

eurodesk

EBL Bulletin

February 2018

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Documentation

Eurobarometer survey European Youth 2017

Published by the European Commission, the survey aims to explore young EU citizens' participation in a range of social aspects of European life, including voluntary activities, political elections, as well as groups and organisations such as youth or sports clubs. It follows on from previous surveys on this topic in February 2011, April 2013 and December 2014.

The survey shows that youth participation in voluntary activities, organisations and elections has increased over the past years. About 11,000 citizens aged 15 to 30 were interviewed in September 2017, they mostly agree with the need to promote critical thinking and the ability to search for information to combat fake news and extremism (49%), give easy access to information about moving and working abroad (49%) and promote behavioural change through environmentally-friendly initiatives such as sustainable transport or recycling systems across Europe (40%). More than half of young Europeans consider education and skills as the top priority that the EU should tackle. Environmental protection and fighting climate change come second, followed by employment, and the management of migratory flows and integration of refugees. According to the report, young people have been more active than in the previous survey done in December 2014: 31% of respondents stated that they had been involved in organised voluntary activities in the last 12 months. More than half are involved in organisations such as sports clubs, youth clubs or local NGOs. In particular, 64% of the respondents say that they have voted in a political election in the last 3 years.

<http://bit.ly/2GDclFY>

Study on governance and management policies in school education systems

The European Commission's study analyses how quality assurance, school management, admission and other management policies and practices impact the quality, inclusiveness and efficiency of school education. The study consolidates existing knowledge across Europe and beyond and presents new evidence on the impact of different governance and management policies and practices in the current context of increased decentralisation and school autonomy. The findings of the study will help policy makers address challenges related to the overall quality of school education, and particularly with regard to narrowing the gap in learning outcomes between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils.

<http://bit.ly/2DOLF2k>

ILO Report: Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017 - Paths to a better working future

The International Labour Organisation report sets out the youth labour market situation around the world. It shows where progress

has or has not been made, updates world and regional youth labour market indicators, and gives detailed analyses of medium-term trends in youth population, labour force, employment, unemployment, working poverty and informality. The 2017 edition discusses the implications of technological change for youth labour market prospects - both quantity and quality - focusing on trends in sectoral employment and on the forms of work available to young people.

<http://bit.ly/2hJjE2L>

Toolkit on the use of EU funds for the integration of people with a migrant background

Published by the European Commission, the toolkit aims to support national and regional funding authorities in reinforcing synergies between EU funds under shared management when implementing integration policies via interventions which place the needs of the final recipients at the centre of the support. The toolkit identifies five priorities for holistic and efficient long-term integration strategies: reception; education; employment; housing; and access to public services. It lists the most pressing challenges under these five priorities and suggests adequate support measures, each one of them matched with the right EU fund.

<http://bit.ly/2E6sdPc>

Cultural Heritage Eurobarometer

This survey assesses the attitudes and opinions of people in the EU. The first EU-wide survey on cultural heritage assesses the attitudes and opinions of Europeans about cultural heritage, investigating their personal involvement, interest, and the perceived importance and values they attach to Europe's cultural heritage. It also looks into the impact of cultural heritage on tourism and jobs, accessibility, and responsibilities for its protection in Europe.

The survey finds that the vast majority of Europeans (84%) feel that cultural heritage is important to them personally, and 90% believe that it is important to their country. There is also a strong feeling that cultural heritage is a crucial part of European identity, with 80% believing that it is important to the EU as a whole. Many Europeans are proud of the history and culture within their local communities; 82% take pride in historical monuments or sites, works of art or traditions from their region or country. Also, 7 in 10 agree that they take pride in a historical monument or site, work of art or tradition from a European country other than their own. 70% claim that living close to places with remarkable examples of Europe's cultural heritage can give people a sense of belonging to Europe. Cultural heritage is clearly at the heart of everyday lives, with 7 in 10 Europeans (71%) living close to a historic monument or site, and over half (51%) being personally involved in some form of cultural heritage. A large majority of Europeans (88%) believe that Europe's cultural heritage should be taught in schools, as it is highly relevant for history and culture.

<http://bit.ly/2BRcama>

UNESCO Manual « Writing Peace »

The UNESCO manual invites young audiences to discover contemporary writings by introducing them to a sample of them. Its goal is to make the world appear a little closer and a little more familiar. It encourages young people from 8 to 14 years old, to become aware of the interdependence of cultures through familiarisation with contemporary writing systems, their history, and their borrowings. The manual contains 24 activity sheets. Each section presents the characters of a writing system, an introductory text and historical background, the word "peace" and the word "hello", the language(s) attached to the system(s), and an activity whose answers appear at the end of manual. The Manual is currently available in [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

Sustainable Shaun online game

New European Commission online game challenging young people to build their own sustainable city by balancing five themes: food, nature, energy, transport and resources, whilst inspiring children to think about green issues. From the same site it is possible to Access a number of teaching resources around this game to help teachers learn how to play Sustainable Shaun with their class. Available in English, these resources include lesson plans, picture cards, specific problems to solve and more. There is even a log in system so a class can start playing their game in school, save where they have got up to, and then pick it up at home on any device.

<http://bit.ly/2Aonx4I>

Yo!Fest 2018

New Yo!Fest 2018 website launched by the European Youth Forum. It offers information about the partners, themes and activities taking place at the YoFest during the EYE, combining debates, workshops, talks, exhibitions and performances to celebrate what it means to be a young European today.

<http://www.yofest.eu>

Opportunities

International Children's Peace Prize 2018

Every year KidsRights organises a prize which aims to award a child whose courageous or otherwise extraordinary efforts have made an impact on behalf of the rights of children worldwide. The winner will receive the statuette 'Nkosi, which shows how a child sets the world in motion, a study and care grant, and a worldwide platform to promote his or her ideals to the benefit of children's rights. Furthermore, KidsRights will invest a project fund of EUR 100,000 in projects that are closely connected to the winner's area of work, in the country of the winner. Any person or organisation worldwide can nominate a child between 12 and 18 years old who has a history of standing up and fighting for children's rights.

Deadline: **1st March 2018.**

Find out more on: <http://childrenspeaceprize.org>

Young Leaders Programme EDD 2018

Young adults from all around the world, without restriction of nationality, between 21 and 26 years old, proactive about finding solutions to the world's most pressing problems and ready to sit shoulder to shoulder with world leaders at a global forum on international development, are invited to join the Young Leaders Programme at European Development Days (EDD) 2018, taking place in Brussels, Belgium, from 5th to 6th June 2018. Under the main thread of 'Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development: protect, empower, invest', the EDD 2018 will be framed by three major themes emerging as key priorities in today's current context: "Ensuring the physical and psychological integrity of Girls and Women", 'Promoting economic and social rights and empowerment of Girls and Women', 'Strengthening Girls' and Women's voice and participation".

The 15 Young Leaders at EDD 2018, will be able to speak on a high-level panel, and share their projects and experiences, as well as to engage with delegations from governments and international organisations. Young Leaders will be also invited to participate in other sessions, including debate sessions or brainstormings, where they will be given more space to express their opinions and share their experiences.

Interested participants should upload a link to a 2-min English video on Youtube, presenting themselves, the vision of their chosen topic and why they would be good youth representatives at EDD 2018.

Travel and accommodation will be covered by the European Commission.

Deadline to [apply](#): **2nd March 2018**, 13:00 (Central European Time).

Find out more: <http://www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders>

YouthActionNet Laureate Global Fellowship Programme

The Programme gives support to 20 young social entrepreneurs who, through their emerging projects, promote social change and connect youth with local communities. Eligible candidates should be between 18 and 29 years old, as of 31st December 2018. They should be founders or co-founders of existing ventures with at least one year of impact and be fluent in English.

Deadline: **6th March 2018**, 23:59 EDT.

Find out more: <http://www.youthactionnet.org/apply>

Social Innovation Tournament 2018

The SIT recognises and supports the best European social entrepreneurs by promoting innovative ideas and rewarding opportunities in relation to the fight against social exclusion, covering projects in a wide range of fields from education, health care and job creation, to new technologies, new systems and new processes. All projects compete for four prizes in a General Category and special Category. Prizes will go to projects focusing on sustainable development, with special emphasis on circular economy. Winning projects in both categories will be awarded a 1st and 2nd Prize of 50,000 EUR and 20,000 EUR respectively. Projects are typically related to combating unemployment, marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and promoting access to education in a wide range of fields, from education and health care to the natural or urban environment, using new technologies, new systems, and new processes. The tournament is addressed to non-for-profit and for-profit organisations, mainly from young entrepreneurs and social enterprises, corporate responsibility departments of private-sector companies of any size, NGOs and government or local government entities and university communities. Entries from student teams are also welcome. The Tournament is open to individuals or teams from (or residing in) the European Union Member States, Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, and EFTA countries that submit proposals to be implemented in one or more such countries.

Deadline for submission of proposals: **6th March 2018**, 23:59 CET

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2z3Ih3s>

Travel writing scholarship 2018

World Nomads is inviting aspiring travel writers from any nationality to submit applications for its travel writing scholarship.

Entrants will have to write a 2,500 character story about a travel experience around one of the following themes:

- Making a local connection
- The last thing I expected
- A decision that pushed me to the edge.

They should also include a personal essay (1,500 character maximum) on why they should be chosen and what the opportunity means to them.

Three writers will win a 14-day travel-writing trip in Argentina with 1,000 USD spending money plus a free tour. They should be

available to be in Argentina for 14 days between 7th and 21st May 2018.

They will also attend an intense 4-day workshop with professional writer and contributor to the New York Times and Outside magazine Tim Neville. The scholarships will also cover a round-trip airfare, travel insurance and 5 nights accommodation.

Deadline: **28th February 2018.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2DS7qlH>

YO!Fest 2018 Emerging Bands Contest (EBC)

In the framework of the European Youth Event 2018, taking place in Strasbourg (France) on 1st and 2nd June, the European Youth Forum, in cooperation with Jeunesses Musicales International, is inviting applications from bands with maximum 8 members that are between 18 and 30 years old, who can play a genre that is accessible to a wide variety of people. Applicants should be coming from:

- European Union member countries
- EU candidate countries (Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey)
- EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

Four winners will be selected, 3 Bands and 1 DJ.

The winning bands will get the travel to/from Strasbourg (France), local transport, accommodation and food covered, plus 50 EUR per band member to play on stage at the European Youth Event 2018.

Each winner will have a 30 minutes performance at YO!Fest 2018.

Deadline: **18th March 2018.**

Find out more: <http://www.yofestebc.eu>

EYE2018 Instagram Competition

The European Parliament is inviting anyone over 18, living in a EU country and passionate for photography, to join the competition and get the chance to be one of the participants of the European Youth Event (EYE), from 1st to 2nd June 2018 in Strasbourg, France. Participants will have to take a photo illustrating one of the five topics of the EYE's agenda:

#YoungOld

#RichPoor

#ApartTogether

#SafeDangerous

#LocalGlobal

The photo can be shared using the hashtag #EYE2018, as well as the hashtag for the category, and tagging @EuropeanParliament and @ep_eye.

One winner will be chosen in each category. In addition an overall winner will be selected based on the number of "likes" his or her photos receives on social media. The six lucky winners will then be invited to Strasbourg to take part in the EYE event. They can submit as many photos as they like in as many categories as they choose.

Deadline: **22nd April 2018**, midnight CET.
Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2DCZBQL>

Please also look at the Opportunities folder within the Eurodesk intranet for news on European and international (funding) opportunities.

Highlights

New Narrative for Europe final event

On 31st January 2018, 100 young people from across Europe gathered in Brussels, Belgium, to present their concrete ideas and recommendations on the Future of Europe, following discussions in the context of the New Narrative for Europe initiative closing event. The project, held over the last two years, reached as many as 62,000 young people through a series of debates taking place Europe-wide.

As a result, young people issued a [Declaration "YOUrope for Youth"](#), putting forward twelve concrete ideas for Europe's future highlighting:

1. Easy access to information for young people who want to move and work abroad with a view to encouraging youth employment.
2. Wider opportunities for young people beyond current formats in Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps and more language support available.
3. Improve the image of young people in the workplace to highlight the contributions they can make to businesses.
4. Organise events or roadshows to bring the EU to rural and remote areas.
5. Make information and news about the EU available through innovative media channels in multiple languages, such as films/series and simulation games.
6. Promote the EU and its values inside and outside through volunteering.
7. Promote critical thinking and research skills to combat fake news and extremism through citizen education.
8. Support the development of creative, experiential, immersive learning experiences and cultural and arts events through which young people can engage with policy issues that affect them and develop solutions.
9. Find a champion and role model for young people who promotes youth rights but also understands how young people mobilise and engage.
10. Support recycling and positive environmental actions more widely.
11. Make information about sustainable transport options across borders more easily accessible.
12. Develop creative and engaging ways to support environmentally friendly behaviour change, through for instance an app or theatre/film productions.

<http://bit.ly/2BKd08y>

European Commission mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+ adopted

The European Commission has adopted the mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+, the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport (2014-2020). The report shows that the programme is well on track to meet its target of supporting 4 million learners, teachers and trainers by 2020.

Moreover, Erasmus+ proves to be highly beneficial by supporting participants' transition to employment and contributing to the

development of a European identity among EU citizens. The report also highlights that Erasmus+ has a strong added value compared to what could be achieved by the participating countries on their own in boosting learning mobility and transnational cooperation between educational institutions.

As regards the future of Erasmus+, the evaluation makes a clear case for a stronger investment in education and training with a new emphasis on the younger generations and the most vulnerable groups.

<http://bit.ly/2ms8GTs>

New measures to boost key competences, digital skills, and European dimension of education

Two months after the Gothenburg Summit on 17th November 2017, the European Commission, on 17th January 2018, adopted new initiatives to improve key and digital competences of European citizens and to promote common values and pupils' awareness of the functioning of the European Union. They are intended to reduce socio-economic inequalities, whilst sustaining competitiveness in order to build a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe.

The three initiatives proposed by the Commission are:

1. A [Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#). Building on the Recommendation on Key Competences adopted in 2006, this proposal brings forward important updates reflecting the rapid evolution of teaching and learning since then. It aims to improve the development of key competences of people of all ages throughout their lives and to provide guidance to Member States on how to achieve this objective. A particular focus is placed on promoting entrepreneurial drive and innovation-oriented mindsets in order to unlock personal potential, creativity and self-initiative. Moreover, the Commission is recommending steps to foster competences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and motivate more young people to embark on a career in these fields. The proposals aims to urgently improve European education systems and support Member States in better preparing learners for changing labour markets and for active citizenship in more diverse, mobile, digital and global societies.

2. A Digital Education Action Plan that outlines how the EU can help people, educational institutions and education systems better adapt to life and work in an age of rapid digital change by:

- making better use of digital technology for teaching and learning;
- developing the digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation; and
- improving education through better data analysis and foresight.

Initiatives include supporting schools with high-speed broadband connections, scaling up a new self-assessment tool for schools on the use of technology for teaching and learning (SELFIE) and a public awareness campaign on online safety, media literacy and cyber hygiene.

3. A Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching. This initiative proposes ways in which education can help young people understand the importance of and adhere to common values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union. It aims at strengthening social cohesion and contributing to fight the rise of populism, xenophobia, divisive nationalism and the spreading of fake news. The proposal also strengthens inclusive education to promote quality education for all pupils as well as the European dimension of teaching, so children also learn about Europe's common heritage and diversity and get a good understanding of the functioning of the EU. To support these aims, the Commission will take steps to increase virtual exchanges among schools, notably through the [e-Twinning](#) network, and boost school mobility through the [Erasmus+](#) programme.
<http://bit.ly/2mMMvpI>

European Commission Consultation on promoting mutual recognition of qualifications and study periods abroad

In its Communication on [Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#), the European Commission proposes the creation of a European Education Area, in which people can move freely to study and carry out research and which will contribute both to improved opportunities for individuals, as well as an improved capacity to meet skills and competences needs. One of the actions proposed as a means of achieving this is a proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting the mutual recognition of higher education (all levels) and upper secondary education qualifications/diplomas and study periods abroad. It could be accompanied by a supportive process to facilitate the recognition of qualifications from upper secondary education and study periods abroad, to be known as the Sorbonne Process. This proposal was endorsed by European heads of state and government at their meeting in December 2017. The objective of the proposed Council Recommendation is to support Member States in meeting the commitments they have made through both the Lisbon Recognition Convention and the Bologna Process, by inviting Member States and European Commission to take concrete steps that will result in improved mobility at all levels of education and training and by promoting mutual recognition of diplomas and study periods abroad. The survey is available in English and will be open to all stakeholders until **19th February 2018**.

<http://bit.ly/2sdWVDV>

European Commission consultation on EU funds in the area of values and mobility

The consultation is part of a series of public consultations on the priorities that should be reflected in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The Commission is currently reviewing what worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The opinion of citizens and organisations in this process is considered key.

All citizens, organisations and stakeholders with an interest and/or involvement in issues related to learning mobility; education and training apart from mobility; volunteering;

humanitarian aid, solidarity; youth work; labour mobility; culture, media and arts; citizenship and values; justice area, judicial cooperation, rights; consumer protection are invited to join the consultation which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete..

The questionnaire is available in 23 languages and will run until **8th March 2018**.

<http://bit.ly/2D0qQ7G>

#SpeakUp Survey - an EU Structured Dialogue with youth

#SpeakUp is the Erasmus Student Network survey addressing young people in the EU to help shape and develop EU youth policy. Results of the survey will be used by the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, among other organisations, to draft youth policies tailored for young people.

It takes less than ten minutes to fill the survey which will be open until **16th February 2018**.

<http://bit.ly/2nx7ehD>

EU elections: how many MEPs will each country get in 2019?

The distribution of seats in the Parliament is set to change after the next European elections as a result of Brexit according to a proposal to be voted by MEPs on 7th February 2018. The proposal calls for a reduction in the overall number of seats after the UK's withdrawal from the EU comes into force, but also suggests to allocate additional MEPs to some EU countries. The new rules would come into force in time for the European elections in 2019. At the moment the Parliament boasts 751 seats, which is the maximum number allowed by the EU treaties. The report by the constitutional affairs committee proposes to redistribute 27 of the UK's 73 seats to other countries, while keeping the remaining 46 seats for either pan-European electoral lists or future enlargements. This would mean the number of MEPs to be elected in individual member states would be 705. MEPs propose that the new distribution comes in force only after the UK has left the EU, that is currently expected to happen at the end of March 2019. Once MEPs have voted on it during a plenary session, the proposal will be submitted to EU heads of state who need to reach a unanimous decision. Parliament will then have to give its final consent. In addition, the Conference of Presidents, consisting of Parliament President Antonio Tajani and the political group leaders, have proposed to the Council that the European elections should be held from 23rd May to 26th May 2019.

<http://bit.ly/2DShFGG>

Future of Europe Survey

The survey is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions offering a space for citizens to present their concerns, thoughts and ideas about the future of Europe. The survey is available in 24 languages and responses will be kept anonymous.

<http://bit.ly/2nThLDl>

Eurostat release: December 2017 Euro area unemployment rate

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in December 2017 3.654 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 2.574 million were in the Euro area. Compared with December 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 411,000 in the EU28 and by 301,000 in the Euro area. In December 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.1% in the EU28 and 17.9% in the Euro area, compared with 18.0% and 20.3% respectively in December 2016. In December 2017, the lowest rates were observed in the Czech Republic (4.9%), Germany (6.6%) and Estonia (6.8% in November 2017), while the highest were recorded in Greece (40.8% in October 2017), Spain (36.8%) and Italy (32.2%).

<http://bit.ly/2EuqbZG>

Please also look at the News folder within the Eurodesk intranet for other European news from the network.

Upcoming Events

EURES Job Days

Thinking about finding a job in another EU country?
EURES Job Mobility Portal organises job days all over Europe.

Find out more: <https://www.europeanjobdays.eu/en>

1st January–30th June 2018: Bulgarian EU Council Presidency

As of 1st January 2018, Bulgaria is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time since the country joined the EU ten years ago. It will be the second of a Trio Presidency, composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria. Under the motto "United We Stand Strong", the Bulgarian Presidency will focus on the Future of Europe and young people, the Western Balkans, security and stability and the digital economy.

Find out more: <https://eu2018bg.bg/en/home>

15th February 2018: Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council, Brussels, Belgium

The EYCS Council is composed of ministers responsible for education, culture, youth, media, communication and sport from all EU member states. Ministers will hold a policy debate on a mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+ programme and the future orientations of Erasmus+ for post-2020. They will discuss ways to encourage increased participation in the programme. Following recent discussions by European leaders to advance the education agenda in Europe and the conclusions adopted by the European Council at the December 2017 meeting, ministers will hold a policy debate on how to take forward the education aspects. Ministers will also discuss increased cooperation in the field of education and higher education for inclusive, cohesive and innovative societies.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2BgOBGz>

15th–16th February 2018: European Conference: Investing in people – the way forward, Sofia, Bulgaria

The European conference is part of the Bulgarian Presidency's events programme and will conclude the celebrations of the 60-year anniversary of the European Social Fund.

The two-day event will bring together all relevant actors, such as representatives from EU institutions, national, regional, local public authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, academia as well as end-users and beneficiaries of the funds.

The conference is by invitation only, but it will be webcast live [here](#).

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2n06vI6>

28th February 2018: Young People and Brexit: Are we Listening to the Next Generation? Brussels, Belgium

The UK's decision to leave the EU is leaving many young people on both sides of the Channel feeling uncertain about their future. The vote and its aftermath have highlighted the decreasing trust in political institutions among young British citizens and their sense of not being heard by political parties. These concerns are shared by many EU citizens too. Following up on the findings of the Next Generation UK research by the British Council, EURACTIV is organising a forum to discuss the future of youth in Britain and the EU.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2E2XSUq>

21st March 2018: "Why Europe Matters" Conference - Youth Speak Up, Brussels, Belgium

The conference will gather young people and decision-makers from politics and business in an exchange on the future of Europe. The focus will be on bringing concrete contributions into the wider policy debate in Europe.

Deadline to register: **6th March 2018.**

Find out more: <http://www.whyeuropematters.eu/brussels-conference>

9th-13th April 2018: Youth Councils - local and international realities, Konstancin - Jeziorna, Poland

The seminar aims at learning the reality of Youth Councils operating in different countries and exploring the possibility of future networking. Youth councils representatives, youth policy makers involved in youth councils work, youth workers from Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme countries are invited to attend. Participants should be over 18 years old and have knowledge of English.

Deadline to apply: **4th March 2018.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2niEmtk>

18th-22nd April 2018: Euro-Med Youth Forum, Larnaca, Cyprus

Organised by the Erasmus+ National Agency of Cyprus and its Partner Institutions with the aim to strengthen cooperation in the EuroMed area, the Forum will look into the topics of

participation and active citizenship in the Programme and South-Mediterranean countries with a special focus on:

- motivating young people to take an active role in their communities;
- promoting the value of cooperation in the EuroMed area;
- raising awareness of the key competences for and through participation and
- fostering collaboration among different players present at the Forum.

The Forum is open to youth workers, youth leaders, representatives of civil society/youth organisations/sports clubs working with young people; representatives of local authorities, from Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme countries and Southern Mediterranean countries.

Deadline: **26th February 2018.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2GWiZpY>

6th-8th June 2018: School of Democracy, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Organised by the S&D (Socialists and Democrats) Group in the European Parliament, the event will gather 100 young people from EU countries and beyond. Over three days, participants will have the opportunity to express their views, concerns and hopes with MEPs, academics, policy makers, journalists on the major issues facing Europe and the world. The school is open to young people between 18 and 25, passionate about progressive politics. Applicants should fill the [application form](#) and summarise in few lines their motivations to join the event.

Travel, hotel and meal expenses will be paid by the organisers. Participants of the previous editions will not be considered.

Find out more:

<http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/schoolofdemocracy>

5th-6th July 2018: Future News Worldwide, Edinburgh, Scotland

Intensive media training programme addressed to motivated and passionate student journalists, from 18 to 25 years old on 1st July 2018, enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate course (of any subject) at a university or higher education institution. They should be able to speak English at IELTS level 6.5 or equivalent. Interested participants should provide a motivation statement, either a 300 words letter or 2 minutes video and a reportage of 500 words or 3 minutes video in one of these topics: political, environmental, technological, social. Winning entrants will be invited to the event.

Deadline to apply: **28th February 2018, 23:59 GMT.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2jVTCMJ>

Salto-Youth: Training Calendar

The European Training Calendar contains current training offers of different institutions and organisations, such as SALTO, the National Agencies for the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme, non-governmental youth organisations, the European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe and the Partnership Programme on European Youth Worker Training. They are addressed to young people, group leaders, mentors, trainers and other specialists.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/lppGluS>

Eurodesk Brussels Link Activities

10 January 2018	Eurodesk President Reinhard Schwalbach and EBL Director Audrey Frith meeting with Andriy Kolobov from the National Youth Council of Ukraine - NYC Ukraine potential Eurodesk partner in Ukraine. Location: EBL.
10 January 2018	European Youth Forum New Year's Reception. Location: EYF. Participant from EBL: Safi.
11 January 2018	Meeting of directors EYCA, ERYICA and Eurodesk. Location: EBL. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
15 January 2018	Meeting with Secretary General of JEF Europe, Valentin Dupouey. Location: EBL. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Safi.
18-19 January 2018	Executive Committee Meeting. Location: EBL. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Safi, Gheorghe, Zsolt.
22 January 2018	Erasmus+ Coalition and Erasmus x10 round table discussion. Location: Solidar, Brussels. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Safi.
23 January 2018	CULT Committee Hearing on EU Youth Strategy. Location: EP. Participant from EBL: Safi.
24 January 2018	EYCA Maximising Impact seminar. Location: EYCA. Participant from EBL: Safi.
27 January 2018	Online Eurodesk Network preparation team meeting. Participants from Eurodesk: Audrey, Gheorghe, Jakob and Erik.
31 January 2018	New Narrative for Europe Final Event. Location: EC. Participant from EBL: Safi, Sara.