

Mission: Brussels 2026

Your Europe, Your Say! (#YEYS2026)



Aluno Selecionado:
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Aluno do 2ºano (2024/2027)

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GIVING YOUTH A VOICE

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European Economic
and Social Committee

**Your Europe,
Your Say!**
#YEYS2026



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GIVING YOUTH A VOICE!



Welcome Message

The YEYS team is looking forward to welcoming YEYS-ers and teachers from across Europe to Brussels on 19–20 March 2026.

2026 Theme

Meaningful Connections ·
Active Participation ·
Democratic Engagement

**Scan to
learn more**





A platform for youth voices

Your Europe, Your Say is an annual event that gives young people a real platform to feel heard and discuss their concerns about Europe.



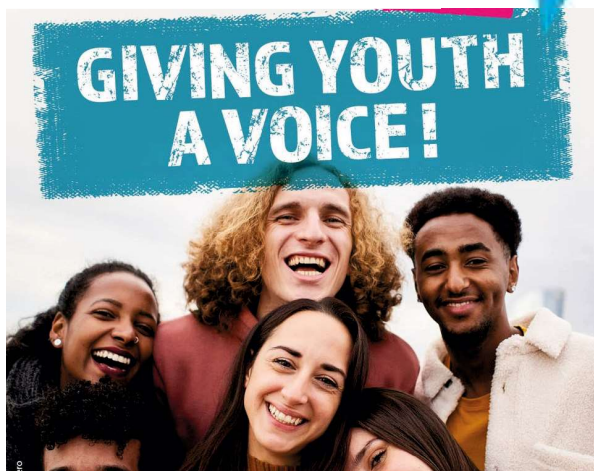


Connecting young minds

Since 2010, YEYS has brought together 100–140 participants every year from across Europe, giving them the chance to connect, share ideas, and build lasting networks.



Objectives & Activities



Through interactive workshops, networking activities and collaborative discussions, participants will reflect on how young people can contribute to stronger democratic participation and inclusive dialogue. Over one and a half days, participants will develop ideas together and build skills such as critical thinking, inclusive dialogue and active participation. In parallel, teachers will get the chance to explore how EU materials can be integrated into the classroom and how they can support EU youth engagement in their school communities.

- The youth assembly will conclude by identifying the top priorities, which will then be formulated into policy recommendations. The recommendations will set out their views and expectations from the next EU Youth Strategy and be presented at the event's closing plenary on Friday 20 March.
- The EESC will ensure that the proposals are channelled into the Committee's future advisory work and contribute in the consultations on the next EU Youth Strategy.
-

Participants

The 37 schools and the 43 young people selected through the open call represent dynamic mix of national and regional youth councils, student unions, civil society organisations, advocacy and volunteers' movements and individuals driven by a strong commitment to civic engagement. Together, they form a vibrant pan-European cohort, bringing diverse voices from across East, West, North, and South Europe and connecting urban and rural communities, grassroots activism, academia, and youth-led policymaking.



Applications

This year, the YEYS team was proud to receive over 3,000 applications through an open call.

We are grateful for each of the candidates who applied and for the high interest in joining our flagship annual youth event.

Number of applications

We reviewed 515 school applications and 2,596 individual applications, coming from all 27 EU Member States, the 9 EU candidate countries, and the UK.

Every application was carefully and thoughtfully assessed — a challenging task given the exceptional quality and passion shown.

Team Selections

The YEYS team selected **37 schools**, one per country and **43 individual participants**. Below, you can find the list of selected schools:

Selected Schools

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19–20 March 2026

GIVING YOUTH A VOICE !



**Your Europe,
Your Say!**

- Albania – Berat – High school "Krištaq Capo"
- Austria – Perg – Bundesoberstufenrealgymnasium Perg
- Belgium – Brussels – Hellenique School of Brussels
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Mostar – Gimnazija Mostar
- Bulgaria – Ruse – Secondary school for European languages "St. Constantine-Cyril The Philosopher"
- Croatia – Rijeka – Prva riječka hrvatska gimnazija
- Cyprus – Nicosia – Latsia Lyceum
- Czech Republic – Kladno – SZS and VOSZ Kladno
- Denmark – Middelfart – Middelfart Gymnasium & HF
- Estonia – Väike-Maarja – Väike-Maarja Gümnasium
- Finland – Iisalmi – Iisalmi lyseo (Iisalmi Upper Secondary School)
- France – Tours – Lycée Descartes
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Green School Dighomi
- Germany – Düsseldorf – Goethe-Gymnasium Düsseldorf
- Greece – Veria – 1st Lyceum of Veria
- Hungary – Budapest – Budai Ciszterci Szent Imre Gimnázium
- Ireland – Rathfarnham – Colaiste Éanna
- Italy – Arzano – I.I.S. Don Geremia Piscopo
- Latvia – Ādaži – Ādažu vidusskola
- Lithuania – Panevėžys – Panevėžio Juozo Balčikonio gimnazija
- Luxembourg – Hamm – St George's International School
- Malta – Birgu – De La Salle Sixth Form
- Moldova – Floresti – Theoretical Lyceum "Ion Creanga"
- Montenegro – Podgorica – "Mirko Vešović" Secondary School of Economics
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Roc van Amsterdam-Flevoland
- North Macedonia – Kochani – Ljupco Santov
- Poland – Krasnik – Zespół Szkół nr 2 w Krasniku
- Portugal – Lisbon – Escola Profissional Maçestil
- Romania – Bucharest – Gheorghe Asachi Technical College
- Serbia – Vrnjačka Banja – Gimnazija Vrnjačka Banja
- Slovakia – Bratislava – School of Applied Arts Josef Vydra
- Slovenia – Kranj – Gimnazija Kranj
- Spain – Cáceres – IES El Brocense
- Sweden – Gothenburg – Klara Teoretiska Gymnasium Postgatan Gothenburg
- Türkiye – İstanbul – Haydarpaşa Lisesi
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Lyceum
- United Kingdom – Greenock – Notre Dame High School

Meet Alexandro

PITCH

 *The 30-Second Pitch*



Sessão EESC/CESE

Gonçalo Lobo Xavier



Management Students

EPMagestil



Class Session

1ºG-2ºG-3ºG



Gonçalo
Lobo Xavier

Alexandro
Ursu

Hi! I'm Alexandro Ursu, a Business Management student from Portugal, studying at Magestil Vocational School.

I'm here representing my country, the Portuguese youth, my classmates and our shared belief that young people must have a real voice in shaping Europe's future. I'm particularly interested in how financial literacy, environmental sustainability, and digital innovation can empower young people and create real social impact.

Growing up in a family with roots in Eastern Europe gave me a broader perspective on Europe and the importance of connecting cultures.

Today, I'm here to share ideas, learn from others, and turn curiosity into action — because together, young people can help shape a stronger future for Europe.



Olá! Sou Alexandro Ursu, estudante de Gestão de Empresas em Portugal, na Escola Profissional Magestil. Estou aqui a representar os meus colegas e a nossa convicção de que os jovens devem ter uma voz real na construção do futuro da Europa. Tenho especial interesse em como a literacia financeira, a sustentabilidade ambiental e a inovação digital podem capacitar os jovens e gerar um impacto social real. Crescer numa família com raízes na Europa de Leste deu-me uma perspetiva mais ampla sobre a importância de conectar culturas. Hoje estou aqui para partilhar ideias, aprender com outros jovens e transformar curiosidade em ação — porque juntos, os jovens podem ajudar a moldar um futuro mais forte para a Europa.

How Alexandro told them he would like to take part in YEYS 2026



What issues are important to you?
What perspective would you like to bring to the discussions about youth engagement in the EU?

I want to take part in YEYS 2026 because I believe young people should have a real voice in shaping Europe's future. My goal is to educate individuals on financial literacy, environmental sustainability, and innovative digital concepts. I would like to discuss potential strategies for a positive impact in these areas. Being part of a family that has lived in an Eastern European country gave me a broader perspective on Europe and inspired me to connect with different cultures. Being a Scout taught me three important life skills: how to work as part of a team, how to take on leadership roles and how to take responsibility for things - it really made a difference in my life and attitudes. I would like to take this opportunity to participate in YEYS to bring forth many discussions to the table and express the following opinion: young people are creative, capable, and prepared to take action. I want to share my experiences, learn from others, and contribute my ideas to help increase the involvement of young people in order to safeguard the future of the EU.

My motto is:
From curiosity to action. Connecting cultures.
Creating change together.

Commitment



Three ways in which you will commit to following up after taking part in YEYS, to encourage and inform others about civic and EU engagement in your home countries, or your local community (how, what, when)?

After YEYS, I'm planning to: I'd love to organise a workshop or talk at my school or to share what I learned about EU youth engagement, within a month of returning.

I'd like you to create some social media posts or a blog highlighting inspiring projects from YEYS to inform and motivate young people in my community. I need this to be done within two months.

Get involved with local youth projects and put what I've learned at YEYS into action by volunteering or offering my input on initiatives for at least six months after the event.

To say all this simply: put all YEYS insights into practice to live up to my personal motto:

From curiosity to action. Connecting cultures. Creating change together.

Here are the main ideas in topics



Reason for participating in YEYS 2026

- Believes that young people should have a real voice in shaping Europe's future.
- Wants to participate in discussions and contribute ideas for the future of the EU.

Goals and areas of interest

- Financial literacy education for young people.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Innovative digital concepts.
- Exploring strategies to create a positive impact in these areas.

Personal experiences shaping this perspective

- Having family in an Eastern European country gave a broader perspective on Europe.
- Inspired a desire to connect with different cultures.

Skills gained through Scouting

- Teamwork.
- Leadership.
- Responsibility.
- These experiences strongly influenced personal attitudes and values.

What Alexandro want to do in YEYS

- Take part in discussions and bring new ideas.
- Share personal experiences.
- Learn from other young people.
- Encourage greater youth involvement in shaping the EU's future.

Core message

- Young people are creative, capable, and ready to take action.

Personal motto

**"From curiosity to action. Connecting cultures.
Creating change together."**

Classmates Issues

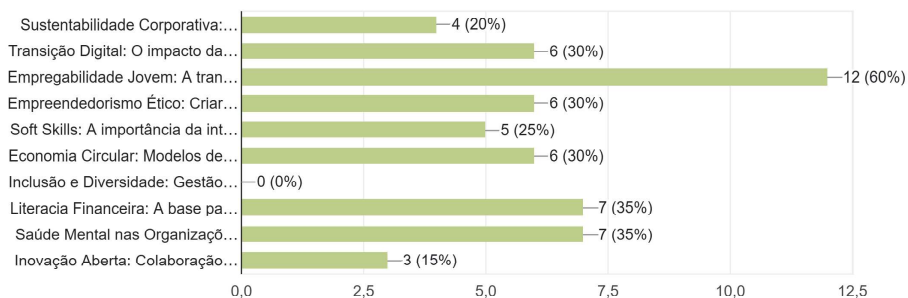


What issues are important to them?
What perspective would you they like Alexandro to bring to the discussions about youth engagement in the EU?

I've brought with me a set of key priorities from my fellow classmates back home, and I'm looking forward to turning our ideas into real recommendations for the EU Youth Strategy!

Qual escolhe? Se a vossa opinião não se revê em nenhuma destes tópicos, acrescentem a vossa opinião ou palavra na opção: OUTRA

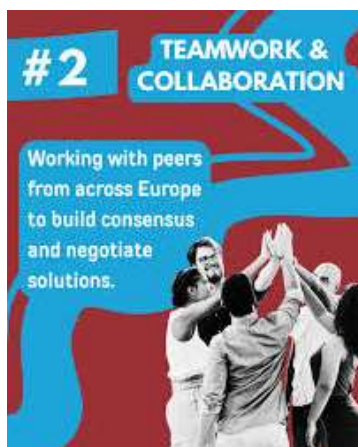
20 respostas



- **Corporate Sustainability:** How to manage companies that respect the planet and future generations.
- **Digital Transition:** The impact of Artificial Intelligence and technology on our future work.
- **Youth Employability:** The transition from university to the first quality job.
- **Ethical Entrepreneurship:** Creating businesses that generate profit while also having social impact.
- **Soft Skills:** The importance of emotional intelligence and human leadership in management.
- **Circular Economy:** Business models that eliminate waste.
- **Inclusion and Diversity:** Managing multicultural and equitable teams.
- **Financial Literacy:** The foundation for a strong European economy.
- **Mental Health in Organizations:** Well-being as a pillar of productivity.
- **Open Innovation:** Collaboration between companies, universities, and citizens.

YEYS

What are you going to learn...





The Grassroots View!

The **podcast** that brings you the pulse of society and explores the power of grassroots movements in shaping our world.

Hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), this podcast provides a platform for engaging discussions with inspiring individuals and organisations at the forefront of change.



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Main EESC accounts

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-economic-social-committee>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/eu_civilsociety/

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanEconomicAndSocialCommittee/>

X/Twitter: https://x.com/EU_EESC

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/eesc.bsky.social>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/EurEcoSocCommittee>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/people/202849617@N07/>

**Thank
You**