

EUROPEAN

YOUTH PRESS

15TH SPECIAL EDITION



Illustration by Mélody Da Fonseca

IT'S EUROPEAN YOUTH PRESS' BIRTHDAY!

Join an independent media network that counts 15 years of success.

The European Youth Press (EYP) is celebrating 15 years of successful work for fair and independent journalism that promotes democracy, peace and human rights. If you are a youth media organisation or a passionate journalist that stands for the same values, this is the best time to join the network! The EYP aims to inspire young people to involve themselves in media, take an active part in civil society and develop an inclusive and democratic public sphere in Europe. It consists of 26 youth media organisations and reaches more than 60.000 young journalists across Europe. Its Member Organisations are based in Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Young media makers, based in a country where there is an EYP Member Organization, are encouraged to contact it and be informed about the EYP opportunities. Becoming a member of the EYP family, individuals and organizations

- Benefit from professional journalistic non-formal education opportunities. The EYP organizes various training, lectures and workshops.
- Are involved in mobility opportunities. The EYP connects like-minded journalists and media entities and facilitates the process of sharing expertise.
- Reach decision-making. Through the EYP young journalists can lobby for their cause.

Besides, if you are between 20 and 30 years of age and you wish to get involved in the work of the European Youth Press you are very welcome to be a volunteer for the Orange Magazine. Orange is an English-language online magazine that covers high-level conferences around the European continent. It was founded in 2004 by the European Youth Press to provide young journalists with an enabling and inspiring environment where they can strengthen their competences and deepen their knowledge on media.

Find out more about the EYP, its members and partnerships on the network's website.



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- Malta:** Malta Youth Press
- Montenegro:** Mladiinfo Montenegro
- Poland:** POLIS
- Portugal:** Bue Fixe
- Russia:** YNPRESS
- Scandinavia:** Nordic Press Association
- Slovakia:** European Dialogue
- Sweden:** UNG Media



Photos by European Youth Press



INTERVIEWS WITH OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

**DESIREE WIDELL**

1. Tell us a few things about your MO. What makes your MO special?

Ung Media is the Swedish organisation for young journalists and media makers. We have 14 000 members in ages 15-30 years old. What makes us special is that we have the luxury of getting state funding which makes us able to have employees and arrange big national projects. We're also one of the founders of the Nordic network Nordic Press Association.

2. How long have you been a member of the EYP network?

Well, technically since 2011 when I joined Ung Media, I became one of the 60 000 EYP members in all of Europe. But my first EYP experience was EYMD 2014 in Strasbourg. It was a special edition since it was an election year and we covered the European Youth Event that was held in the parliament. Thousands of young people from all over Europe were gathered, and I was one of the approximately 100 young journalists chosen to report about it. It was by far the coolest experience I've ever had, back then.

3. Why do you think being a member of the EYP network is valuable?

For me, it's been irreplaceable to meet young people from different countries and cultures and discuss topics like freedom of the press, politics and the journalistic field in general. I've learned more about the world than I did in three years of university in all the different projects within EYP. And I've met friends for life.

4. What have you learned during this time you have been part of your MO?

That the journalist role is much more complex than it seems. A lot depends on the conditions you're working in, your personal experience and for example where in Europe you live. I think it have given me a humbler approach to journalism and life in general.

5. Please tell us your best EYP memory.

I've already described my EYMD14-experience, so I would have to say the many hours I've spent bent over books with budgets and financial results, as an internal auditor for EYP. I recently did my third audit, and I must say enjoy it surprisingly much. I guess with the right company, even numbers in German is fun.

**DENISA KARABOVA**

1. Tell us a few things about your MO. What makes your MO special?

Our association consists of 10 members and its main goal is to raise awareness of youth about the European affairs and other relevant topics. Recently we deal mostly with the topic of media literacy and youth participation. Most of our members graduated in political science or the European studies and work/study in the university-based in Trnava. We cooperate a lot with many stakeholders (European institutions or politicians) as well as with different schools. We try to the extent our local activities to the international level as much as possible.

2. How long have you been a member of the EYP network?

We became an observing member of EYP in 2015.

3. Why do you think being a member of the EYP network is valuable?

Why do you think being a member of the EYP network is valuable?

I am really happy that our organisation is a part of EYP network because apart from all the amazing events and training we can take a part in it gives us higher credibility in the eyes of other stakeholders or partners. Thanks to EYP I have met so many amazing people and I am always happy to attend the EYP events.

4. What have you learned during this time you have been part of your MO?

I have learnt a lot from the other MO and board members, since our representatives always attend all GA and pre-GA and we also cooperate a lot with EYP within the different projects. So I get inspired by all these amazing people (members of MO or Board Members of EYP) in many different ways.

5. Please tell us your best EYP memory.

The best memory is definitely the pre-GA take was held in my beloved Portugal last summer in Cascais. We had so much fun there. Would be great to have the next meetings in similar cool destinations.

FRIED AERNOUTS

1. Tell us a few things about your MO. What makes your MO special?

StampMedia uses media to strengthen the voice of young people. Three things are "special" about our organization:

The production of media is not our end goal, but a way to help young people reach more people.

We have lots of collaborations with the mainstream and niche media in Flanders, to reach more people.

We have special attention for the voices of those youngsters that get the least attention in mainstream media.

2. How long have you been a member of the EYP network?

We have been a member of EYP since 2014, I think.

3. Why do you think being a member of the EYP network is valuable?

EYP is very interesting for us because of the exchanges. Without EYP we wouldn't be able to send so many of our young people abroad to meet and collaborate with other European youngsters.

4. What have you learned during this time you have been part of your MO?

That it is not always easy to work together in Europe, but that it is worth the effort, that it really broadens your horizon.

5. Please tell us your best EYP memory.

Sleeping on a slightly tilted boat in Belgrade felt like being drunk all the time!



**HOVNAN
BAGHDASARYAN**

1. Tell us a few things about your MO. What makes your MO special?

Manana Center has been engaged in media education and media creation for over twenty-five years. We work with different age groups from the age of nine to thirty. We prepare our own media makers by combining civil journalism with professional journalism. Media is a broad concept for us and includes not only the press but also some types of art.

2. How long have you been a member of the EYP network?

We have been a member of EYP since 2006.

3. Why do you think being a member of the EYP network is valuable?

The network provides an opportunity to get to know similar organizations in different countries and exchange experiences with them.

4. What have you learned during this time you have been part of your MO?

Many members and students of our organization have participated in several joint projects and workshops during which they have acquired new knowledge and skills. They apply this knowledge to their work not only in our organization but elsewhere, as many of them now work in other media outlets.

5. Please tell us your best EYP memory.

The memories are personal to each participant and therefore different, but they all relate mainly to meeting their fellow young media makers from different European countries, working with them and the new friendships. We now have many friends all over Europe, and this is very important to us, as the young people of our country are probably the most restricted in terms of mobility among European youth media makers.



SOPHIA WELLEK

Project Manager of the M100

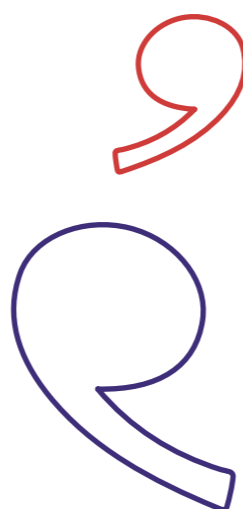


During the YEJ Workshop, participants from different countries had a few days to develop their projects in smaller groups, which will become a part of their follow-up activities.

They have pitched their projects at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation HQ in Potsdam and got professional counselling from the jury.

“The ideas presented ranged from a cross-border girls’ podcast aimed at inspiring and empowering women and a mobile-first oriented Spanish version of the Financial Times to an interaction platform between journalists and their readers to increase trust in the media. I believe that collaborative projects across national borders are gaining in significance in an increasingly globalised, interconnected and mobile world. Of course, it is not easy to put all ideas into practice but our workshop provides a first networking possibility that could encourage future collaboration. The group work was particularly impressive, as the ideas were developed in a limited and short period.

Sophia says, that the learning and the exchange during the project are not one-sided: “The younger generation is very much underestimated, we need to give them a stronger voice!”





Photos by European Youth Press



15 YEARS OF EYP COLLABORATIONS

15 YEARS EYP FULL OF DIVERSE COLLABORATIONS

There is no better way to explain the diversity of EYPs work than presenting the collaborations EYP created over the past 15 years, including a variety of partners and individual topics, bringing together journalists from all over the world. The European Media Days, M100 Young European Journalist Workshop, Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum and European Youth Event— those are four of our many special collaborations, where journalists gained unique work experience due to cooperation and networks for many

It brings EU closer to people

—European Youth Media Days



The European Youth Media Days is one of our oldest collaboration which was created in 2007 between the EYP and European Parliament, dedicated to young journalists in Europe to gain experience through media workshops, political discussions and productions about the European Parliament. “The EYMD gives journalists a great way to learn hands-on and to build life-changing contacts which in the future will shape European journalism, laying the foundations for transnational cooperation projects to happen”, says Mariell Raisma, EYP board member, Orange Magazine supervisor and former EYMD coordinator. She adds: “EYMD enables journalists to get a hint of the everyday life in the EP, and by creating immediate contact

between the EP and journalists, it builds preconditions for journalists to write stories about the EP, in a way which touches people. This way it brings the EU closer to people”. This year special of the summer school in 2019 was the focus on Science in cooperation with the European Science-Media Hub (ESMH) that provides an overview of Artificial Intelligence, ethical questions and digital communication.

We connected all kinds of digital talents!

—European Youth Award



To promote reports about digital technologies cooperation between the European Youth Award and EYP was initiated in 2012. The leading European-wide initiative EYA is supporting youth using digital technology for social empowerment and is financed in part by the European Union Europe for Citizens Programme. Including 2019 it has awarded 105 socially effective digital projects.

During the two joined events “Media Moving Forward Camp I + II” in 2018 one hundred future media makers met in Salzburg and Graz to gain insights into the work-life of coders and to learn how to report about rising digital technologies. Interviews with developers took place and projects “in the making” were featured. EYP journalists as well met with EYA Winners to write about their society-changing applications. The main coordinator of EYA, Birgit Kolb, reflects about the collaboration: “The cooperation with EYP is fantastic! Especially our joint events - the Media Moving Forward Camps - was a great success as we connected one hundred young media makers with coders and all kinds of digital talents! Both sides benefitted from insights into the working procedures of the other and young people from all over Europe connected. That’s what EYA is all about!”

Cooperation for 15 years

- M100 Sanssouci Colloquium
& Young European Journalist Workshop



The M100 Young European Journalism workshop (M100YEJ) has been initiated already in 2005 to promote the ethical standards in journalism and since then EYP has been a longtime supporter for the project. 25 selected journalists from all over Europe, the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia come together in Berlin and Potsdam, Germany for a fruitful exchange. Together, the two organizations M100 and EYP promote values of educating young journalists about media ethics, work environment and modern challenges when working in journalism. The Project Manager of M100, Sophia Wellek, reflects on the past years of collaboration: “M100 has been cooperating with EYP for 15 years already. EYP always helped us a lot in covering the M100YEJ events but also spreading our call for application to reach journalists from all over Europe to take part in our workshops. We are happy to share our networks and stay connected with our alumni.”

A team of journalists from nearly all continents

-Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum



In 2011 EYP started the cooperation with Deutsche Welle, which gave us the possibility to send journalists from Orange Magazine, the media project of EYP, as well as international media makers, to the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum. This became an annual project and we have sent young journalists every year since then. Due to the global nature of the conference, each year EYP had the chance to bring together people from all over the world and so managed to have an international team of journalists coming from every continent (besides Antarctica) over the years. This international cooperation creates long-lasting friendships and networks, which Orange Magazine and

EYP journalist Dobriyana Tropankeva thinks about many times: “We have had some amazing journalists over the years and nowadays alumni work across key media organizations around the world.”

A pretty serious task

-European Youth Event



Every two years around 8500-9000 young people, presenting about 109 different nationalities, join the European Parliament in Strasbourg at the European Youth Event. Our team of journalists participated already two times at the European conference and worked on the report 2016 and furthermore 2018, which collected the 100 most concrete ideas discussed at the event. The preparation for such a report is challenging and means more than three months of continuous preparation for voluntary journalists. Nevertheless, the importance of this work is significant, reflects chief editor Julie: “Writing a report like this could be a big challenge, because we have a team of volunteers, who can’t devote all their time to the report, but on the other hand it is a pretty serious task, because it gets published online and distributed to the 9000 participants.”

In this sense,
EYP wants to thank all of our collaborations for the great experiences we gained over the past 15 years! EYP is looking forward to a continued partnerships and further projects in the future!



Photos by European Youth Press



“HOW IT ALL BEGAN...”

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNA ALBOTH
(BOARD MEMBER OF EYP 2008 – 2010)

1. What was the initial idea/vision behind the creation of the European Youth Press? How did it come about and who was involved in its creation?

It all started from the cooperation between the German Youthpress and the Polish Youthpress. I remember the first few meetings (the German team coming with the bottle of wine to Warsaw) to see if we even have something in common. Of course, we had, but it was not so obvious to see it and to grasp it at first. The German Youthpress was a huge organisation and active in the whole country, with thousands of members. The Polish one was strong but very local: just in Warsaw and just next to the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. One had a big budget, another one didn't even have an office. The differences were huge but we were sure we would learn from each other and that we can learn also from any other youthpress organisation in Europe. People knew people, somebody heard about the Swedish youthpress, somebody had some friends in the Balkans. Of course, our German friends took the lead and that's how the idea of putting all in one room came up. A great idea - I think we didn't really realise at that point how great!

2. What was the founding meeting in 2004 like regarding the atmosphere?

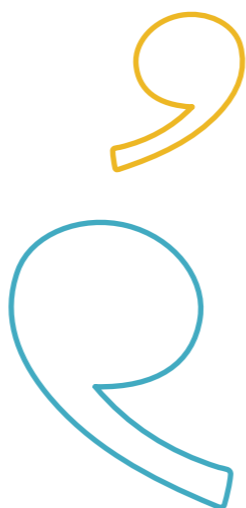
I remember it from the Polish perspective: 1st of May 2004 - Poland joined the EU. With the Polish team, we took the train to the border and spend the 1st of May on the bridge in Frankfurt-Slubice. Then, on the morning of 2nd May, we went to Berlin. If I remember well there was maybe 8 organisations coming? Big, nice room in the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, two days of discussions. It was quite a solemn time: we all knew we are starting something new and big. But try to write a status, try to work on rules of the organisation, when you meet for the very first time in such an international team! Each country had a bit different focus: some on schools, some on young professionals, some on radio, some on paper. I remember that the discussions were taking forever. Like every next General Assembly;) I'm sure you know what I am talking about! was three years ago and the creativity of our journalists remained equally high!



Picture of the German-Swedish-Polish meeting in 2004

3. What was a major challenge, that you and the EYP creators were confronted with at the beginning? How did you cope with it?

I think there were a lot of different ideas on how we should proceed and what we should focus on. A common vision is never an easy thing. Adding the cultural differences to it, different level of English, different sizes of organisations. And of course, the fact that all EYP work was a voluntary work was never helpful. How can one expect full engagement from people, when the only thing you can give back is projects, that just require even more work? But we all loved it!



Picture of the German-Swedish-Polish meeting in 2004

4. What was EYP's first major project and how did it come about?

At the beginning, we had some smaller projects: some training course in Macedonia and a German-Swedish-Polish meeting in Sweden. I think it was great for getting to know each other. That was in 2004 and 2005. Then we had the first real GA in Budapest, where we could take more conscious decisions. But definitely, the most important project for EYP was the first European Youth Media Days in June 2007 in Brussels. The very first edition with 300 participants and a 30 people team. Something which changed the life of many (most of my nowadays friends, including my husband, I met during those days!). It was not always easy to keep EYMD alive and on high standards for the upcoming years, but it was definitely the great move to start it. Amongst others: Christoph Fahle, Max Kall, Alfhild Boehringer and Letizia Gambini did a great job.

5. Seeing where EYP is now and how many people are and have been involved in it - could you share your thoughts on its development with us?

I feel, that we didn't really know how big things are going to be when we started the project. I, as a journalist, in the past 15 years, never had a problem, in any of the European countries regarding the access to information, sources or contacts - thanks to the EYP network.

One thing I think we are still lacking is an exchange between generation. When I talked with the next board of EYP and heard about the GAs - I felt the same mistakes were made all over again. New people want to do things on their own, in their way, but they didn't realise that one can build on the experience made by others. EYP has 15 years of experience on how to communicate within the countries, how to lobby for new projects, how to discuss during meetings and how to deal with politics (there were important moments about it in the past!) - it would be great not to lose this experience!

6. What do you hope for EYP in the future?

I hope EYP will stay open for new: people, countries and challenges. The worst that can happen to an NGO is closing themselves and not letting the "new" enter. I know some Youthpress organisations, which ran for the last 15 years by the same people. Really? They are not "youth" anymore.

It is important to let go and also to embrace the experiences made. I hope EYP will stay strong and inspirational for others like it used to be for many years. I hope it will remain a good example of quality journalism. Because we badly need it for the future: no project for projects. Projects are for learning and getting better. EYP is a strong asset in Europe, so let's use it!



Pictures of the first EYMDs in 2007



Illustration by Méloody Da Fonseca



MARTIN MASKA

Office Manager and Alumni



Since the end of 2014, the EYP was ever-present in my life. There was no single day without working for it or at least thinking about some projects or ideas. It was difficult sometimes, but I don't regret being a Treasurer or Office manager of EYP. And I will never forget those days, not one experience or idea.



Photos by European Youth Press



INTERVIEWS WITH EYP PEOPLE





PATRICIA SENGE

1. When did you first join EYP/Orange Magazine? What was your motivation to do so?

I first learned about EYP and Orange Magazine during the European Youth Media Days at the European Parliament in 2016. Dobriyana, who is now in the advisory committee of EYP, led my working group, which was conducting interviews with MEPs and European experts for a TV show we produced. She and her passionate work in the field of media inspired me to get further involved with EYP.

Suddenly, I was in a Facebook chat with many other European journalists, I had never met. What first seemed a bit overwhelming and intimidating, turned out to be a fascinating adventure. We all share the same interests and yet, go very different paths. It is absolutely amazing to meet young media creators in such an untypical way and learn from each other.

2. What were your responsibilities?

Originally I was a writing journalist and videographer for Orange Magazine. I participated during the Sunday online chats and assisted the project coordinators. Now, three years after I joined, I appear to be the “oldest” member in the current Orange team. I, more or less naturally, took over the role as the project coordinator and enjoy my new tasks. Our team is just as diverse of it was three years ago and the creativity of our journalists remained equally high!

3. What are some of your best memories of EYP?

Just after I had joined in 2016, I was chatting with the EYP President at the time, and he casually asked: “whether I am excited to travel to Mongolia”. I told him, that I would be if I’d ever had the chance to go. Turned out, EYP decided to send me to Mongolia to cover an event organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and simply forgot to mention it to me. Without a doubt, this was the best surprise yet. Especially, since this conference influenced my career decisions. After my undergraduate degree, I decided to take a gap year before continuing with my Master and interned with ASEF in Singapore. I am still in very close contact with my friends in Singapore.

4. How, in your opinion, has the organization changed over the years?

The organisation is its people. People change. Having the chance to constantly meeting new young journalists from all over Europe and work together on very different projects is a very unique opportunity. The process, structure, attitude and cooperation depends on the people you work with. I have obviously a different working style than project coordinators before me. Hence, Orange members, who are in our core team at the moment probably have a different experience than the ones before and to come. This is a good thing!

5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Orange Magazine is about providing opportunities to young journalists from all over the EU, regardless of their experience or economic background. I really hope to present young media students the opportunity to travel and gather experience in the field of journalism, that otherwise would not get the chance to!



KATARZYNA MORTON

1 My journey with Orange has taken a rather unusual path. I started to work with the magazine around 2011. Back then, my engagement was mostly on an operational level. I was a Coordinator of the Middle East and North Africa Committee and therefore I aimed to make sure that in various EYP projects we have a sufficient amount of the participants from the MENA region or with a MENA origin. In this capacity, I worked with the Orange team for example, on coverage of the conference on drug trafficking in Vienna, Austria or on a project related to migration issue we held in Malta.

Later on, already as a board member or a coordinator of larger EYP projects, I got to overview an overall performance of various Orange teams. I was also deeply involved in ethical and quality disputes on Orange, focusing on protecting the independence of our reporters and stories they presented.

My very first Orange edition, in which I was a ground team member, namely an editor in chief and produced media myself, took place in Strasbourg in 2014. It was during the No Hate Speech Movement campaigners meeting at the Council of Europe’s premises in France.

My motivation to work as a team leader and the editor for this particular project was to first understand the operations of the Orange team from a board member perspective. I wanted to reflect on its improvements.

I was usually working processes and on an operational level, so I felt I needed more on-the-ground insights into our work. Secondly, naturally, I am passionate about producing media, voicing important causes and stories. Especially when I am with a dedicated, powerful team! So it was a perfect occasion to simply do things I like.

2 My EYP career is very long. I started as a team member of the European Youth Media Days 2007. It was the first EYMD edition ever. I remember that I found this experience positively overwhelming, and sworn to myself to do more with and for this fascinating organization (that I just met). In 2010, I created the Middle East and North Africa from scratch. Back then my tasks were actually... to do everything. To create and sustain a good, motivated, skilled team (most important thing!), set goals for the Committee, set its development path, facilitate its organizational culture, design our first projects, open social media channels etc. Of course, I had a great team with me to do all of this together.

Then I designed and coordinated my first project under the MENAC umbrella, called *Minority Voices*, held in Budapest, Hungary. It was a study session conducted with the Educational Department of the Council of Europe and the Minority Rights Europe. It was my first, independent project coordinator position. But also a very first experience in designing projects content-wise, which I found to be a crucial skill to learn. It was also my first time to get funds for our activity. This is a standard full process path - create, develop and implement a full idea, build a team around it and overview the final reporting to the donor.

Soon enough I have been elected to the board of the European Youth Press (in 2012). My tasks were quite broad. I was acting in a capacity of what we now call “an internal coordinator”. Back then this position, or a task if you like, was informal and has born rather naturally from a team dynamic. That means I navigated a flow of our work, very often moderated our board meetings and followed up on tasks of each board member.

I was also responsible for communication with Member Organization, and was a contact person to the Council of Europe, at EYMD times, also to the European Parliament (together with other board members). I represented EYP in negotiations with a few other stakeholders we worked with. Writing extensive grant proposals, together with our proactive team, was also a part of the job. I was a board supervisor for MENAC after I stepped back from its coordination. I have coordinated - as the main coordinator or a coordination team member - 3 editions of EYMDs, both in Strasbourg and in Brussels.

My last full project with EYP was in 2016. I have been invited by the MENAC team to Amman in the capacity of a senior advisor. The project was called the "Inclusive Media" and was designed purely for female media makers. It was also the highest quality project, from a journalistic point of view, I have seen so far.

Many times, I was a speaker and a moderator on public events on EYP's behalf but also a moderator of conflict resolutions within the organization. After this period, I have been elected to the advisory board of the European Youth Press, for I believe 3 terms in a row.

3 I have plenty of great memories from EYP's book. Some of them are funny. I remember the whole board of mine staying over at my small studio in Leuven for a night. Our Italian fellow board member had nightmares (at least this is what we think) and was passionately shouting and gesticulating during the night. You can imagine, that we were crying from laughing. Another fun memory is a wonderful party at one of Maltese, little Islands when the full General Assembly had fun by the deep blue sea coast till the very morning. Some of us joined my dancing choreography by the sunset, others swam in a sea. Of course a day after, we had our GA, and clashed over serious, organizational discussions, so our relaxed mood fades away quite quickly. But this was a charm of EYP, to be together in heated talks and fun times. Most valuable for me was to observe people around

me growing. From team members and participants into powerful leaders. It was emotionally very rewarding experience to witness how people get empowered. People who joined us as team members, later on, accelerated their potential becoming coordinators, being creative, driven, taking more and more ownership and responsibility.

I loved to see the first MENAC project in the Middle East, conducted by its new team. It made me to realize how long road we all went through and power of dedication and determination. But those are just drops in the Ocean. There is an endless list of amazing, although sometimes challenging memories. Plenty of unforgettable discussions about life, world professional and personal issues, by day and by night, in various places in the world, shaped me into the person I am today. The biggest gain yet, are long-lasting friendships.

4 I think EYP has grown a lot from the moment I joined it. It professionalized meaningfully on a structural level and most of all, it developed a strong organizational culture, in which ethics, transparency, coherency and sharing a potential become its central point.

Naturally, these qualities are the hardest to sustain as they are almost invisible, and difficult to measure. But I think they are the most important since they radiate on how we behave professionally, define how our ambitious and standards are shaped. And after all, all those values define good journalism as well.

I think with time we all also understood the meaning of organizational memory and how important it is to invest resources in people that will replace us. This is evidence of, in my eyes, cause-oriented perspective on our organization. Because we stopped focusing only on what we do and achieve (and sometimes when you are young it's only what you are passionate about) but we wanted to responsibly create the same standards and opportunities for others. I find it a great reflection of maturity.



MARTIN MASKA

Office Manager and Alumni



There were many funny stories during my a bit more than six years of engagement in EYP. Some of them became Insider jokes, and I also don't have permission for other involved people to share some stories. But there is one that always makes me laugh. It happened in Lithuania, in a small Village called Antalieptė, to which I was invited to deliver a seminar on media literacy. Giedrė coordinator of training shared a map with me, so I was not worried about reaching the place around two hours away from Vilnius. I got off where I supposed the bus stop was located and went to the venue. People there were surprised that I got there and said with a smile on their faces they wanted to start an international investigation and call the police to search for me. As a side note, it was around minus 25 degrees outside. It's because there was a girl, her name is Valerija, who waited for me at the real bus stop. Since I didn't get off the bus she was a bit disquieted. When she returned, she said to others that she looked for a dog as well (because it was my profile picture on Fb back then). Then she saw a kind of blond cat and because Giedrė told her I was blond, out of Desperation she wanted to ask that cat whether he (or she) is not me. Luckily she was not mad at me. All well that ends well. Credits to Neringa Jurčiukonytė for helping me to complete the story.

**LOTTE KAMPHUIS****1. When did you first join EYP/ Orange Magazine? What was your motivation to do so?**

I first learned about EYP during the European Youth Media Days in 2015. Some friends from university told me about the event. I went to Brussels and enjoyed it a lot, so much that I decided to get active with EYP. I became part of the pro-active team and since 2017 I am an executive board member.

2. What were your responsibilities?

Like I wrote before. When I became active with EYP I was part of the pro-active team and I was responsible for EYP's monthly newsletter. Later, in 2017, I became an Executive Board Member.

3. What are some of your best memories of EYP?

Some of my best memories are being a facilitator at the European Youth Media Days. It's an event where you meet so many nice and interesting young media makers. Everyone is working very hard to make the best out of it and it's always fun to see the outcomes of the different workshops.

I also have great memories of the board meetings at EYP. Especially the ones where we also visited the member organisations. I like to see the 'natural habitat' our member organisations work in.

4. How, in your opinion, has the organization changed over years?

I am only active for a small part of the 15 years the EYP exists. But I can imagine that the organisation has expanded with member organisations and committees. In addition, I think that some of the projects that EYP is involved in are changing over the years, as the media landscape in Europe and its challenges are also changing.

5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I hope that many young media makers from all over Europe and beyond will find their way to European Youth Press and the member organisations of EYP. To connect, collaborate and get inspired across borders. And to work together on trainings and projects to empower young and active citizens.

**MARINA SAVCHENKO****1. When did you first join EYP/Orange Magazine? What was your motivation to do so?**

My first EYP event was European Youth Media Days in October 2015 in Brussels during my internship in the press department of the European Parliament. I was impressed to meet so many media-inspired people in the European Youth Press and decided to be part of this organization. After the EYMD 2016 in Strasbourg I became a journalist of the Orange Magazine and in November 2016 applied for EYP executive board. Since November 2017 I'm an advisory board member.

2. What were your responsibilities?

As an Orange magazine member, I was responsible for social media and covered several events in Germany like the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium 2016, 2017 and 2018, Code for Live 2017 of Microsoft Office in Berlin, Media Conventions Berlin 2018, Digital Summit 2018, Global Media Forum of Deutsche Welle etc. I produced video content and articles for social media.

3. What are some of your best memories of EYP?

EYP opened for the media field of Europe and I'm very grateful for this experience. EYP attracts extraordinary and motivated media makers from all over Europe. It was a pleasure meeting so many young professionals and work with them on media projects. One more important and memorable thing about the EYP is the opportunity to attend big media events and to get new skills in media coverage.

4. How, in your opinion, has the organization changed over the years?

The structure of EYP is flexible and open for all motivated young media makers. This freedom and flexibility are essential nowadays for young people to realize all their ideas and to get important skills for the successful start in the media world. That's is the secret why EYP has almost 18k followers on social media, it will organically grow with the new members and events.

5. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would highly recommend EYP for all students and young journalists as the best opportunity to network with media professionals, to get volunteer experience and to be a part of one European media world without borders. EYP has its own spirit - it's a spirit of tolerance and freedom.

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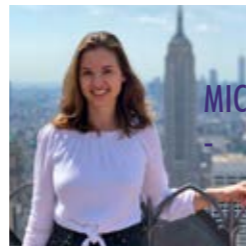
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