



UNHCR & EYP Partnership

The European Youth Parliament is a peer-to-peer educational programme that brings together young people from across Europe to debate the pressing issues of our time. Our mission is to inspire and empower young Europeans to be open-minded, tolerant and active citizens.

#WITHREFUGEES

Thanks to our cooperation with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), questions concerning refugees and migration have become an integral part of the EYP's debates at international sessions. We involve young refugees and stateless persons in our sessions, invite experts and encourage participants to engage with the topics based on their experience.



[Watch this video to find out more about our cooperation.](#)

Three times a year, we organise major international conferences which gather around 280 young people each – they are called “International Sessions”. Since 2017, we have been involving young refugees and stateless persons in our sessions, we invited experts and encouraged participants to engage with the topics based on their experience. It is of great importance to us to welcome participants at the event who come from many different backgrounds. The EYP aims to be a safe and welcoming environment for all young people.

When looking out for young refugee / stateless participants, we encourage National UNHCR offices to keep the following profile in mind:

- Good command of English will greatly facilitate full participation in the programme,
- Age limit between 16 and 24 years,
- Interested in discussions with other people, news, talking and analysing, meeting people from various cultures and backgrounds,
- The participants are expected to participate in three elements of the event by active listening, and engaging in discussions,
- The participants are expected to attend the full duration of the event (9 days: Saturday to Sunday).

Once the participants are identified, we help them to:

- Understand what EYP is and what their role will be,
- Share all the necessary materials for the event,
- The transport is arranged and paid for by the EYP, so is accommodation, and all the costs during the event,
- Identify their needs for any additional clothing or other items to make sure they have everything



they need for the event,

- Introduce them to their future committee and chairperson of this committee.

During the event they will:

- Have all their expenses covered by EYP, including transport and accommodation
- Be welcomed by the organisers,
- Have a go-to organiser, as well as someone from the EYP office, in case they have any questions,
- Receive the pocket money for other small expenses that might occur.

After participation in the event – the participants will receive the certificate.

To allow for participants to be well integrated in the event, we would ideally need to have their contact details at least 1-1,5 months before the session, enabling us to start a proper on-boarding process and permit the participants to prepare themselves.

„Those 9 days were the best days of my life. I truly needed a break of what’s going on in the real world. I felt like I was dreaming those days, living in a war and in terrible circumstances that had a huge impact on me. Coming to Tbilisi was great and meeting new people and visiting new sites was truly what I was lacking.”

Avedis, a refugee participant in Tbilisi, 2017

At events themselves, participants are organised in smaller groups of 12-16 people and those groups – called “committees” – each have 1 important topic to discuss, analyse, draw conclusions, recognise problems and offer some ideas for solutions. Examples of such topics are: “What will be the impact of Brexit and how should countries deal with it?” “How do new technologies change the way we absorb information, what opportunities and what challenges come with that?” ...

The event for the participants is split into 3 major parts:



Teambuilding – set of games and fun activities which help people get to know each other, feel more comfortable and learn a little bit about where they come from, what they do and what they hope and expect from the International Session;



Committee work – primarily working on the topic, sharing of the knowledge, in-depth discussions and it is a forum for young people to develop and express their opinions on European and global political and social issues in an open and welcoming environment;



General Assembly – place where participants come in their smaller groups, present their suggestions and ideas and then everyone gets to ask a question, raise a point and offer ideas on how to improve.

Overall, during the event, participants are accommodated together and have a programme they are committed to being part of. Besides work, EYP International Sessions include many cultural and social activities for people to get to know their peers from the entire continent, many of whom become friends for a lifetime.