

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS (EYL40) PROGRAMME

Join the 2022 class of European Young Leaders

The European Young Leaders programme is a unique, inventive, and multi-stakeholder programme that aims to promote a European identity by engaging the continent's most promising talents in initiatives that will shape Europe's future.

The European Young Leaders represent the most promising European leadership from all over the continent and with a wide variety of backgrounds including: politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media.

The programme acts as a forum for those who have already established themselves at the forefront of their professions to meet, discuss and collaborate with their counterparts from other fields of expertise. Previous candidates include: government ministers, CEOs, Michelin-starred chefs, international film directors, and high profile journalists.

For examples of current and previous European Young Leaders, please see the last two pages of this document.

OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Since the launch of the programme, we have gradually taken steps to ensure the diversity and exceptional quality of its selection process. We have made sure that its comprehensive and competitive nature ensures the identification and selection of remarkable individuals.

We aim to select 40 European Young Leaders of diverse backgrounds in order to enable a broad exchange of ideas, creating the basis for a new generation of engaged European leaders.

Candidates can either apply or be nominated for the selection process of the programme.

1. NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Individuals can be nominated to the European Young Leaders programme by several means.

- Institutional partners

A wide network of European organisations is called upon to recommend high-profile individuals to Friends of Europe.

- Pre-selection by Friends of Europe's Board of Trustees and other outstanding personalities

Our Board of Trustees and a limited selection of outstanding personalities from different sectors (business, politics, media, science and the arts) are asked to nominate young leaders that could be considered in the selection process.

For a list of Friends of Europe's Board of Trustees, please [click here](#).

- Alumni

Every year, the alumni network of the European Young Leaders programme is called upon to send in recommendations to Friends of Europe. Given their experience of the programme, we consider the alumni extremely knowledgeable about who is the best fit for such a leadership programme.

2. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Candidates should send a biography (including their date of birth and full contact details), a recent high-resolution photo and a cover letter outlining the relevant achievements and experiences that make them a viable candidate, also highlighting the means by which they hope to contribute to the European Young Leaders network and the development of the programme.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Candidates must be **between 30 and 40 years of age** (born on or after 1 January 1982);
- Candidates must be a **national of an EU member state, the UK or of one of the 6 Balkan states currently on the path towards EU integration (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia)**;
- Candidates should have established themselves at the highest levels of their chosen profession, or be on track to do so;
- Candidates must be committed to serve society at large through noteworthy contributions and have demonstrated a record of significant achievements and outstanding professional experience;
- Candidates are also evaluated based on their ability to contribute to the enrichment of the programme as a whole;
- Candidates are required to be **fluent in English** as it is the working language of the programme.
- Candidates must commit to participating in **at least one seminar** during the programme year.

TIMELINE

To be considered for the 2022 selection process, all applications and nominations must be sent to: eyl40@friendsofeurope.org

Application deadline: Monday, 15 March 2021

AGENDA

Spring 2022	a seminar in a European city (starting Thursday lunchtime – ending Saturday lunchtime)
Autumn 2022	A seminar in a European city (starting on Thursday lunchtime – ending on Saturday lunchtime)
Ongoing	European Young Leaders are involved in (virtual) working groups throughout the year, allowing their input from afar into the topics and projects of their choice based on their availability and interest.
October 2022	Exclusive invitation to the President's Gala Dinner and Friends of Europe's annual State of Europe 'high-level' roundtable, which are attended by several Heads of State and Government, and a few hundred other personalities from across Europe and beyond.
October 2022	Participation in the European Young Leaders alumni meeting in Brussels, open to all current and previous European Young Leaders.

Previously selected European Young Leaders include:

Eneko Atxa

Chef at 3-Michelin-starred Restaurant 'Azurmendi'

Eneko opened his now-renowned restaurant 'Azurmendi' in the Basque country. Within five years, the restaurant had been awarded three Michelin stars and has been named among the best and most sustainable restaurants in the world. Eneko has a creative mind, skilled hands and a work ethic based on care, precision and speed. His intense cuisine is deeply rooted in local Basque identity.

Danka Barteková

Olympic Bronze Medallist

Danka Barteková is a Slovak skeet shooter who won the bronze medal in Women's Skeet at the 2012 Summer Olympics. In 2012, she was elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission, where she's serving as an IOC member for eight years. Danka will also be part of the IOC Coordination Commission for Lausanne 2020, the third Winter Youth Olympic Games, as the youngest-ever Chair of an Olympic Coordination Commission.

Clément Beaune

French Secretary of State for European Affairs

Clément is the Secretary of State for European affairs in the French government. Before that, he served as the Europe and G20 advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, shadowing him during meetings with other European state heads. A passionate Europhile, his presentations on Europe even when he was still in school were so accomplished that they were widely shared. Clément became Macron's Europe advisor when Macron was still economy minister. He helped craft the French government's push against Chinese steel dumping that is now at the heart of the president's broader vision for a more defensive EU trade policy. The French president's proposals during his *En Marche* campaign for European Union reform were clearly influenced by his advisor.

Francesca Cavallo

Bestselling Author & Serial Entrepreneur

Francesca is a bestselling author of children's books, entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Undercats Media, and founder of Timbuktu Labs. She is the co-creator of 'Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls', a collection of 100 tales of extraordinary women that has become a publishing sensation. Francesca's career began in theatre, where she worked as both a manager for a theatre company and as a playwright. In 2012, she moved to California to co-found a children's media start-up called Timbuktu Labs, Inc. Since then, she has authored nine picture books that have been translated in more than 47 languages. Her most recent international bestseller is the children's book "Doctor Li and the Crown-wearing Virus".

John Collison

President & Co-Founder of Stripe

John is an entrepreneur and Co-Founder and President of Stripe, a software development company that is expanding Internet commerce by making it easier to process transactions from anywhere in the world. John has been passionate about coding from a young age and has a proven track-record of applying his knowledge and skills to develop ways to improve online business infrastructure.

Carole Dieschbourg

Luxembourg Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development

Carole Dieschbourg is currently serving as the government as Minister of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development. She was first appointed for this role in 2013. At the time she was the youngest member of the cabinet and the only Green Minister of the Environment in Europe. Carole represented the European Union during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, which coincided with Luxembourg's Presidency of the EU Council.

Adil El Arbi

Belgian Film Director and Screenwriter

Adil is the co-director of three movies, one TV series and two award-winning short movies. One of his first feature movies 'Black', which features non-professional young actors, premiered at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. In 2016, it was announced that he would co-direct 'Beverly Hills Cop 4', the latest in a series of movies starring Eddie Murphy and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer.

Maria Lucia Hohan

Fashion Designer and CEO of Fashion Brand Maria Lucia Hohan

Maria Lucia is an internationally renowned fashion designer, who has seen her clothes worn by the likes of Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Madonna. After working several years in Paris and Milan as a textile designer, Maria Lucia returned home to Romania to open her own shop with a modest 800 euros investment and two second-hand sewing machines. After gaining a substantial number of followers on social media and being discovered by Hollywood, she currently runs her celebrated fashion brand with 70-woman employees from Bucharest. Additionally, Maria Lucia is a strong advocate for women's rights and has publicly criticised the excessive consumerism upon which the fashion industry thrives.

Anne-Marie Imafidon

Chief Executive Office of Stemettes

Anne-Marie co-founded and became the CEO of Stemettes in 2013. Through this social enterprise, she aims to inspire and promote the involvement of the next generation of women into scientific, technologic,

engineering, and mathematics centred subjects (STEM) and careers. Within three years, Stemettes has attracted over 7000 girls across the UK, Ireland, and Europe to their events. A child prodigy, Anne-Marie's passion and success in the STEM scene started at an early age, with passing two GCSEs at the age of ten, and being the youngest girl ever to pass A-Level Computing. In recognition of her influence and achievements, Anne-Marie was awarded an MBE in 2017.

Selina Juul
Founder & Chairman of Stop Wasting Food Movement

An activist and author known for promoting the reduction of food waste, Selina founded the non-profit organisation 'Stop Wasting Food' in Denmark. She has received numerous awards, most notably she has been awarded Reader's Digest European of the Year 2020, Dane of the Year 2014 and Winner of Nordic Council Nature and Environment Prize 2013. She works with the EU and the UN and is a member of global coalition against food waste Champions 12.3. She is a blogger on food waste at the Huffington Post and a TEDx speaker.

Kaja Kallas
Prime Minister of Estonia

As of January 2021, Kaja Kallas is Estonia's first female Prime Minister. A competition lawyer by profession, Kaja was elected Member of the Estonian Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs in 2011. After being elected to the European Parliament in 2014, she became a prominent proponent of innovation and frequently emphasised that regulations should not hinder the technological revolution. She authored five reports in the European Parliament, including of an own-initiative report on the Digital Single Market. Kaja left the European sphere in 2018 to become leader of Estonia's Liberal Reform Party.

Frédéric Mazzella
CEO and Founder of BlaBlaCar

Frédéric is the Founder and CEO of BlaBlaCar, the leading European ridesharing community that connects drivers with empty seats and people travelling the same way, so they can share the cost. Today, with more than 20 million members worldwide, BlaBlaCar is making road travel social, money-saving and more sustainable. Frédéric is a regular speaker on the theme of sustainable development, entrepreneurship, and building trust in online communities.

Nadia Mladjao, "Imany"
Singer

Nadia, better known by her stage name Imany, is a French pop-soul singer. Her debut album, 'The Shape of a Broken Heart', released in 2011, soon became platinum. Since her debut, Imany went on to write the soundtrack for the film 'French Women', released an acclaimed second album, 'The Wrong Kind of War', and toured extensively around the world.

Bastian Obermayer
Pulitzer-prizewinning investigative journalist

Bastian is Head of Investigations at the Munich-based newspaper 'Süddeutsche Zeitung' (SZ), and the reporter who received the Panama Papers in 2014 - at that time the largest leak of offshore documents in global history - and the subsequent Paradise Papers, published in 2017.

Johannes Schildt
Co-Founder and CEO of KRY/LIVI

Johannes is a Swedish serial entrepreneur and co-founder of KRY, which he plans to develop into the world's leading healthcare provider by combining medical expertise with state-of-the-art technology. Currently available in Sweden, Norway, France and the UK, the business has pioneered the digital healthcare model by enabling people to see a medical doctor or a psychologist via remote video connection. To date, the app has delivered over 1.1mn appointments and is set to launch in more markets this year. Long part of Europe's start-up scene, Johannes is also the founder of several other initiatives including Tieday Group and Wowallets.

Krasimira Velichkova
Executive Director of Bulgarian Donors' Forum

Krasimira has been the Director of the Bulgarian Donors' Forum since 2007 – the only association of foundations and corporate donors in Bulgaria. The Forum has a leading role in the development of philanthropy and civil society in the country by advocating for a better legal and fiscal environment, advising corporate and individual donors, developing fundraising platforms, supporting NGOs to partner with donors, and working with the media to change public opinion towards philanthropy and volunteerism in society.

Dobrica Veselinovic
Activist, Politician & Spokesperson for the 'Do not let Belgrade d(r)own' Movement

Dobrica, from Serbia, has been active in the civil sector in Belgrade for the past decade, working for various NGOs and jumpstarting projects related to urban development and education. It is his mission to advocate for public spaces and mobilise citizens to participate in the politics of city life. Dobrica is the founder of the collective 'Ministry of Space' and the new political network 'Civic Front' – a network of grassroots initiatives and organisations from over 20 cities in Serbia. He currently works with the citizen movement 'Don't Let Belgrade D(r)own', an initiative opposing the Belgrade Waterfront redevelopment project, but one whose broader aims include encouraging sustainable development and giving citizens voice to influence their urban environments.