



YOUTH MOVEMENT & CAMPAIGN ACCLERATOR

EQUIPPING YOUNG LEADERS
WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED
FOR TRANSFORMATIVE
CHANGE ACROSS
BORDERS

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 is part of European Alternatives' School of Transnational Organizing and 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 and especially frontline communities. This link is of crucial importance ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections.

BRINGING YOUTH TOGETHER ACROSS EUROPEAN BORDERS

Over seven months, young activists 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, and in-person, with two in-person bootcamps in France (2 days, November 2022) and in Germany (5 days, March 2022).

LEARN BY DOING

The learning programme draws from EA's School of Transnational Organizing and will cover 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, and about 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 citizen assemblies to bring together their community, and design and implement campaigns they will have designed themselves. These events will also be opportunities for them to spot new recruits, that they will onboard and training.



TEAM

The YMCA benefits from the expertise of a team dedicated to empowering youth throughout Europe to build long-lasting transnational solidarity ties.



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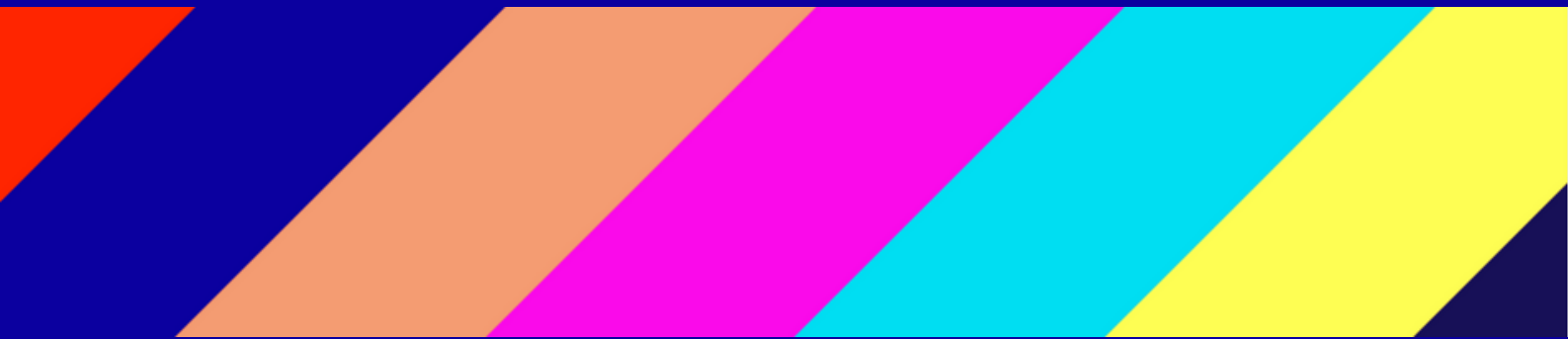


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EA Programme
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EA Cultural
Director, Paris

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.



WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

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. This will be the start of a transnational network, based on support and mutual help that can be mobilized in future campaigns.

We believe this group should include individuals who:

- Have shown leadership qualities in their community, by working to solve a common problem and improve the lives of others
- Care about how issues are linked across borders
- Are between 18 and 30 years old
- Speak & understand English
- Live in one of the eligible countries (Poland, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Romania)*

* Exceptions can be made for EU residents outside of these countries fitting the rest of the criteria, on a case by case basis.

We encourage the participation of LGBTQ+ activists, people from minority communities or from outside the most populated areas in their country.

Participants should be available to attend project activities (2 week-ends per month + at least 3 hours per week). Travel costs will be reimbursed by the project.



Selection process

The identification and selection of these 60 young activists will be done in two phases:

- Call for nominations & interview process, to select 25 young activists (August-September 2022)
- 35 additional recruits found and onboarded after a second round of nominations (January-March 2023)

Why nominations?

We believe that people in our network, who share European Alternative's mission, have a much better understanding of the social context in European countries. Because of this, we trust your judgment to steer in our direction individuals who have caught your eye, and whom you know to be deeply invested in resolving the crucial issues of our time: inequality, climate change, anxiety and powerlessness.



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WHY THE ELEPHANT?

In various cultures of the world, elephants symbolize strength, patience, wisdom, power, and care. Thus, they were used not only in wars to transport heavy goods. As we all know, elephants have an immense memory and literally never forget, which in ancient myths often gave them the role of leading lost people from the forest back to the right path.

The »Youth Movement & Campaign Accelerator« not only equips young community leaders who care about their fellow human beings and the world with the strategic wisdom to learn from the past for a better future. They also learn how to build the strength and power to lead people in their communities, cities, and countries to rediscover the beaten path of progress over the long run.

And last but not least, it is often young people who are the best people to talk about the elephant in the room: the shared sense of political powerlessness and depression, the social and economic inequalities across Europe, and the question of how we can actually learn something practical from the Covid-19 crisis to prevent climate catastrophe.



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