

EUROPEAN YOUNG LEADERS (EYL40) PROGRAMME

Join the 2019 class of European Young Leaders

Under the patronage of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, 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 a list of current and previous European Young Leaders, please refer to Annex I.

OVERVIEW OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

Since the launch of the programme in 2012, 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-potential 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 1979);
- Candidates must be a **national of an EU member state**;
- Candidates should have established themselves 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 2019 selection process, all applications and nominations must be sent to: eyl40@friendsofeurope.org

Application deadline: Friday, 4 May 2018

AGENDA

Spring 2019	3-day seminar in a European city
Autumn 2019	3-day seminar in a European city
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 2019	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 2019	Participation in the European Young Leaders alumni meeting in Brussels, open to all current and previous European Young Leaders.

ANNEX I

Previously selected European Young Leaders include:

Eleni Antoniadou

Co-Founder of Transplants without Donors

Eleni has been working on artificial organ technology and regenerative medicine in hospitals across the world. Her London-based start-up, Transplants without Donors, aims to develop tissue-engineered organs to reduce waiting times for transplant recipients. Eleni has also trained NASA astronauts in biomedical experimentation for the International Space Station (ISS).

Eneko Atxa

Chef at three-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.

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 of the Environment

Carole Dieschbourg was appointed to the government as Minister of the Environment 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

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.

Mariya Gabriel

EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society

Mariya is a Bulgarian politician currently serving as the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. Previously, Mariya was also a Member of the European Parliament, active as both the Head of the Bulgarian European People's Party (EPP) delegation and Vice-President of the EPP party.

Selina Juul

Founder & Chairman of the Stop Food Waste 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 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.

Soud Mekhennet

Correspondent for the Washington Post and author of 'The Eternal Nazi'

Soud is a German journalist of Turkish and Moroccan descent who works for prestigious international magazines, newspapers and TV channels, specialising in stories relating to terrorist organisations and Islam. She is co-author of two German language books that deal with the issues of political Islam and jihad, 'The Children of Jihad and Islam' and author of the book 'I Was Told to Come Alone: My Journey Behind the Lines of Jihad', published in 2017.

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.