

March 2021



Newsletter of the EU4Youth Programme

THE NEWSLETTER IS FEATURING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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- ☛ EU4Youth Programme Phase III – Stay tuned!
- ☛ Last days to apply for the next academic year at the Eastern Partnership European School
- ☛ Grant Programme for post-graduate scholars: International Visegrad Fund Research
- ☛ Round table on ‘Strengthening young people’s employment, entrepreneurship and participation’ in Belarus
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EU4Youth at a glance

EU4Youth fosters the active participation of young people in society and their employability, by developing youth leadership and entrepreneurship through a variety of actions, including capacity building, fellowships, support to policy dialogue, as well as providing grants to organisations active in these areas.

The EU4Youth Programme consists of three components:

Component 1: ☛ Capacity building – Eastern Partnership Youth Window – Erasmus+ projects

Component 2: ☛ Grant scheme – Focus on disadvantaged youth and youth entrepreneurship

Component 3: ☛ EU4Youth Coordination and Support

☛ EU4Youth II – Youth Engagement Roadmaps

Eastern Partnership EU4Youth Days: 22-26 March

2020 was a special year for the **Eastern Partnership (EaP)** region: the new long-term policy objectives beyond 2020 were presented, with a **New Deal for Youth** being a key initiative for the next stages of cooperation. For EU4Youth, a key milestone was the virtual EaP Youth Engagement Summit in July, which celebrated and promoted past and ongoing EU-EaP cooperation.

The year 2021 also starts with an important event for the region: the **EaP EU4Youth Days**. The EaP EU4Youth Days, taking place on **22-26 March**, will mark the first opportunity in the new year to promote the EU4Youth programme's achievements, and to advance the strategic priorities of the New Deal for Youth. The event will provide the opportunity for more than 300 participants to **share good practices and challenges** in the field of youth in the EU and its Eastern Neighbourhood partner countries, to discuss **key achievements** of the EU4Youth Programme, and to set **priorities for future EU-EaP cooperation** in the field of youth.

The EaP Youth Days will consist of five days, each focused around a specific topic:

DAY 1

WORKSHOP ON EU4YOUTH PROGRAMME MONITORING

Capacity-building workshop on monitoring needs for EU4Youth implementers.

DAY 2

WORKSHOP ON EU4YOUTH PROGRAMME COMMUNICATION

Capacity-building workshop on communication needs for EU4Youth implementers.

DAY 3

EU4YOUTH EVENT

A one-day conference will be organised to share the main achievements of EU4Youth, discuss perspectives and challenges ahead, and foster networking.

DAY 4

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP BAZAAR – A KNOWLEDGE SHARING SPACE!

A new space for EU4Youth stakeholders to share and discover good practices developed in the framework of the EU4Youth Programme.

DAY 5

EU4YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEES

Meeting with the two EU4Youth Component III projects.

EU4Youth Event and EU4Youth Awards

While four out of five blocks of the **EaP EU4Youth days** will engage a restricted community of EU4Youth grantees, EU4Youth beneficiaries, EU4Youth stakeholders and youth policy experts, the **EU4Youth Event** on Day 3 will bring together young leaders, national and European policy makers, as well as civil society representatives.



The **Event** will present the main achievements of EU4Youth, discuss Youth Dialogue needs, perspectives for EaP cooperation and EU youth policy priorities in Europe and beyond. The event will also feature the **EU4Youth Awards ceremony**, which will honour EU4Youth projects for their achievements in supporting young people in the region as well as 15 EU4Youth graduates, who stepped out of their comfort zones and built new lives for themselves and others.

The awards will be determined through a combination of public and jury voting. This means that everyone is welcome to participate in the voting and decide, who gets the special **EU4Youth Social Impact prize** - participation in the **EY SkillUp Your Future** mentoring programme, which will offer one-on-one tailor-made weekly counselling support to the winners until the end of the year.

Each session of the Youth Event, including the ceremony, will be streamed directly to Facebook, and facilitators will collect the feedback and questions via the comments. In this way, everyone interested will be able to contribute to the debate LIVE and meet the other participants.

Public voting for EU4Youth Awards

Participate in the public voting and share your voice to determine the winners in the presented categories, and to support the EU4Youth participants.

☞ *Please follow the link to take part in the voting*

More information about the EaP EU4Youth days

To find out more information about the upcoming event:

☞ *Check the EaP EU4Youth days webpage*

☞ *Follow the event on the Facebook event page*



EU4Youth Programme Phase III – Stay tuned!

As announced in the previous EU4Youth newsletter, the EU4Youth Programme will start its third phase this year. On 15 December 2020, the European Commission adopted a decision to reserve **EUR 16.2 million for EU4Youth phase III**. The overall objective will be to foster the active participation of young people in both democratic life and in the labour markets of the beneficiary countries. As in the previous phases, the focus on disadvantaged youth will remain a priority. At the same time, future actions aim to contribute to sustainable and smart growth, social cohesion and the reduction of social inequalities in the Eastern partner countries.

The launch and roll-out of EU4Youth phase III, including the next generation of grant scheme, is expected to start in the second half of 2021.

Stay tuned to the next editions of the EU4Youth newsletter, which will announce the launch.

Last days to apply for the next academic year at the Eastern Partnership European School

A new call for scholarships is still open until **15 March** for students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, aged 16-17 years old as of 1 September 2021, wanting to deepen their knowledge about Europe and the European Union. Full scholarships are provided by the European Union for all selected students, and cover school fees, boarding and meals at the school's facilities, travel home from Tbilisi, all the necessary study materials and resources, as well as full medical insurance.

Graduates of the Eastern Partnership European School in Tbilisi will receive the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, which is accepted in 75 countries at over 2,000 universities, and is widely recognised by colleges and universities around the world. The EU-funded scholarship programme will support **up to 40 successful students** from the six EaP countries to study for an IB Diploma with a focus on European Studies. The Eastern Partnership European School Programme is delivered by the New School in Tbilisi, Georgia, covering a two-year pre-university course, starting in the academic year 2021-2022.

Interested students should submit their applications through the website :

👉 **www.eapeuropeanschool.eu by 15 March 2021, at 12:00 noon, Georgia time (UTC +4:00).**

The selection process will include written tests through the online platform Zoom, and interviews for pre-selected candidates. The list of scholarship recipients for the academic year 2021-2022 will be announced by the end of May 2021. The selected students are expected to commit to the full duration of the Scholarship Programme.

For any questions, email **euscholarship@eapeuropeanschool.eu** or call: + 995 32 225 70 06 (landline).

👉 **Find out more about the EaP School and open applications**



Grant Programme for post-graduate scholars: International Visegrad Fund Research

The  **International Visegrad Fund** (IVF) and the **European University Institute** (EUI) are jointly launching a new grant programme for post-graduate scholars from Central and Eastern Europe interested in European integration to conduct research at the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU) in Florence. Ten research grants of EUR 5,000 each are available in 2021-2022.

The grant programme provides young scholars from Central and Eastern Europe interested in European integration at large, with a unique research experience in the HAEU, embedded in the international scholarly community of the EUI in Florence. To address the challenges brought by the current health emergency, the HAEU offers the digitisation on demand of archival files needed by researchers, thus ensuring operational continuity of the grant programme during the Covid pandemic.

The following candidates from the Eastern Partnership regions are eligible to apply:

- **All current postgraduate students (master's and doctoral candidates);**
- **All postdoctoral researchers or university teachers who have completed a master's degree or doctorate within ten years preceding the date the application is submitted, and who currently hold an academic appointment.**

Successful applicants will prepare a publication (thesis, dissertation, book or scholarly article) relating to European integration in any of the disciplines of human and social sciences (e.g. law, history, political science, economics, sociology, public administration).

The grant programme for 2021-2022 comprises two deadlines for applications per year, one on **30 April** and the other on **31 October**.

Applications must be sent by e-mail to the Historical Archives of the European Union at  **archiv@eui.eu**. Confirmation that an application has been received will be sent by e-mail within one week. Applications and supporting documents must be submitted in either English or French.

 ***Find out more about the new Grant Programme and the application process***

Round table on ‘Strengthening young people’s employment, entrepreneurship and participation’ in Belarus

To advance on strategic priorities under the New Deal for Youth, the EU4Youth Programme, in partnership with local EU Delegations, has organised a series of country round tables. The meetings in Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took place in 2020, and the round table in **Belarus was organised on 16-18 February 2021.**

The round table presented a rare opportunity for Belarusian youth, Civil Society Organisations and researchers to **re-connect with each other and their EU partners** in times of a severe political crisis. Organised in close consultation with the Belarusian National Youth Council (NYC) RADA and the EU Delegation in Minsk, the event brought together a group of local and

international interested parties to discuss **opportunities and challenges young people experience** in Belarus today, to collect their views on the future Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue, and to take stock of the Belarusian labour market and (youth) social entrepreneurship.

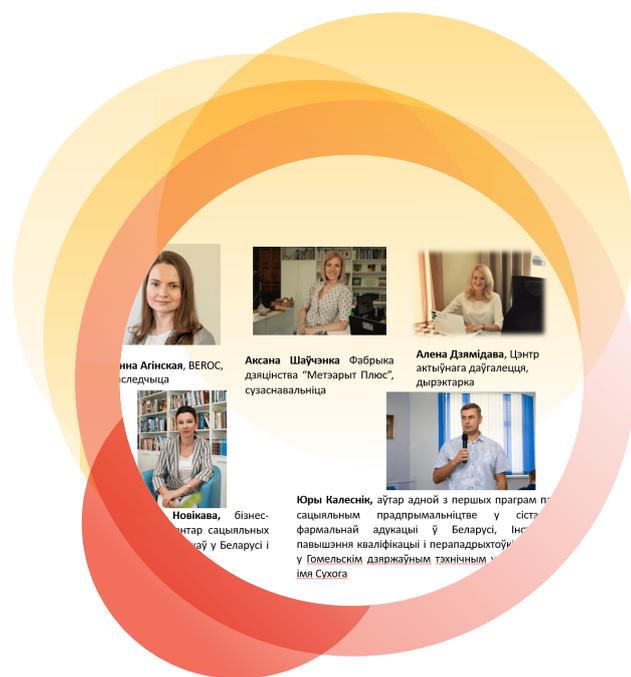
In total 103 attendees of the event discussed a wide range of questions of importance for young people in Belarus today, ranging from youth participation to labour market and youth employment and social entrepreneurship.

The first session of the round-table meeting informed and raised awareness about the existing **EU Youth Dialogue**, and opened a discussion about prospects for the implementation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue with youth in Belarus as part of the Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue.

The second session introduced the main provisions of the **EU Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme** as well as Youth Employment Partnerships as a key support measure for youth employment in the European Union, sharing some good practices from Spain, showcasing some key provisions of EU YG schemes.

The third day specifically focused on the theme of **Youth Social Entrepreneurship**, and provided space for discussion on Youth Social Entrepreneurship in Belarus – Challenges and Opportunities, sharing some practical examples of acting social enterprises in Belarus.

In the near future, various activities will be conducted with the participation of Belarusian youth, the Belarusian National Youth Council RADA and selected stakeholders to advance discussions on the future Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue, Youth Employment Partnerships, Social Entrepreneurship as well as opportunities offered by key trends such as greening and digitalisation for the Belarusian society.



Key updates from the EU4Youth programme

Alumni Network

IdeaLab event

On **16 January**, an **IdeaLab** event was organised for the EU4Youth Alumni Network. The event took place in a hybrid online/offline format, bringing together more than **100 participants**, including EU4Youth Alumni, 57 young people from target groups, 6 mentors, 1 facilitator, 1 coordinator, and 2 coordination team members.

The IdeaLab was organised as an **innovative and experimental event**, with the aim of generating creative ideas for working with young people, especially in times of COVID-related restrictions. The event therefore marked an important milestone in a chain of activities planned in the framework of the Alumni network.

Alumni and the young people with whom they have been working over the past months presented their ideas and further developed them in an intensive meeting lasting almost five hours. Translation was provided into six languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Georgian, Romanian and Ukrainian) to ensure inclusiveness for those young people from target groups who did not have an understanding of the working language (English).

After sharing their ideas, Alumni and young participants were asked to adapt their ideas to fully digital formats, blended formats and fully-in person formats. This was very much appreciated, and provided Alumni with **alternative plans and quick reactive strategies** to the changing context in which they have to work.

After this exercise, the groups developed further steps to implement these ideas. As a result, most of them defined the activities to be organised in the coming months, when and how they will test and implement them, and the resources they need.

👉 *Find out more about the event*

The IdeaLab event was an **important step to generate and kick-start the activities of the Alumni** in all six Eastern partner countries. The **network is now fully operational**, and Alumni actions are actively implemented, after a short slow-down of activities in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the network's plans.



Communication capacity-building workshops

Two capacity-building workshops were organised by the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team for the EU4Youth Alumni network and Alumni Support Organisations in February.

The communication workshop for the **Alumni Support Organisations** took place on **17 February** and brought together the support organisations from all six Eastern partner countries. The workshop has become an important tool to support the EU4Youth Alumni and their support organisations in raising awareness, visibility and impact of the EU4Youth Alumni network activities.

The workshop was built around three core topics:

- a) developing understanding on EU and EU4Youth communication approach;
- b) discussing the editorial guidelines for the EU4Youth communication channels;
- c) explaining modalities related to content collection and the dissemination process with the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team.

A second communication workshop, this time for **EU4Youth Alumni** themselves, took place on **25 February** and focused on the proper use of social media channels and tools to effectively promote the work the Alumni are doing locally to raise awareness and engage more young people in their activities.

The workshop gathered 35 Alumni and discussed three topics:

- a) tips for creating a good and engaging social media post;
- b) choosing a proper format for promoting the action on social media channels;
- c) developing a strategy and identifying partners to widen the audience reach.

The workshop was conducted in an interactive manner by involving the Alumni to participate in a quiz, shared boards and group work.

Both communication workshops provided the EU4Youth Alumni and Alumni Support Organisations with effective tools and strategies to promote the work of the network, raise awareness of the target groups' needs, and encourage others to follow their example.



News and stories from EU4Youth grantees

News

Hundreds of young people in Belarus have benefited from the **EU4Youth: Employability and Stability** project, which held its final conference in Belarus on 18 February.

[!\[\]\(5ebcf382a6ee952d6c5b8b948415801e_img.jpg\) Read more](#)

More than 50 representatives of civil society and the social enterprise sectors in the Republic of Moldova participated in three consultation sessions organised by the **EU4Youth Unlocking project** in February, to discuss the recommendations for amending the legal framework in the field of social entrepreneurship in Moldova.

[!\[\]\(e10773081adcaeab632f9dd4c8931cd5_img.jpg\) Read more](#)

The first EU-funded green business acceleration programme in Georgia has got under way with the support of **EU4Youth SEED project**. The GREENcubator is the second phase of the project's grant competition, which aims to discover entrepreneurial potential in the borderline regions of Georgia, with an emphasis on youth empowerment and green entrepreneurship.

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In January, the **EU4Youth SEAG project** carried out its second online business planning training for project beneficiaries in Georgia. A total of 22 trainees learnt about social enterprises and social entrepreneurship, organisational and legal forms of enterprises, marketing, management and financial planning.

[!\[\]\(0ac73c45806a78de248a19d9a2dbe7a6_img.jpg\) Read more](#)

School teachers in Belarus attended training seminars on organic agriculture organised by the EU4Youth '**School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship**' project in January. The training focused on perspectives for organic agriculture, and what the shift towards organic farming could mean for students participating in the project, and their community.

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Van Gogh and Pirosmani at the Creatorium:

EU4Youth supporting creative entrepreneurs in Georgia

“This project meets key business management criteria and is well-suited for the field, which has helped us a lot to raise awareness and take effective steps. It taught us a lot and helped us navigate properly in business.”

[👉 Read the full story](#)

It’s all about your attitude to humanity: how Valeriya launched her social enterprise, with the help of EU4Youth

“What motivates me most is when I see interested people who come with you, and speakers who succeed and convey positive emotions. They are ready at any moment to answer questions and suggest something.”

[👉 Read the full story](#)



Recent and upcoming EaP youth events

Round tables in Azerbaijan (15-17 March) and Armenia (13-15 April)

The last events in the series of the round tables on ‘Strengthening young people’s employment, entrepreneurship and participation’ will take place in Armenia and Azerbaijan. The round table in **Azerbaijan** will be organised on **15-17 March**, while the event in **Armenia** will take place on **13 - 15 April**.

The events will aim to tackle three main priorities:

- a) Youth Dialogue, its different applications in EU Member States, and potential to be replicated in the countries;
- b) key provisions of the Youth Guarantee, a topic of particular interest with the increase in youth unemployment due to COVID-19 ;
- c) Youth Social Entrepreneurship (YSE), which provides space for discussion on the current state of YSE, its urgent needs, and challenges in the countries.

Youth Policy Labs

Among its activities, the **Youth Engagement Roadmaps project** (Component III of the EU4Youth Programme) aims to foster the employability and the active participation of young people in society and the economy, by developing their skills and supporting them to become leaders and entrepreneurs. The project plans to organise 12 Policy Labs (two per country).

The **Policy Labs**, organised as sequences of small-scale participatory events (15-20 people) addressing a relevant and urgent policy challenge, will start in **April 2021**, each within a period of 6-8 months. Their expected impact is to enable young people to take an active role in all phases of the policy cycle, by taking part in a structured and facilitated dialogue with frontline policy makers and stakeholders with different experience of participation in policy making and policy implementation. The fresh grassroots perspectives and diverse representations of policy challenges are also expected to contribute to the improvement of policy design and implementation strategies. Key themes to be addressed will include youth policy participation, youth employment, and challenges linked to the digitalisation of society and the green economy.