

YOUTH NETWORK EVENT

15 November 2024, Brussels



European Parliament

Hosted by



European Committee
of the Regions

Welcome – Purpose and Programme

- Check In (Slido)

How am I as we begin our day together?



Welcome

- Thomas Wobben, Director for Legislative Work, Committee of the Regions

I am very happy to welcome you all to the Committee of the Regions. I am standing here today but 35 years ago I was one of you, a member of the European Youth Forum, lobbying for the volunteering programme. Today this programme forms part of a package of mobility programmes, so it shows that can achieve something if you put your mind to it. This building is where we made our case, because this was the first European Parliament in Brussels. You being here gives the message that international youth work is local and your work and your connection with the Committee of the Regions is crucial. We are very pleased to work with you to promote the engagement of local groups in democracy, and find new solutions for the challenges we face. Please, do challenge us, especially when we look at intergenerational fairness. We have to invest in local democracy which is not possible without youth organisations. Thank you also to the Parliament for their collaboration. I hope you enjoy your day and maybe in 10 – 15 years, one of you will be standing here because we really do need you.

Presentation: Political context of the new legislature and the outreach work with youth organisations

- Philipp Schulmeister, Director of Campaigns, DG COMM, European Parliament

Good morning. Firstly, thank you for all the hard work you have been doing over the last few years in engaging youth from all over Europe. Looking at the results from the 2024 election

campaign and our partnerships, we learnt that we really cannot do this alone. The youth team works hard but cannot cover all aspects across the 27 Member States and beyond. We need partners who can help us communicate, not simply as mouth *pieces* or copy-pasting our messages, but partners who can amplify the message that Europe, engagement and voting is important. We would like to get beyond the situation where you are called upon only when you are needed for elections. Engagement needs to be continuous across the whole 5 years of the cycle. There are new target groups that we may have to engage. In 2029, a number of countries might want to lower the voting age to 16. In the last elections, there were 5 countries that did that. So, we must start talking in a more structured way with 12, 13 and 14-year-olds. There might be a deficit of democratic education in some schools, so we need to reach out more to educators and provide them with ideas and material they can use to introduce the topic into their curriculum.

We won't reach far without multipliers, and that's where you come in. Youth turnout in elections has increased in some countries and decreased in others; we need to look at the complex reasons why that is so. The challenge of "why should I care?" still needs to be more comprehensively answered.

The elections have changed the political set-up in the EP. There is still a pro-European constructive majority. Some would like this to continue and others would like this to change. Since September, the new legislature shows us that different forms of political majorities are possible. This means that the finding of majorities will not be as easy as it has been before. The time of the absolute majority of the 2 centrist parties is over, we are looking at a shift to the right. This calls for more explaining and more engagement in the political debate, because a pro-European decision in the parliament cannot be taken for granted any longer.

The geopolitical context is also changing and this will have an impact on the EU. The situation with Ukraine and Russia is likely to be unchanged and continues on the agenda. Some Member States have had a more difficult time with democracy and the rule of law. In a recent poll, 90% of respondents felt that democracy should be the only form of government, but at least 20 % agreed with the statement that in specific circumstances a lower form of democracy would be acceptable to deal with specific situations.

Defence and the position towards Ukraine and Russia will remain a political priority. Next week is the anniversary of the start of the war. The Parliament will reiterate that we stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. What happens in Ukraine will have a direct impact on the future security of the EU.

Democracy cannot be taken for granted. We cannot simply make the argument that it is important. The main issues people vote on are rising costs, jobs, social exclusion and poverty. These will also be core areas for the European Parliament to focus on. Prosperity, competitiveness, investment, burden reduction. It sounds dry, but it does not have to be. There are also other issues, like climate change. We have to get the Green Deal right, but it must benefit climate change and at the same time not unduly harm European economies. There is a strong awareness that without international competitiveness Europe risks increased dependence on other regions of the world. That is not something we want.

Investment will be a core focus for this mandate. In 2025 and 2026, the largest part of the debate will be around the Multiannual Financial Framework. How do we spend the money and what do we spend it on? We have a new Secretary General with a reasonable approach that the Parliament should focus on the core business of Legislation, Budget and Scrutiny of the Commission. That means that all the services need to support the core business. Whilst you

will also need to address this, we do want to hear your voice about what you feel is important and for you to be loud and disruptive. Thank you for being here and I wish you a great day.

- Q&A

Q: What is your perspective on the reason young people did not go out to vote?

A: There are no easy answers because local issues are just that very local. Different countries have different local contexts and had different turn outs. In Spain, the 2024 youth turn out exploded but Lithuania massively dropped.

Q: How should we, as youth organisations who want to partner with you on the EYE, adjust our strategies to align with the new priorities?

A: This is our flagship youth event; multipliers can do more and can reach more citizens than I can invite to the EYE. The EYE should remain as a place where young people get together but with a stronger strategy on the notion of it being a multiplier event. You should continue to focus on your core business as part of the programme, but where you can also address the political priorities that this house is dealing with. Maybe make the event a forum to discuss key topics that reflect the key topics being discussed in the EP.

Q: What is your strategy to communicate differently in the EU to the people who are difficult to reach, especially those who are beyond our already engaged groups and those voting for the far right?

A: I really need to give this back to all of you, what I would like to get out of you is ideas as to how to do this. How voters are seen is becoming more polarised. In the 2024 elections, 15 countries had an increase in turn out, 12 decreased and 3 remained the same. We are running a multiplier strategy because we cannot reach out on a national level as effectively as those who are already there.

Our biggest learning curve is that we are dinosaur in our approach, we are too fact-based, too stiff, we use words like MFF. But I look at some of the material that is produced to explain Europe on social media or trending videos on TikTok and I do not understand the message it is giving. I am told that the end user will 'get it,' but it is a massive jump in trust for me. It doesn't hold the dignity of the institutional language of the European Parliament. Maybe I am starting to slowly believe it is time to put the dignity of the EP to rest and find a new language and new style of communication. We would need to take a leap of faith that it will work. You can help us with that.

Q: Do youth councils get more help than national youth organisations?

A: When it comes to co-operation, we work most closely with the colleagues who operate on the ground. There is no more co-operation with councils rather than with youth organisations.

Q: EU elections are often get used as referendum on how the national government is doing. How can we disassociate what national governments are doing from European issues so people actually know what is happening?

A: We have to accept this is still the case, that as well as being European elections they are 27 elections heavily influenced by national discourses that impact on the results. Yet, there is a shift. The notion of the EU used to be that people did not feel it touched their lives; it was too remote and slow to take effect. It seemed that mostly national government were taking decisions. However, the economic and financial crisis had one massive effect on peoples' understanding of the EU. On Monday morning, people in Greece went to the bank and no money came out of the wall, because the bank has been closed by EU. It had a direct impact on our lives. This is just one example that has been repeated in all the crisis moments we have had. Migration, Covid, inflation, the energy crisis. In many of those instances the EU level came

up with answers, people noticed that a decision taken by the EU had a much bigger impact on their lives. The role out of the vaccination programme for example created a massive change in how populists deal with Europe. Europe used to be seen as a peace project, now it is much wider and the decisions are more immediate and much quicker. This why there is now a new theatre of war for the populists to wage their arguments, whilst we are still using terms like MFF.

Conversation following the presentation

Following the presentation: What came up in your small group conversations?

- How do we include migrants who cannot vote?
- Extreme right and extreme left, the opposites are generating extreme viewpoints and discussions between are not happening as much anymore
- Young people felt used as speakers with pre-mad institutional messages
- How to include marginalised groups?
- Issues to promote political content in the pan-European level
- We need structural education not campaigning
- We should learn GenZ language
- How to address problem of short attention span of the volunteers?
- Social media: Culture of 'emptiness' and popular parties outperforming others because of that
- A lack of discussion among political parties
- We love how all the institutions are creating their youth field/initiatives, but why all those initiatives for youth are not cooperating? We have the YFJ, AC CoE, EU Youth Dialogue, Youth Dialogue with Commissioners, Youth Test EESC, Youth Check EC
- How to reach out outside the bubble?
- Personalised messages per country depending on the issues that concern its population
- Young people are more and more polarised or uninterested in politics
- Raising awareness about the EU should not stop between elections
- Need for outreach to existing 'community hubs', such as sports clubs, churches, etc to share information/start conversations
- Political Communication of political neutral organisations. How to be political without picking sides?
- How to make young people feel like they have a say in the EU (it goes further than voting)
- Lack of preparation. Feeling of being used for a specific electoral moment. Need of adapting ourselves to the language register of the institutions instead of them adapting to the current and actual youth's
- Co-creating youth organisations and DG Comms rather than a last-minute feedback check
- Social media platforms are working against us
- How to better interact and mobilise young people in different communities and contexts to make more informed decisions in election settings
- The need to strengthen cohesion and inclusion between the youth sector so that we have unified messaging and platform for advocacy; How do we broaden out to small organisations and come together to give parity with other powerful lobbies at the EU level

- Focusing on education for young people but actually older people also need to get the knowledge including the MEPs itself, include more youth because they actually have knowledge
- Challenges with reaching people outside of our bubbles
- Communication people is the type of people that need to be involved in these events
- Raising awareness about democracy constantly rather than a high increase for the elections
- More networking opportunities to build things together
- People are socially isolated and cannot be reached by conventional actors: Extremists fill the space with populist disinformation and spread conspiracies
- Little hope/disappointment with the system in general public/society
- Clear messages and communication and call to action for next elections
- Vote-Age, how to reach people and get outside the bubble (and the struggles with doing so)
- Involving schools in non-formal education
- Global polarisation in our current democracies leaving a huge fractured political landscape and an opportunity for extremism to take over
- Starting now is great
- Europe that reaches rural areas
- Need for a common agenda of youth focused organisations
- More education and more opportunities for young people in rural areas
- Education, youth empowerment, democracy at local level
- How difficult it is to access schools/teachers
- Need to more effectively involve youth organisations in EU institutions' work
- Difficulties in making project alliances from the beginning with other youth organisations
- We don't know and are not trained how to talk with Eurosceptics
- Early education on democracy, how to communicate to young people
- MEPs, not only youth, should always be involved in the conversation, and not just in the election years
- Better European education at schools
- The rise of housing prices across the EU!!!
- Importance of schools for youth empowerment
- Reaching local population
- A bit of EU arrogance
- More connection and work after meetings not just networking
- We're still reaching out to the same people – our Euro-bubble
- Challenges and opportunities
- Online elections
- How many people who actually want to vote are facing bureaucracy issues?
- EU is a privilege
- Polarisation + lack of interest/knowledge = victim of propaganda and misinformation
- Criticism towards the EU and the contradiction happening in the structures
- Financing
- Lack of funding
- Far right politics and playing with fears and emotions
- Politics and youth participation
- Strong polarisation in Europe
- Social media and politics

Conversation: Triads: Sharing experiences of partnership

working with the EP and Liaison Offices

In small group of 3 share a story of real experience of partnership working with the EP and/or the EPLOs.

Share your experience of working in partnership with the EP or the liaison offices:

Why did you undertake the work? What was in it for you ?

What did you do together

What worked really well and was a success?

What was made possible by the partnership working?

What were some of the barriers or blocks ?

Why did you choose to partner with the EP or Liaison Offices?

After the conversations the following questions were asked and the following answers were given on Slido:

What were the main motivations to work in partnership with the EP and/or the EPLOs?

- Meaningful youth participation at EU level as a community of non-EU citizen
- To influence and engage
- Empowerment
- Showing pupils how the EU works, especially by using student representative organisations as a partner to do so
- For Young people either from a disadvantaged or refugee background to co-campaign for first time voters in EU elections
- To offer opportunities to young people, and to become the people we needed when we were younger
- Spread the values, visibility, money
- Inequality, minors' rights, education
- Visibility of the events and the development of a more serious approach towards our events
- Working with the liaison offices gives the EU and the EP more legitimacy
- Partnership with the EU
- Shared values and financial incentives allow us to do more work at a larger scale
- To contribute to education, foster mutual understanding, promote social responsibility
- Funding and bridging the gap between the youth and the EU
- To strengthen European values
- Efficiency
- Resources and opportunities, project financing and human resources (EPLOs, MEPs)
- To empower, engage and have an impact on youth
- To be part of a change
- To access a larger platform to create impact
- Finances and potential for future cooperation
- Inequality

Some spoken examples from participants of their motivations to work in partnership with the EP and/or the EPLOs:

- We began working with the European Parliament because of the resources it had to offer, not only economic ones but social knowledge, it is amazing to have MEPs to work with. We have also had some funding to run events.
- We took an existential approach to why we do this, because we want to be part of a broader change
- We work closely with our liaison officer, we co-organise events to reach out to local youth and explain who they can vote for. We have also participated in some debates. There isn't anything in it for us personally, more at an organisational level but we were able to reach more people together.

What worked well?

- Recognition of local resources to run EU related events
- Working with MEPs
- It increased the scale and number of efforts for us to promote active citizenship to young people
- Opportunity to build networks and establish future partnerships with the EP, liaison office, embassy, in order to work towards mutual projects
- Map debate to make youth more aware of the stakes and the opportunities of the election
- Getting grants and the representation of the EU in the member states
- Communication and support worked really smoothly. Outreach and people were impacted!
- Space for professional resources
- Create empty spaces for young people to fill
- Work with the MEPs and the institutions
- Influence on legislation, youth perception of and awareness about the EU
- The number of people impacted
- Gathering the youth
- Mutual trust and confidence between our organisation and the EP/EPLO
- Logistics and advertisement and visibility
- Hosted a large-scale event which brought young people, NGOs, and MEPs together
- Successfully completed projects with the involvement of MEPs
- Element of continuity after the partnership/project ended

Some spoken examples from participants of successfully working in partnership with the EP and/or the EPLOs

- In Latvia we worked closely with the local office, we used their facilities and logistical help. The local MEPs took that more seriously. We promote each other's activities as well and reach more people. They also funded young people to go to other regions and talk about the purpose of voting
- In Denmark our success has been about working with MEPs on how big Tech companies should follow legislation. For example, the AI act, people assume they know what is going on with young people's lives on line and they just want to take

away the screens. What we did was to try to get the youth perspectives to the Parliament. It was great but also scary. The tech companies had to follow the rules as a result of our work and the Commission is now monitoring this

- After the partnership ended, we still had something we could work on further, both in using the offices or the Ambassador Programme that the young people are still involved in. Romania created some games, there was continuity, it did not just stop.
- We had a first massive event that reached more than 10,000 people
- A couple of years ago, I participated in a European event, I come from a diverse background and have always wanted to get involved. Many people come from privileged backgrounds but not all of them look like me. I made a promise to myself to enable more access to people who look like me and people from sensitive areas or rural areas. Today, we work with Strasburg, we have convinced many people to go vote for the first time, we worked with the Council of Europe for the first time. I hope that I can continue to do this and I am making good connections with people here

What were the biggest challenges?

- Extending the support to non-EU (yet) countries/candidate countries
- Application process too complicated for organisations without staff. Staff costs not enough covered for organisation that have employees
- Difficulties with bureaucracy that hinders activism, lack of flexibility and problems with getting in touch and getting the support of MEPs
- Access to information on how EP related structures work for non-EU citizens settled in the EU
- Populism
- Huge expectations from the EP with very little fundings
- Grants and funds are often too difficult and too bureaucratic for small/new organisations or organisations with no paid positions
- Sometimes, with bureaucracy you need to know someone else from Brussels who can help you on your way
- Lack of gender parity and funding for those who are at a socioeconomic disadvantage
- Implementation. No follow up so youth did not feel acknowledged or heard what happened with their input
- We need to create a circular relationship, not only youth organisations adapting to the institutions
- We need a long-term structured partnership that not only promote the vote but raise awareness on democracy and build active citizenship throughout the years
- Having to prove yourself as an organisation for the institutions to recognise you as an equal
- Communication
- Privilege, because some people take their rights for granted
- Mobility, access to participation. Reach uninterested people
- Fundings/euroscepticism
- Precarious funding
- Lack of funding and transparency and sometimes even communication
- Communication between different levels of government and generations
- Old people!
- Rural area

- Bureaucracy (contracting process, etc)
- Huge expectations with insufficient funding and support
- To reach the unreachable
- Youth work is done by old people who are not in contact with young people anymore and it is difficult for youth to reach key positions

Some examples from participants of challenges when working in partnership with the EP and/or the EPLOs

- We hosted a large event in Berlin and it was a big success just before the elections but the level of expectations and pressure we experienced from the EP rep was way out of line with the funding and support that was given. One of my co-workers counted 500 hours of overtime between 5 staff members. The local office was supportive but it was the higher levels who were expecting too much. We sucked it up and did it but it kind of continues as now we are doing an audit and there is no funding for that. In general, we brought together lots of people to make it happen with the power of our network
- We have done some good collaboration but we are often mainly talking to people who are going to vote anyway, it is important to have this space to celebrate democracy but we are wondering if we could reach out to new audiences. There are logistical barriers to this, for example for the newsletter signup we had to reach a target number but people were unhappy to give away their data and this was seen as not reaching the target or not performing well in this regard, but it was doomed from the get go. It is the tick box mentality that needs to be looked at
- We talked about how motivation can change with being a volunteer or getting paid. Our organisations should be better funded with human resources. It is an issue if you do not get paid and it is not properly funded.
- We talked about a bigger picture rather than specific projects. Elections can make the work longer term, so we are building active citizens not just in 6 months but continuously over the years
- Some of us come from membership-based organisations serving local organisations. We are trying to make those connections. We might need to change the perspectives that European institutions only need youth organisations for elections but actually should be working together with us over time so they can be stronger
- In Bulgaria, we have found it very hard to connect with different members of the Parliament from the Bulgarian group. There seems to be very little understanding that we just want some respect and their interest in our activities. I hope there will be new young people to bring new energy to achieve this. I find more support from other members of other Member States than I do with my MEPs. Our partnership office is helpful though. At a grass root level, it is more helpful.

Participants provided additional insight regarding their experience in working in partnership with the EP and/or the EPLOs and how they wanted it to continue

- We find a lot of support from our local office for study visits, we can always rely on them

- We have lots of shared values with the EP. The Venn diagram between my organisation and the EP means we meet in the middle. It is a useful partnership
- In Croatia, we have had help to get funds but we also get quality know how and they have helped us with the local EYE. Sometimes, we take it for granted but we do get a lot of knowledge from the professionals. We have good trust and the contacts are useful, It is a real exchange
- The network is invaluable as it acts as a multiplying factor. The credibility it offers us and the weight it puts behind our initiatives and the support we receive are all important. For example, on our campaign on gender-based violence, we faced a lot of backlashes, but the European House asked us to do an event with them so we didn't have to depend on other executive members who did not like what we were doing.
- My moto is if there is are problems, go to work and find solutions
- The partnership is great and I am grateful for that but we need to go a step further. It is not just youth speaking to the Parliament, we should have youth in the decision-making process. So, we don't just give input and never get a follow up. Can there be more young people actually within the decision-making process and in the institutions? We need a step forward into more meaningful and co-created partnerships

Developing ideas and proposals

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To capture range of ideas, actions and proposals for work together – what would it look like, what kinds of activities would address the issues most effectively some initial ideas about partnership work to communicate in the new political context?

What are our ideas for working together to communicate the Parliament's legislature?

Systemic Change – locally, nationally, interconnection

- Main goal: Systemic change on how we approach youth!
 - o Collaboration between different levels – EU, Local, H3
 - o Codesign a structural transformation – Engagement (listen, understand, be by their side), Education (Awareness raising), representation.

Education – formal and non-formal

- Intercultural relations, inclusivity/inclusion, democratic education
- Challenge: engaging with new audience and talking about their needs
 - o Undertake outreach activities towards those who are either sceptical of the EU's work or are hard to reach/unfamiliar
 - o Expand civic education and engagement beyond the 'usual suspects'
- Increasing knowledge on participatory approach Transparency, Trust, (inclusion, sense of ownership)

- Petitions, public consultations, referendums
- Disseminate information about the benefits the EU brings (mobility, internal market)
- Disinformation
 - Critical thinking skills
 - Education around dismal info
 - Use fact checking sites
 - Search engine fact checking

Inclusion – Participation and Engagement beyond the Bubble

- Breaking the bubble – reaching broader audience. Method = different languages
- How to reach young people that are not following EU values (how to reach outside the bubble)
- Local presence reinforced. Media visibility implication. Implementation of youth's proposals through long-term bodies outside EU institutions
- To democratise access to culture
- Marginalised minorities and rural areas
- Strengthen democracy and democratic, participatory processes to become more unified and independent

Autonomy Opportunity

- Autonomy opportunities – housing, jobs
- Cost of living/energy/housing POLYCRISIS – gentrification, youth unemployment

Access to information

- Balancing idealism and realism
- Critical thinking and how to access information
- Using social media more effectively

Local Presence

- What the EP does for you in your daily life (benefits)
- Parliament liaison office
- Visibility of the national level in EU
- Communicate EU agencies (and further EU work/events in your country) – there is important EU work done in your country

Understand Language

- Accessibility
 - Understandable language – less formal
 - In the platforms where the youth is
- Make the communication youth-friendly and accessible
- Explain the 'WHY' behind the laws
- Demonstration of EU/EP legislation in human language
- Communication through NGOs 'bottom-up' and receive feedback from young people THROUGH NGOs 'bottom-up'
- Down to earth communication.
 - Day to day conversations
 - Connecting EU laws as well as national policies as a youth organisation working as a lobbying partner (for example: national youth councils)
- Your effect on the EU and the EU effect on you – in an understandable way
- Honest transparent low-level communication that makes people feel seen and heard

- Make it concrete + locally relevant. E.g. Legislation about tech companies influences people's phones/devices
- Simplifying texts

Bigger profile

- Boost visibility of key partners – youth organisations (us)

Competitiveness through youth work

- Increase the EU competitiveness to youth work

Sustainability

- Sustainability
- Peace building, climate change, rules of law

Digital information & innovation

- Digital Innovation and digitalisation

Communicate beyond legislation – promote benefit

- Prioritise communicating the goal and reasoning behind legislation E.g. 'cap on bottle' = less plastic = environmental concerns.
- Promoting the benefits of the EU
 - o Getting people to know how they benefit
 - o People go the opposite way: draw a dark picture, show how things would be like without EU, which things were missing before your country was a HS?
- Consistency
 - o Regular info on EP work
 - o Avoid just peak intensity during election time

Disinformation

- Disinformation

Promote EU Values

- European Values

Diverse voices/ Equality

- Equality
 - o Representation: gender parity
 - o Gender based violence = on the rise
 - o 2 women killed every day across the EU
 - o Progress on equality is NOT guaranteed
 - o Diverse voices must be heard

Make Impact Visible

- (traditional) Media visibility of youth political participation/activism youths

Open Space conversation – Developing the ideas into actions and proposals

Developing more concrete proposals for partnership working on education and learning activities.

Topic	EP + Learning Mobility 'Communication Values'
Name of proposer	Joana, Marta, Anja
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to communicate values and sense of belonging? - Look at principles and quality instead of 'EU values' (e.g.: Multilingualism) - 'Being European' = Community - Making value tangible and coherent - Democracy/citizenship education: In mobility it is about skills and attitude
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a communication campaign to illustrate 'European identity' with tangible and reliable content
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation the EP needs/is interested in exploring this and sharing their plans - Joining us or endorsing us
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working together, sharing data, knowledge, practices

Topic	How can the EP and Liaison offices support youth multipliers in their work
Name of proposer	Laura
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multipliers need youth-friendly material explaining the EU and policies, without jargon - Customisable material is appreciated: for instance the "I put it on my calendar so that..." materials were very used and appreciated during the campaigns - EP could provide communication kits/toolkits for campaigns - Create a section in the multipliers newsletter where 3 fresh ideas (coming from the EP and/or partners) are showcased; it can be formats, content, topics etc - EP can help with spaces, with speakers, organising events where multipliers come together and network and exchange - There is material, for instance the How it works videos, but they are not very visible and they are not part of a dashboard or framework where multipliers could find everything they need
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	
What support or resources can we offer each other?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisations need capacity-building, EP can provide key speakers and key expertise, they can also provide training in fields like: advocacy; design of campaigns; fundraising; how to become self-sustainable; disinformation; artificial intelligence; how to communicate on social media - exchange of best practice among organisations, exchange of experience, info sessions featuring projects or ideas from other organisations
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Topic	Let's use social media for social good
Name of proposer	Alin
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social media for 'social good': Increase in transparency & participation & curiosity - Social media initiative about topics around the EU from young people to young people. In each member state there is one account so 27 accounts - Get training in content creation, editing, public speaking, videos, EU topics and institutions - Getting outside the politic interested bubble and make politic 'fun'
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does the EU and its institution work? What is the work of a MEP? - Promote projects of youth organisations - What is discussed right now at the EU Parliament - The benefits to be an EU citizen
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to local offices + equipment - Human resources for coordinating an annual meeting (in person) - MEPs - Facilitate the conversations with influencer
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branding - Trainings

Topic	Meaningful youth involvement - EU leads as an example
Name of proposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katariina
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring young people: have space for them - Encourage high level meaningful youth participation - Maintain sustainability of the institutions through handover - We need experience together with new perspective - Voluntary work needs recognition - EU youth check for youth participation - Age limits - Target group: EU institutions

What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplify processes for application + accessibility of positions - Make space for youth: Be brave, don't be afraid to let go - Young people have knowledge, vision and mission
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - Trust - Readiness to adopt - Mentoring - Channels of communication - Premises - Place for youth in decision making - Aim for active engagement
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empowerment - Knowledge - Motivation, Ambition, Mission, Vision, Inspiration - Community - Young people (Network, Outreach)

Topic	Include more political knowledge for 12–13-year-olds – EU Youths
Name of proposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicole
What is the proposal about ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political science to be mandatory for at least a year. This includes national + EU policies - To have more engagement a competition will be held with students in this subject. Students can create a project, regarding EU values + institutions. The students who win in each school (2 people) can participate to a national event with the presence of ex MEP - 12–13-year-olds (so they can have more information to choose European studies + political science later on)
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How EU institutions work - Job opportunity information - How decisions are taken within EU Institutions - How students can participate
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding for the event (venue, utilities, guests, teachers, transport) - Videos for lessons of EU institutions (tours) - A website for teacher resources during lessons (games, quizzes, videos)
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth organisations participate in the videos, e.g. giving a tour of EU institutions, create the quizzes and give ideas for the syllabus in lessons - Speaker during the events

Topic	Making the EU and local/regional realities meet
Name of proposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mireya

What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating spaces between EU representatives and local organisations in their own cities/villages to share needs and priorities - Raising awareness of the capability of problem solving the EU has for them all in constant cooperation
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritising face to face informal dialogues - Focusing on attendants' proposals - Visibility among traditional and social media (influence) - Follow up in committees and media resources
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial resources (event/travel related) - Coordination and creation of a department/unit with a local body of organisations <u>there</u>
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping the local organisations - Top-down information to be discussed - Facilitating spaces: Attendance, building/logistics related

Topic	EuroYouth Media Alliance
Name of proposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bella
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correcting the misrepresentation of youth as non-engaged + platforming their views; Young people are not a homogenous group - Politically neutral alliance of European media outlets which promotes youth-led initiatives within the European project - Youth voices would be able to inform policy making and political dialogue - Support pre-existing platforms e.g.: JEF Europe, Young European - Media takeover of EP social accounts, Socialists, YMCA
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth led, positive + balanced representation, political diversity - Intersectional approach to amplify underrepresented voices - Featuring actions + success stories, as well as what did not work + why - Accessible language + simplified to reach outside our bubbles
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding - Exposure - Proactive outreach for featuring - Digital infrastructure
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capability building - Home legislation, e.g. AI Act broken down for youth and adults

Topic	Through digitalisation decrease burnout and increase resource capacity
Name of proposer	- Daniel
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of resources - High responsibility - Increasing demand - Politization
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address challenges: 1) Pressure about online presence, 2) Online presence doesn't delay - Address best practices: 1) Seamless eco-systems – communication, 2) Communication that youth can break out of, 3) Engage one to one with leadership - Address the funding: 1) Existing funding, 2) NGO, corporate grants
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather best practices from NGOs about digitalisation - Gather best practices about management in NGOs - Advertise it!
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platforms where to communicate - Mentorship about best practice - Implementing the experience

Topic	Networking of small European youth groups
Name of proposer	- Gary
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing together youth groups that are not covered by existing networks or want to exchange with other smaller organisations - Fostering cross-pollination (partnerships, information sharing, co-funding, presentation of opportunities, projects and initiatives) - Creating new or enhancing multipliers for down streaming or upstreaming information/views/movements with the aim of broadening European advocacy
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The more we work together the further we can go; Every group, no matter how small has a contribution to make - With a shared network we can inspire other and bring new voices together
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Outreach Team (EP) to support the curation of this network; EPLOs can support this by referring know groups and promoting the opportunity to join - Organise support provisions (trainings, workshops, e-learning, provision of a semi-regular newsletter promoting opportunities, etc) - We need help to bring together the initial group, facilitate co-creation of a communication platform

What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share knowledge of funding opportunities (remote events and find possibilities to collaborate)
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Topic	How to talk to Eurosceptics – Training guide
Name of proposer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nathan
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the core reasons why people can be Eurosceptics - Learn how to adopt a good posture when communicating to Eurosceptics (language, body language: Not being aggressive, etc) - The goal should not be to convince people but at least create a dialogue: Be honest about success/failures of Europe: Pro-Europe and also Europe critics
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concrete examples on how EU is impacting/influencing their lives: e.g. Specific funds for objects that they own - Make out targets participants talk first and express their views on the EU: 1 step towards participation and not aggressive communication - Understand what is/are Eurosceptics (ideas, how they inform themselves, etc) - Talk about the EU without talking specifically about 'the EU'
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge on how the institution is working - Advice on writing fund/grant applications - Outreach to their network (Eurosceptics): Channel to communicate about the inputs of the workshops - Great platforms where youth NGOs, can exchange ideas/views on the topic
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What support can we bring to the EP? NFE expertise, diversity of organisations: They know what Eurosceptic is - Creating topic related content

Topic	Keeping youths engaged after the European elections
Name of proposer	Isaac
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting MEPs involved in community services - Podcast: Question proposal to MEPs - Meetup - Social media engagement
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth + EU + citizens in general - PR campaign - Simplify EU laws - Day in the life: understanding MEPs work
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial assistance - Getting MEPs on board - Promote/comms strategy

What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback + info – What is our youth thinking - Risk assessment by local associations - Outreach to community

Topic	Non-Formal education for democratic citizenship in all schools
Name of proposer	Leonardo
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU program operating on a national level in all 27 countries - Non-formal education for students as young as 14-19 led by NGO's youth workers, people with proper education - It is mandatory
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term investment in active citizens - Developing democratic values - Empowering youth - Co-form civil education and promote non-formal education
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have legislative support - Financial support for workers, materials and space - Monitoring by Euro desks in each country
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the relationships: 1) Between NGOs, youth workers and students in general, 2) Between NGOs and Euro desks

Topic	Understand language
Name of proposer	Vilem
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No idea of the aim of the laws, proposals and plenaries – Honesty - Weird vocabulary – Reliability - Difficult to find – Orientation, transparency, involvement - Background work: Top-down and Up-down, transparency, accountability, involvement
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear aim for the youths: Youth related proposals, general ones (e.g. security) - Updates on legislation: Back to basic, recap (plenary update law) - Active reporting: Visual communication - Essay language: Basic words/all can recognise language of the EU
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration help: Two versions (one long and one summary) - Provide a good database/update them: plenary/youth portal – It is isolated and not connected

What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital collaboration - eu.eu/share contact list (really idealistic we know!) - Invite each other to events
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Topic	Reaching the (so far) unreachable
Name of proposer	Barbara and the group
What is the proposal about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who: Young people from the regions with the lowest voting EP elections' turnout - What: To address their concerns/to feel heard: To translate EP's work in understandable language, to invite/include all shareholders in the conversation - How: Engaging the local active communities, entities, NGOs (football clubs, churches, farmers, associations, schools. Form game/simulations of effects of EP's legislation or day-to-day life - Why: Because people feel disconnected with the EP's world
What should be the core comms messages of this proposal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of their rights + the democratic participatory approaches (petitions, referendums) - 'We are here to listen' - Practical benefit of EU citizenship (mobility, common internal market, etc)
What support or resources do we need from the EP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication materials (flyers, etc), tailored, localised - MEPs visits/active participation/listening - Funding and logistics support to rent spaces
What support or resources can we offer each other?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network - Know-how (on social media) - Exchange of good practices

- **Thank you and closing of the event**