

Young Ideas for the
Future of Europe

MANIFESTO



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Education eDemocracy Energy
#EP2019 Engage Elections
European Elections #Future
Youth Participation Security
Digitalisation Climate
Youth Participation Climate
#YoungCitizens'FutureLabs
Reengage #FutureofEurope
Migration Solidarity Education
#EngageEU Energy Digitalisation #EP2019

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Based on the ideas of over 500 young citizens who participated in four #YoungCitizens'FutureLabs across the EU.



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Foreword

During the last years Europe and the European Union have had to deal with many challenges. The Eurozone crisis – its consequences can still be felt today –, the crises in the direct neighbourhood, the tensions in migration and asylum policies, shifts in the liberal world order or the observable return to the nation state culminating in the British decision to leave the EU. In such times the two most important things are to look ahead and to give young European citizens a say.

It is a great pleasure for me that, only a few weeks before the 2019 European elections, you are holding “*Young Ideas for the Future of Europe*” in your hands. This Manifesto for the future is the result of the long running youth-participation project *#EngagEU* which was developed and carried out by the Institut für Europäische Politik e.V. in Berlin together with its partner institutions Centre international de formation européenne in Nice, WiseEuropa in Warsaw and the Trans European Policy Studies Association in Brussels. Thanks to the co-funding by the European Commission through the “Europe for Citizens” Program, over 500 citizens out of more than 23 EU Member States and Western Balkan States were able to discuss, develop and write down their ideas and demands for the future of Europe during four *#YoungCitizens’FutureLabs*.

It is very impressive to see the range of challenges and policy areas identified and addressed by our young participants in the course of the Europe wide consultation process. Together with experts, nearly 60 astonishingly concrete ideas reflecting the realities of the life of young people were brought forward in highly committed debates. The policy areas in which the participants see an urgent necessity for decision-makers to act are environmental and foreign policy, the integration of migrants as well as strengthening European identity. You can get a closer look at the area-specific demands on the following pages of this Manifesto. Many more ideas and areas came up without

making it in the Manifesto, for example regarding health policy or the improvement of intra-European mobility. The young innovators want to start reducing food waste in schools by erecting bird houses to reuse old bread or through information campaigns in school canteens. The Interrail program should be enlarged by providing free tickets for all young European citizens and with an app through which young travellers can search for and also offer accommodation in the EU countries.

One overall demand regarding all the different policy areas is the early development of a positive picture of the EU and its advantages for the people and their personal life. Because of that many ideas point at measures in schools.

Beyond these diverse future ideas, the participants agree in the demand for more communication and information about the EU's role in the daily life of young citizens, more opportunities for education and more funding for mobility in a commonly lived Europe.

While flicking through the “Young Ideas for the Future of Europe” it becomes clear how intensive the young participants worked on fundamental issues regarding the future of the European Union and the upcoming European elections. Especially for the young citizens of Europe it is a matter of fact that the EU is an irreplaceable institution due to its capacity as a problem solver. This view is illustrated in the *#WhyVote statements* we have quoted in this manifesto. Via social media those very personal election appeals will encourage young Europeans to vote at the end of May 2019.



Now is the time where we should make young citizens voices and their demands and ideas heard:

In our #1stYoungCitizens'Convention in April 2019, the young rapporteurs of the project #EngagEU hand over their manifesto to the Federal President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier in order to call young citizens to use their right to vote. In September 2019 "Young Ideas for the Future of Europe" will be discussed with freshly elected Members of the European Parliament at the #2ndYoungCitizens'Convention in Brussels. We are already looking forward to seeing which ideas and demands will be found on the agenda of the next European Parliament in the new legislative period!

Last but not least, I want to thank our European project partners in France, Poland and Belgium for realising this unique project together. My thanks also go to my colleagues Jana Schubert and Fabian Weber for leading the consultation process, the drafting of the manifesto and for communicating the project activities through all channels. For their manifold contributions in drafting the manifesto I want to express my gratitude to Johannes Hofmann, Nicola Rebmann and Gustav Spät.

My last thanks go to the rapporteurs and all the participants of #EngagEU for their enthusiastic contributions and participation in our project and for the development of these visionary ideas collected in this future manifesto.

I wish you and all the readers an interesting time while reading through the ideas and demands and invite you to share and discuss your thoughts with the authors!

Dr. Funda Tekin

Director, Institut für Europäische Politik e.V., Berlin



#WhyVote

Engaging in the EU's future development starts with participating in the EP elections. **I want a pro-European and future-oriented parliament** which is able to tackle and to deal with our mutual European problems!

Gustav Spät
German

#EngagEU



#WhyVote

I vote because I want to be **an active citizen** of Europe who's responsible for the decisions that are made by the European politicians. Also, because I believe that I, as an individual, can have an **impact on events that happen in my home**, Europe, right here right now. I vote because I care.

Ewa Nieweglowski
Poland

#EngagEU

“
#WhyIVote



A. Przeworski defined democracy as "a system in which parties lose elections" – as there are some parties that I rather see win than lose, **I will seize the opportunity to express myself** by voting.

Sara Kibler
French

#EngagEU

“
#WhyIVote



The EU is not only the future, it is the **only future** we have.

Andreas Stahlmann
German

#EngagEU

Manifesto

1. Preamble

Young citizens across Europe, motivated by the will to increase youth participation in decision-making processes ahead of the European elections in 2019, came together and formulated this manifesto.

We are promoting the concept of an active European Citizenship so that people can participate in a pan-European public sphere with the will of shaping a common future.

We are promoting environment-friendly ways of life to achieve a sustainable future.

We are promoting intercultural dialogue across Europe in order to live an inclusive future.

We are promoting the European Union as a normative power in order to encourage a more cooperative and safer future.

The future lies ahead of us.

Let us build this future together.



2. EUROPEAN IDENTITY

European Integration is a project which can only succeed if widely accepted by the people. The people's identification with this project is crucial and so it is essential for us to start fostering a shared European identity in schools. Albeit respecting the exclusive competence of the member states in education policy, we call upon the European Union to support the member states in carrying out actions promoting the European project among pupils. We also identified many projects that help animate European integration by promoting everyday exchange experiences for all EU citizens. We ask national as well as European decision-makers for their active support for these initiatives.



2.1. Increase the visibility of the EU

The European Union lacks visibility in the life of common people. In the mind of many citizens, the EU is an abstract entity that is perceived only as a source of problems or as a convenient scapegoat. We want citizens to be fully aware of the benefits and rights of being a European and to engage in a pan-European public sphere creating a common basis for dialogue and discussion.

To achieve this, we propose a common **European layout for national ID cards**. Furthermore, we propose the funding of a joint **European Television Network**, which shall operate

similar to already existing TV networks such as ARTE, providing news, culture and entertainment for all European citizens from a European point of view and made available in all official EU languages.

If we want people to identify as European Citizens, we need to make Europe visible in their everyday lives and we have to create a common basis for dialogue.

2.2. Foster mobility and exchange

We want young people to become responsible, respectful and open-minded European citizens. Mobility and exchange is fundamental to achieving this goal. For this reason, we criticize that the access to mobility programmes and exchange services is far too limited to an unsatisfactory number of people. This makes these programmes elitist and excludes many people from enjoying the benefits of these programmes.

Every interested citizen should be able to participate in these programmes. We demand **full scholarships for all Erasmus+ participants** (including transportation). With a view to increasing the mobility of young people, we also demand the extension of the Erasmus+ framework to school education. We demand the EU support the member states in enabling the participation of **secondary level pupils in mid-term** (3 months) or **long-term** (up to one school year) **exchange programmes**. The EU should support the member states by establishing a platform for Erasmus+ learning agreements, thereby ensuring the efficiency and usefulness of the exchange.

In order to get young people more deeply engaged in European society, we demand to add a **mandatory service to the European Solidarity Corps**, which is the new European Union initiative aiming to create opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects that benefit communities across Europe. This mandatory service should

last at least 6 months, maximum 12 months. Service outside the own home country will enjoy a higher level of payment offering an incentive to work in and get to know a different EU country.

2.3. Establish European Project Weeks

The very few current didactic models on teaching the European Union and its decision-making processes in schools fail to allow the pupils to relate the EU to their daily lives. For many pupils, the European Union is barely relevant. We want secondary-level pupils to realize the opportunities and chances the European Union offers to young people.

To achieve this, we ask the member states to jointly work on the implementation of **European Project Weeks** (EPW). Its long-term objective is to allow students to build up an emotional connection to the EU, to inform them about the Union and to encourage them to actively participate in the European project. The projects include workshops on topics such as languages, cultures and mobility. In addition, inspirational figures such as Members of the European Parliament or book authors may be invited to the EPW.

The European Project Weeks shall take place in all schools and shall be organised by either an Erasmus+ coordinator, who is already teaching at the school, another interested teacher, or a volunteer in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. To prepare the persons in charge of the EPW, we propose to organise weekend workshops in European capitals to exchange best-practice concepts and to foster mutual learning and understanding.

To finance the EPW, there shall be an uncomplicated, unbureaucratic method of applying for small funds within the next Erasmus+ framework.

In a nutshell - we demand:

- To create an **European layout for national ID cards**;
- The funding of a joint **European Television Network** providing news, culture and entertainment from an European perspective;
- The introduction of a mandatory service within the **European Solidarity Corps**;
- Full **funding for all ERASMUS+ opportunities**;
- The establishment of an **EU exchange programme** for secondary level pupils;
- To implement **European Project Weeks (EPW)** in order to strengthen the identification with and the participation in the European project.

By that, we want to strengthen the European Citizenship in order to build our common future.





3. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A sustainable environment is the basic precondition for the life of future generations on earth. Due to promises made in the past and also its vast capabilities, the European Union must live up to expectations and lead the way towards a sustainable future for both its citizens and the international community. We demand that the decision-makers in charge start to act now. We have identified three areas and have developed ideas which can help to combat the consequences of climate change.

3.1. Environmental Education (EE) for a sustainable future

We are critical of the distressing lack of factual knowledge on existing and pressing environmental issues. It is necessary to familiarize young citizens with key knowledge on topics such as climate change, sustainable ways of organizing their lives, recycling and the circular economy. The extent of environmental problems the European Union faces must be reflected in school curricula.

As a consequence, the European Commission should encourage member states to set up a class called **“Environmental Education” in primary and secondary schools** through which pupils are provided with basic education on environmental topics.

The EU should support the member states' actions by establishing a common European pool of teaching material for all ages (work-sheets, didactic figures and data, documentaries, project-ideas, simulations etc.). The member states shall be actively invited to integrate these materials into their national school curricula.

3.2. Technology-based solution to combat climate change

In the 2030 climate and energy framework, the European Union targets to improve its energy efficiency by at least 32.5 percent and cut greenhouse gas emissions by percent compared to 1990. Considering these ambitions, it is very important to provide adequate **funding for research on and development of technology-based solutions** in the research and innovation section of the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework. In order to close the gap between goals and reality, science and industries must be enabled and encouraged to come together and cooperate. We therefore urge the European Union to actively promote **cross-European coordination of such collaborative projects**. This may be achieved by extending the mandate of the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) to proactively match researchers and industries.

3.3. Development of a Common European Refund System (CEReS)

In 2016, every European citizen generated about 480 kg of municipal waste. We have to significantly reduce this quantity in order to provide future generations with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to achieve this, the European Union should make use of existing, proven concepts of circular economy such as the bottle refund system in Germany. Adapting such concepts could be a lot cheaper, more simple and faster than developing entirely new solutions. We therefore call upon the European institutions to identify best-practice examples regarding refund systems for plastic bottles, batteries, bags, food waste etc. and subsequently cooperate with companies, municipal actors and environmental non-governmental organisations (NGO) to **develop a common European Refund System (CEReS)**.

In a nutshell - **we demand:**

- To implement the **subject „Environmental Education“** in primary and secondary schools based on a common European pool of teaching material;
- To provide adequate funding in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework for research on and the **development of technology-based solutions** to combat climate change;
- To step up CORDIS to facilitate the **cooperation of science and industries**;
- To introduce a **common European Refund System** (CEReS) based on the adaption of already existing concepts of circular economy.

By that, we want to take concrete steps towards a sustainable future.

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4. INTEGRATION POLICY

Human mobility will continue to be an inherent feature of our century. Therefore, we should not only focus on how to manage migration flows, but also on how to integrate migrants and asylum-seekers in our societies. With a view to improving social cohesion in the long run and to tackling racism and discrimination, we urge the EU to continue to work for a better integration of migrants. This includes both insisting on respect for the values and culture of the European Union as well as improving the intercultural awareness of locals and their understanding for the culture of migrants and asylum-seekers. To achieve this, we propose three ideas promoting a positive approach to diversity that avoids isolation and supports inclusion.



4.1. The EU as a knowledge broker for best integration practices

As a union of values, the EU must guarantee human dignity and fundamental rights of all third-country nationals on its territory, even more so in times when prejudice and xenophobia are on the rise.

Many efforts have already been made since 2016 to facilitate the integration of migrants and asylum-seekers in the European Union. Yet, the member states have not yet reached agreement on an inclusive approach towards migration and asylum policy. As member states often face similar problems with regard to integration, we see the **European Union as a knowledge broker for the facilitation of sharing best local and national practices** that have been proven successful.

4.2. Improving social cohesion through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning

Aiming to encourage intercultural and interreligious dialogues between migrants, asylum-seekers and locals, we propose the creation of regional **intercultural centres as platforms for exchange and solidarity**. Such centres may provide buddy programmes, language courses, and other non-formal education.

The **buddy programmes** would allow migrants and asylum-seekers to engage in an exchange with local buddies. An online platform would help match them. In addition, migrants who have lived in the host country for some years already would be encouraged to become buddies themselves and to share their integration experiences with new arrivals.

The intercultural centres should provide the opportunity to learn different **European languages** (at least English and the language of the host country) as well as the language of the migrants' country of origin for the locals.

Finally, the intercultural centres may offer **non-formal education**, encourage cultural exchanges and raise intercultural awareness. For example, this could include activities such as debates on fundamental rights like the freedom of speech and religion or the right to equality and non-discrimination in the European Union, or traditional dance lessons and other forms of bringing people together through art.

Already existing local programmes (e.g. “Start with a friend” in Berlin) or best-practice examples funded under the framework of Creative Europe (“The sound routes. Notes for getting closer”) may serve as a starting point for organizing intercultural dialogues. The intercultural centres of the different regions should be interconnected and accessible for all. Therefore, we call upon local and regional actors to cooperate with the Committee of the Regions and to make use of the European networks of cities and regions.

4.3. Improving the integration into higher education

As education is an important tool for integration, we propose the creation of a **“test semester”** at universities for migrants and asylum-seekers who want to start or to continue studying in their host country. This could be funded by Creative Europe or the Erasmus+ programme and take the form of a “semester on trial” during which the students have to pass about 15 to 20 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

This would allow migrants and asylum-seekers whose university entrance qualification is not formally recognized to prove their capability to pursue university studies. It would furthermore allow them to compare academic levels between universities and to get acquainted with academic methods and languages of their host country. Ultimately, this measure would facilitate the integration into the host country’s job market.



In a nutshell - **we demand:**

- The establishment of **regional intercultural centres** as a hub to foster social cohesion by providing:
 - A **buddy programme** to connect newly arrived migrants with locals and well-integrated migrants;
 - **Language courses** in order to learn English and the language of the host country;
 - The **non-formal education** to encourage cultural exchange.
- Furthermore, we propose the creation of a “**test semester**” **for migrants** at universities.

By that, we want to combat isolation, prejudices and xenophobia in order to create an inclusive future.



5. FOREIGN POLICY

As a global power and the world's largest trading bloc, the EU has the opportunity to shape the international arena and global trade practices. Against this backdrop, we expect the European Union and its decision-makers to always operate according to the EU's fundamental values – democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights – and to monitor its compliance both in the member states and their relations with partners. This is all the more important given the challenges we face today, some of which threaten our liberal order.

5.1. Strengthen the EU norms and values: monitoring capacity for trade relations

Since the 1990s, the European Union has included Human Rights clauses in economic and cooperation agreements with third countries. These clauses allow the Union to correctly adopt “appropriate measures” in the case of violation of human rights or democratic principles from the other party's side. However, there is no institution in charge of overseeing the application and performance of such clauses.



We therefore propose to create a **monitoring instance** in the form of an independent institution in order to ensure that the violation of the above mentioned clauses are taken seriously. It therefore should be equipped with the mandate of overseeing the implementation of the agreed provisions regarding norms, standards and values. Ultimately, in case of severe and/or continuous violations of the comprehensive clauses, the monitoring instance would give advice to the European Commission on how to proceed regarding said violations.

5.2. Information security – strengthen the East Stratcom Task Force

In the 21st century, the issue of information security is as important as military, economic and energy security. For years the European Union and its Member States have been affected by organised disinformation efforts spreading false narratives with the goal of damaging the reputation of and the trust in the Union as well as undermining national political and social stability. The parties engaged in such actions base their ideas extremism, authoritarianism, violence and corruption – ideas that are in contradiction with the principles of the EU.

According to available evidence, these malign actions can be attributed predominantly to the Russian Federation, more precisely its state-owned media outlets as well as suspicious websites and social media accounts. They were particularly visible during critical moments such as the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea, the 2016 Brexit referendum, and the 2017 French elections. Such recent developments accompanied by general distrust in the media give external players (not only Russia but also other state actors and organised groups) an opportunity to interfere with the democratic mechanisms of the EU and poses a grave threat to its fundamental values.

In 2015 the High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini established the East Strategic Communication Task Force (East StratCom Task Force) – an institution with the goal of countering false narratives about the European Union spread

by malign state and non-state actors. Although its budget has been increased from 1.1 million Euro in 2018 to 3 million Euro in 2019, the very limited funding makes it impossible for the Task Force to effectively counter organised disinformation efforts and convey its message to the public.

We think the **East StratCom Task Force should be transformed into an institution equipped with a size and funding** (e.g. in the in the next Multiannual Financial Framework) that would allow for an effective fight against disinformation. It should be able to debunk lies and successfully present the truth to the public. For this reason it needs to employ not only social and political scientists but also journalists, translators, experts of information technology and social media staff. The scope of action of the Task Force should also be extended: it should be capable of preventing disinformation coming not only from Russia, but also from other states and non-state actors (e.g. extremist political or religious movements). We therefore propose to modify its name to “StratCom Task Force”. Finally, the Task Force should also be responsible for promoting fact-checking and conscious Internet use, e.g. by providing certified teaching material for European educators who would then work on the topic with their students.



5.3. Harmonization of military procurement

Current and future security challenges do not stop at national borders. Phenomena such as terrorism, cyber security, energy or climate security require a common strategy of all European Union member states. In view of the lack of certainty surrounding NATO commitments or the war in the Eastern part of Ukraine, the capacity to defend ourselves from any potential threat becomes more than urgent.

We firmly believe that the first step towards a safer Union must be done through the **harmonization of military procurement**. A unified approach towards satisfying the demands of member states' national armed forces will be crucial in creating efficient supply chains as well as military

logistic networks delivering high quality end products exactly where it is needed the most, on time.

The European Union has already made great efforts in promoting the harmonization of armament standards and procurement procedures in the framework of several institutions like the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). We propose to facilitate the cooperation and information exchange between the involved institutions and to especially strengthen the **cooperation with the European Commission**. We consider the integration of more industrial stakeholders and defence firms a crucial factor, since the greatest impact can be achieved on the supply side.

Furthermore, member states should have to incorporate the issue of harmonization in the management practices of their projects in order to receive funding from the European Defence Fund (EDF). We propose to integrate this condition into PESCO.



In a nutshell - **we demand:**

- A **monitoring capacity** overseeing the exercising of the clauses in trade agreements considering the EU norms and values;
- To raise the **funding for the EU East StratCom Task Force** and extend its mandate also to non-eastern regions;
- To facilitate the harmonization of military procurement of EU member states;
- To integrate into PESCO the condition to **strive for harmonization** in order to receive funding from the European Defence Fund.

By that, we want the EU to always operate according to its fundamental values in order to encourage a cooperative and safer future.

6. Conclusion

We invite the young people of Europe and indeed every European, to become actively engaged in voicing their ideas and wishes for the future of Europe.

The upcoming elections are of crucial importance for the success of the European project. To political parties and candidates we say: Our votes, the votes of the youth, matter. Therefore, we call upon you to consider our proposals written down in this Manifesto.

Let's work on the future ahead of us. It is the only future we have got.



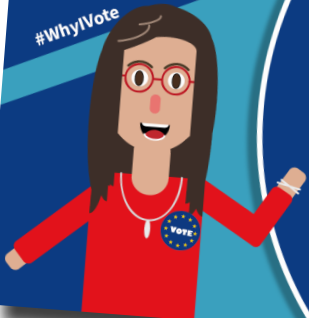
#WhyIVote



I want more Europe. A Europe that leads as a global governor and assumes **its normative responsibilities**. A Europe that protects our planet, that focuses on education and on the **celebration of our differences**.

Carolina de Albuquerque #EngagEU
French

#WhyIVote



Taking into account the complexity of current challenges, we see that issues don't stop at national borders. Therefore the **EU is without any alternative**. I firmly believe in the EU as a future of unity, diversity and peace.

Nicola Rebmann #EngagEU
German



The next European elections in May 2019 will be held in the context of rising populism, protectionism and nationalistic tendencies in Europe. Furthermore, since the first direct Parliament elections 40 years ago, the constantly decreasing turnouts in the European Elections seem to confirm the perceived gap between European citizens and EU decision-making. Pro-Europeans face an increasing number of growing voices against the European project.

With the United Kingdom, an EU member state for the first time has opted to leave the Union following the decision of the British people in a referendum. In the aftermath of the very close result it soon became clear that a majority of the young citizens, who are also part of the generation Erasmus, think positively about the European Union but were not encouraged to vote in the end. This is only one example to emphasize the need to motivate, encourage and enable the young citizens for participating actively in the political processes.

Also Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, has invited the EU citizens to actively participate in Europe-wide civic dialogues regarding the future of the European Union before the elections in 2019. But what do the young people actually think and which ideas, claims and visions do they have? Which topics have to be discussed regarding the young generation and their interests in the next parliamentary term? What could improve the identification with the European Union and what could bring the young people of all the different EU member states closer together?

With the project #EngagEU the Institut für Europäische Politik and its project partners in France, Centre international

de formation européenne, Poland, WiseEuropa, and Brussels, the Europe-wide Trans European Policy Studies Association, organized a several months lasting collection and consultation process for ideas regarding the future of the European Union. Innovative digital tools have been used in order to enhance people's participation during and after the idea development process.

Young Citizens from all around Europe were invited to discuss youth relevant topics and ideas in four #YoungCitizens'FutureLabs aiming to lending them a strong and loud voice in the election campaign in the run-up to the elections in 2019. After this consultation process, the collected ideas and demands are discussed at #YoungCitizens'Conventions with a broad public and also with decision makers. The developed ideas are summarised in this Manifesto which will be addressed to the new elected Members of European Parliament after the elections.

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#WhyIVote



Do you want to make a positive impact? **Voting gives you that chance!** I am convinced that my power is in my vote and I want to make sure that **my voice is heard in these elections.** This is our Europe, so let's take the time to help decide what's best for us!

Sophia Klumpp
German

#EngagEU

“

#WhyIVote



Forstering the EUs enlargement means **pushing for a deeper integration.** Therefore I strive for an ever closer and inclusive Europe, able of providing mutual tightns and opportunities to everyone.

Klajdi Kaziu
Albania

#EngagEU

#WhyIVote



Undoubtedly, **the EU is not perfect**. But not to vote or to vote for parties with an extreme aversion to the EU is not an option – it would be fatal for all of us. **We can make better decisions together** than we can on our own.

Betül T.
German



