7 by 2030.

When it comes to sustainability, Google believes we can achieve more when we move together. So they partner with nonprofits, research orgs, governments, and businesses to build custom technology and bespoke tools to accelerate meaningful change.

Google is helping more than 500 cities measure, track, and reduce an aggregate of 1 gigaton of carbon emissions by 2030.

To make it easier to be more sustainable, Google builds products and technology to help people to better understand their impact and actions. They're also adding features to our core products that will help 1 billion people reduce their environmental footprint.

Andrea Fernández Benítez, Secretary of Equality for the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and 2022 EYL40. "It's an amazing job, but it's really difficult to find a mental space."

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Politicians should be attacking problems, not each other

Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder and CEO of 2030beyond, former Danish environment minister and 2017 EYL40

Several politicians stressed the importance of having a network of political friends to discuss shared problems, as well as retaining close ties with family and friends outside of the parliamentary bubble to disconnect from the pressures of the job. **Mario Brandenburg**, Member of the German Parliament, computer scientist and 2022 EYL40, stressed the importance of disconnecting from the political scene in Berlin.

"Maybe the person you need to have as a teacher or a buddy is somebody who is not politically involved, but is checking you as a person," he said. "When I get back home in the countryside, it's a totally different life. It's like a balance thing, with people I've known for 30 years who'll tell me, 'just calm down, you're full of shit, we don't need a politician here we're having a barbecue'."

Tamara Srzentić, former Montenegrin minister for public administration, digital society and media, and 2022 EYL40, said the programme

should help create a co-working space where politicians can talk off-the-record about psychological issues and share experiences.

She also called for a 'coaching based element' on issues of particular importance for novice politicians: "For example, coaching about how to interreact with journalists would have been most valuable for me [...] having somebody who is really experienced in these particular areas who you can check in with from time to time."

The group heard from **Ricardo Marvão**, Co-Founder and Head of Global Sales at Beta-i, a non-profit association that supports innovative entrepreneurship in Portugal. Using



Mario Brandenburg, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Research, and 2022 EYL40

his experience working with tech start-ups, he set up a training programme for young people who want to become politicians.

“Politics is going in the wrong direction and it’s going faster and faster in the wrong direction,” Marvão lamented. To counter that trend, he is organising intense, 12-week courses that teach a range of skills, from crisis management, to dealing with media and the art of political compromise. “I’m trying to do an accelerator for politicians [...] this is experimental, and we are precisely at the point where we have to be experimental.”

The Constructive Politics initiative will now be

taken on to the next practical phase to seek funding and teachers for the boot camps and to implement the buddy network in time for the 2024 elections. “What strikes me is how similar our experiences are across national parliaments,” Brosbøl noted. “There is a shared challenge that we as a European Young Leaders group can help tackle.”

There was a note of caution, however, raised by **Jesse Klaver**, Member of the Dutch House of Representatives, Leader of the Dutch green party GroenLinks and 2018 EYL40. “If you can’t handle stress, don’t go into politics,” he advised. “Every time I go to work, it’s a war zone but it’s my choice [...] politics is not nice.”



Tamara Szrentic, Former Minister for Public Administration, Digital Society and Media and 2022 EYL40

Jesse Klaver, Member of the Dutch House of Representatives, Leader of the Dutch green party GroenLinks and 2018 EYL40



Alexandra Dariescu, Pianist and Composer, and 2018 EYL40



The Coca-Cola Company wants to refresh the world and make a difference. We build loved brands, done sustainably for a better shared future.

For 135 years, Coca-Cola has been making drinks that create joy and pleasure for billions of people around the world. With 700.000 employees globally, 200 brands and a presence in almost every country and territory around the world, we are building our future on beverages that people love drinking – with a strong focus on operating sustainably, and a long tradition of giving back to the communities we are a part of.

At Coca-Cola, we provide drinks for people to enjoy on any occasion: when sharing a meal with family, having a refreshment during a break at work, meeting friends at a restaurant or a bar, or simply when on the go. We focus on developing new, exciting drinks such as plant-based beverages, coffees and teas, while building on the much-loved brands that many people have grown up with.

We seek to positively impact people's lives, communities and the planet through water replenishment, sugar reduction, packaging collection and recycling, sustainable sourcing practices and carbon emissions reductions across our value chain. We have a strong presence across Europe since 1900 with bottling facilities from Antwerp to Zagreb, employing more than 50.000 people across our networked organisation.

Meeting the 2030 SDG targets depends to a large extent on the transformation of food systems. That is why The Coca-Cola Company and its leading bottling partners in Europe, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners and Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company, support the EU Commission's Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork Strategy objective to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems. Our ambition is to ensure that for our consumers the healthier and more sustainable choice becomes the easy choice. As a result we aim to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions in our entire European value chain by 2040.

What Europe means to me

Inspired by a visit to Zagreb's Museum of Broken Relationships on the sidelines of their last meeting in May, the young leaders were asked to bring a single object that symbolises their emotional connection with Europe. Choices ranged from the humorous to the poignant.

Mary Fitzgerald, researcher and analyst specialising on the Mediterranean region with



Mary Fitzgerald, researcher and analyst specialising on the Mediterranean region with a particular focus on Libya and 2013 EYL40

a particular focus on Libya and 2013 EYL40, brought a copy of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended the armed conflict in Northern Ireland. "I really believe that peace on our island would not have been possible without the idea of Europe [...] long may it continue."

A square academic cap was the object chosen by **Othman El Ferdaous**, Vice President for Growth at ABA Technology and 2017 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Young Leader. He noted that the so-called 'Oxford cap' actually has its origins at the al-Qarawiyyin University in Fez and symbolises the transmission of rational thinking to Europe from his native Morocco.

Justas Janauskas, serial entrepreneur, Co-Founder of Vinted and 2022 EYL40, provided the EU pet passports that enable his dogs Gorgeous and Hazelnut to travel freely; and **Iva Gumnishka**, Founder and CEO of Humans in the Loop and 2022 EYL40, showed an Ottoman-era gold coin, once worn by babies to bring good luck in Bulgaria, as an example of Europe's Islamic heritage. "In this new century, the time has come for Europe to reconcile itself to its Islamic heritage," she said. "We have enriched ourselves with Islamic neighbours and our own Muslim communities."

A photo of her children – one born in France, the other in Germany – was produced by **Ana Antunes**, Head of Scientific Events and Communication at MabDesign and a 2015-2016 EYL40 from Portugal. “They represent the diversity that exists in Europe,” she said. “It is important that we recognise what we have achieved so far, and they represent what Europe means for me and also hope for the future.”

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Deconstructing the idea of how we look at museums is definitely the future

Hera Hussain, Founder of CHAYN, a global project to help victims of gender-based violence, and 2020-2021 EYL40

The most pungent offering was a tin of tuna presented by **Francesca Cavallo**, bestselling author of “Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls”, Founder & CEO of Undercats and 2019 EYL40. It recalled the taste and smell of her one-way flight back to Europe from Los Angeles at the start of the pandemic. “It was the worst flight experience ever, but it gave me a lot of time to think if I wanted to start the next chapter of my life in Europe,” she said.

An electric kettle, taken away from refugees at a German asylum centre, was chosen by **Thomas Bellinck**, theatre director, multidisciplinary artist and Founder of ROBIN, a production structure supporting socially engaged art. “This is a basic dignity that we do not give to people who have applied for asylum,” he stated.

Bellinck outlined his views on the importance of overhauling the concept of museums and breaking away from a heritage of “imperialism that has [...] served to rob [and] pillage.” Conventional museums take the wrong approach. “If I, as a European, I speak of valorising something, why do I want to put it in a display case? Why do I want to put it behind glass?” he asked. “It sounds like a really weird kind of night shop, where you pay for the beer first and then you can only look at the beer from behind glass.” He also pointed to the limits of European identity, arguing that citizenship should not condition identity and instead should be a prism to examine privilege.



Hera Hussain, Founder of CHAYN, a global project to help victims of gender-based violence, and 2020-2021 EYL40, agreed museums were ripe for change. “Deconstructing the idea of how we look at museums is definitely the future, as well as respecting what we have,” she said.

More broadly, leaders highlighted the importance of supporting education, culture, sport and vectors of identity. **Valentina Diouf**, professional volleyball player and 2022 EYL40, spoke of the values of diversity and tolerance she learned playing the game: “To be European, we must respect diversity. Being European is being different.”

Alexandra Dariescu, award-winning concert pianist, Producer of the “The Nutcracker and I”, creative entrepreneur and 2018 EYL40, gave a magical performance on the conveniently located grand piano in the São Luiz Theatre. Her musical choices were loaded with significance: a work by Frédéric Chopin, a Polish musician who spent most of his life in France, followed by pieces by two female composers, Lili Boulanger from France and Florence Price, who in 1933 became the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

“One of the things I stand for is gender equality in classical music, which is pretty much non-existent,” Dariescu said. “It’s about 5% of

concerts around the world that include any pieces by women composers.”

There was a general consensus on the importance of education in underpinning society and preparing citizens to play a positive role within democratic Europe. “We tend to forget the impact we can have, even in the short term, through education and culture,” said **Alessandro Fusacchia**, Member of the Italian Parliament and 2013 EYL40.

Pavlos Kontides, competitive sailor, Olympic medallist and 2022 EYL40, agreed. After leading a roundtable that made the case for better incentives for youth to pursue professional sports, he said education needs to keep up with technological developments, and political leaders need to reach out to school kids in language they understand.

“Politicians speak a lot of time in a language that is very complicated,” he added. “You speak too long.”



Pavlos Kontides, competitive sailor, Olympic medallist and 2022 EYL40



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1. Thomas Bellinck, theatre director, multidisciplinary artist and Founder of ROBIN

2. Francesca Cavallo, bestselling author of "Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls", Founder & CEO of Undercats and 2019 EYL40

3. Alessandro Fusacchia, Member of the Italian Parliament and 2013 EYL40

4. Ruben van Zwieten, Founder and Reverend, De Nieuwe Poort and 2019 EYL40



4

1. **Malcom Byrne**, Senator, Seanad Eireann and 2012 EYL40

2. **Justas Janauskas**, Co-Founder of Vinted and 2022 EYL40

3. **Iva Gumnishka**, Founder and CEO of Humans in the Loop and 2022 EYL40

4. **Gustavo Carona**, Medical Doctor at the Hospital Pedro Hispano and 2022 EYL40

5. **Othman El Ferdaous**, Vice-President for Growth at ABA Technology and 2017 MENA Young Leader



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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).

Triste fado (the sad fate of Lisbon housing)

Before the session formally kicked off, journalist and 2018 EYL40 **Nassira El Moaddem** took early arrivals on a walking tour around some of Lisbon's historic neighbourhoods to gather first-hand evidence of the impact of mass tourism on the city's housing crisis.

They found whole districts where citizens have been forced out by the spread of short-term vacation rentals, notably in the medieval Alfama area, where the resident population has shrunk from 20,000 to barely 1,000. "This is not just happening in Lisbon. This is a universal problem," El Moaddem noted.

Young leaders joined a call for action. "We have to see housing as a human right and the state has to secure housing for everybody," said **Talitha Muusse**, Chief Impact Officer at Blikverruimers, Founder of Energieboot and 2022 EYL40. Leaders looked at examples of other cities that have imposed tough restrictions on the spread of holiday rentals. Social housing needs to be protected and expanded, participants said. "That is something that needs more attention to really fight for more social housing," argued **Kirsten van den Hul**, Director of DutchCulture and 2013 EYL40.

Among the Lisbon residents the group met on their morning walk was star fado singer Raquel Tavares. A video of her 2016 hit "*Meu Amor de Longe*" ("My love from far away") filmed in Alfama's narrow lanes and featuring local residents and traditional stores, since forced out by mass tourism, added poignancy to the debate.

Further outreach with Lisbon citizens included a dinner at the city's Hindu Temple and a late-night lesson on the history of DJing in one of the many bars in the Bica neighbourhood.

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We have to see housing as a human right and the state has to secure housing for everybody

Talitha Muusse, Chief Impact Officer at Blikverruimers, Founder of Energieboot and 2022 EYL40



1. Nassira El Moaddem, journalist at Arrêt sur Images and 2018 EYL40

2. Luis Mendes, Professor at the Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território da Universidade de Lisboa and housing rights activist at Morar em Lisboa; **Nassira el Moaddem**, EYL40; **Stefania Kapronczay**, Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union and 2018 EYL40; **Maria Lurdes Pinheiro**, President of the Association of Alfama inhabitants and advocate for housing rights

3. Talitha Muusse, Chief Impact Officer at Blikverruimers, Founder of Energieboot and 2022 EYL40



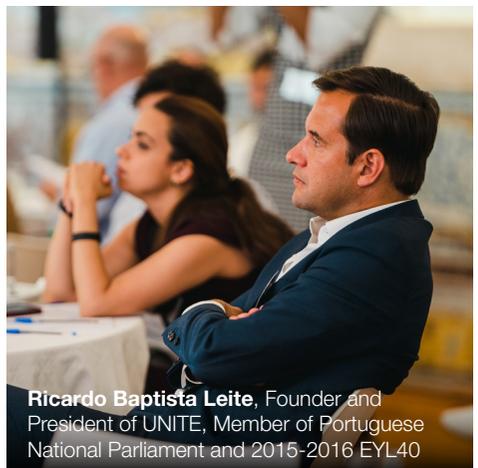
Hell yes!



Liza Gashi, Kosovo's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora and 2022 EYL40, hosted a roundtable outlining why bolstering democracy in the Balkans is essential to counteract Russian interference threatening renewed conflict there. "There are many ways in which you can trigger destabilisation in the region," she cautioned. "As long as you border neighbours who are autocratic, then you are always under threat."

The task of summing up the three-days of discussion fell to **Ricardo Baptista Leite**, Founder and President of UNITE, Member of

Besides the plenary sessions, the EYL40s broke up into smaller groups for roundtable discussions. Topics included how to create political start-ups to push for positive change, headed by **Ivan Štefunko**, Founding Chairman of the Progressive Slovakia party, consultant in innovation policies and 2015-2016 EYL40; Iran's role in the Middle East, led by **Negar Mortazavi**, journalist and columnist engaged in Iranian affairs and 2017 North American Young Leader; and US foreign policy in Asia, led by **Meghan Milloy**, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Republican Women for Progress and another 2017 North American Young Leader.



Ricardo Baptista Leite, Founder and President of UNITE, Member of Portuguese National Parliament and 2015-2016 EYL40

the Portuguese National Parliament and 2015-2016 EYL40.

Sharing the stage with Portuguese Secretary of State Assistant Tiago Antunes, a political opponent, Baptista Leite said the fact that parties from the right and the left in Portugal could come together behind issues like standing with Ukraine and support for European integration was a sign of a mature democracy.

“Europe is the place to be to fight for values-based politics, values-based governance, a values-based world,” he added. “That’s the greatest challenge that we face.”



Negar Mortazavi, journalist and columnist engaged in Iranian affairs and 2017 North American Young Leader



Valentina Diouf, Volleyball Player and 2022 EYL40

With his concluding words, Baptista Leite turned to the title of the EYL40 Lisbon seminar: “So you asked at the beginning: do we care? I would say: Hell yes!”

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Europe is the place to be to fight for values-based politics, values-based governance, a values-based world

Ricardo Baptista Leite, Founder and President of UNITE, Member of the Portuguese National Parliament and 2015-2016 EYL40



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1. Pavlos Kontides, Competitive sailor, Olympic medalist and 2022 EYL40; **Stevan Dojcinovic**, Editor-in-Chief of KRIK - Crime and Corruption Reporting Network and 2022 EYL40; **Ana Antunes**, Head of Scientific Events & Communication, MabDesign and 2022 EYL40; **Eleni Paliouras**, Senior EU Relations Coordinator of European Space Agency (ESA)

2. Ivan Lesay, Head of Strategy and M&A of ESCO Slovensko and 2020-2021 EYL40

3. Presentation of the Solaris project of the European Space Agency to implement space-based solar power for energy needs on earth

4. Amish Laxmidas, Advisor to the Mayor of City of Lisbon



4

1. **Roger Montanola Busquets**, Founder of Twenty50 and 2019 EYL40

2. **Adolfo Mesquita Nunes**, Partner of Gama Gloria and 2013 EYL40

3. **Arancha Martinez Fernandez**, CEO of the Common Good Chain and 2022 EYL40; **Marko Russiver**, Founder and CEO of Grantful and 2022 EYL40; **Ana Antunes**, Head of Scientific Events & Communication at MabDesign and 2015-2016 EYL40

4. **Jes Randrup Nielsen**, Senior EU communication manager at the Coca-Cola Company; **Wouter Vermeulen**, Senior Director Sustainability at the Coca-Cola Company; **Alice Wood**, Social impact Director at the Coca-Cola Company





EYL40 gather with Mayor Carlos Moedas in Lisbon City Hall

About the EYL40 programme



EYL40.org



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@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.

List of participants

Jamila Aanzi

Member of the Appeal Advisory Committee on
Childcare Allowance, Ministry of Finance
European Young Leader (EYL40)
The Netherlands

Samir Abdelkrim

Author of Startup Lions, Founder and CEO,
EMERGING Valley
European Young Leader (EYL40)
France

Enass Abo-Hamed

Co-Founder and CEO, H2GO Power
European Young Leader (EYL40)
United Kingdom

José Afonso Esperança

Dean of the Business School, University Institute
of Lisbon (ISCTE)
Portugal

Ana Antunes

Head of Scientific Events & Communication,
MabDesign
European Young Leader (EYL40)
France

Tiago Antunes

Secretary of State for European Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Portugal

Ricardo Baptista Leite

Member, Portuguese National Parliament
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Portugal

Thomas Bellinck

Founder, Robin
Belgium

William Bergh

Founder and CEO, Cling Systems
Sweden

Chirague Bhanji

Vice-President, Hindu Community (Portugal)
Portugal

Mario Brandenburg

Parliamentary Secretary for Education and
Research, Bundestag (German Parliament)
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Germany

Nicolas Brien

Chairman, European Startup Network
European Young Leader (EYL40)
France

Kirsten Brosbøl

Founder and CEO, 2030beyond
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Denmark

Karen Burns

Co-founder and CEO, Fyma
Estonia

Jane Burston

Executive Director, Clean Air Fund
European Young Leader (EYL40)
United Kingdom

Cristian-Silviu Busoi

Chair of ITRE Committee, Member of the European Parliament
Belgium

Malcolm Byrne

Senator, Seanad Eireann
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Ireland

Geert Cami

Co-founder and Secretary General, Friends of Europe
Belgium

Catarina Canelas

Award Winning Journalist and Environment Coordinator, CNN Portugal
Portugal

Gustavo Carona

Medical Doctor, Hospital Pedro Hispano
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Portugal

Mila Carovska

Former Minister of Education and Science
European Young Leader (EYL40)
North Macedonia

Francesca Cavallo

Chief Creative Officer, Undercats Media
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Italy

Laura Cozzi

Chief Energy Modeller, International Energy Agency (IEA)
France

Alexandra Dariescu

Pianist and Composer
European Young Leader (EYL40)
United Kingdom

Yves Dejaeghere

Executive Director, Federation for Innovation in Democracy in Europe (FIDE)
Belgium

Valentina Diouf

Professional Volleyball Player
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Italy

Stevan Dojcinovic

Editor-in-Chief, KRIK - Crime and Corruption Reporting Network
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Serbia

Lukasz Dziekonski

CEO and Founding Partner, Montis Capital Fund
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Poland

Othman El Ferdaous

Vice-President for Growth, ABA Technology
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Morocco

Nassira El Moaddem

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Pedro Espirito Santo

Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State for European Affairs
Portugal

Edite Estrela

Vice-President of the Parliament
Portugal

Thibaud Febvre

Co-Founder and COO, Vianova
France

Andrea Fernández Benítez

Member of the Congress of Deputies
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Spain

Mary Fitzgerald

Journalist and Researcher in Mediterranean Affairs
and Libya
European Young Leader (EYL40)
France

Catarina Freitas

Head of Department for Environment, Climate,
Energy and Mobility, City of Lisbon
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Nathalie Furrer

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Alvaro Furtado

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Alessandro Fusacchia

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Krystal Gaillard

Programme Executive, Friends of Europe
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Joss Garman

UK Initiative Director, European Climate Foundation
(ECF)
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Germany

Liza Gashi

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Kosovo

Emanuel Goncalves

Chief Scientist and Member of the Board of
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Jakob Haesler

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Audrey Hanard

Chair of the Board of Directors, BPost
European Young Leader (EYL40)
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Justas Janauskas

Co-Founder, Vinted
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Lithuania

Tea Jarc

President, Sindikat Mladi plus
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Slovenia

Nektarios Kalantzis

President, European Local Leaders (ELL)
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Greece

Dharmendra Kanani

Chief Operating Officer and Spokesperson,
Friends of Europe
Belgium

Angeliki Kapoglou

Strategist, European Space Agency (ESA)
The Netherlands

Stefania Kapronczay

Executive Director, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Hungary

Jesse Klaver

Member of the House of Representatives
European Young Leader (EYL40)
The Netherlands

Pavlos Kontides

Competitive sailor, Olympic medallist
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Cyprus

Amish Laxmidas

Advisor to the Mayor, City of Lisbon
Portugal

Ivan Lesay

Head of Strategy and M&A, ESCO Slovensko
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André Loeseckrug-Pietri

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Co-founder & Executive Director, Proxima Geração
- Apolitical Academy
Portugal

Carlos Mendes

Managing Partner, UNION Venture Builders
Portugal

João Wengorovius Meneses

Secretary-General, Business Council for
Sustainable Development (BCSD)
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Portugal

Adolfo Mesquita Nunes

Partner, Gama Glória
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Portugal

Meghan Milloy

Founder and Executive Director, Republican
Women for Progress
North America Young Leader
United States of America

Carlos Moedas

Mayor of the City of Lisbon
Trustee of Friends of Europe
Portugal

Roger Montañola Busquets

Founder, Twenty50
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Spain

Stephan Morais

Co-Founder and Managing General Partner, Indico
Capital Partners
Portugal

Negar Mortazavi

Journalist, The Iran Podcast
North America Young Leader
United States of America

Talitha Muusse

Radio presenter, BNR Newsradio
European Young Leader (EYL40)
The Netherlands

Kevin Noertker

Co-founder and CEO, Ampaire
United States of America

Sanchali Pal

Founder & CEO, Joro
United States of America

Eleni Paliouras

Senior EU Relations Coordinator, European Space
Agency (ESA)
Belgium

Jaime Parodi Bardon

Managing Partner, Impact Now Capital
Portugal

Jutta Paulus

Member, European Parliament
Belgium

Antonio Pereira Gonçalves

President, Center for Nuclear Sciences and
Technologies (C2TN)
Portugal

Jes Randrup Nielsen

Senior EU communication manager, The Coca-
Cola Company
Belgium

Andrea Ruotolo

Senior Director, Grid Modernization & Innovation,
Liberty Utilities
Canada

Marko Russiver

Founder and CEO, Grantful
European Young Leader (EYL40)
Estonia

Gilberto Saccassindo

Junior Project Manager at Grupo Casais
Portugal

Yamina Saheb

IPCC Lead Author and Senior Energy Policy
Analyst, OpenExp
France

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