

EYE2016 Follow-up: European Youth Hearings

What happened to the ideas discussed during the European Youth Event (EYE2016), when some 7,000 young Europeans met in Strasbourg to make a change in the EU's future? From 11 October until 29 November, participants in the event presented the most impactful ideas to a number of Parliament's committees.



As follow-up of the EYE2016, the European Youth Hearings in the European Parliament are a platform to engage young Europeans and participants of the EYE2016 in shaping the political agenda.

During the hearings, young people present ideas to Parliamentary Committees and exchange views with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The ideas originate mostly from the EYE Report, collecting 50 ideas for a better future of Europe produced at the EYE2016.

The very first round of follow-up hearings was held on 11 October with a presentation to a joint committee meeting of Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Development (DEVE). Former participants discussed migration with MEPs in the context of the joint AFET-DEVE initiative report.

The second round of hearings launched off on 8 November - the ideas this time presented in the Committees on Culture and Education (CULT), Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), as well as Constitutional Affairs (AFCO).

The young speakers presenting at the CULT hearing, Ana (France/Portugal), Angela (Austria) and Bicca (Finland) addressed issues concerning the right approach to education in light of modern day circumstances. Lorenz (Germany), Melissa (UK) and Leonie (Netherlands) on the other hand were responsible for the discussion in EMPL about tackling unemployment and integration of migrants.

The day was topped off with the hearing in AFCO where Nicolaus (Austria), Seyi (UK) and Leonie (Netherlands) talked about Europe's future along with youth's involvement in political activities.

The week's final hearing was held on 9 November in the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). Dana (Belgium), Tom (Belgium) and Katrin (Austria)

presented a set of ideas such as ending geo-blocking in Europe for audio-visual content as well as protection of workers and consumers in the collaborative economy

The third round of hearings opened on 28th November with ideas presented at a total of four committees, including the committee for International Trade (INTA), the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), the committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and lastly the committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

Coping with issues regarding companies' policies towards upholding certain ethical standards, fair trade and the implementation of geographical indications - Yentyl (UK, Trinidad and Tobago), Helen (Austria) and Priit (Estonia) were presenting their suggestions and ideas to the INTA committee.

Conferring, the following day, about their suggestions on affairs such as anti-radicalisation and the future of European asylum regulations with the LIBE committee were Ana (Croatia), Nour (Syria) and Kira (Germany).

Later that day, working with the ITRE committee, the young idea givers Barry (Kenya and Belgium), Helene (Austria) and Andrea (Italy) got their turn to talk about their findings on the topics of the Horizon2020 as well as cybersecurity, the digital single market and energy efficiency.

Marking the end of the follow-up hearing's third and final round, Kristiāna (Latvia), Rita (Portugal) and Barry's (Kenya and Belgium) talks with ENVI revolved all around shifting to a more carbon neutral economy, smart grids, changes to our food habits, e-mobility and making EU funding accessible for Zero-Carbon renovation projects.

The MEPs engaged attentively in debate with the young idea givers. They were frank in laying out their thoughts on which ideas and proposals they endorsed or wanted to implement in the future including: a "digital summer camp" to prepare youths for the actual requirements of the contemporary and future job market and banning unpaid internships in Europe.

Watch the streaming and check out the pictures taken during the hearings from the links below:

- [11 October: Foreign Affairs \(AFET\) and Development \(DEVE\) - streaming](#)
- [11 October: Foreign Affairs \(AFET\) and Development \(DEVE\) - photos](#)
- [8 November: Culture and Education \(CULT\) - streaming](#)
- [8 November: Culture and Education \(CULT\) - photos](#)
- [8 November: Employment and Social Affairs \(EMPL\) - streaming](#)
- [8 November: Employment and Social Affairs \(EMPL\) - photos](#)
- [8 November: Constitutional Affairs \(AFCO\) - streaming](#)
- [8 November: Constitutional Affairs \(AFCO\) - photos](#)
- [9 November: Internal market and Consumer Protection \(IMCO\) - streaming](#)
- [9 November: Internal market and Consumer Protection \(IMCO\) - photos](#)
- [28 November: International Trade \(INTA\) - streaming](#)
- [28 November: International Trade \(INTA\) - photos](#)
- [29 November: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs \(LIBE\) - streaming](#)
- [29 November: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs \(LIBE\) - photos](#)
- [29 November: Industry, Research and Energy \(ITRE\) - streaming](#)

- [29 November: Industry, Research and Energy \(ITRE\) - photos](#)
- [29 November: Environment, Public Health and Food Safety \(ENVI\) - streaming](#)

[29 November: Environment, Public Health and Food Safety \(ENVI\) - photos](#)

EYE2016: Shaping Europe

Last May, the European Parliament in Strasbourg was transformed by 7500 young people coming from all over the continent and beyond for the European Youth Event (EYE2016). The event was filled with ideas, shows, debates and demands for solutions to today's most pressing issues. The outcome is a report presenting the 50 most impactful ideas that will be handed over to all Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in September 2016.



"Together we can make a change" was the motto and the idea driving the debates on topics spanning from space and innovation to climate change, migration and democracy.

In an effort to collect and highlight the ideas shaped by the participants, a team of young reporters, coordinated by the European Youth Press, drafted a comprehensive report containing fifty of the most concrete ideas, grouped into the five themes of the event. The report also includes exclusive interviews of speakers, MEPs and participants, a series of infographics, graphs and social media content, plus a political commentary from the European Youth Forum.

The aim of the report is to serve as a source of inspiration for the MEPs and to provide them with a clear view about young people's concerns, dreams and future perspectives.

The ideas showcased in the report will be sent to various parliamentary committees for debate with the young originators during the coming months.

The report is now available in English from the link below and it will be followed by a French and German version in September 2016. Together with the report, you can also

download the Idea tree, containing the full list of ideas written by participants during the event.

- Further information
- [Report \(EN\)](#)
- [Report \(FR\)](#)
- [Report \(DE\)](#)
- [Ideas Tree](#)

EYE2016: It's only the beginning...

Thousands of young people will meet at the European Parliament in Strasbourg for the European Youth Event (EYE2016) to share ideas and thoughts on critical issues relevant to the world we live in. But what will happen to these ideas after the event? Read this article to find out!



The main objective of the EYE2016 is for young people all over Europe to exchange ideas and perspectives with European decision-makers and to come up with innovative ideas and solutions how to solve important issues of our time. **All participants will thereby be invited to share their proposals and ideas** not only orally during the activities but also in written either by using the EYE App (tap or click on the icon "Ideas") or by writing them down and putting them into ideas boxes at the event.

The aim is to **create a collection of ideas put forward by young people**, how the European Parliament could or should tackle an existing or upcoming problem in the future - always related to one of the five main themes of the event - that can be put forward to and discussed with Members of the European Parliament in autumn 2016.

This collection of ideas will take the shape of an official **EYE Report**, which will include the event's most stimulating, concrete or innovative proposals and highlights to ensure the voices of Europe's young people are heard on the issues that matter to them. The report will be drafted by a team of young reporters, recruited by the European Youth Press, who will follow

the activities, interview participants and analyse the ideas collected.

The EYE report will be **available online in the beginning of July 2016** and the printed version will be distributed to all 751 Members of the European Parliament in the beginning of September 2016 to serve as the basis for the upcoming follow-up EYE hearings in various parliamentary committees in autumn 2016.

In these **EYE hearings**, participants who stood out with their contribution during the event will get the opportunity to present Members of the European Parliament a selection of ideas developed and collected during the event and related to the work of the specific parliamentary committee, and receive direct feedback.

Green EYE

The European Parliament has reinforced its commitment to sustainability by implementing greener initiatives to the European Youth Event (EYE2016). Participants can also play a positive role by being aware of their behaviour and help make the EYE even more sustainable.



Next month, the largest event organised by the European Parliament will be held in Strasbourg. The EYE2016 will attract 7500 young participants from all over Europe and bring a fresh breeze of air to the European Parliament. However, such a large event will undoubtedly impact the environment, as electricity, air conditioning, paper, ground transportation and air travel are major contributors to our changing climate.

Transport and mobility

The vast majority of participants come from outside of Strasbourg. Since transportation is responsible for up to 20% of worldwide CO₂ emissions, the EP implemented shuttle buses used for local transport of participants accommodated outside Strasbourg. In doing this, the EP has made an agreement with the city of Strasbourg for discount transport tickets.

- Participants can make a positive change by doing the following:
- [Be aware of their carbon footprint](#)
- [Explore Strasbourg by foot, bike or local public transportation](#)

- [Car-pool instead of fly to Strasbourg. Find their travel mates on the Facebook event page!](#)

Waste

While paper and plastic are smaller emission sources, they can still have a major environmental impact when used in large amounts. The EYE aims to reduce the use of those materials at a minimum by doing the following

- Almost all communication will be paperless or electronic
- Customised, reusable water bottles will be sold in the YO!Village and free drinking water points will be provided all over the premises
- Designated recycle bins will be placed across the Parliament and outside in the YO!Village, at which waste can be sorted properly

What can participants do to combat waste?

- Use digital supports instead of printing - download the EYE app for the programme and practical info
- Print on recycled paper with eco-friendly inks
- Save energy by reducing consumption

Food consumption and food waste

Producing, distributing, storing and cooking food has an enormous impact on our environment. On top of that, the staggering scale of food waste results in huge waste of energy, resources and money. To make the event greener, food and drinks served at the EYE will contain local and seasonal ingredients. Only ecocups and biodegradable plates and cutlery will be used in the YO!Village. Moreover, catering providers are asked to recycle food by donating it to the homeless and charities when possible.

How can participants bring a positive contribution?

- Buy only what you can eat!
- Check out the most eco-friendly places in Strasbourg when eating out on <http://ecomaps.eu/en/map/strasbourg/>

Recommendations in daily life include:

- Privilege local and seasonal food over 'long-distance' products
- Buy fair trade and organic food

What else can be done?

The EYE team is looking for great ideas that will help the event become more sustainable and promote participants' environmental responsibility. Let us know what you think should be done, how it could be done and how much it will cost or save. This is your opportunity to help us move these challenges forward for a healthier and happier environment!

- eye@ep.europa.eu
- [More information about how the EP is making the EYE greener](#)

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EYE2016: overwhelming interest of young people

There will be 7500 participants coming from all EU Member States and beyond. More than 150 activities featured - by young people and for young people. There has been overwhelming interest for the #EYE2016!

Participants

The European Youth Event (#EYE2016) is to be held in Strasbourg on 20-21 May 2016 and 3 months before the event there are already 7 500 participants for this second edition. Young people are coming from all the EU Member States with France, Germany and Italy topping the list but also candidate and neighbouring countries. The average age of participants is 21 (participants can be aged 16 to 30). By far the most popular channels for attracting participants were online and social media platforms, together with youth organisations and word of mouth.

Contributors to the EYE programme

More than 150 activities will be organised in Strasbourg and more than 50 youth groups and youth organisations are contributing to organise about half of all activities, making it an event for young people by young people. The official partners contribute to the programme in many ways. Artistic performances such as the "*EYE in the city: Music meets graffiti*" event, organised in and by the **City of Strasbourg** on Friday evening will be one highlights of the EYE. The **European Youth Forum** is organising the *YOFest*, creatively combining politics, culture, education and fun. Other artistic performances are organised by the **Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen** and the **European Federation of Professional Circus Schools (FEDEC)**.

The new partner, the **European Space Agency (ESA)** is giving the EYE this year a scientific and space dimension, while **ARTE** and the **European Youth Press** are again media partners. The **European Commission** is contributing with their new *Erasmus+* programme, several workshops on how to bridge the skills gap and tackle unemployment, the number one problem of many young people. Another partner, **Games for Change Europe**, is putting participants into different roles via digital games that have a social impact dimension. The **Council of Europe** is lending its expertise in the fields of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism.

Volunteers

The event could not take place without volunteers; 600 applications were received, mostly coming from the area of Strasbourg. Our partner, the **Institut des Études Politiques de**

Strasbourg (IEP) has done a great job in recruiting them.

Next steps

Follow our next steps - launch of the **updated version of the EYE programme** on 4 March 2016 and the opening of registration for activities on 14 March 2016 (only for registered participants).

Christmas gift: four more weeks to register!

The deadline to register for the EYE2016 is being extended until the end of January 2016.



We have some great news for you: we have extended the deadline to give you one more month to register for the event. The new deadline is **31 January 2016 at 23.59 CET**.

If you have already decided that you want to come to the EYE, sign up your group as soon as possible! Remember that groups will be placed on a waiting list if maximum capacity is reached.

Don't forget that you can also take part in the *#EYEamHere* photo competition or *become a volunteer*.

Also, if your group is coming to the EYE, you can take part in the *Emerging Talent* competition!

Stay tuned on our social media channels for more info and to keep up to date.

Enjoy your holidays!

- [EYEamHere photo competition](#)
- [Become a volunteer](#)
- [Emerging Talent](#)

"Emerging Talent" Competition

The #EYE2016 is looking for talented groups to stage artistic performances during the event in Strasbourg



Young people are the soul of the #EYE2016 and very often possess great talents that deserve to be showcased.

This is the reason behind the **"Emerging talent" competition**, a great opportunity to stage during the event some of the best performances young people have to offer.

The competition is **exclusively open for registered groups**, which are interested in performing in the following areas: theatre, break dance modern dance choir or classical orchestra.

Also, the performance should be as interactive as possible and will have to be related to one of the five main themes of the event.

Please note that **the deadline to apply is 22 January 2016 at 23.59 CET**

Registered groups that wish to organise a concert of the following genres: rock, pop, electro, funk, hip-hop, world music, etc. will be able to do so starting from **February 2016 through the "Emerging band" competition** coordinated by the main partner of the EYE, the European Youth Forum.

For more news, stay tuned on our website and social media channels.

Good luck!

- [Application form](#)

#EYEamHere photo competition: Results

The first Facebook competition organised in the context of the #EYE2016 received a great deal of interest from young Europeans. A big thank you goes to everyone who took part and voted!



After months of intense liking, the #EYEamHere photo competition has come to an end. About 50 young Europeans applied by sending around 100 pictures.

From a wide range of beautiful landscapes, places and well known sights in Europe, the pictures offer unique insights of young people's favourite spots in the places they live in.

Three winners were selected by the "likes" received on the EYE Facebook page and two winners were selected by an internal jury of the European Parliament.

Here are their names:

- Tiago Filipe Tavares Costa from Portugal - Title: Azores: Paradise on Earth - Congro's Lagoon
- Zhuliyana Biserova Zhekov from Bulgaria - Title: Best of Varna
- Mattia Messina from Italy - Title: EYE on Urbino

Jury prize winners:

- Nikola Milushev from Bulgaria - Title: Spirituality
- Eirini Papadopoulou from Greece - Title: Row your boat

Check below their beautiful pictures and stay tuned for more exciting competitions!

WANTED: Volunteers for the EYE2016

The EYE Team is on the look-out for volunteers to help during the event.



You're young, living or studying in Strasbourg or in the area? Come live the unforgettable experience of meeting 7.000 young people from all over Europe with us.

We are looking for volunteers who...

- ...are motivated and enthusiastic
- ...have a strong sense of responsibility
- ...are good communicators and good listeners
- ...love to work in a team
- ...speak foreign languages (English is a must!)
- ...are available during the week of 16-22 May, and especially during the days of the EYE, 20-21 May 2016

Knowledge of the city of Strasbourg is an asset.

As an EYE2016 volunteer, you would:

- welcome and guide the EYE participants arriving to the train station or airport of Strasbourg
- help participants with information about the programme of the event or the organisational/logistic aspects
- help participants find their way in the maze of Parliament buildings
- help participants find an answer to their questions or a solution to their problems (either yourself or by involving the organisation team)
- get involved in small secretarial missions (e.g. preparing EYE announcements and distributing them around)
- manage a group of volunteers (if you were to become a group leader)

Please note that we cannot cover transport and accommodation costs therefore we are looking for people who live in/around Strasbourg or who can cover their own costs.

What we will be able to offer is:

- free food and refreshments during the event
- a T-shirt branded with the logo of the event
- a certificate signed by the European Parliament
- lots of fun
- an addictive, impossible to forget experience...

If you are ready to embark on the EYE boat and live the adventure with us, then please fill in the application form or write us.

We wait for your applications till 31 January 2016.

- [Application form](#)
- benevolesEYE@propager.com

EYE 2016: registrations for Parliament's youth event are now open

Registrations are now open for the next edition of the European Youth Event (#EYE2016). Together with a revamped website, a first draft of the programme with approximately 50 activities has been released.



"Together we can make a change" is the motto of the European Youth Event. Do you want to see this change happen in Europe together with 7,000 young people from all over the continent? Register for the EYE2016 and come to Strasbourg on 20-21 May 2016.

Similarly to the previous first edition, only group registrations are accepted and they are open until 31 December 2015 or until the maximum capacity is reached (7,000 participants). It is highly recommended to sign up early! Check out the "take part" section of the website to see all details.

To give you a good idea of how the next EYE will look like, a first draft programme has been released. There are activities grouped under five new and exciting themes, and they touch

upon several hot topics including: migration, privacy, security, tomorrow's world of work, sharing economy, climate change and fair trade.

The programme is a work in progress and will unfold in the upcoming months before the opening of registration of activities in March 2016. Speakers, time slots and rooms will be added - and so will a number of activities and workshops organised by EYE partners and youth groups.

Speaking of partners: once more the European Youth Forum will bring its YO!Fest, unleashing young people's creativity by combining politics, culture, education and fun in a multicultural environment.

Take your time to browse the website and discover all the information enclosed and don't forget to stay tuned on our social media channels to get fresh updates and take part in our online initiatives.

EYE2016 state of play: Programme contributors

The EYE2016 has just successfully closed its applications process for programme contributors and it's preparing to open up registrations to attend the event on 20-21 May 2016 in Strasbourg.



The first call to shape the event's programme is now closed. It resulted in a success with some **200 applications** coming from youth organisations based in 24 out of the 28 EU Members states. Applications were made to feature a workshop inside the EP building or to become a partner of the YO!Fest, organised by the European Youth Forum.

The full **programme will be topical**, and it will be the opportunity for young Europeans to shape the Europe of tomorrow. A first draft will be already available early next month, featuring the first activities and a selection of the youth proposals.

What's next?

On **7 October 2015** registrations to take part to the EYE2016 will open. The European

Parliament is ready to welcome 7000 young Europeans, aged between 16 and 30 years, coming from Member States, candidate countries and neighbouring countries.

As for the last edition, registration for taking part in the event will only be possible as a **group of minimum 10 participants**. Groups have to be registered by their group leaders, who must be older than 18 years (no upper age limit).

Good to know, **there is no fee for attending the EYE2016**; however participants will need to cover their own transport, accommodation and meals.

Stay updated on the event preparations on the European Youth Event's web channels and follow the hashtag #EYE2016!

Become an #EYE2016 Programme Contributor!

The second edition of the European Youth Event is looking for enthusiastic young people and organisations that would want to take part in shaping the EYE2016 programme.



You've heard it right, the EYE is back! As this event is not only for young people but also by young people, we are looking for programme contributors.

Are you planning to take part in the EYE2016 and you have in mind a great idea for an activity? We have some good news for you!

Get the chance to organise a workshop during the EYE2016 inside the EP building or to become a YO!Fest partner of the European Youth Forum, by sending in your proposals to us! You can apply through our online application form starting today, 10 June 2015.

What we require from you? That the group you are in is taking part in the event and that your activity for this two-day event in Strasbourg will be interactive, youth-oriented and related to one of our five new themes of course! More details on the requirements can be found in the guidelines on the right side of this page.

Don't forget: Closing of applications for the proposals is on **4 September 2015** and only the best ones will be chosen, so better get to work.

Do you also happen to have artistic talents you would like to present to a wide audience? Register as a group for the EYE2016 in October 2015 and apply to perform during the event in front of other future EYE participants!

To avoid missing important EYE2016 news, dates and deadlines, like and follow our brand new EYE Facebook page.

See you in Strasbourg in 2016!

Applications to become EYE2016 programme contributors are currently closed. Thanks to all the groups who applied. We will contact the teams behind the selected projects in the following weeks.

We're back! Ready for #EYE2016?

Buckle up for EYE2016, the second edition of the European Youth Event for and by young people, happening on 20-21 May 2016 in Strasbourg.



Remember EYE2014, those three inspiring days with more than 6,000 young participants from all over Europe gathered together to come up with ideas for a better Europe? Well, you haven't seen anything yet!

From 20-21 May 2016, the European Parliament is opening its doors once again to even more young Europeans in Strasbourg, with five new themes:

- **War and peace:** Perspectives for a peaceful planet
- **Apathy or participation:** Agenda for a vibrant democracy
- **Exclusion or access:** Crackdown on youth unemployment
- **Stagnation or innovation:** Tomorrow's world of work
- **Collapse or success:** New ways for a sustainable Europe.

Through hundreds of new engaging activities - from idea checks, debates, and hearings to Ideas Labs, workshops, and digital games, as well as the European Youth Forum's YO!Fest, concerts, and other artistic performances - 7,000 young people will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with European decision-makers and come up with innovative ideas on how "Together, we can make a change". And not to forget, they will have fun and enjoy the cultural diversity in Europe.

Want to stay up-to-date on all the latest #EYE2016 news and announcements? Don't want to miss out on all the exciting competitions? Or already want to jump-start the debate on the five fresh themes with your peers? Then better like and follow our brand new EYE Facebook page and spread the word to your friends!

Don't forget: registrations for future EYE participants will start in October 2015. See you in Strasbourg in 2016!