



Impact Report 2023





If last year's work was focused on getting back to normal, the focal points for 2023 were on our ability to host in-person meetings and in setting the agenda for different ways of networking. We've been eager to make our community even more connected and dynamic. Activities like workshops, the Annual Event in Vienna, study visits, project planning meetings, and the Policy Event in Brussels are crucial for empowering the trainees and professionals in our network. On-site meetings were once again possible, allowing us to engage with each other, find inspiration and enable collaborations we didn't know we would find!

Besides the joy of physical meetings, the YES Forum is happy to keep up with the digital trends that reshape our work lives and are actively changing the landscape for job training and lifelong learning, one recent example is when we came together to have a breakfast talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI). On the bright side, AI has the potential to make learning more personalised, adaptive, and accessible, thereby revolutionising how individuals acquire and update their skills throughout their careers. Then there are other aspects of our new technology that we need to be aware of. Engaging in conversations on a local and international scale will become even more crucial for our network.

The concepts of lifelong learning, mobility, and individualised learning will all be central themes for the 2024 Annual Event in Sweden. We hope to address examples of how the Nordic countries approach upskilling and reskilling, population growth, and mobility. And most importantly, how we can contribute to YES Forum and its members through meaningful collaborations for the European youth.

As the chair of the Board, I want to thank all of you for your dedication and enthusiasm. Your engagement has been instrumental in creating a network that not only adapts to change but actively shapes the future of European youth work.

I hope to see all of you in Piteå next year!

Sincerely,

Hannah Degerman,
Piteå Municipality and Chair of the Board

Welcome!

We are delighted to present the YES Forum's 2023 Impact Report, and to share our progress towards empowering young people and strengthening our network. As ever, YES Forum remains committed to forging stronger connections among organisations and professionals translates into enhanced opportunities for youth.

In the run up to next years European Election, YES Forum is focused on making the complexity of the EU understandable to young people. We have successfully brought the European Union, its social policies and the young people they affect closer through different initiatives. These include developing youth-friendly and easy-to-understand materials, crafting recommendations for policymakers, providing guidelines for education professionals, and facilitating direct dialogues between young people, Members of the European Parliament, and representatives of European institutions by sitting them at the very same table.

At the heart of YES Forum's successes are our member organisations. Their day-to-day engagement with young people, and ability to support them in navigating challenges on their pathway towards education, training, and transition to adulthood is vital. Our member organisations are sources of invaluable expertise, which in turn benefits the YES Forum, professionals across borders, and decision-makers in their work. We will continue to amplify and disseminate this expertise, working towards a more inclusive Europe.

This report shows the passionate efforts of the YES Forum and its member organisations in our collaboration towards a fairer society. We hope that it contributes to our ongoing dialogue about creating a brighter future for young people.

We wish you an inspiring read!
Annett Wiedermann, Director

Content

- Foreword..... 2
- Board's message..... 3
- The year at a glance..... 4
- The year in numbers..... 5
- Strengthening the network to ensure better opportunities for young people..... 6
- Advocating for a more inclusive Europe 8
- Innovative learning and educational approaches 14
- Enabling international learning 22
- Our members..... 26
- Who we are..... 28



Closer collaboration for a more social Europe

We continue to deepen our cooperation with members to build an inclusive EU where every young person can thrive, no matter their background.

Responding to our members' needs

We are working on new initiatives to better support organisations and professionals within our network to ensure a fruitful exchange of expertise.



Giving the floor to young people

In our Policy Event, Members of the European Parliament and staff from European institutions discussed inclusive EU communication with young people, professionals, and social and youth work organisations.

Renewed Board

In June, the members' assembly elected the YES Forum's board members for the next two years.



We keep growing!

Mundus, a Spanish organisation, and Forum for Freedom in Education, from Croatia, have joined us as new Associate Members. Welcome!



15

encounters with our member organisations, mainly on-site

104

young people participated in seven learning mobility schemes linked to the YES Forum

24

advocacy initiatives where we have shared our expertise

83 professionals gained new insights by joining study visits

18 activities

organised to enhance youth and social workers' capacities

11

expert contributions enhancing policy conferences

Strengthening the network to ensure better opportunities for young people

Ours is a live network that thrives in the diversity of its members. This variety of organisations, work fields and countries offers a unique environment to shape innovative European social and youth work. To ensure that we make the most out of our exceptional network our aim for 2023 was to strengthen the connections with and among our members.

The first step was listening to them: we carried out a [survey](#) to gain input on how could we better support our member organisations. Their insights set the direction for future actions. We kept organising our main events, the Annual Event and the Policy Event, in close collaboration with them. Our Austrian member [ÖJAB](#) hosted us in Vienna in June for the [Annual Event](#). Together with our Greek member [IEKEP](#), we held an outstanding [Policy Event](#) in Brussels. Thank you both for the fruitful and successful cooperation!



The [capacity building of the professionals from our network](#) is essential to improve the employability opportunities of the young people they work with. Member organisations and the professionals working in them have a wealth of valuable expertise from which others can also benefit, and we are exploring new ways to foster this exchange. For instance, some organisations were invited to lead several workshops at the Annual Event to share their knowledge in multiple fields. Participants got familiar with the challenges of intergenerational dialogue at the workplace and discovered the benefits of the Photovoice method by taking part in a short exercise themselves. Mental health on youth and social work was also in the spotlight, as well as experiences on fostering youth participation in Bratislava and transnational cooperation beyond the European Union.

Moreover, our annual Project Planning Meeting evolved into a [Project Planning Process](#). We organised three sessions, two on-site and one online, in which participants shared their project ideas, discussed new working themes and found suitable partners. In order to make these exchanges easier, we are currently working on a [members' online platform](#) that will serve as a virtual meeting point.





We seek to influence policies and practice to create better life opportunities for young people. In 2023 we contributed to the development of policies on social and youth affairs by transferring knowledge gained through practical experience. We will continue to give vulnerable young people and professionals working with them a voice, one that decisionmakers hear and pay attention to.

Advocating for a more inclusive Europe

EU literacy and active citizenship

The YES Forum, in collaboration with its Greek member IEKEP, organised the conference *What language does the EU speak? EU Literacy and European Citizenship: Frameworks for Dialogue and Skills Enhancement* on November 14-15, 2023, with the aim of enhancing understanding of the European Union, particularly among young people. The conference emphasised the need for inclusive and accessible communication to foster youth engagement in European political processes.

Thaís Dutra Fernández, Policy Officer at the European Commission, and **Sophie Brandes**, Research Officer at the Kompetenzzentrum Jugend-check, initiated discussions on the legislative process, emphasising the challenges of creating youth-friendly legislation. They highlighted the importance of the 'youth check' as a regulatory impact assessment tool to address the concerns and needs of young people.

A youth-led panel from Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, and Italy, showcased their innovative approaches to youth-friendly communication which had been developed during the READY project. Italian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) **Salvatore De Meo** engaged in a dialogue, providing insights into the impact of such initiatives on young people's inclusion in European political processes.

The second day of the conference focused on materials produced by the READY project and their role in shaping a more social and fairer EU through effective communication. **Interactive activities** designed by IEKEP tested participants' knowledge of the EU using infographics created by young people and social workers.

Lastly, a panel discussion brought together institutional and grassroots perspectives, featuring **Denis Genton**, director of the "European Pillar of Social Rights and Strategy" directorate in the European Commission, **Anna Holmén**, deputy head of communication of the DG Translation in the European Commission, **Tommaso Parlato**, advisor to the Director of Campaigns of the DG Communication in the European Parliament, **Anna Blackwell**, EU Manager in the European Youth Forum, and **Dimitra Basiakou**, Assistant Project Manager with IEKEP. The session, enriched by the contributions of French MEP **Pierre Larroutou**, explored the opportunities and challenges of communication in enabling youth to become active citizens.

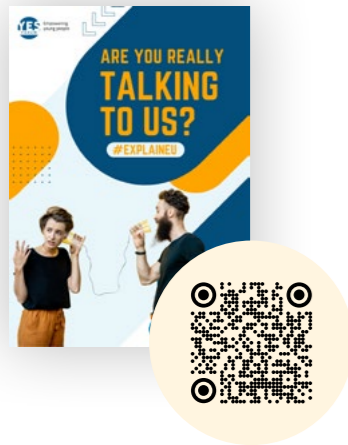


Accessible and youth-friendly communication

Young people need to understand the European Union, and for this to become reality, communication needs to be accessible and youth-friendly. To raise awareness on the matter we have undertaken various actions, including producing a policy paper to address the issue of accessible communication, and launching a campaign focused on the gap between youngsters and the EU.

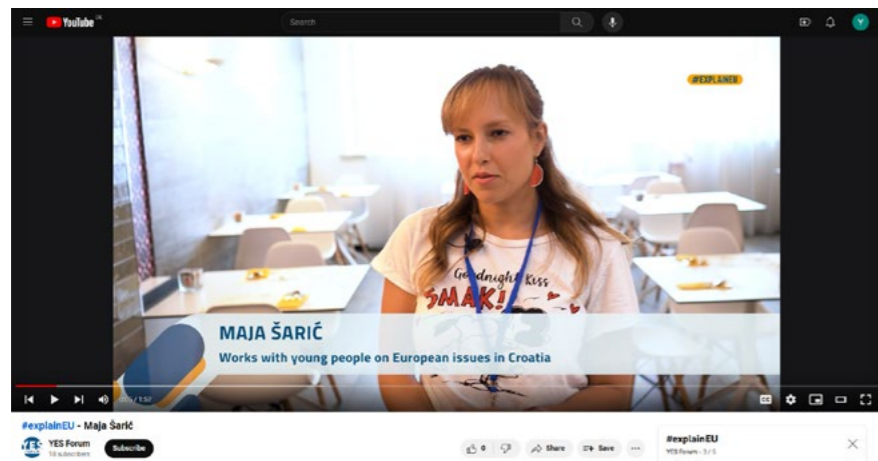
Policy Paper

The Policy Paper – Making the EU language accessible for young people discusses the importance of making EU communication more accessible and understandable, particularly for young people with varying levels of education and language skills. The paper begins by providing general information about EU communication initiatives and then emphasises the significance of effective communication with young audiences. It concludes by offering *policy recommendations to enhance language accessibility when communicating with young people*, recognising the need to adapt the EU language to cater to this specific demographic.



#explainEU campaign

We shared recommendations and other resources to enhance EU education in our new campaign: *Are you really talking to us? #explainEU*. Alongside useful materials to ensure more accessible communication, the campaign also focuses on young people' and professionals' thoughts on the issue, and makes suggestions on how institutions could be more inclusive.



Promoting good practices to manage diversity in educational and work environments

Intergenerational knowledge transfer

The YES Forum led, in the frame of the BRIDGE project, the policy brief *Bridging the Gap*. Based upon the experiences gathered across different trainings and workshops, we developed several recommendations that aim to provide fresh ideas to raise awareness about the impact of demographic change in the workplace. If implemented, our recommendations will improve intergenerational dialogue between younger and senior workers to create a more inclusive and productive work environment for all.



Inclusive higher education

We compiled good practice on how higher education can be more inclusive to first-generation students. The *Policy Recommendations on Social Inclusion in Higher Education* paper, developed during the POWERst project, puts forward several guidelines for best practice. These recommendations advocate for more inclusive approaches and more effective diversity management at schools and universities, addressing students, staff and policymakers.



Initiatives towards ensuring social rights

Position Paper on Inclusive Learning Mobilities

May

Within this paper, we provided input to the European Commission's public consultation, in relation to a Council Recommendation proposal on inclusive learning mobilities. [Based on our network members' rich experience](#) working with and for young people, our position emphasises the need for comprehensive pedagogical support, increased funding, improved recognition, streamlined processes, and enhanced collaboration to address obstacles and ensure a successful and inclusive learning mobility experience for young people.



Statement on the EU Youth Strategy

August

The EU Youth Strategy is pivotal for fostering a socially inclusive Europe. Our input in the European Commission's mid-term evaluation emphasises the importance of recognising and addressing youth diversity for effective policies. By [aligning the strategy with the European Pillar of Social Rights](#), the EU can ensure equal opportunities and promote a fairer Europe. We also noted that transparent and updated documentation on implementation is crucial for the strategy's success.



Protecting and advancing socio-economic rights

June

Together with Volonteuropa we organised the event [Civil Society. Protecting and advancing socio-economic rights in Europe](#) in Brussels, bringing in the spotlight civil society's role on protecting and advancing socio-economic rights. The YES Forum and diverse civil society organisations presented their initiatives for ensuring that the European social model prevails.



Civil Society for EU

October

We joined a broad coalition of civil society and philanthropy organisations led by Civil Society Europe and Social Platform to advocate for [better civic space and civil dialogue all over Europe](#) ahead of the 2024 EU elections.



European Employment & Social Rights Forum

November

We engaged in an inspiring dialogue with diverse European stakeholders on a [safe and inclusive transition into AI at work](#), and about the need to address the current skills shortage in Europe during the European Employment & Social Rights Forum organised in Brussels by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. The event gathered EU and national policy-makers, businesses, civil society, and academics.



Erasmus+ programme evaluation

December

We did not miss the opportunity to provide our recommendations on improving the Erasmus+ programme. In our position paper we highlighted that [accessibility should be a priority](#) in the years to come, with the needs of vulnerable young people being better addressed to ensure their inclusion. Moreover, it should be easier to organisations supporting them to implement activities within the programme, especially smaller grassroots organisations.



Social Platform Position on a European Job Guarantee

We have actively contributed to and endorsed Social Platform's Position on a European Job Guarantee. We believe that it could serve as a way of pursuing many of the principles of [the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan](#).



Making our voices heard

Throughout 2023, we ensured that youth and social work organisations' perspectives were heard by policymakers at the European level. During the year we were actively involved in meetings organised by the European Commission to discuss social issues, and attended other relevant European events as well, such as:

- Strategic Dialogue meetings
- The Civil Society Days organised by the European Economic and Social Committee
- The European Social and Employment Forum of the Commission.

This has enabled us to stay updated about current European social issues and allowed us to engage with relevant stakeholders.

Moreover, we have worked towards reinforcing our connections with other relevant European networks such as [Social Platform](#), [Civil Society Europe](#), [Volonteuropa](#), [Eurochild](#) or [Caritas Europe](#).



Understanding the EU

The most relevant European treaties for young people are now more accessible as a result of [the READY project](#). The project concept focuses on demystifying the EU by creating space for engaging discussions and translating pertinent provisions from European treaties. It aims to make education enjoyable for young people while retaining the original meaning of the provisions, offering a fun and accessible approach to understanding the complexities of the European Union.

The outcome of bringing together young people with social and youth workers, lawyers and experts in European law from Croatia, France, Greece, Germany and Italy is the creation of several youth-friendly materials that explain the EU with easy-to-understand language and appealing visuals. The [EU READY to READ](#) and [EU READY to SEE](#) publications enable young people to understand EU provisions better, as well as the importance they have over their lives and, in subsequently, the impact of the European Union. These initiatives aim to provide them with more tools to become active citizens on the European level.

After adapting provisions into youth-friendly language, the project partners adapted them further into informative infographics. Social and youth workers and the young participants met to fine-tune the graphics during [one week of training in Lucca](#) in July 2023.



The discussions on good and bad communication practices framed within the context of the project helped to produce the last output. The [EU READY to DISCUSS](#) publication is a set of key messages for education institutions, youth and social work organisations, and policymakers to bridge the gap between young people and the European Union.

The READY project's approach and learnings were also presented in [Brussels](#) to an audience comprising of young people, youth and social workers, civil society representatives, and the Member of the European Parliament, Salvatore De Meo.

Our member organisations apply different techniques, approaches and educational interventions when supporting young people in need. For this reason, we organise workshops, trainings, and webinars to facilitate opportunities for peer-learning and the exchange of inspiring practices. By doing this, we are able to contribute to a more social Europe that invests in the full potential of young people through knowledge exchange.

Innovative learning and educational approaches



European Year of Skills

Europe is facing a shortage of qualified workers, which is also impacting the social and education field. To address this gap, the European Union designated 2023 the European Year of Skills to help people gain the right skills for quality jobs.

As life-long learning and education opportunities are at the core of our work, we joined the EYS by organising several expertise exchange workshops for professionals working with young people on:

- Mental health
- International cooperation beyond Europe
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Inclusive youth participation
- The use of Artificial Intelligence in the youth and social field.

These activities reassured us that professionals from our network have outstanding skills and are keen to gain new ones. It proves that our commitment to peer learning and life-long learning initiatives is a key element of our network.



Fostering participation of young people in municipality processes

In 2023, the focus of the project *A part for all* remained on empowering the Diverse Youth Action Group in Bratislava. While some members lacked experience in civic engagement, others were already active in student parliaments, scouting, cultural events, and NGOs. Through group discussions and the project's own research, it became evident that young people from diverse backgrounds often encounter barriers to becoming active citizens, such as not knowing where to start or how to communicate with authorities. They perceive a lack of genuine support from adults, feeling that their voices carry little weight. The Diverse Youth Action Group aims to address these issues, dedicating sessions to various forms of participation, finding allies, informal education, crowdfunding, and PR.



Connecting European and African VET

The SAAM project continued bringing together European and African VET stakeholders in several encounters. In March, more than 60 participants from 24 different African and European countries attended the *SAAM Seminar in Brussels* on international cooperation. The event gathered VET professionals and European and African policymakers. In November, partners presented the main outputs of this pilot experience in the *SAAM Leaders conference in Bilbao*.

The YES Forum's work focused on the pre-departure online preparation of African students. The work primarily involved intercultural preparation through dynamic online activities. Based on the experience gained during these sessions, an *Intercultural Handbook* was edited. This practical manual summarizes the SAAM experience, offering insights for those considering a similar endeavour in the future. It also serves as a resource for reflection on intercultural issues, identity, and strategies to prevent stereotypes and prejudices, even within the confines of one's home.

Assessing current opportunities and future challenges

Webinar on Artificial Intelligence

Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence are rapidly changing our work environments and, therefore, our society. A critical approach to new technologies is needed to enhance their positive impacts and avoid the development of new forms of exclusion. Aware of the impact of our work with young people, we recently addressed these issues with our members by hosting an online *workshop*. Together, we shared our different experiences and examples of how we had implemented AI and digital tools into our everyday life, starting an insightful discussion within the network.



Supporting rural NEETs' employability

The Back on Track Interreg project represents an EU effort to address the pressing issue of rural young people who are out of employment, education and training (NEETs) in the Danube region. The project seeks to understand the characteristics of these young people, provide targeted support, and utilise digital inclusion approaches. It aims to improve their integration into work, employment or training, enhance the attractiveness of rural areas and contribute to the EU's goal of reducing the NEET rate while revitalising rural areas.



Tools to facilitate a more accessible EU education

Education institutions and youth and social work organisations have a crucial role to play in supporting young citizens to better understand and connect with the EU. It is only when young people understand concepts that they can contribute to them.

Based on YES Forum's expertise and our experience of working with young people through our diverse activities and exchange we have compiled a set of [guidelines to facilitate a more accessible EU education](#) for organisations working with youth through formal and non-formal outlets.



Raising awareness on the European Green Deal

The [UPin project](#) partners have developed youth-friendly content on the European Green Deal. The content simplifies the initiative by using easily understandable language, aligning with youths' communication habits and frequently used platforms. They have developed daily life examples, explanatory videos and an Instagram account. These materials can easily be implemented in educational settings by utilising the project's handbook. All of the results were tested during a training with young people in Palermo (Italy), where participants were familiarised with the Green Deal and produced short videos about the challenges faced by the city regarding pollution and mobility.



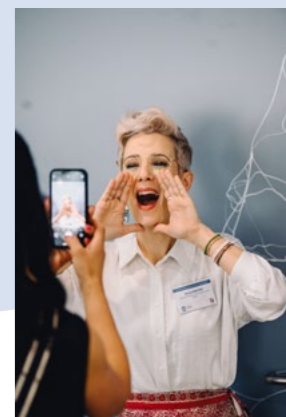
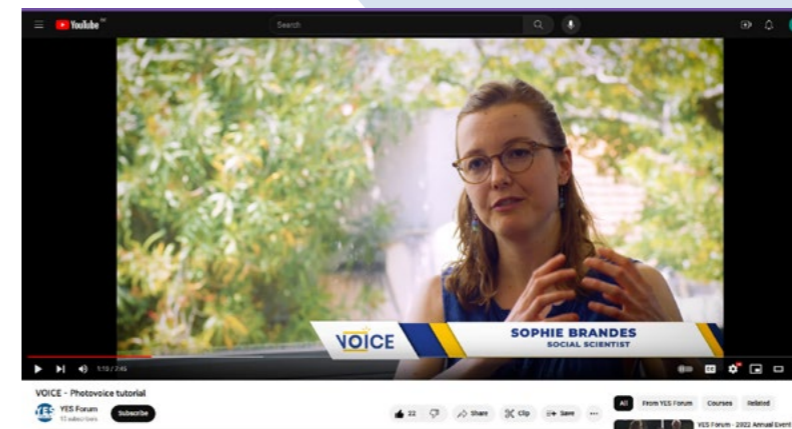
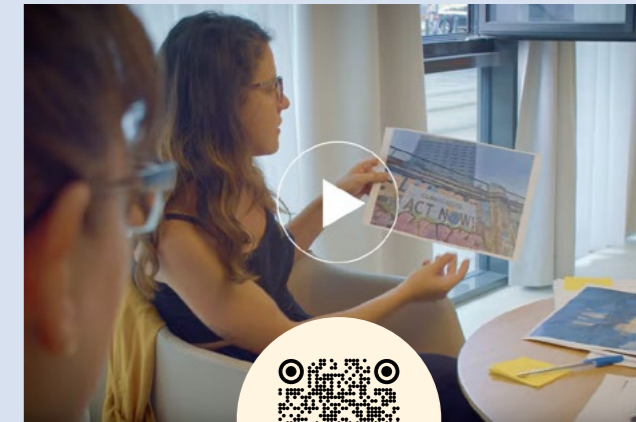
Promoting participatory methodologies

Three years of fruitful collaboration in the frame of the [VOICE project](#) came to an end. The unique partnership led to a wide array of attractive results to promote the use of the Photovoice method in Europe.

Social and youth workers interested in applying the photovoice method to their work can get invaluable inputs thanks to the materials produced during this journey: a video tutorial, a detailed handbook with ready-to-use supplementary materials, as well as the online exhibitions of the students that participated in the VOICE trainings.

The VOICE experiences and results also served to produce a [Policy Brief](#) with recommendations for education and training institutions, organisations and practitioners in the youth and social field and policy-makers to widespread the benefits of the photovoice method.

The know-how gained during the project was promoted in every partner country at several events, targeting social and youth workers. Moreover, the photovoice method was also introduced to students of the Master Social Policy & GLOBED Program of the University of Bremen as part of the Advanced Research Methods course.



Empowering political education

In the last few years, we have gained long experience working in the field of political and civic education through innovative and participatory approaches. We explored the opportunities raised by **simulation games**, promoted **participatory research methods** and provided **documents that are easy to understand**. We seek to enhance knowledge of EU institutions and encourage the youth to become active European citizens, involving the youth and social workers who work directly with our target group as well.

The topics of **active citizenship**, **EU awareness**, the **promotion of social inclusion through more inclusive approaches** and **nonformal political education** will continue to guide our work in the coming years. This is aligned with our strategic aims to generate better prospects for young people and the optimization of professional approaches. The upcoming European Elections in June 2024 offer an invaluable opportunity to share and deepen our expertise in this field.

Tips for a better EU communication

Key messages and policy recommendations specifically aimed at youth and social workers, organisations, education institutions, and policymakers on a local, national, and EU level. The focus is on improving communication about the EU and its effects on daily life for young people.



Easy-to-understand resources on the European Union

Useful materials to introduce young people to the EU, its functioning and impact on citizens lives: a compilation of the most relevant provisions to young people from EU treaties and infographics on complex EU themes made with and for young people.



Accessibility and inclusivity: a remaining challenge

Learning mobility programs serve as a crucial way for young individuals and professionals to gain international experience in Europe, significantly impacting their career growth by expanding their skills and competencies. These initiatives play a pivotal role in fostering personal development within an international context.

Acknowledging mobility as central to the EU's transformative goals, the YES Forum is dedicated to promoting inclusive learning opportunities. We offer high-quality mobility programs for both professionals and disadvantaged youth, aiming to strengthen connections and enhance essential soft skills for improved employability. Through these initiatives, participants build self-esteem, confidence, critical thinking abilities, and a deeper understanding of the European Union, promoting active citizenship.

In our latest report on learning mobilities, we addressed challenges on the accessibility of mobility experiences and provided recommendations based upon our extensive experience of youth work, education, and vocational training. We advocate for the implementation of these recommendations to reshape eligibility criteria and the application process, ensuring that learning mobility opportunities are accessible and genuinely inclusive for disadvantaged youth and professionals. We advocate for the implementation of these recommendations, which would result in the redesign of the existing eligibility criteria and application process to ensure that learning mobility opportunities are made truly inclusive for disadvantaged youth and professionals.



We organise and facilitate quality learning mobility opportunities for professionals and disadvantaged young people. By participating, young people can develop the right soft skills to improve their chances of employability while developing self-esteem. Our mobility opportunities also encompass professionals (aspiring and young), while our further training offer ensures high-quality training in the broad field of youth services, encompassing topics such as street work to second chance education, specialised vocational training, training from skills development agencies, and comprehensive youth care organisations.

Enabling international learning



Experiences of students and graduates in YES Forum activities



Read their whole testimonials on our website

Ana Wu Yang
Intern from February to August 2023



” This internship served as a compass, guiding me towards my true passion and purpose. As I delved into projects like READY and UPin, I witnessed first-hand the power of technology and innovation in creating meaningful change. From translating complex EU provisions into user-friendly infographics to elucidating the European Green Deal to young people, I realised the immense potential of leveraging technological tools to foster effective communication and empower others.

By combining my passion for making a difference with the power of technology, I am eager to contribute to causes that can make a lasting impact on society.

Philipp Scheurich
Participant in the UPin project

” It was inspiring to see how creative contributions as well as in-depth discussions about global and local environmental issues emerged during the UPin training. At the same time, the discussions highlighted the differences in our individual attitudes towards climate change and the Green Deal policies, shaped by our social and cultural backgrounds. It also demonstrated that everyone is united by a common goal and the mission to fight for a better, more sustainable future.

I believe that it is European climate educational projects like this (in conjunction with national education for sustainable development strategies) that are essential to provide young people with a sense of self-efficacy, and which incentivise them to unite and become active in the fight against climate change.



Milena Münchbach
Participant in the READY project

” I believe that what sets READY apart is that it is **young people themselves who work on the outputs**. This way, all of those involved can not only improve their European literacy but can also learn how to communicate about these complex topics in an engaging and easily understandable manner, enabling us to inform others and to become advocates for the European idea.

These intercultural encounters as well as the opportunity to travel to different EU member states do not only foster the participants' intercultural competence, but also allow them to directly experience what it means to be a European citizen

Exchanges within the network

Six students of the VET courses in Zefiro participated in a learning mobility experience at Musikcafé After Eight facilities in Finland to enhance their skills in an innovative educational setting. Moreover, the accompanying staff gained new insights through job shadowing, aiming to identify and implement effective practices at their vocational training centre in Tuscany.

Alexa Dominici, Zefiro
Accompanying staff



” It was a very enriching experience. I got to learn a lot about how they run their projects there, how it works in Finland, what their main needs are and how they address them. They had a particular focus on the mental well-being of their participants and all the techniques they use to create a safe space at After Eight are tools I think will be also incredibly useful in my work field.

Being in another country and connecting with another culture is an irreplaceable learning experience, from just observing their daily life to exchanging anecdotes and comparing different ways of life. I got very close to the people I met there, we learned about each other and appreciated each other from our differences, which became a point of connection and not something that would make us feel distant.



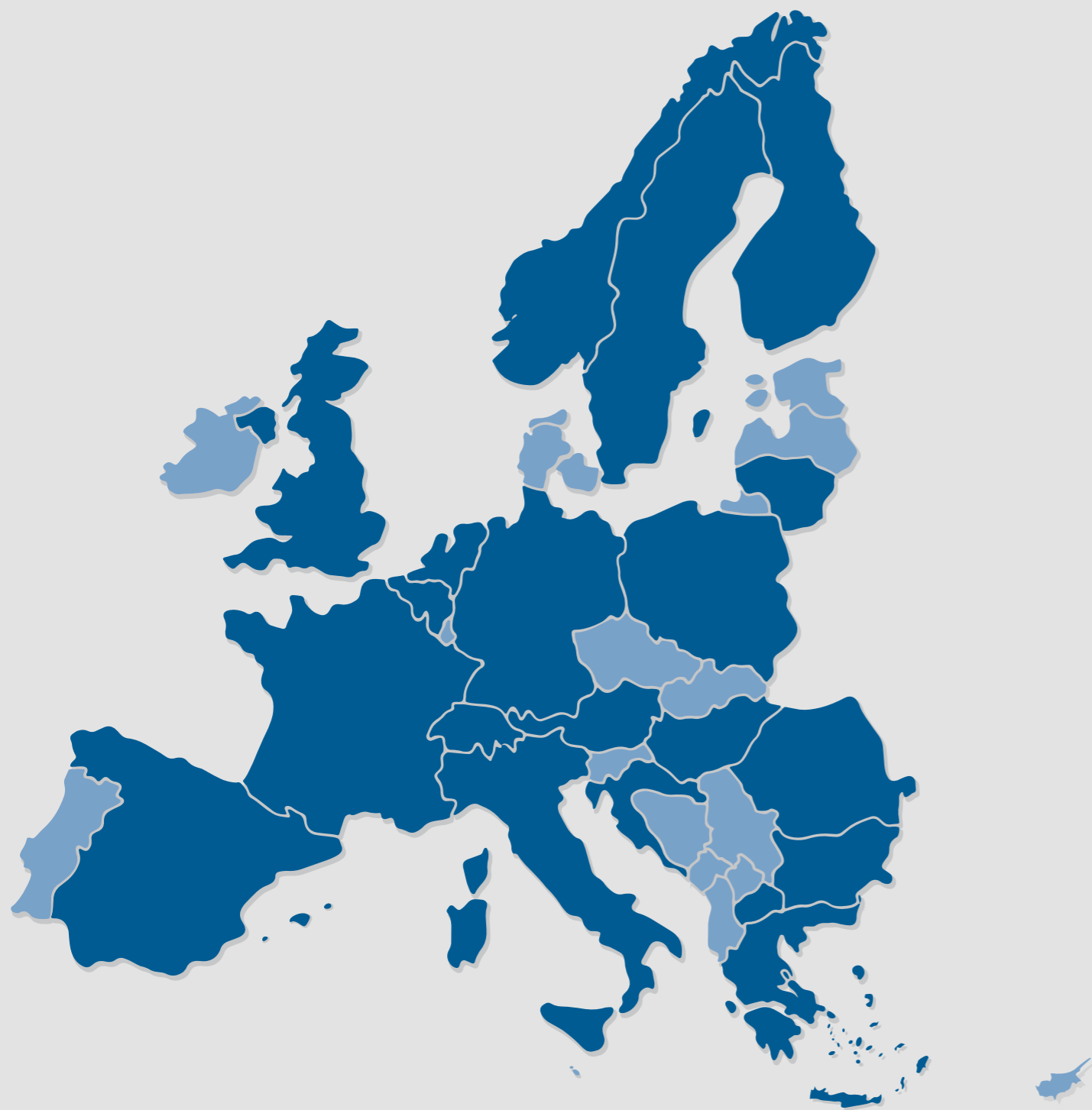
Chiara Bianchi
Student



” During my internship, I learned to use all the different printers, 3D, laser, fabric and the old typography printer. I learned various new open-source software and how to create patterns and logos to print with these different tools. On a personal level I had a lot of fun and with time I was satisfied with the new things I learned, in Italy not many people can teach you these kinds of things, so I am very happy to have learned them, I know they can come in handy in the future.

To be honest, I expected a normal trip, but when it ended, I could have not asked for a better experience, it exceeded all my expectations. To students who want to participate in an international exchange, I would say to leave and take the opportunity. I think that travelling not only gives a cultural experience but also the opportunity to discover yourself and grow as a person





Our Members

New members, new countries

Our network keeps strengthening by welcoming new members too! This year we welcome two new associate members: the Spanish *Asociación Mundus* and *Forum for Freedom in Education*, our first Croatian member! We look forward to new collaborations!






Member's experience



Sabina Šuta-Islamović



Sebastian Frank

ÖJAB – Annual Event

” From ÖJAB’s point of view it was a truly great experience to co-host the Annual Event of the YES Forum. Not only did we have the opportunity to present ourselves as an organisation, but we were also able to expand our large European network and meet many new exciting people.

Read more:



IEKEP - Policy Event

” Given the topic of this year’s Policy Event, it was a great opportunity for us to implement and showcase our non-formal learning methodology in such a wide and diverse audience. It was also a great opportunity for younger members of staff to participate in organizing an event of that scale, to expose them in public speaking with and in the content of EU officials and professionals coming from a variety of countries and be exposed in networking with people coming from different capacities and organisations.

Lilika Trikalinou, Dimitra Basiakou

Read more:



Vision, mission and values

The YES Forum desires a society where every young person, regardless of their background, is able to realise their full potential and is given the opportunity to make a positive contribution to society.

Our member organisations are working with and for young individuals who are navigating many challenges in finding their path, and who require support in education, training, or in transition to adulthood. They support young people by offering customised support and programmes to smoothen their transition into adulthood, to find meaningful work, and to manage their own lives, so that they can contribute to their communities and society. *Our member organisations represent the rich expertise of professionals from the broad field of youth services*, from street work to second chance education, specialised vocational training, skills development agencies, to comprehensive youth care, including preventive youth work.

As a network, we believe that when we utilise our collective experience *together we can make sure young people's voices are heard*.

The YES Forum promotes civic and political education across a more inclusive Europe. We are dedicated to increasing the opportunities and life chances of all young people by providing support for their genuine participation in society.

Youth participation is our central value. The guiding question of our work is not „What can we do for young people?“. Instead, we ask *What can we do with them?*

Embedded in a culture of listening and the meaningful involvement of young people, we acknowledge the diverse possibilities for young people to make valuable contributions to projects and activities, which is why we strongly promote the social engagement of young people within our network.



Objectives and principles

Generate
better prospects for the young generation

Raise
awareness about youth issues on the political agenda

Optimize
professional approaches in youth work

Widen
participation all young people in decision making processes

The YES Forum creates room for discussion and consultations. We strongly encourage the involvement of our members in transnational cooperation which engage both young people and practitioners.

How we work

In order to respond to the challenges and opportunities faced by young people, the YES Forum creates room for peer learning and exchange of inspiring practices for social and youth work professionals on the one hand. Activities for young people on the other hand aim the sustainable development of labour market competences and transversal skills. Our activities are implemented in the fields of advocacy, capacity building and mobility opportunities, focusing on young people as well as on social and youth work professionals.

Who we are

Structure

The YES Forum is driven by its members, who have overall decision-making authority. The network is represented by the appointed Managing Director, who is responsible for running its business and internal organisation. The management Board elected by the members supervises budget and activities. Planned aims are implemented through our democratic structure with the full participation of members.

To coordinate the activities and to support effective internal and external communication, the YES Forum is supported by the Secretariat in Stuttgart. In the Secretariat, experienced staff works together in a dynamic environment.

Board

Gwen Birza
Jongerenwerk Barkema de Haan (NL)

Hannah Degerman
Pitea Kommun (SE)

Sebastian Frank
ÖJAB (AT)

Alexander Hauser
BAG KJS (DE) until June 2023

Andreas Koth
IB (DE) from June 2023

Lilika Trikalinou
IEKEP (EL)

Secretariat

Annett Wiederman
Director & Project Manager

Diana Neugebauer
Financial Administration

Çağla Ezgi Yıldız
EU Project Assistant

Olatz Alonso Guevara
Communication Officer

Iliana Petsa,
EU Project Assistant until February 2023

Ana Wu Yang
Intern from February to August 2023

Violeta Bakia
Project and Advocacy Officer
from September 2023

Our Members





Empowering
young people

YES Forum EWIV -
Youth and European Social Work Forum

Wagenburgstr. 26-28
70184 Stuttgart

Tel: +49-711-16 48 92 7

Email: office@yes-forum.eu

Web: www.yes-forum.eu



Editor: YES Forum

Author(s): Olatz Alonso

Contributions: Alexa Dominici, Anna Wu Yang, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK), Chiara Bianchi, Hannah Degerman, IEKEP, Milena Münchbach, Mirco Trielli, Philipp Scheurich, Sabina Šuta-Islamović, Sebastian Frank

Proofreading: Lucy Croxton

Design: Anke Grohmann

February 2024

Images credits

All images used were taken by and/or are property of the YES Forum, except the pictures on page 12, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 25. Usage by any other party is prohibited.

Credits for the photos on pages 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 17, 19 go to Martin Zeman.

Credits for the photos on cover and pages 4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 27, 28 go to Nicolò Marcheschi.

Credits for the photos on page 12 go to Volonteuropa.

Credits for the photos on pages 14, 19, 21 go to Robin Höft.

Credits for the photos on page 16 go to CVEK.

Credits for the photos on page 17 go to Interreg Danube Programme.

Credits for the photos on page 18 go to CEIPES.

Credits for the photos on page 22 go to Lea Maria Krznic.

Credits for the photos on page 25 go to Zefiro.



Co-funded by
the European Union

This publication has been funded by the European Commission's ESF+ Social Inclusion operating grant (EuroPower-101059198).

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.