



YouthProAktiv

Annual Report of Activities 2015



1. Building a new Europe for Youth

- YouthProAktiv around Europe
- Volunteering

2.

Proactivity & Entrepreneurship

- Mentality Change
- International ProAktivity Summit 2015

3. Building the dialogue with policy-makers

- ASEFYLS
- Watchdog EMPL, CULT, ITRE, ECON Committees
- European Commission Start-Up Europe
- Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment

4.

Building a participatory Europe

- Promotion of EU identity & values
- Saving the bridge between the local&European approach

5.

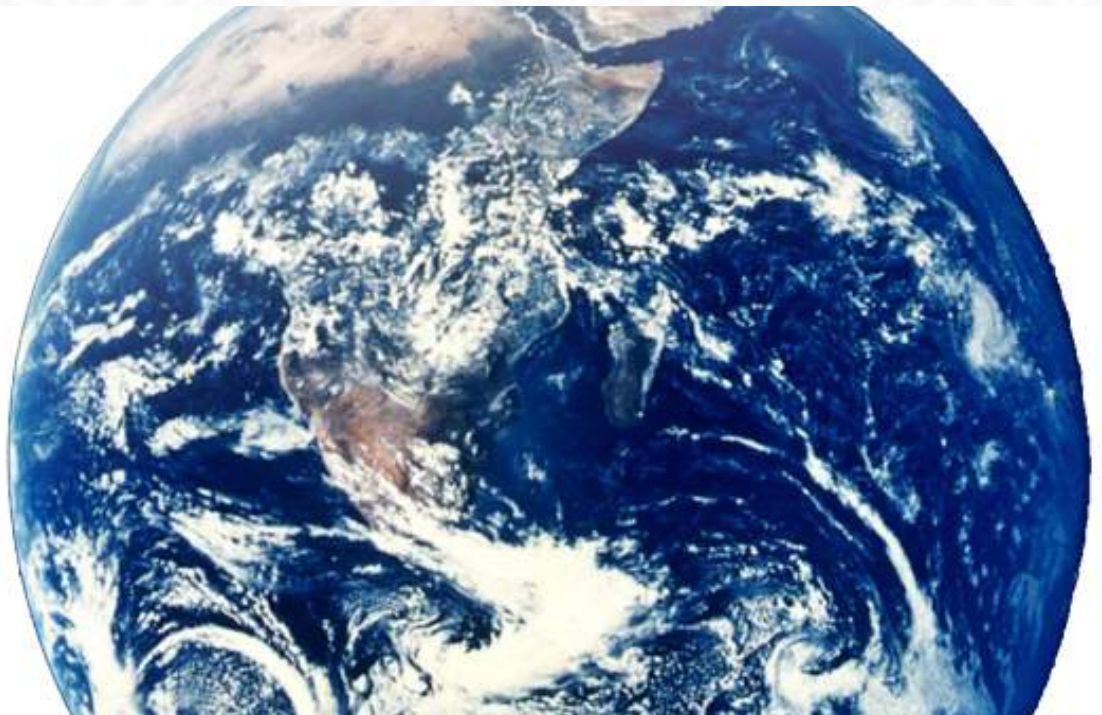
Upcoming programs for 2016



YOUTHPROAKTIV

is an international youth organization promoting
PROACTIVITY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP in education
and culture.

YouthProAktiv was born as an answer of young people to the economic crisis and high youth unemployment rates that spread around the world. We consider that the source of these problems is not only to be found in the economic conditions or the lack of opportunities. We understand it is rooted much deeper: in an educational system based on reactivity and a culture that doesn't promote proactivity as an approach to life and entrepreneurship as a valid career option. We believe that it is necessary to awaken a proactive mentality of current and future generations. Simultaneously, we need to change current teaching methods in educational systems, as well as legislation that hinders entrepreneurship.



1.

Building a new Europe for the Youth

“We should start by making clear to ourselves that we have enough potential as to do whatever we want to do, and that we are never ready of anything until we start doing it, because we get ready by doing”



YouthProAktiv around Europe

YouthProAktiv aims to create a generation of proactive individuals ready to invest their talents for the betterment of society by starting their own business and creating jobs for themselves and the others.



Just during this 2015, YouthProAktiv and the European Youth have opened 6 new Chapters around Europe in Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain.

By working with both, national and international perspectives, we ensure a real and holistic approach to the youth needs and concerns.

Looking forward to the 2016!

Volunteering



Volunteering is a creator of human and social capital. It directly contributes to key objectives of EU policies such as social inclusion, employment, education, skills development and citizenship. Its positive effects are confirmed by new indicators that measure social cohesion or happiness, connectedness, activeness and well-being of volunteers.

Aware of its multiple benefits both for society and volunteers YouthProAktiv Chapters around Europe are constantly welcoming volunteering to support YPA teams on the ground. YouthProAktiv volunteering experience aims to:

1. train individuals in a holistic concept of entrepreneurship, leadership and proactivity.
2. help individuals to start being the change they want to see in the world by working on a social mindset change in education and policy-making.
3. give individuals all skills they need as to become job creators for

2.

Proactivity & Entrepreneurship

“Just though a proactive approach individuals will be able to understand that things going in a different way does not mean things going wrong. Just through a proactive approach we will be able to understand that we all have enough potential as to be the solution to any problem.”



Mentality Change

“With still a 22.2% of youth unemployment rate in the European Union, we can easily state that unemployment is a structural problem. In order to erradicate it, we need long term solutions that pass mandatory through a European Mentality Change”

YouthProAktiv understands the economic crisis as an expected consequence of the very essence of an economic cycle full of peaks and downs. The big challenge behind is our personal response to the crisis. Thus, there is an European Mindset Crisis that should not stop us to feel the responsibility of working for the solution.

All YouthProAktiv educational programs are designed to empower the youth to move forward”

So take your ideas and go for it!



International ProAktivity Summit 2015



The YouthProAktiv International ProAktivity Summit 2015 was held on 15-17 July in Brussels, bringing together young students, entrepreneurs, professionals from various fields and key-decision-makers. By fostering the discussion of innovative ideas, sectors and trends, we sought to promote a new approach to proactivity that resides on youth initiative, innovation and social inclusion.

A total of four enhanced discussions were held during the summit, gathering a number of top experts from various fields and organisations, that allowed for active debates on:

Participants were directly participating through the negotiations of the “Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment”

Furthermore, a group of young successful entrepreneurs gave their valuable testimony and shared with the audience the key role proactivity, entrepreneurship and persistence played in their personal professional experiences and success.

“Mentality change and Educational Reform”

“Opportunities and Difficulties for Business in Europe”

“How to create a good product for the market?”

“Where to Look for Business Opportunities? New Branches of Economy

50. participants

continents **3.**

16. countries

40%. university students

young professionals **20%.**

30%. young entrepreneurs

men **34%.**

66 %. women

International ProAktivity Summt 2015

in Numbers

25. speakers

entrepreneurs **36%.**

16%. policy- makers

business executives **28%.**

20%. social activists

6.9%. communication skills

18.7% leadership skills

12.3%. team-working

25.3%. creativity & problem-solving

17.6%. time management & life-balance

3.

Building the dialogue with policy-makers

“There is a need for policy making strategies that create an easy environment for entrepreneurship as well as policies, making possible an educational reform. But of course, we need to combine it also with grassroots work in order to create a proactive culture of empowered individuals”



Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment

On the context of the YouthProAktiv International ProAktivity Summit, the European Youth came up with the...

Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment

Youth Unemployment causes short-term and long-term damage to societal and economic development. It devalues the full human capital of an entire generation. Therefore, we believe that providing effective solutions for this problem is to contribute decisively to the economic and social recovery of Europe as a whole.

The European Youth can and will play an indispensable role in resolving the problems afflicting our crisis-afflicted continent. This, however, requires important changes in the existing mentality and an openness to new best practices with regard to education and entrepreneurship in different countries. These changes must start in education systems, which are no longer able to respond effectively to the needs of the 21st century labour market.

The desired changes leading to new paradigms can only be achieved by effective, concentrated measures and political will necessary to implement them. Consequently,

1.

We call for a reform of the educational system which will individualise and personalise European education, making actual room for young people to discover and appreciate their own talents, boost their potential, and develop the abilities that will allow an efficient and sustainable transition from the academic to the professional life. This can be based upon good case practices of other Member States. We call for an agreement among states on a minimum of quality criteria to be implemented.

Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment

2.

We encourage the implementation of a system of one-year mandatory internship for students prior to entering university, thus providing them with valuable and practical experience. From this system, students will draw concrete academic and professional benefits that will also help them set out an entrepreneurial path. We encourage the implementation of a system of mandatory practical experiences as part of school curriculum.

We call for the addition of a dedicated coaching role in secondary education which is not a member of the teaching staff. Tasked with guiding individual students towards their personalised development plan. This should incorporate participation of companies and entrepreneurs.

3.

4.

We call for an incorporation of mandatory comprehensive IT courses in the school curriculum to equip students at all levels with specific IT skills that have become basic in a digital age and essential for all entrepreneurial activity, e.g. basic programming language and mastery of mobile devices such as tablets.

We urge for improvement of language education to facilitate worldwide reallocation which may lead to global entrepreneurial mindset.

5.

6.

We call for a reduction of the financial risks for young entrepreneurs by broadening the tax exemptions for start-ups.

We urge a cut of all unnecessary red tape that hampers entrepreneurial dynamism and a harmonisation of the legal framework for start-ups and SMEs in the EU Member States, thus facilitating entrepreneurial mobility.

7.

Declaration of Young Europeans on Youth Unemployment



8.

We advocate for the introduction of “Second-Chance Allowance”, i.e. allowances for people who became bankrupt during their efforts for starting a business.

We encourage the setting of a minimum threshold of co-working spaces in European countries. These spaces will be co-financed by the EU and made available for all entrepreneurs.

9.

10.

We call for the immediate beginning of “quality internships” supported by initiatives and platforms with proven success. We call for the immediate end of professional unpaid internships.

We believe that the only viable option to effectively tackle the structural problem of youth unemployment depends upon the implementation of structural measures that can effectively establish an entrepreneurial mindset in Europe.

Confident that these proposed actions are all conducive to a desired change in the existing paradigms from which Europe as a whole will benefit, we share the belief that they ought to be addressed urgently and the time to do so is now, not tomorrow.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation which fosters political dialogue, reinforces economic cooperation, and promotes collaboration in other areas of mutual interest.

ASEM was officially established in 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand, as an exclusively Asian-European forum to enhance relations and various forms of co-operation between the then 12 members of the European Union (EU) and its Commission, the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the individual countries of China, Japan, and South Korea.

And YouthProAktiv was there!

After several series of enlargements, ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 international organisations. The countries are Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam, while the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the international organisations involved.

In general, the process is considered by the parties involved to be a way of deepening the relations between Asia and Europe at all levels, which is deemed necessary to achieve a more balanced political and economic world order. The process is enhanced by the biennial meetings of Heads of State and Government, alternately in Europe and Asia, and biennial meetings of Foreign Ministers as well as political, economic, and socio-cultural meetings and events at various levels.

ASEFYLS

Inside the context of the Asia-Europe Meeting, the first ASEM Young Leaders Summit was conceived and performed!

The ASEM Young Leaders Summit (#ASEFYLS) was taking place from last 1-5th November 2015 in Luxembourg! ASEFYLS emerged from the request by young citizens and ASEM Head of States and Governments for a closer interaction and exchange of perspectives on pressing societal issues in both regions. It has been a common space for young thinkers and doers to question and explore how the entrepreneurial vein can trigger and nourish job-creation, mobility and social cohesion in Asia and Europe. Constructive dialogue, hands-on skills development and a Call for Action addressed to the ASEM Foreign Ministers has been the core elements of the programme.



ASEFYLS



YouthProAktiv

120.

selected Asian & European Young Leaders

5 long day conference.

Linking the dots between entrepreneurship and youth employment across 5 sectors: governments, corporations, education, startups and social enterprises.

High-top

policy-makers, entrepreneurs, leaders &
social changers!

“I believe you are not just the leaders of the
future but the leaders of today”

HE Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Watchdog EMPL, CULT, ITRE, ECON Committees

In order to make sure that civil society is properly heard and represented in the decision making sphere, YouthProAktiv is constantly present at the European Parliament in order to promote proactivity at and entrepreneurship. Our main aims at the European level include:



1.

PROMOTING A PERSON-CENTERED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

YouthProAktiv advocates for a person-centered approach to education. We believe that education should be a platform for young people allowing them to discover their talents and skills. We aim to introduce obligatory personality tests for young people in order to encourage them to invest some time in personal development. This approach will enhance their career choices and allow them to unfold their enormous potential hidden in each person.

FIGHTING OVERREGULATION

2.

We promote the idea of economy that would allow proactive individuals to create jobs for themselves and others. We fight against unnecessary regulations which increase the costs for entrepreneurs to employ new people. We promote a vision of a balanced economy which includes regulations on issues which are absolutely necessary, and leave legal and economic space for entrepreneurs to operate.

Watchdog EMPL, CULT, ITRE, ECON Committees

3.

PROMOTING LIBERALIZATION OF THE COMMON MARKET

We believe that less barriers to trade can increase the welfare of nations. In Europe a lot of these aims have already been achieved through the establishment of the common market with the freedom of movement of people, capital, services and stock. Nonetheless, in reality there is a lot of things to be improved especially in the field of services.

LOWER TAXES

4.

YouthProAktiv is supporting all solutions which reduce unnecessary taxation for entrepreneurs. We believe that less taxes for pro-active people means more jobs for everybody.

EMPL

The EMPL Committee is mainly responsible for employment policies and all aspects of social policy, working conditions, vocational training and the free movement of workers and pensioners.

During this legislative term, these areas cover a broad range of activities, such as the fight against unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, the fight against precarious jobs, the tackling of situations of abuse, such as undeclared work or the circumvention of laws designed at protecting employees, or the improvement of rules on health and safety at work.

CULT

The Committee on Culture and Education is responsible for all the cultural aspects of the Union such as the dissemination of culture, cultural heritage, cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as for education, the audiovisual policy, the cultural and educational aspects of the information society, youth and sports. The Committee is responsible for the 'Erasmus +' programme for education, training, youth and sport, 'Creative Europe' which supports European cultural and creative sectors and the 'Europe for citizens' programme.

ITRE

The aim of the ITRE Committee is to bring the European economy back on the growth track. For that, the ITRE committee is concentrated in four priority areas. First of all, to ensure that EU's legal and economic framework enables the European industrial sector to become more innovative. Secondly, EU's policies must boost the development and growth of European small and medium-sized enterprises. Helping strengthen SMEs is as much about financing, as about openness of research programs, skills-development training schemes, or fiscal legislation. Thirdly, to build a true European digital market. And finally, to explode the full potential of EU's common energy policy.

ECON

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs is responsible for Economic and monetary Union (EMU), the regulation of financial services, the free movement of capital and payments, taxation and competition policies, and the international financial system.

European Commission StartUp Europe

Startup Europe (European Commission) aims to strengthen the business environment for web and ICT entrepreneurs so that their ideas and business can start and grow in the EU. Startup Europe contributes to the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

Startup Europe's objectives are:

- . To reinforce the links between people, business and associations who build and scale up the startup ecosystem (e.g. the Web Investors Forum, the Accelerator Assembly, the Crowdfunding Network ...)

- . To inspire entrepreneurs and provide role models (e.g. the Leaders Club and their Startup Manifesto, the Startup Europe Roadshow)

- . To celebrate new and innovative startups (with Tech All Stars and Europioneers), help them to expand their business (Startup Europe Partnership, ACE Acceleration Programme), and give them access to funding under Horizon 2020.

ICT startups can access support services such as advice, networking and legal assistance, from EU funded projects on the Startup Europe Club website. We are creating as well a Dynamic Mapping of the startups ecosystem. Have a look at some great success stories in Europe.



4.

Building a participatory Europe

"In the XXI century, what Europe needs is unique, creative and innovative individuals educated to think outside the box and being able to open new horizons".

"If we don't know how to be successful as persons we will not be able to be successful professionals"



Art 2. TEU

Promotion of European Identity & Values

- . The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.



YouthProAktiv mission, vision, goals and activities are inspired with the aim of empowering the individual to become the leader of their community. "United in diversity", YouthProAktiv aims to recognize and promote the unique value of every single young person in shaping and improving the world we live in.

Saving the bridge between the local&European approach

In order to properly define which are the real needs of the European youth, there is an urgent need to understand the diversity of the youth approaches in their different national environments.

Through its presence and work at the national level, YouthProAktiv enhances the exchange about current challenges in regional youth policy, especially in the fields of employment, education and entrepreneurship.

Through its presence and work in Brussels, the capital of Europe, YouthProAktiv ensures that the different local concerns of the youth are brought together and represented in the international realm. Our daily work with both the youth on the ground and with policy-makers, international institutions and international youth organizations, ensures a successful way forward on creating solutions for each pressing youth



5. Upcoming programs for 2016

The EU-US Leadership program is designed to identify the brightest young people from the European Union and United States willing to participate in developing strong Transatlantic relations. The program allows students from both sides of the Atlantic to undergo a 3 months internship at United States Congress for European students, and at the European Parliament for American participants.



EU-ASIA PLATFORM

The EU-ASIA Platform for exchange of good practices is a transcontinental network of young leaders, entrepreneurs and educators from EU and Asia that aims at deepening the relations between both continents on entrepreneurship and education related-issues.

Gathering young entrepreneurs, young professionals and proactive university students, the International ProAktivity Summit is the annual conference of YouthProAktiv. The aim of the International ProAktivity Summit is to empower young people to be the social and economic drivers of our time. International ProAktivity Summits enhance them with the proper attitude, the needed skills and the useful networks, in order to carry out with their entrepreneurial and social projects.



BE #YOUTHPROAKTIV

