

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large Gothic church with a prominent spire and a clock face. In the foreground, there is a statue of a figure on horseback. The image is partially overlaid with a large, semi-transparent purple circle.

EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Y VOTE CONVENTION
CLUJ-NAPOCA

RESULTS BOOKLET



This event is part of the "My Europe, My Say" Project and is organized with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

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Dear reader,

Almost five years ago, I attended my very first event with a youth NGO – a Y Vote Convention about Education & Mobility in Kraków, Poland. A rookie by then, I had no idea if my input would be of any value, but I knew that this topic is something that is dear to me, and something I would like to improve.



Years later, society has an even faster pace, the world is constantly changing, but I would much rather see this as an opportunity than a threat. This event was a contribution to make our continent a little bit better. We have shared knowledge and discussed about the European Institutions, about initiatives regarding Employment & Entrepreneurship and we have come up with great recommendations.

But most of all, it has once again proven me what I thought before. We all come from a very diverse continent, but most of share a common goal: To make Europe a better place, and to have young people being heard.

I would like to thank my team, AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca, the Comité Directeur and especially Desireé for the amazing collaboration and for making this a great experience for me!



Philipp Blum

Project Manager
Y Vote Project

Dear reader,

As the current coordinator of the Youth Development Working Group of AEGEE-Europe, we were very happy to collaborate on this Convention on Employment and Entrepreneurship. As a young person, AEGEE member or not, youth can contribute with their own experiences, ideas, knowledge, motivation and creativity to make Europe stronger and a better place. We encouraged young people to be an active citizen in their own city and/or country or beyond.



As a student or as young professional many young people face difficulties during their transition period from student to employee. During this convention the participants learned more about the EU institution and their functioning, as well as the importance and meaning of Employment and Entrepreneurship for each and everyone of us the EU is currently doing regarding our topic, the participants got the chance to write what they wish the EU to do in the form of recommendations, which can be found in this booklet.

I am really happy with the recommendations which were written by our participants, and would like to thank them for their energy, motivation, ideas and active participation. I would also like to thank AEGEE-Cluj-Napoca and the Y Vote team for organizing this convention. Last but not least, a huge thank you to Philipp for being an amazing co-trainer and Project Manager, it was a pleasure to work together!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Desiree van Langen".

Desiree van Langen

Content Manager
Coordinator Youth Development Working Group 2018-2019

The Convention

As a project, want to encourage young people to make informed choices at the European Parliament elections and learn more about topics that are relevant for young Europeans. Therefore we organise conventions along the topics of the EU Youth Agenda where participants learn about the functioning of the EU and discuss how to become active citizens. In these events, the goal is to

1. Learn about the EU institutions with a strong focus on the European Parliament, voting in the European elections, one of the EU youth agenda topics and its role in the European Union, youth policy in the EU with the focus on structured dialogue.
2. Learn about the current work of the EU and its competences in the respective topic and discuss these issues with policy makers.
3. Draft recommendations in the form of a Youth Agenda that will be brought to policy makers.



After digging into the functioning of the European Union, as well as various sessions about Entrepreneurship & Employment, the next day of sessions was dedicated to the brainstorming and formulation of the participants' recommendations about this very topic. After gathering and grouping ideas, participants gathered in groups to formulate their ideas for a better Europe.

The recommendations are later brought to our final conference in April 2019, which will happen in Torino, Italy. Together with other NGOs and participants from all over the continent, we will gather all recommendations from all conventions into one Youth Agenda for Europe.

In the following pages, you can find a wrap-up of our actions!

Active Citizenship

Every inhabitant of one of the 28 EU countries is an EU citizen. Most of all citizens are not active in society. This workshop will teach the meaning and importance of being an active citizen and the structure of the decision-making process in a political debate.

As introduction session to the event, we did three rounds of a so-called [fishbowl discussion](#). The people in the inner circle were allowed to speak, the others had to be silent. Interesting and heated discussions emerged about the following topics:

Should the voting age be (lowered to) 16 years old?

Result: Yes, if the civic education in schools is improved

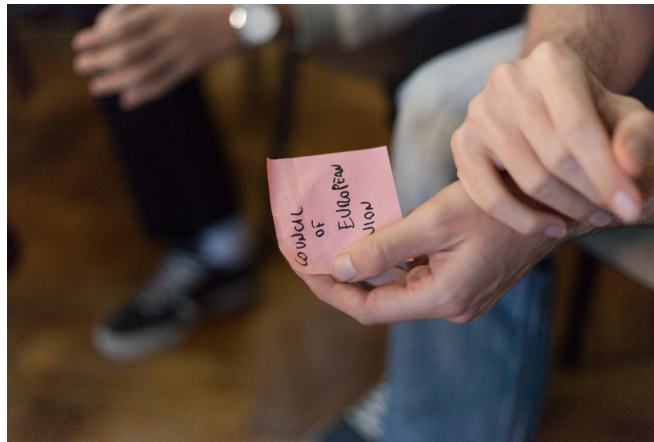
Should you be able to run for office at the voting age?

Result: Yes, one should not be judged by only one attribute (age, gender, etc.)

Should people in prison have voting rights?

Result: Yes

After the session, we discussed how these rules affect your behaviour and feelings - what if you're not allowed to speak? What if you can end a discussion with one simple action?



Introduction to the EU institutions

The European Union with its history and institutions is a complex system that we all heard about somehow, but we need to understand a little in order to really discuss its influence. After all, the EU institutions are the European peoples' institutions. In these sessions, participants learned about the history of the European Union, 4 European Institutions and their competences as well as the competences of the EU vs. the member states.

After discussing the [division of competences](#), we also took a look at what we as young people would like to see. Turns out - not a lot was changed: Environment was put as exclusive competence and Education was moved to shared competence.

Introduction to Employment & Entrepreneurship

One of the topics of the EU Youth Strategy is Employment and Entrepreneurship. Most EU citizens don't know the definitions and meanings of these terms. Together with participants, we discussed various definitions, such as unemployment rate, economic inactive people, entrepreneurship and the valley of death.

Secondly, we needed to see who is involved in the topic and who it would affect. The participants mentioned the following stakeholders:

- All of us
- Politicians and policymakers
- Companies
- Educational systems
- Governmental institutions
- (Local) Community
- Banks and the financial industry
- Foreign countries
- Healthcare systems
- Families

Furthermore, the personal and societal effects of unemployment are often unknown. With the input of the participants, the following list of effects on society has been made:

- Insecurity, instability and high costs for security
- poverty and high homeless rates
- Decrease of consumption and economic welfare
- Migration (both in and outside the country)
- Discrimination and social exclusion
- Lack of innovation
- Physical and mental health problems
- Living longer with your family and being less independent
- Having outdated skills
- Lack of trust in politics
- Gap in society and between different societal groups



After learning the basic definitions and stakeholders, we looked into automatisisation, digitalisation and [21st Century Skills](#). Also, we went through several EU initiatives on the topic, with a focus on the Youth Guarantee and Erasmus For Entrepreneurs. We dug into the history of these programs, what they include and where to find more information. We would like to thank Mauro Bellani for sharing his first-hand experience on Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs with us.

Recommendations

Youth Employment rates differ greatly among the EU countries. As members of AEGEE we are concerned about the future of young people regarding their employment. Young people are living in a fast changing world which influences their employability, not only affecting individuals but also society and Europe as a whole. In a changing world, 21st century skills and entrepreneurship will become more and more important.

Existing initiatives and programs which aim to promote and increase employment and entrepreneurship are not very well-known. We see the need of the EU to take action to further promote employment and entrepreneurship and to prepare young people for their future in the labour market or as an entrepreneur.

Therefore we, the participants of the Y Vote Convention about Entrepreneurship & Employment, propose the following recommendations:

1. Promotion of existing programs

We strongly encourage the EU to create a common transversal platform which connects all existing EU programmes, in order to increase the visibility and unify the application process.

2. Banning unpaid internships

We strongly encourage the EU to ban unpaid non-compulsory internships, to make them accessible for all young people, regardless of their social, economic and educational background.

3. Skills certificates

We strongly encourage the EU to provide language and soft skill certificates for the youth participating in EU programmes in order to improve trans-national recognition of their skills.

4. Start-up program

We strongly encourage the EU to launch a new Startup-Programme in form of a specific online and personal support tool, so young entrepreneurs can find strategic, legal and financial advice by experts.

Drafted by Mauro Bellani, Benjamin Battke, Daniel Maita, Dina Gugeshashvili, Grützner Fabian, Alessandro Visconti, Javier Godoy, Alberto Perea Pérez, Dora Besenyeyi & Violeta Vasile.

A meeting with Iuliu Winkler



One of the main sessions of this convention was a session in which participants got the opportunity to listen to a policy maker, to ask questions and share their ideas and opinions.

We were very happy to welcome Mister Iuliu Winkler to one of our sessions during this Convention. Mister Winkler is a Romanian Member of the European Parliament (MEP). He joined one of our sessions on Saturday to talk about the EU, being an MEP and our recommendations. For two hours, participants presented ideas, asked questions and discussed issues that were close to their heart.

“Be bold, be curious, think for yourself, participate, and of course: vote”

- Iuliu Winkler

We would like to thank mister Winkler for his visit to our convention. We found it very interesting to learn more about being an MEP and we were grateful for the comments and feedback on the drafted recommendations!

Thumbs up for voting



We did not only want participants to stay in a safe bubble, so during a beautiful day in Cluj-Napoca, we asked everyone to go on the street and get a “Thumbs up for voting”.

The action not only produced a beautiful result of thumbs (including an adorable baby), it also takes fears from people to go and approach people on the street, improves pitching skills and allows for some fresh air.

In addition to this street action, participants themselves drafted ideas for everyone to implement, which will later be available on our [homepage](#) for local actions!

Results in numbers

8

Participants

4

Days

24

Years old (on average)

100%

Members of AEGEE

82.5%

Have had the chance to vote

100%

Of these people did vote

69%

is the average increase in knowledge about the EU Institutions.

100% of participants...

...(strongly) agree that the political institutions of the EU are important for young people.

...(strongly) agree that participation is important and can change outcomes.

...say that our workshops can help increase ones participation.

...see the importance see and understand the importance on an individual and societal level of Employment & Entrepreneurship.

...would recommend a Y Vote Convention to a friend.

Y Vote

Y Vote is a Europe wide campaign designed to encourage young citizens to make informed choices in the European Parliament elections 2019. This will be reached by improving and developing the knowledge and skills of young people about the elections and European institutions. We, the Y Vote core team, aim at empowering and motivating young people to participate in society and become involved in democratic processes. These actions will tackle the current low understanding of and information on European institutions, mistrust and apathy and the low voter turnout, especially among young people. The project has previously been organised for the 2009 and 2014 European Parliament elections.

We are an AEGEE-Europe project which is supported by various [partners](#), such as

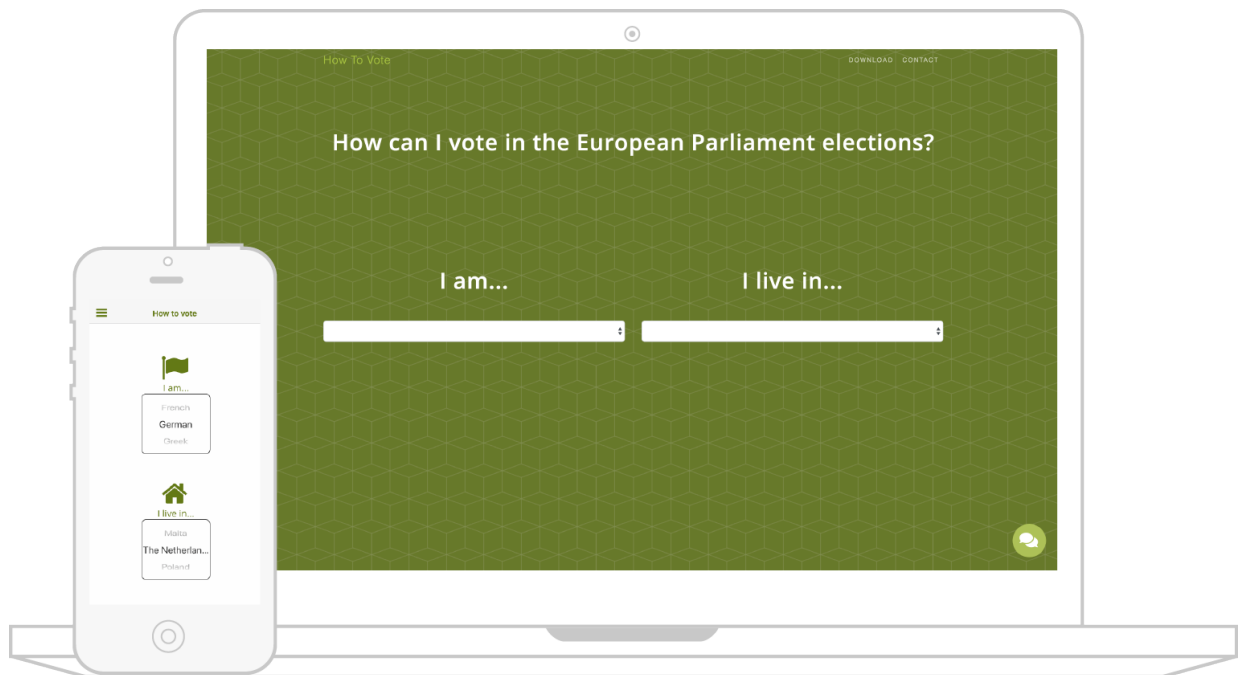
- EDUOpinions
- The European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- Young European Federalists (JEF)
- Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
- European Movement International (EMI)
- This Time I'm Voting – The official campaign of the European Parliament
- The European Parliament
- POLIS 180
- #MEGACampaign by the European Civic Forum
- Eyes on Europe

www.yvote.eu

AEGEE-Europe

Founded in 1985, the European Students' Forum, „Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe“ by full name, is now one of the largest interdisciplinary student associations of the continent. It is a voluntary, non-profit organization that operates without being linked to any political party. AEGEE strives for a democratic, diverse and borderless Europe, which is socially, economically and politically integrated, and values the participation of young people in its construction and development. AEGEE empowers students and young people in Europe to take an active role in society. It creates a space for dialogue and learning opportunities as well as acts as their representative towards decision-makers. Moreover, AEGEE strengthens mutual understanding and brings Europe closer to young people.

www.aegee.org



I'm an Italian living in Brussels, how do I vote?

This question – or at least in a similar way – will come to the minds of many European Union citizens. The root of the problem is that every member state sets their own regulations for the elections and therefore the conditions vary immensely.

We believe that **voting should be easy.**

For this reason, we have created the “How to Vote” app. By choosing your nationality and country of residence, you will get an overview of the specific regulations you will face for the upcoming elections. Who is eligible to vote? How does the registration process work? What ways of voting from abroad do you have? If you decide to vote in your country of residence, which criteria do you need to fulfil?

Our app is now available on any device. It can either be downloaded for iOS in the App Store, for Android in the Play Store or accessed online at

www.howtovote.eu



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Y VOTE CONVENTION ON EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA

WWW.YVOTE.EU
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