



EP4U Final Conference

Youth Perspectives on the Future of Europe

June 16
#EP4U

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Tom Chevalier
Sciences Po

Tom Chevalier is a leading expert on employment and social policy and EP4U Ambassador from France. As a researcher at Sciences Po, his work in EP4U focuses on raising awareness of European policies on the ground in France. Together with Tom, EP4U has organised a University Debate in Paris, France, as well as a High-School Talk in Rennes, and an interview on EU employment policy with Laïla Chaïbi MEP.

Michaela Dénešová is a PhD Candidate at the Institute of European Studies and International Relations, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University in Bratislava, and EP4U Ambassador from Slovakia. Her work in EP4U focuses on raising awareness of European policies on the ground in Slovakia. Together with Michaela, EP4U has organised a University Debate and High-School Talk in Bratislava, Slovakia, and an interview on EU equality policy with Vladimír Bilčík MEP.



Michaela Dénešová
Comenius University



Evelina Staykova
New Bulgarian University

Evelina Staykova is the Head of the Department of Political Sciences at New Bulgarian University, a leading expert on migration policy, and the EP4U Ambassador from Bulgaria. Her work in EP4U focuses on raising awareness of European policies on the ground in Bulgaria. Together with Evelina, EP4U has organised a University Debate and High-School Talk in Sofia, Bulgaria, and helped us conduct an interview with Radan Kanev MEP.

Emma Hakala is a Senior Researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, a leading expert on climate policy, and EP4U Ambassador in Finland. Her work in EP4U focuses on raising awareness of European policies on the ground in Finland. Together with Emma, EP4U has organised a University Debate and High-School Talk in Helsinki, Finland, and an interview on EU climate policy with Alviina Alametsä MEP.



Emma Hakala
Finnish Institute of International Affairs



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Stevan Đurić
University of Montenegro

Stevan Đurić is a student at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, and winner of the EP4U Student Contest in the "Employment & Social Policies" policy area. His winning paper, "Improving Youth Employment Opportunities in the Western Balkans in the Post-Pandemic World" is very well-researched, and provides concrete recommendations with a specific focus on youth employment opportunities in the Western Balkans.

Niccolò De Vita is a student at University College Dublin, and winner of the EP4U Student Contest in the "Non-Discrimination & Fundamental Rights" policy area. Niccolò's winning paper, "Caring for LGBTIQ+ People Across Europe" concretely assesses what are the limitations of the current European policies on LGBTIQ+ rights, especially considering the limited EU capacities on the issue, and provides concise and actionable recommendations.



Niccolò De Vita
University College Dubli



Lilybell Evergreen
The Open University

Lilybell Evergreen is a student at the Open University in the UK, and winner of the EP4U Student Contest in the "Climate & the Environment" policy area. Lilybell's winning paper, "Beyond Carbon Neutrality: Three Steps for the EU" focuses on objectives for Europe and the world beyond climate neutrality. Her optimistic viewpoint gives rise to original and comprehensive policy recommendations.

Aron Bosman is a student at Maastricht University, and winner of the EP4U Student Contest in the "Migration & Asylum" policy area. Aron's winning paper, "Addressing the EU's Migration Problem Through Circular Migration" gives concrete recommendations that are central to his argument. They are well defended, documented and actually applicable in the real world. The introduction provides the proper and nuanced context, and Aron presents a convincing case throughout.



Aron Bosman
Maastricht University



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Myrthe Bovendeaard is the European Parliamentary Assistant of Kim van Sparrentak, Dutch MEP from the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance. In her role in the European Parliament, she supports the MEP's work as Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand, as well as as a Substitute Member in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Myrthe Bovendeaard
European Parliament



Valentin Dupont works in the General Secretariat of the European Council. After 4 years of experience in a consulting firm dedicated to the implementation of European regulations in the financial sector, Valentin Dupont decided to work in the EU in order to take contribute to the achievement of the new climate ambitions. He holds a Master's degree in European public affairs from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. He joined the General Secretariat of the European Council, to work in the TREE Directorate specifically to assist the unit Climate and environment to tackle the negotiations of the fit for 55 package which contains unprecedented measures to lead the EU to climate neutrality.

Valentin Dupont
General Secretariat of the Council of the EU



David Prpa is a political administrator, who has been working in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union since 2015. The last three years he has been working in the Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs, in the field of Asylum, Migration and Borders. Some of the areas he has been working on include the European Union Agency for Asylum, the Asylum Procedures Regulation, the Screening Regulation, climate migrants, instrumentalisation of migrants and most recently, linked to the conflict in Ukraine, the Temporary Protection Directive and its implementation. He gains a Master's degree in European Legal Studies from the Université de Lorraine.

David Prpa
General Secretariat of the Council of the EU



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SPECIAL GUESTS



Ben Tallis
The Hertie School

Benjamin Tallis is a fellow at the Hertie School's Centre for International Security. He focuses on the international politics of European (in)security, particularly concerning borders, migration, the EU's foreign, security and neighbourhood policies and their relations to global order. He also explores the international politics of culture. Prior to joining the Centre for International Security in October 2021, Benjamin was Senior Researcher at the IFSH in Hamburg (2019-2020) and at the Institute of International Relations in Prague (2015-2019).

Mariam Khotenashvili is TEPSA's Executive Director. She is responsible for the daily management of the association. Her background combines research coordination, policy advocacy, project management and academic work. Her fields of expertise include EU foreign and development policies and in particular the European Neighbourhood Policy. Mariam holds Master's degrees in EU International Relations and Diplomacy (College of Europe) and in Conflict Studies and Human Rights (Utrecht University). Prior to joining TEPSA Mariam worked for Transparency International Georgia and ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy and undertook traineeships at the European Commission's DG DEVCO and at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Mariam Khotenashvili
TEPSA Executive Director



Lucia Mokrá
TEPSA Chairperson

Lucia Mokrá is the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her main research interests regard the wider concept of European citizenship, fundamental rights after the Lisbon Treaty, the principle of non-discrimination in EU law, humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Having served in the Board of TEPSA since November 2016, Prof. Mokrá was re-elected for a second three-year term as TEPSA Chairperson at TEPSA's Czech Pre-Presidency Conference, after having initially taken office since 1 July 2019, and after being elected nemine contradicente by TEPSA's General Assembly in June 2019.

Jim Cloos is a high-ranking European official of longstanding esteem. For many years he played a key role in preparing European Council meetings. Before his election as TEPSA Secretary-General, he served as Deputy Director General for General and Institutional Policy at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.



Jim Cloos
TEPSA Secretary-General



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Since January 2021, European Policies for You (EP4U) has implemented activities to raise awareness of EU policy-making and increase political participation of young European citizens. Building on university debates, high school talks, videos explainers engaging various MEPs, student paper competitions and social media campaigns, the Final Conference “Youth Perspectives on the Future of Europe” concludes the project by offering cross-cutting insights into four policy areas: climate and environment; employment and social policies; migration and asylum; and non-discrimination and protection of fundamental rights.



European Parliament



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