

EQUIPPING YOUNG LEADERS WITH TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE ACROSS BORDERS

IMPLEMENTED BY





SOLVING THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

The crises of our time are transnational in nature: climate change does not care about borders, inequality and precariousness affect all societies. The effects these crises have on us are profound – they evoke feelings of anxiety, powerlessness, and also despair - feelings that may in the worst case even lead to violence and prevent us from participating in politics in the first place.



THE YOUTH MOVEMENT & CAMPAIGN ACCELERATOR

The Youth Movement & Campaign Accelerator offers European youth and community leaders a way to engage in, and build, European democracy, by establishing a transnational network able to connect national and local issues to EU-level policymaking.

This network of engaged young Europeans will serve as a link between European institutions and their citizens, especially in the frontline communities. This link is of crucial importance ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections.

LEARN BY DOING

The learning programme draws from European Alternative's network, knowledge and experience to give you the skills & tools used in many movements and campaigns around the world.

At its core, the programme aims to share knowledge about organizing by practicing it: young activists will alternate between phases of learning, and phases of organizing.

During learning phases, they will learn about campaigning, how to establish solid relationships within their communities and how to mobilize them around salient issues that they care about - and that they will learn to identify.

During practice phases, activists will organize a series of activities (citizen assemblies, trainings, events, campaigns...) to bring together people in their community. These events will also be opportunities for them to spot new recruits, that they will onboard and train.

BRINGING YOUTH TOGETHER ACROSS EUROPEAN BORDERS

Over the course of six months, YMCA participants will learn how to organize their communities, how to identify issues & find solutions to be obtained through collective mobilization.

"Learning" will occur online, using collaborative tools for synchronous & asynchronous learning, complemented with in-person trainings (Dec. 2023 & April 2024)*

"Doing" will take place in your community - under your lead.
You will practice the skills acquired in a local action around an issue that you feel is important to defend. This action can be a local campaign, a public training, a citizen-led assembly, or a publication.

* To be confirmed, contact ymca@euroalter.com to know more.

WHO?

The YMCA benefits from the expertise of a team dedicated to empowering youth throughout Europe to build long-lasting transnational solidarity ties. In addition to this core team, more trainers, experts and associates will join in for specific activities - including community organizers, professionals from institutions and organizations committed to the participation of youth in our democracy.

FOR WHOM?

We are looking to establish a cohesive group of activists that puts solidarity front and center, among themselves, with the communities they will seek to organize, and with activists and organisations from other EU countries.

You will join a transnational network, based on support and mutual help that can be mobilized in future campaigns.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Have an understanding of what problems exist in your community, but don't know where to start to fix it
- Care about how issues are linked across borders
- Commits to attending online sessions + planning an activity in your community - trust is everything in building powerful movements!
- Are between 18 and 35 years old
- Speak & understand English
- Live in an EU country*

We especially encourage the participation of LGBTQ+ activists, people from minority communities or from rural, desinstrualised, or disenfranchised areas.

^{*} Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.

PROGRAMME

The programme is structured around online sessions (full calendar here):

- Courses on organising techniques (campaign planning, recruitment, messaging, fundraising...)
- Reading & discussions around tools and concepts to reframe, understand and address social issues
- Individual mentoring & collective workshops to plan actions with all of the support you need

Should in-person meetings occur, travel costs will be reimbursed.

HOW TO APPLY

Participants will be identified and selected in two phases:

- Call for participants & interview process (November 2023)
- First cohort recruits their teammates (January-March 2024)

Apply by 21st November 2023



Information call: 17th November, 5pm CET (register here for the call)

TESTIMONIES

I think networking can be unbelievably helpful in order to realise that, "ok, my problems are not only here". It's also important to plan strategies together, or to make campaigns on similar issues, and to lead them together.

Mara, Germany

If you don't have the network, it could be difficult. I think that now we have trust in each other - we are building that [in the YMCA].

Vincent, France

Our future is at stake, and I think that it's really motivating to put in the effort now, and work hard now. So that even if you start small, you realize that it still goes a long way. That is what democracy is about: doing something in any capacity possible.

Elizabeth, Netherlands

We just have to be the voice, and we have to shape together the Europe that we want to live in, in 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, you know, something that we would be proud of.

Petra, Romania/Spain

Any questions? Interested?

Make yourself known - contact us!

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