

Y VOTE 2024

RESULTS BOOKLET

yvote



Dear reader,

When we embarked on this journey in March 2023, our vision was clear: to carry forward the legacy of Y Vote and countless youth-led campaigns by striving to **#develop** **#empower** and **#involve** young people in the 2024 European Elections. Now, nearly two years later, we are proud not only to have helped young voters make informed choices but also to have strengthened their capacity to become changemakers and mobilise others in the democratic process.

Y Vote 2024 engaged over **900 local and international participants** in **20 countries**, through **35 local actions and European events**, and reached approximately **64k youth** online, with more than **87k views** on our online campaign content. This impact was possible due to the dedication of our amazing team of young volunteers from all over Europe, who committed to amplifying the voice of young voters and reminding decision-makers of the need to address youth issues in policymaking. While the voter turnout in the 2024 European Elections remained similar to 2019, we are grateful to have sparked debates and inspired young people to see the value of their involvement in democracy. We've remained committed to increasing youth participation, and to equipping young people with the tools and knowledge to engage meaningfully at every level of the democratic process.

With this **Results Booklet** we're excited to share some of these efforts and achievements and celebrate everyone who helped make it possible. We also want to express our gratitude to all AEGEE Network members, Y Vote Ambassadors, partners, former Y Vote members, and the young people who joined in our activities, shared our content and voiced their opinions throughout the campaign. Thank you for being part of this journey with us! Without you, this wouldn't have been possible.



Florina-Marieta Neagu
Y Vote Project Manager

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OUR AGENDA FOR 2024



*Y*vote IN A NUTSHELL

Y Vote is a project by and for young Europeans which aims to promote and encourage active engagement and initiative in the democratic processes. The project is organised by AEGEE-Europe and in 2024, it had its 4th edition, after successfully organising activities in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Our objective is to encourage young people to participate in the European Elections by not only exercising their right to vote but also getting involved in civic engagement activities to have a wider impact among fellow Europeans. Raising awareness about the EU and the role of the European Parliament, while offering young people opportunities to be meaningfully involved in the democratic process and their communities represents a cornerstone of Y Vote.

The project often includes an online campaign, local activities, European events and materials aimed at providing young voters with the necessary knowledge to make an informed choice in the upcoming elections and encourage democratic participation. Y Vote fosters debates on societal issues relevant to youth and the work of the European Parliament while connecting the former with decision-makers, experts and opinion leaders. The project also builds the capacity for young people and youth workers to foster active citizenship, and political engagement and strengthen their sense of initiative within their local communities.

DEVELOP	skills, knowledge and motivation of young Europeans to vote in an informed way.
EMPOWER	young people in Europe to take an active role in society.
INVOLVE	young people in the democratic processes by discussing current issues and interacting with policymakers.

OUR OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

OBJECTIVE 1 Young Europeans are informed about the European common values and the functioning of the European Union throughout the project.

OBJECTIVE 2 Increase the capacity building of young people and youth workers to foster active citizenship and strengthen their sense of initiative within their local communities.

OBJECTIVE 3 Young Europeans are informed about the importance of voting and they are engaged in the process of the European election 2024 through a Europe-wide online campaign.

OBJECTIVE 4 Foster youth participation and initiative in the policy-making process by raising awareness about young people's concerns.

OUR THEMATIC FOCUS

Fostering debates on significant issues for young people across Europe was one of our projects' cornerstones. For this reason, we chose 6 thematic topics to focus on in this edition.



the functioning of
the European
Union



fake news,
disinformation and
Euroscepticism



the importance of
voting and youth
political activism



women's
participation in the
decision-making
process



social inclusion and the
representation of
minority groups and
people with disabilities
in decision-making



youth engagement
in the democratic
process in the
European Union

A PROJECT OF AEGEE-EUROPE

In 2024, Y Vote had its fourth edition, after successfully organising activities in 2009, 2014 and 2019. The project has always been an initiative of members of AEGEE-Europe.



AEGEE (European Students' Forum) is one of the largest interdisciplinary student associations of the continent, which promotes a unified Europe, cross-border cooperation, communication, and integration among students and strives to create an open and tolerant society of tomorrow.

AEGEE is a voluntary non-profit organisation that operates without being linked to any political party. It was founded in 1985 and has not stopped growing since - currently, AEGEE is represented in almost 200 university cities, in 40 countries all around Europe.

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. You can learn more about it on www.aegEE.org.

FOLLOW OUR PROJECT ONLINE



www.yvote.eu



[@yvoteu](https://www.instagram.com/yvoteu)



[Y Vote](https://www.facebook.com/YVote)



[@YVoteEU](https://twitter.com/YVoteEU)



[Y Vote](https://www.linkedin.com/company/yvote)



[@yvoteu](https://www.tiktok.com/@yvoteu)



THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS



Y EUROPEAN ELECTIONS?

As the only directly elected transnational assembly, the European Parliament has a significant impact on the lives of Europeans and in advancing democracy, freedom of speech and fair elections across the globe. Since 1979, the turnout to the European Elections had constantly fallen until 2014. However, **in 2019**, the turnout increase was driven by a surge in participation by young people. The younger generation of voters across the EU, citizens under 25, and 25–39 year-olds, turned out to vote in greater numbers than before.

Similar to previous years, the Y Vote Project strived **in 2023-2024** to increase youth participation and bring Europe closer to young people. We strongly believed in the importance of empowering young Europeans to take an active role in their society and make informed choices when exercising their democratic rights. Therefore, we were motivated to make this edition even more impactful and to mobilise as many young people, if not even more, as in 2019, to participate in the 2024 European Elections.

THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The European Elections of 6-9 June 2024 marked the tenth parliamentary election since the first direct elections in 1979 and the first to be held post-Brexit. According to the European Parliament's 2024 post-electoral Eurobarometer and official election results, voter turnout remained consistent with 2019, with **51% of Europeans** participating. With a slight increase compared to the last elections, **2024 still saw the highest turnout in the last 30 years**. However, the turnout among young voters aged 15-24 dropped by 6%. Despite this decline, young people continue to express the most positive attitudes towards the European Union. These results highlight the ongoing need to mobilise and empower youth to engage actively in decision-making processes, not only at the European level but also within their local communities.

The background of the entire page is a blue-tinted photograph. The upper portion shows the intricate facade of a Gothic cathedral, likely St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with its many spires and ornate carvings. The lower portion shows a group of young people in a public square, holding a large white banner. The banner features a blue circular logo with a white 'e' and the text 'DEVELOP. EMPOWER. INVOLVE.' in blue capital letters. The overall composition is framed by white curved lines at the top and bottom.

BRINGING **EUROPE** CLOSER TO YOUTH



ALL TOGETHER FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

We kicked off our edition externally by joining the **All Together for European Elections 2024** event, organised by the European Parliament in Brussels, in October 2023. The event's primary aim was to empower participants from various sectors of society, including civil society, and youth-led and cultural organisations, and get ready for the upcoming EP elections campaign. This was also a great opportunity for future collaboration for the 160 organisations involved in the campaign. For Y Vote, this event was a powerful source of inspiration, reinforcing our commitment to motivating young people to vote and participate actively in their communities. The program featured motivational speeches, insightful presentations, interactive workshops, and thought-provoking discussions, providing plenty of opportunities to learn and share ideas with fellow participants.

The event also offered valuable insights into the together.eu platform, a crucial resource for the campaign. As preparations for the 2024 European Elections continued, we left Brussels more motivated than ever to contribute to the campaign and to empower young people to make informed choices at the ballot box, encourage active participation in democratic processes, and develop the skills needed to be changemakers.



EU ELECTIONS MOBILISATION WORKSHOP

Our team participated in a workshop organised by Generation Climate Europe, with CAN Europe, EEB, WWF, BirdLife and Transport & Environment, in March 2024, in Brussels. The event brought together participants to debate on crucial topics related to the 2024 European Elections, starting with a workshop on disinformation and misinformation, led by two European Parliament employees. Other sessions focused on the political context, which also helped us learn more about the European Green Deal and the impact on environmental policies of the rise of right-wing politicians.

The event also featured a session for group brainstorming and knowledge exchange on strategies to drive positive change in the upcoming European Parliament elections, providing an opportunity for us to connect, share insights, and discuss ideas for mobilising voters and advocating for climate-focused policies in our campaign.



PANEL DISCUSSION IN EINDHOVEN

At the **European Planning Meeting of AEGEE-Europe**, held in Eindhoven in February 2024, we organised a panel discussion titled "Bridging Divides: Transformative Dialogues on Polarisation in Europe." The event brought together distinguished speakers Ahmet Almis (Municipal Council of Eindhoven & Vorkmeer Foundation), Prof. Dr. Peter Achterberg (Tilburg University), and Jacques Giesbertz (Europe Direct) for an engaging conversation about the rise of polarisation in Europe. They explored its impact as a threat to democracy and shared insights on how youth can actively address this challenge, particularly in the context of the 2024 European Elections.



The panel was attended by over 40 international and local youth, creating a forum for discussion to deepen their understanding of polarisation and raising awareness about the elections. This panel was not just a discussion, it was a call to action for youth to take an active role in bridging divides and shaping the Europe they want to see.

EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK

During the European Youth Week, held from 11 to 14 April, we took Y Vote to the European Parliament. We started with a kick-off event of the **European Youth Week**, an initiative of the European Commission, and then the LevelUp! event organised by the European Youth Forum.

Under the slogan *"Voice your vision"*, the European Commission brought together hundreds of young people, most of them volunteers and members of youth-led organisations, in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament in Brussels. Every two years, the European Week celebrates engagement, participation and active citizenship among young people. The event was full of engaging sessions where we had the opportunity to exchange ideas with other like-minded youth and hear from members of similar initiatives such as ours. We joined the official Marketplace to promote our project and other AEGEE-Europe initiatives.



And the main reason we were there? We ended the day by organising a **Human Library event**, where we introduced the participants to our campaign and brought together 3 young people who are drivers of change in their community. Two of them helped us launch this edition of Y Vote, and the reunion was even more special as we brought together Y Vote to the European Parliament. **Teodora** (President of the National Youth Council of Moldova), **Stanislava** (member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe) and **Andreas** (Vice-President of the National Youth Forum in Bulgaria) joined our event as speakers and young activists who have been advocating for policy changes and strived to bring Europe closer to youth in their countries and beyond.



Brussels, March 2024

In another building of the European Quarter, our team has also joined the **LevelUp! event**, organised by the European Youth Forum. LevelUp! was a great opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the project and to connect with peers from across Europe, exchanging experiences, ideas, and aspirations around the (then-upcoming) European Elections. Engaging with young people's viewpoints during the sessions helped us gather valuable insights that shaped our future events. With more than a thousand people from all around Europe, we had the pleasure to sit, vote and experience the atmosphere in the Hemicycle where we had our opening and closing ceremonies. You can find out more about the event in [this article](#).



Joanna

It was an amazing event where we could take part in various workshops that helped us conduct our project even better! For me, it was an amazing experience and an opportunity to learn even more about our social media! I took part in e.g. how to find misleading content in the news and why our opinion and vote matter- which helped me with our social media (I used some material that they provided us with - websites etc. and I also used some tips that they showed us regarding social media!)

EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT BERLIN

In April 2024, this time in Germany, two of our team members, Zsófia and Aimar, along with Anna, the Communications Manager of the previous Y Vote edition, led an engaging workshop and pub quiz during the **European Youth Event (EYE) in Berlin**. This local edition of EYE, organised in cooperation with

the European Parliament, gathered young people from across Europe both in person and online to explore, experience, and shape Europe together.

Over 20 participants joined the workshop to discuss youth political engagement, drawing on examples of local actions organised by young people across Europe during the 2019 and 2024 European Elections (including Y Vote and other AEGEE-Europe projects). The workshop encouraged attendees to develop their own ideas for local initiatives that could spark debates on youth-relevant issues and promote voting and political activism in the 2024 elections.



Later in the day, over 40 youth joined our pub quiz, as a fun and interactive way for them to deepen their understanding of the European Union and its functioning, further empowering youth to engage in the democratic process. Together, these activities sought to bring the 2024 European Elections closer to young Europeans, inspiring them to actively contribute to their communities and the future of Europe.

WORKSHOPS AT STATUTORY EVENTS

Since its official launch in May 2023, Y Vote has actively participated in **three General Assemblies of AEGEE-Europe**, which were attended by hundreds of volunteers from all over Europe. We used these opportunities to present the project and engage young people in the lead-up to the 2024 European Elections, by presenting Y Vote during fairs and plenaries and organising workshops that attracted over 70 international participants.



In **Enschede, the Netherlands**, we marked one of our first milestones by signing the official contract with AEGEE-Europe. We also held a Progress Meeting, which served as a brainstorming session to gather ideas on topics that matter most to young people, especially in the context of the upcoming elections. Continuing our awareness-raising efforts, we delivered the online workshop *"Y European Parliament"* in the autumn of 2023, educating youth about the functioning of European institutions and their impact on daily life.



As the elections drew closer, more than half of our team joined **Agora Novi Sad, held in Serbia** in April 2024. Here, we organised mock elections during the fair, distributed materials within the pan-European campaign, and delivered two workshops: one focused on empowering youth to get active for the 2024 European Elections, and another on the implications of AI-generated content in political campaigns and voting. By informing young people about the European Parliament, the workshop let them think more clearly about the effect that the outcome of an election might have on their own lives.



Novi Sad, April 2024

Using the several exercises also allowed them to learn more about the voting systems in their countries and how to counter fake news and disinformation.

And this was not all! At the same General Assembly, our team also proposed the topic for the **next thematic conference of the European Planning Meeting of AEGEE-Europe**. Thus, next year, in Istanbul, our organisation will further focus on youth participation, capacity building, policy and advocacy, continuing Y Vote's work in the past two years and other initiatives from AEGEE-Europe.

OTHER EVENTS

The year 2024 was full of events across Europe and our team joined some even in their own countries, to deepen their knowledge about the 2024 European Elections and meet other like-minded young people.

For example in January, Florina, our Project Manager, attended **the Conference for establishing young priorities for future elected** in Bucharest, Romania, uniting 160+ young minds and key players in Romania's youth sector. Similarly, in March 2024, our Social Media masterminds, Joanna and Maciej, paid a visit to the Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Poland, visited the **Europa Experience building** and learned more about the EU and young people voting in June.



THE Y VOTE CONVENTION

This year, three members of our Project Team, Joanna, Maciej and Filip, in collaboration with AEGEE-Kraków and the Jagiellonian University, successfully organised the European event **EUandYOU** from 17-19 May. The conference brought together 20 young people from across Europe, with an additional 30 local youth joining the main session, as a dynamic and diverse group of participants.



The **European conference** included interactive sessions, held over three days, and aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the European Union and the functioning of the European institutions, equipping them with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions during the 2024 European Elections. The program included workshops and debates, which provided valuable insights into the EU's impact on young people's lives and future.

In addition to the workshops, the event fostered a sense of European solidarity and cross-cultural exchange, allowing youth to experience the real European spirit. Promoted on the **together.eu platform**, the conference also received support from the European Parliament Liaison Office in Poland. This collaborative effort not only raised awareness about the importance of voting but also empowered young participants to actively engage in shaping Europe's future and mobilise other voters in their local communities.

The background features a red-tinted image of a clock tower, likely Big Ben in London. A hand is visible in the lower-left corner, holding a ballot. A large, semi-transparent red shape covers the top and bottom of the image, framing the central text.

BRINGING **Y VOTE** TO YOUR CITY



LOCAL ACTIONS ACROSS EUROPE

During the 2024 edition, we strongly believed that **anyone anywhere can start an activity** to mobilise others to participate in the democratic process and contribute to the overall goal of Y Vote. To bring the 2024 European Elections closer to local communities, we designed various **local activities**, including workshops, pub quizzes, debates, panel discussions, and more. These initiatives empowered young people to organise events in their own cities, raising awareness about the importance of youth participation in decision-making and inspiring others to vote, use their voices, and foster a shared European identity.

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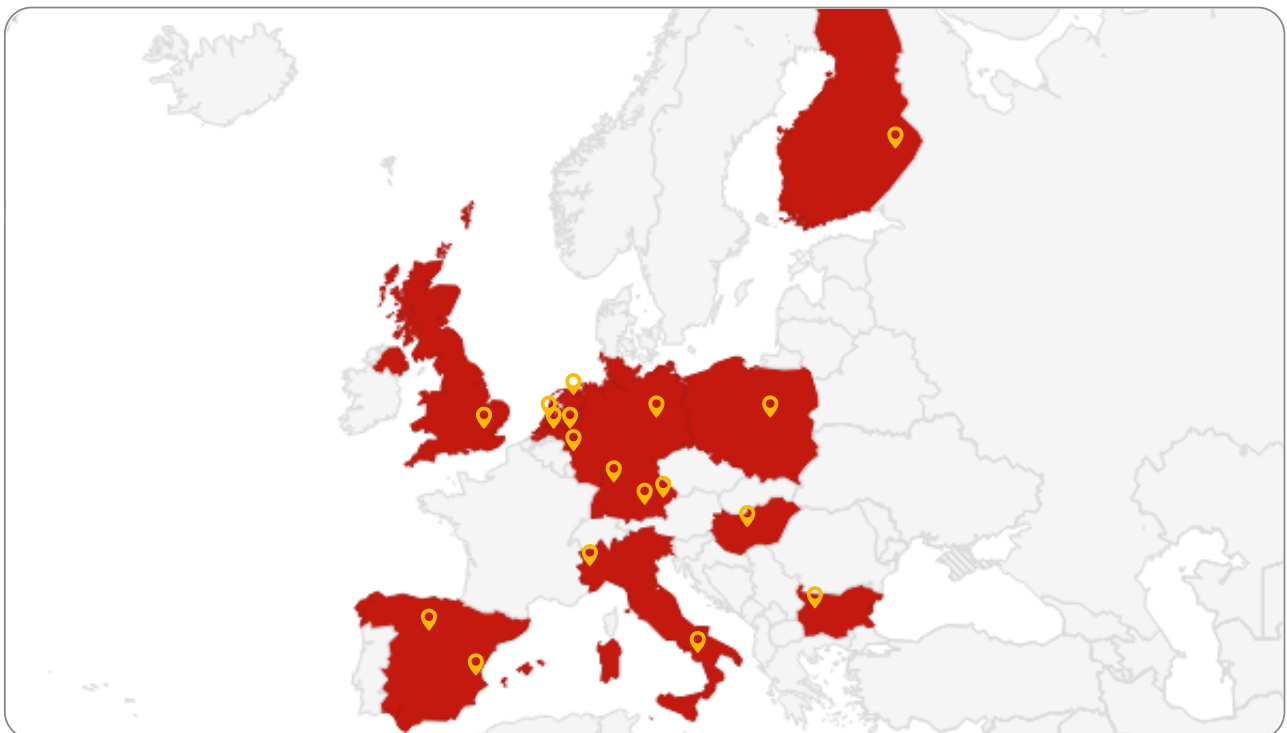
LOCAL ACTIVITIES

9

COUNTRIES

OVER 350

LOCAL PARTICIPANTS



The activities covered essential topics such as the functioning of the European Parliament, the EU's competencies, youth participation and political activism, and the impact of disinformation and AI on elections.

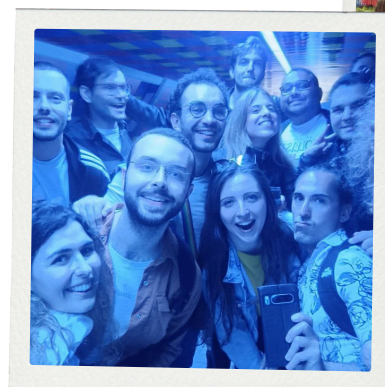
LOCAL ACTIONS BOOKLET

From large-scale events to smaller initiatives, **30 activities** were compiled into a **Local Actions Booklet**, available on our website, alongside other resources and stories from previous editions. This booklet wasn't just a guide, it was an invitation to join a movement that transcends borders and ideologies, just as Y Vote is about more than casting a ballot – it's a call to action, a testament to the power of young voices shaping our continent's future.



HIGHLIGHTS

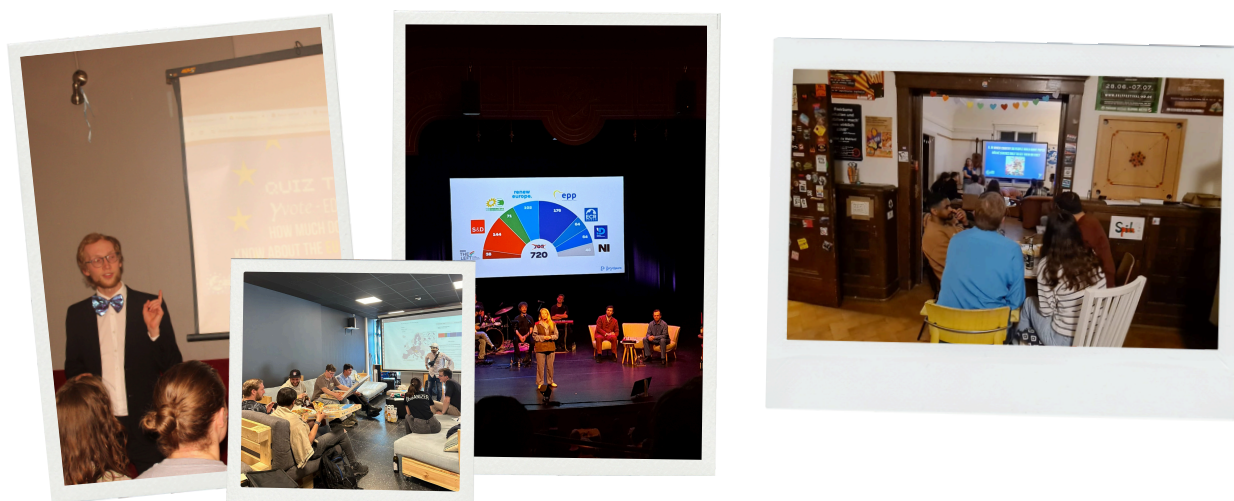
In May 2024, our Zsófia travelled to **London (United Kingdom)** to organise a workshop and pub quiz as part of a European event that brought together 27 young people from various countries. Through these activities, Zsófia aimed to motivate participants to vote and educate them about the European Elections. She also addressed important topics such as the rise of Euroscepticism and the impact of Brexit. Using examples from our campaign, along with quiz questions and a scavenger hunt, she created an engaging and fun way for the attendees to deepen their understanding of the European Union.



A similar event was held earlier in April 2024 in **Passau (Germany)**, in collaboration with AEGEE-München and the Petra-Kelly-Stiftung. Around 30 young people participated, engaging in quiz-based activities that helped them learn more about Europe and the upcoming European elections.

ELECTIONS WATCH PARTY

Over 7 hours away, in **Aachen, Germany**, AEGEE members hosted a European Parliament Elections Watch Party. Erasmus students from various EU countries participated, marking their political leanings on a board as the night began. Following some fun games and introductions, the group delved into discussions about early election results and shifting voting trends. To keep the atmosphere lively while awaiting more results, they also held a quiz on EU politics and culture, providing an entertaining way to stay engaged with the election process.



INSPIRING YOUNG VOTERS ACROSS THE NETHERLANDS

Many Local Actions took place across **the Netherlands**. In **Leiden**, over 20 AEGEE members attended *The Big Europe Show* by De Kiesmannen, a lively event combining political analysis, humour, and interaction about the 2024 European Elections. The show provided an interactive learning experience on how the EU functions and parties' approaches to youth-relevant issues. In **Groningen**, young people hosted a lecture followed by a discussion with a university professor, exploring diverse perspectives on the EU and the elections across different nationalities and cultures. In **Tilburg**, Wietse organised a similar session, focused on raising awareness about misinformation and disinformation in political campaigns, providing

attendees with valuable fact-checking resources. Wietse also visited **Nijmegen**, where, in collaboration with AEGEE and with support from the Y Vote Content Team, he hosted an EU and Eurovision-themed pub quiz for 30 young people. The same quiz was delivered at a high school, sparking enthusiasm among first-time voters for the upcoming 2024 European Elections.



EUTH AND DEMOCRACY

In **Hungary**, AEGEE-Budapest hosted a two-day conference, *Euth for Democracy*, in collaboration with other local organisations. The event included workshops on the importance of voting and strategies to combat fake news and disinformation. Alongside these sessions, the conference also had a social programme with interactive activities aimed at encouraging more young people to get involved and actively participate in the democratic process.

The campaign for the 2024 European Elections also reached **Bulgaria**, where AEGEE-Sofia organised the Treasure Hunt: Capture Europe event. With the support of the Liaison Office of the European Parliament in Bulgaria, they engaged young people through discovering secret places and solving riddles which required a very good knowledge of the colourful history of Europe and how it left its mark in Sofia. Further, young people met in Warsaw's "Pole Mokotowskie" Park, in **Poland**, in a European picnic organised by AEGEE-Warszawa, to taste food from different countries and talk about the upcoming elections, party agendas and how to get informed in finding the candidates that are closer to our values and expectations from the EU.

SPAIN AND ITALY FOR THE 2024 ELECTIONS

In **Spain**, AEGEE-Valladolid organised a series of events aimed at bringing the European Union and the European Parliament closer to young people. These activities included an active discussion with a European Parliament staff member, a workshop followed by a debate, and a pub quiz. In collaboration with ESN Valladolid and the local Youth Council, the initiative provided young people with the opportunity to ask questions, engage in open dialogue, and reflect on issues that directly impact their lives, fostering a deeper understanding of the EU and its relevance to them.



Local activities also took place in **Italy**. In **Salerno**, the members of AEGEE organised Gli Attivi Decidono - Y Vote, which included small presentations in partnership with Informagiovani Salerno. Federico and Giuseppe reminded participants about the importance of voting in the European elections and what tools they can use to get better informed when casting the ballot. In **Torino**, AEGEE, together with ESN and Europiamo invited Benedetta Scuderi, a candidate for the European Parliament, in a dialogue with young people to emphasise their role in the upcoming elections and in advancing issues relevant to them towards decision-makers.



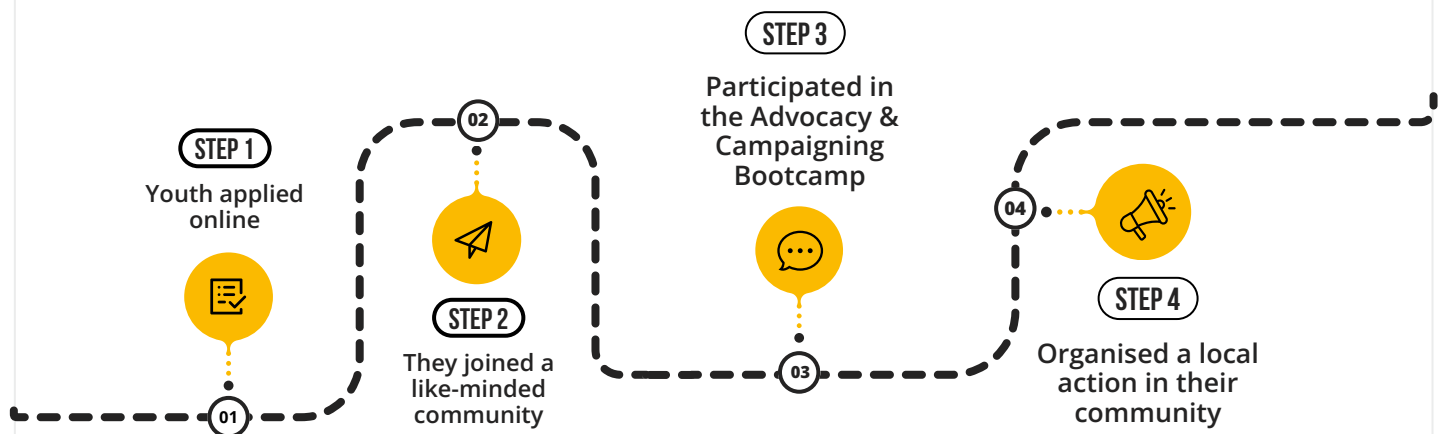
AMBASSADORS FOR EUROPE



y

AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

In 2024, the Y Vote Project launched its first-ever **Ambassadors Programme**, creating a dynamic community of young people actively engaged in their local communities. The programme aimed to empower young Europeans eager to become politically active but lacking the necessary knowledge or resources to initiate activities independently. By reaching out to motivated youth with the potential to act as multipliers in their communities, the programme sought to extend the impact of Y Vote beyond its events and help these ambassadors contribute to the project's overall mission of fostering youth political engagement across Europe.



ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING BOOTCAMP

The Ambassadors Programme kicked off with an **online Advocacy & Campaigning Bootcamp** on the weekend of 23-24 March, where 17 young participants joined for a two-day training. With this bootcamp, we wanted to help young people get the necessary knowledge and skills to promote active citizenship and participation in both local and European Elections, among their peers. Throughout the bootcamp, the ambassadors attended **eight sessions** led by the Y Vote Project Team and two external trainers: Anastasia Sidiropoulou from AEGEE-Academy and Kasia Kowalewska from the European External Action Service.

The training covered essential topics such as the functioning of European institutions, strategies for mobilising fellow Europeans to participate in the 2024 European Elections and planning impactful civic engagement activities.

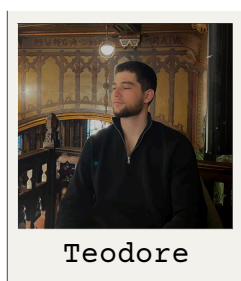
Upon successfully completing the bootcamp, participants became Y Vote Ambassadors, taking on the role of organising local actions and inspiring other young people to vote and get involved in the democratic process.



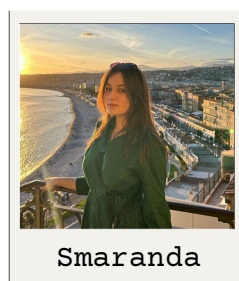
MEET OUR AMBASSADORS



Nina



Teodore



Smaranda



Laura



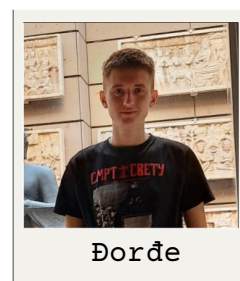
Christos



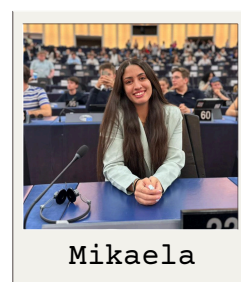
Luca



Lea



Đorđe



Mikaela



Maria



Ani



Xenia

The Programme brought together 12: **Nina** (Italy), **Teodore** (from Georgia, living in Lithuania), **Smaranda** (Romania), **Laura** (Germany), Christos (Greece), **Luca** (Italy), **Lea** (Croatia), **Đorđe** (from Serbia, living in Austria), Mikaela (Cyprus), **Maria Vittoria** (Italy), **Ani** (Georgia), and **Xenia** (Austria).

Their efforts went beyond national borders, as they actively spread the message across Europe about the importance of voting and the role of the European Parliament in shaping youth's future.

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

10

COUNTRIES

OVER 300

LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

ENGAGING YOUTH ONLINE

In **Italy**, the ambassadors organised a range of activities, from podcasts and newsletters to street events, each designed to engage young people and emphasise the importance of the European Elections.

Maria Vittoria for example, produced **podcast episodes** with her university friends, aiming to help Italian students understand the elections and the role of the European Union in improving the country. She also wrote an insightful essay on the history of Europe, examining why interest in the EU is waning and proposing ways to revive it.



Luca took a different approach, creating a resource accessible to all with his newsletter - **EU Youth Opportunities in Focus** - dedicated to the European Elections in May and to highlighting opportunities for young people in the EU.

EVENTS IN THE STREET

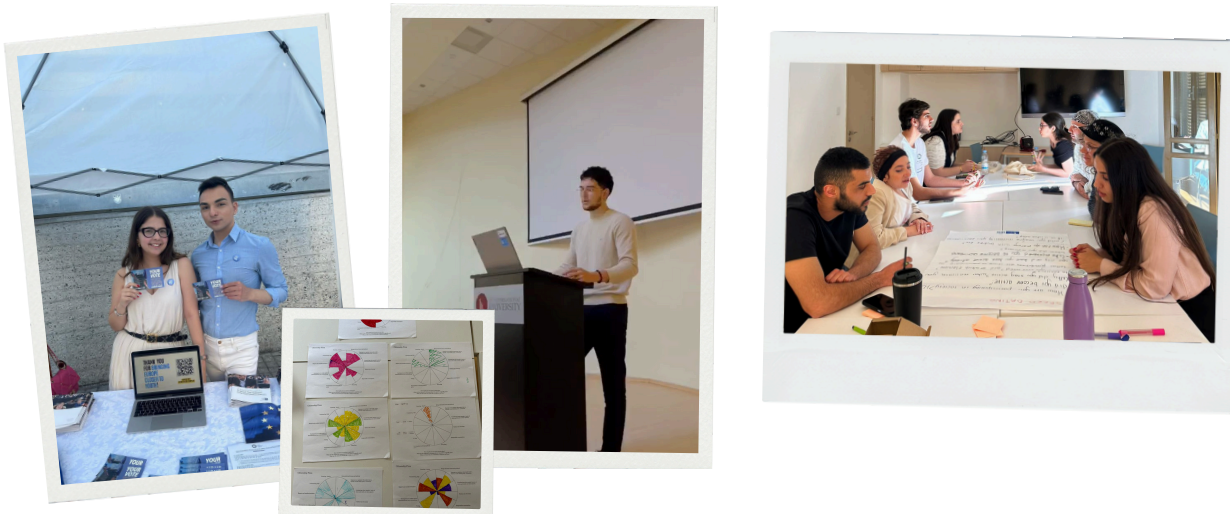
In Pisa, **Nina** contributed to "**La Bicicletta della Memoria la via europea da percorrere**" - an initiative led by Giovanni Bloisi, who arrived in Pisa by bike to encourage voter participation. The event concluded with a moving performance by two young musicians who played the national anthems of Italy and the European Union.





EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Lea, **Xenia**, **Smaranda** and **Laura** engaged young people across Europe with **pub quizzes** and game nights in cities such as Zadar (**Croatia**), Vienna (**Austria**), Bacău (**Romania**), and Heidelberg (**Germany**). These events were engaging ways to boost participants' knowledge about the EU while emphasising the importance of youth involvement in shaping its future.



In **Lithuania**, **Teodore** hosted a **movie night**, followed by a discussion on the importance of voting in the upcoming 2024 European Elections, encouraging others to share their views and join the debate. Further **Mikaela** led a **workshop** in Nicosia (**Cyprus**), during the Democracy Festival, focusing on active citizenship and how mobility programs can enhance civic engagement. Meanwhile, **Christos** represented the Y Vote campaign at an event hosted by Thessaloniki's Youth Council in **Greece**, where he took part in roundtable discussions and had meaningful discussions with fellow young voters.



Beyond the borders of the EU, **Ani** took action in Tbilisi (Georgia), by creating and distributing **posters** about the European Union and the importance of voting, helping young people understand their role in the future integration of their country and in strengthening democracy. Similarly, **Dorđe** based in Innsbruck (Austria), hung informative posters at the Youth Centre and initiated a **book-collection** initiative for Tumane Monastery, which is restoring its mediaeval library. Through this initiative, he not only promoted the importance of the 2024 European Elections but also fostered cultural preservation and inter-regional cooperation across Europe.



A blue-tinted photograph of a group of young people at what appears to be a public event or protest. In the foreground, a person on the left is holding a smartphone up to take a selfie. To their right, a group of people are gathered around a large white sign that features a large blue number '10'. The background shows a modern building with large windows and some signage, including a partially visible 'NS 91-Y5' sign. The overall atmosphere is one of youth engagement and activism.

REACHING **YOUTH** ACROSS EUROPE



THE Y VOTE CAMPAIGN

We started Y Vote 2024 with a [pan-European campaign](#), to enhance young people's understanding of the European Union, its values, and the European Parliament's role. Starting in August 2023, we expanded our outreach beyond local events to include online educational content for youth across Europe, shared through visual infographics, videos, and other interactive formats.



Throughout the project, the campaign touched upon the main topics of Y Vote, namely fake news, disinformation and Euroscepticism, the importance of voting and youth political activism, women's participation, social inclusion and the representation of minorities and people with disabilities in the decision-making process, youth participation and civic engagement.

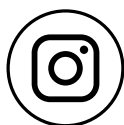
When we started in August 2023, we did not predict the impact of Social Media on the 2024 European Elections campaign and how important it was to provide information in an interactive format, written by young people for like-minded youth. In 2023, we took over the [Y Vote Website](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter/X](#) accounts and joined two new platforms, [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#).



www.yvote.eu



Y Vote



@yvoteeu



@YVoteEU



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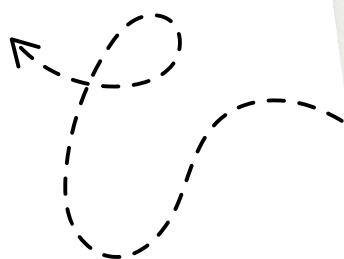


Y Vote

Since then, we posted interactive content almost every week, focusing on sharing news about the European Union ([#EUNews](#)), giving short recaps of the weekend EP's Agenda ([#EPWeek](#)), providing information about how the EU impacts our daily lives ([#EUandMe](#)) and how it functions through its institutions ([#EUExplained](#)), particularly the European Parliament ([#YEuropeanParliament](#)).

440**NEW POSTS****500****IG & FB STORIES****47,000****VIEWS ON OUR CONTENT**

We also marked **international days**, with extensive campaigns (including the 16 Days Campaign and World Sustainable Transport Day), we shared infographics on voting procedures to encourage others to cast their ballot (**#UseYourVote**) and spotlighted local actions and ambassador's activities across Europe (**#Ambassadors4Europe**; **#LocalActions**). After the 2024 European Elections, we continued to engage youth in post-election reflections and steps forward and highlighted youth perspectives on voting (**#YOUthVoices**).

690**NEW FOLLOWERS**

LET'S TALK ABOUT...EU ELECTIONS

Florina, our project manager, also joined our partners, **ESTIEM**, in a podcast episode, ahead of the European Elections. There, we explored the goals of Y Vote, addressed common misconceptions surrounding the European Elections, discussed plans for post-election actions, and highlighted ways young people can get involved in shaping Europe's future. The podcast episode is available [here](#).



64,000

**PEOPLE REACHED
ONLINE**

10,000

**NEW VISITS ON
OUR IG & WEBSITE**

87,000

**VIEWS ON OUR
VIDEOS**

We also published [articles](#) on the Y Vote website blog and created [promotional materials](#) - including stickers, postcards, tote bags, and posters - that were distributed across Europe through the AEGEE Network and showcased at European events in Belgium, Germany, Poland, Greece, the Netherlands, and Serbia. Furthermore, we were featured in the 2023 edition of [Key to Europe](#) of AEGEE-Europe.



CROWDFUNDING FOR IMPACT

Y Vote has always been a youth-led initiative, driven by young people for young people, to spark civic engagement and activism across Europe. To support this mission, we launched a [crowdfunding campaign](#) on [chuffed.org](#), aimed at supporting young people to organise street actions, discussions, debates, and workshops from April to June 2024. The campaign was promoted online, on our Social Media and within AEGEE-Europe's internal channels, and extended to former members of our organisation for additional support.



In collaboration with **Les Anciens**, the alumni of AEGEE-Europe, we also produced a short series of online interviews about youth participation in democracy as part of the campaign. This support, along with spreading the message in external networks, helped to expand our reach and engage more Europeans.

To further boost the campaign's visibility, we created **Y Vote merchandise** (in addition to materials from the previous edition) and encouraged young people to personalise their items, such as tote bags and t-shirts. Staying true to our commitment to sustainability, we decided from the first live team meeting to craft our merchandise by hand, using paint and stencils on old t-shirts and tote bags, which not only spread Y Vote's message but also aligned with our values.

As a result, the campaign raised approximately 400 EUR through the contributions of over 20 donors, including the Y Vote project team. These funds were used to provide Y Vote ambassadors with promotional materials and support for their local actions, while also contributing to securing a budget for further activities, potentially allowing Y Vote to continue its impact into 2025.





GUIDING ON HOW TO VOTE

THE VOTING GUIDE

With so many voting procedures across the European Union, we wanted to continue the work done during the previous edition and create a **Voting Guide**. Our aim has always been to equip young people and other European citizens with accessible and comprehensive resources that make participation in the European Elections easier. For the 2024 edition, we created a youth-friendly, interactive guide available on our website and Social Media channels, detailing the voting process in each EU country.

The guide provided essential information for every EU country, including the election date, voting age, and locations where young people can cast their votes, whether they are national citizens or EU citizens voting domestically or from abroad, within the European Union and beyond.



It also covered different voting methods, and assistance options for individuals with disabilities or illnesses, and included interesting facts about each country's electoral system and EU membership. To ensure broad accessibility, the Voting Guide was also translated into 13 national languages,

13 LANGUAGES

such as German, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, Greek, Romanian, and Polish, with the help of young volunteers. This multilingual approach allowed us to reach more people and help foster youth engagement and voter

turnout by using the guide. Finally, we created infographics on Social Media channels, posted on the day of voting, to showcase the electoral procedures and make it easier for youth to cast their ballot, while young people were encouraged to share if they voted and mobilise others.





GATHERING YOUR OPINIONS

y

THE POLICY PAPER

Throughout the project, we met so many young voters and we had the opportunity to listen to their views. Every opinion voiced and every desire to change their community and represent issues relevant to them towards policy-makers made us understand how important youth participation is.

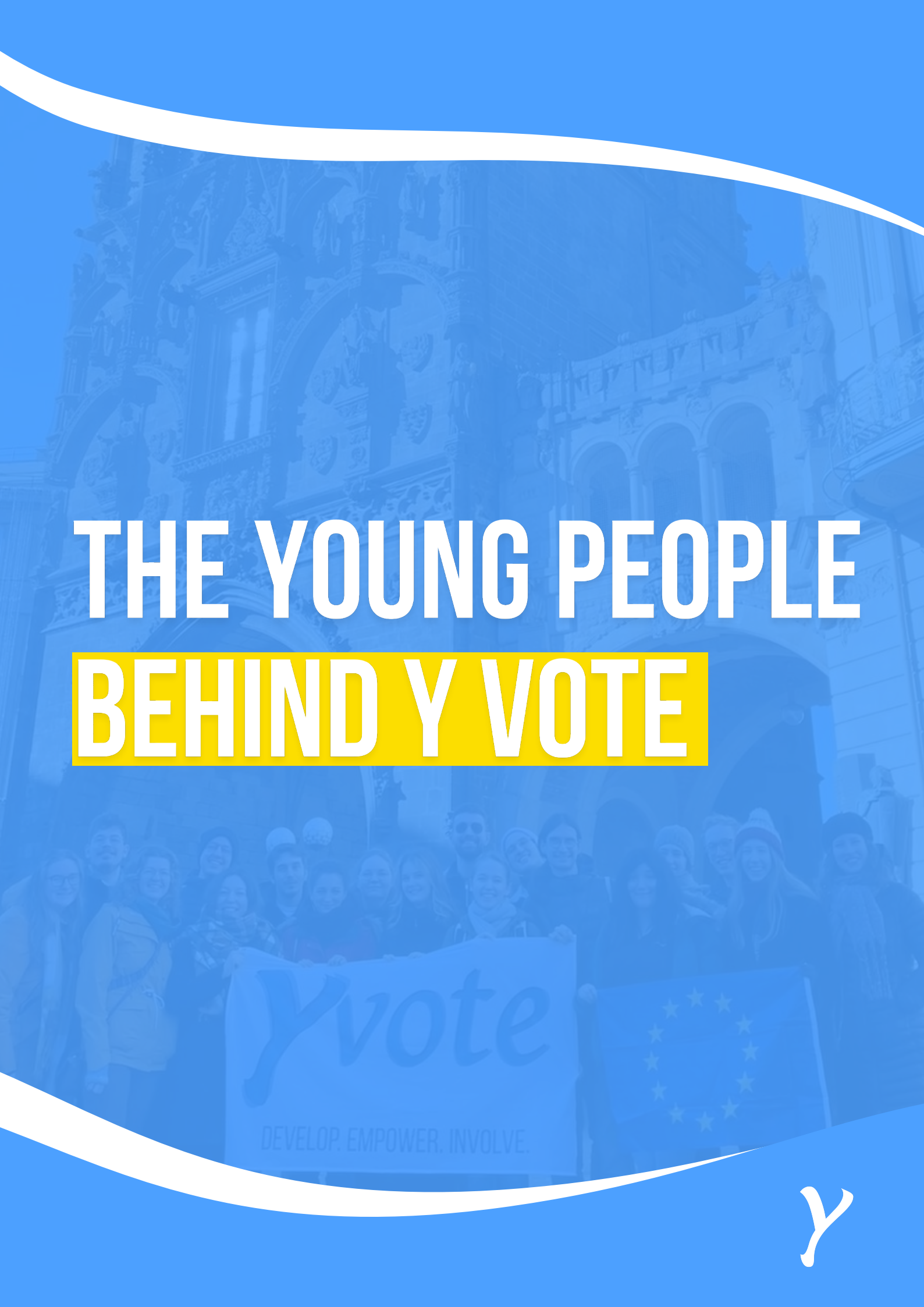
We often hear that young people don't vote, because they are not interested in politics. On the other hand, many young people express that they feel underrepresented by political institutions and believe their voices are rarely reflected in decision-making processes.



While voting is recognised as one of the most effective means of political participation, many young people experience barriers when casting the ballot, which can often result in a lack of participation. For these reasons, we realised it is important to understand what drives young individuals to vote, as well as the barriers they encounter when interacting with formal mechanisms of participation. Furthermore, it is essential to explore how youth-led initiatives can serve to bridge the gap between traditional political frameworks and the interests of young people. By examining these dynamics, we can better understand the complexities of youth political participation and develop strategies to enhance their engagement.

LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

In September 2024, as this edition was coming to an end, we launched **an online survey**, among AEGEE members, youth-led partner organisations and other young people on our Social Media channels. **250 young individuals** completed the online questionnaire, which was also featured in the online newsletter of **The European Correspondent**. By using other published reports and surveys on youth political participation and our experience throughout the project, we wrote **a policy paper** which was approved by AEGEE-Europe at the General Assembly in October, and can be found [here](#)

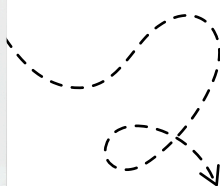


THE YOUNG PEOPLE BEHIND Y VOTE



THE Y VOTE TEAM

Shortly after the beginning of 2023, a small group of members of AEGEE decided to restart the Y Vote Project. Some of them weren't even members of AEGEE-Europe when the last edition took place. Others met just a few weeks before, in another event, but they all had one thing in common – the motivation to encourage youth to participate in the 2024 European Elections and become more politically engaged and active in their communities. The project started with **5 young Europeans** (Stanislava, Andreas, Mareike, Nanda and Florina) who spent the upcoming months writing grant applications, defining the main goals of the project and getting ready to share the new edition of Y Vote with the world.



In May 2023, in front of the General Assembly of AEGEE-Europe in Enschede, the Netherlands, our initiative **officially became a project of the organisation**. Here we shared the vision of Y Vote with more than 200 young people from all across Europe. This was the beginning of the 4th edition of Y Vote as we know it today.

Soon after this event, more young volunteers from AEGEE-Europe joined us and the Y Vote Project Team became the biggest team of the organisation at the European level. What followed was hours of weekly meetings, planning weekends, concept notes, external events and kick-off calls with partners across Europe.

Our goal was clear: to **#develop #empower** and **#involve** young people to participate in the 2024 European Elections. Therefore, we started quickly preparing our Agenda for 2024, which included the activities that you read about in this final report.

MEETING SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE

In February 2024, 18 out of our 20-member team **met face-to-face for a weekend in Prague**, Czech Republic. For many of us, it was the first time meeting in person, while others were reuniting, but for all of us, it was an opportunity to reflect on the journey we'd shared so far and prepare for the final push toward the 2024 European Elections.



Throughout the year, we continued to cross paths at European events in **Belgium, Germany, Serbia, the Netherlands, Poland,** and **Romania**, each encounter a reminder of the collective purpose we set out to achieve. Over the course of 2 years, **23 young people from 10 countries** worked towards everything you see in this report. Together, we've joined a longstanding legacy of young advocates who have made Y Vote happen since 2009 - carrying forward the mission to amplify youth voices in decision-making and sharing the European values that will remain with us wherever we go.



THE TEAM BEHIND Y VOTE

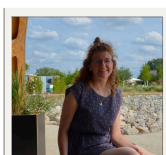
This is the story and achievement of Florina-Marieta Neagu, Nanda Röling, Aleksander Zięba, Monika Grzegorzczuk, Ann Kristin Gildhoff, Mareike Busse, Joanna Tobjasz, Maciej Karcz, Zsófia Balla, Natalia Mućk, Yannic Rigamonti, Maria Afroditi Deilogkou, Katarzyna Szkopek, Wietse Mesman, Bente Aretz, Filip Różak, Aimar Vega, Anne de Vries, Nina Koistinen, Andreas Petkov, Valeria V. González Reitano, Cristian Sician and Mareike Heitmüller.

PROJECT MANAGER



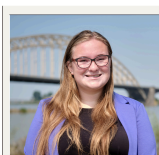
Florina

LOCAL ACTIONS TEAM



Ann Kristin

CONTENT TEAM



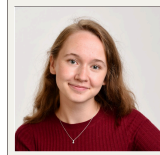
Nanda

GUIDES TEAM



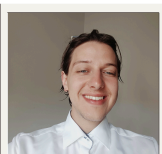
Anne

PR & SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

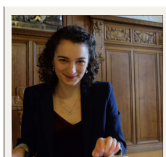


Mareike

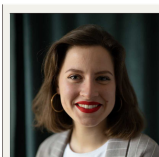
AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME TEAM



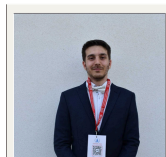
Alek



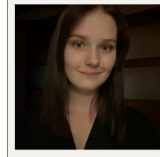
Zsófia



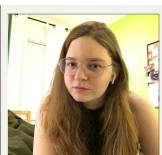
Kasia



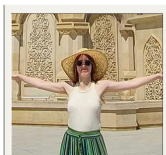
Aimar



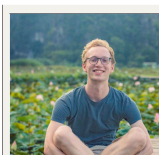
Joanna



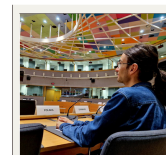
Bente



Natalia



Wietse



Filip



Maciej

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING TEAM

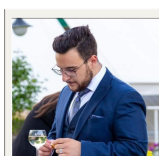


Monika



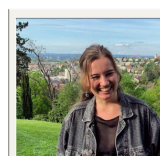
Yannic

EXTERNAL RELATIONS MANAGER

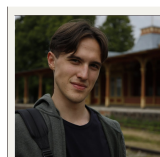


Andreas

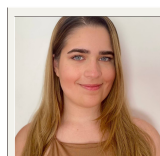
IMPACT MEASUREMENT MANAGER



Mareike



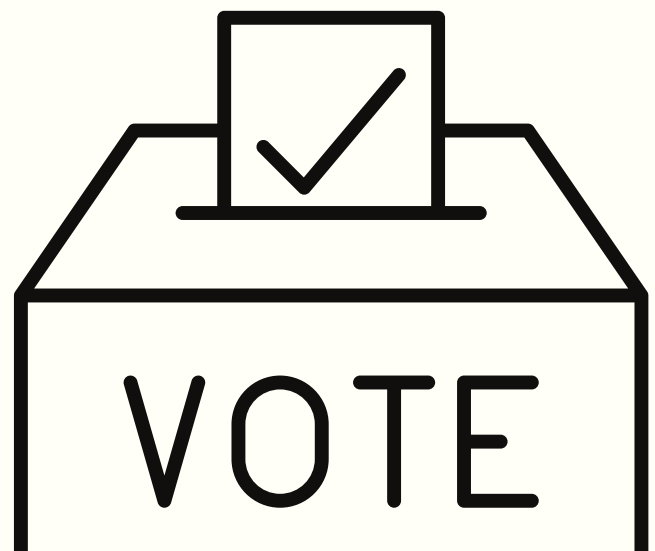
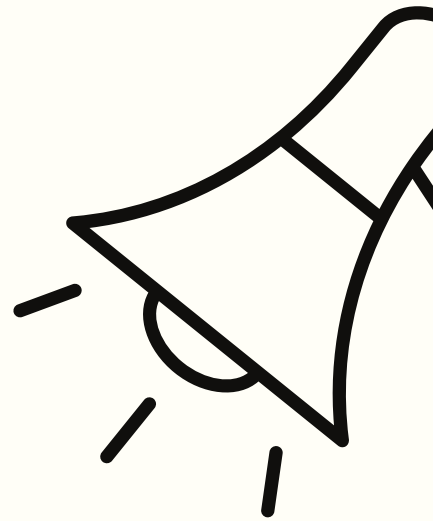
Cristian



Valeria



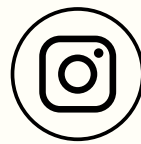
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FOR BRINGING
EUROPE
CLOSER TO
YOUTH!



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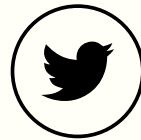
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