

YES - Europe
Young leaders in
Energy and
Sustainability

YES-Europe Annual Report 2025

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President's Message

Dear YES-Europe community,

Welcome to our **2025 Annual Report!**

I am delighted to bring you the **2nd and final Annual Report** of my **Presidency**, the release of which comes at a unique time. At the time of writing this, it would end up being some time until this Annual Report is **published**, once **mine and numerous of my Board Members' time** in their **Leadership Roles** has come to **an end**. Typically, the **publication of each Annual Report is straightforward** - we **begin the year with a General Assembly**, our members **vote on and approve** various matters, including the publication of the **Annual Report** and soon after that, the **public will get the opportunity to learn and reflect** on our **achievements of the previous year**, including the **Annual Conference**. Except in **2026**, our **Annual Conference will precede our Annual Report**. As a brief explanation, our Board decided to return our **2026 Annual Conference** to its **traditional springtime window**, after our **2024 and 2025 editions** took place in the **Autumn** of those years. With **2026** also being an **election year for a new President** (an occurrence which takes place **every 2 years**), our **Board** decided to **see out the plans** that we had **begun ourselves**, meaning our **current Board** oversaw an **unprecedented 3 Annual Conferences** within this term! This **Annual Report** documents details about our **2025 Annual Conference in Vienna**, with **next year's Report** set to delve into our **2026 Annual Conference**, which just took place in **Milan**.



The **2025 Annual Report** is your **one-stop place** to learn about the **gears** that turn the **YES-Europe machine**. More **internal projects, external projects, events, publications, Local Teams** and **active members** than ever. This has been **no coincidence**. During our **General Assembly** in early **2025**, our members **voted in favour** for a revised version of our **Statutes** and a more **streamlined membership system**. **Decentralisation, transparency** and **inclusiveness** were the **hallmarks** of our **reforms**. Our **Board** had invested a lot of effort throughout **2024** on working on these **updated mechanisms** - a

challenge in itself, coupled with the variable for our **members** to **approve them** and for the possible **uncertainty** in believing that these **new systems** would have the **positive impact** that was intended. A year on since that decision was made, and I can comfortably say that we are **thriving** as an **NGO**. You only have to skim through the **pages** of this **Report** to understand the **remarkable impact** that our **members** have been making in the **clean energy transition** and **sustainability space**. I couldn't be prouder of **youth** for accepting the fact that **change starts and ends with them**.

If I could use one word to **sum up 2025**, it would be '**empowerment**'. With very **little encouragement**, our members have **committed themselves** towards our various **activities**. It is my obligation as President to understand the **status** of our **projects** and understand what **support** is **required** by them. Anyone within a **leadership capacity** braces themselves for a **steady stream** of **requests** and **enquiries**. However, our various **International Leads, Project Leads** and **Country Representatives** have struck a balance between **autonomy** and **innovation** and have **endeavoured** towards **their** ideas with a **deeply empowering energy**. My role becomes incredibly simple if the most difficult decision our members face is **selecting between multiple ideas** to action. Being able to experience first-hand the product of **creativity, enterprise, positivity** and **confidence** has been the greatest pleasure of this role.

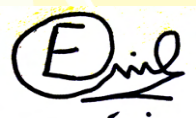
Ironically, I do not quite have the discrete words yet to thoroughly reflect upon my time in YES-Europe, since, as I alluded to earlier, it is currently late 2025 at the time of writing and there are still many things to accomplish in the remaining months left of my term. I do know, however, that 2 years in this role has reaffirmed our **NGO's mission - youth should be at the centre of all climate action initiatives**. It is **our future to determine**, since it will be **ours to live in**. For nearly a decade, some of the most **talented, highly-educated** and **skilled young people on this continent** have walked through our doors and not only **pushed themselves forward** in their **careers**, but also **YES-Europe**, as an **NGO, itself**. We owe a significant amount of gratitude to them and hope their time with us was of **value**. Yet, **YES-Europe has never been an exclusive community**. We want **everyone**. If you do not come from a technical background but want to make a difference, YES-Europe is the place for you. **Leadership** is a

responsibility, but overall, it has been an enormous **privilege**. I have got the chance to meet with so many **different personalities** from **all over the world**, each with their own **ideas** and **motivations** on how to build a more **sustainable** and **inclusive future**. There have been many times in 2024 and 2025 where I have **smiled** at the **fortune** I have received in this role. **Young people** should be allowed the **platform** to take **risks** and pursue **different avenues** to find their calling. I have no doubt that the effort we put into a NGO like YES-Europe has created a **fruitful experience** for all of us.

I would like to end my message with the **warmest wishes** to my **successor** and my fellow **Leaders' successors**. The **robustness** of our **foundation** and its **framework** will enable you to **leave your own mark** on YES-Europe. I could never ask you to be the next version of anyone. I can only ask you to **be yourself**, as for that reason, you are here, at this moment, ready to **step into your new role**. Finally, **thank you**. You being **YOUth**. **YOUth** have the **power to change our world** and, regardless of what I get up to for the rest of my career, **YOU have been life-changing for me**.

Eric Balakrishnan

President of YES-Europe



About YES-Europe

Why YES-Europe?

Shifting the energy sector towards a **sustainable state** requires an **urgent systemic change** - all societal, public, and private stakeholders need to group their efforts for a **successful transition**.

To this aim, **multi-disciplinary networks** providing the **youth** with the **right leverage** resources to **catalyse** quicker actions are still missing. We are here to **fill the gap** and **accelerate the process**.

History

YES-Europe was created through an initiative of the **EPFL University of Lausanne** in **Switzerland**. It brought together **50 students** from **9 European countries** for the first **Annual Conference** organised in **2016** to **connect** and find **meaningful ways to make a difference** in the **field of energy and sustainability**. Since then, **YES-Europe** has grown **internationally** to have an **impact** at the **European level**. It was **officially registered** as an **NGO** in **2020** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, before we **reconstituted** our **legal address** to **Zurich, Switzerland**, at the **start of 2025**.

By building a **capillary network** of **numerous international and local teams**, **YES-Europe** aims to **bridge the gap** between the **local and European level**. We have a **regional approach** with a **European focus**, which allows us to have **global perspectives** applied to **local realities**.

Vision

We envision a **positive future** where **individuals and communities** can **cultivate the knowledge and skills** to realise the **energy transition**, fostering **social, economic, and environmental sustainability**.

Mission

Our mission is to **accelerate the energy transition** by providing **youth with an environment for fusion of ideas**, the **opportunity to take on responsibility**, **build local communities** and **act for change**.

Statement

YES-Europe (Young leaders in Energy and Sustainability) is a **community** created to **empower students and young professionals** across **Europe**. We develop **meaningful connections**, **share knowledge** and **take actions** on **energy and sustainability topics**. With our **commitment, passion and common mindset**, we are building an **inclusive community** that supports each other in **brainstorming, developing and implementing projects** to **build local communities of change-makers**.

How do we work together?

In order to **foster creativity** and **empower our members**, we have adopted a **decentralised structure for management**. Each individual at **YES-Europe** is encouraged to **come up with new projects, collaborations and partnerships**, both **internally and externally**. With the support of **hundreds of active members**, **resources are easily accessible**. The **Governance Team** works towards **supporting and guiding the development of the projects**.

Contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **SDG 7: affordable and clean energy**
- **SDG 13: climate action**
- **SDG 17: partnerships for the goal**

Diversity and Inclusivity Statement

YES-Europe is committed to the acceleration of Europe's energy transition through its equal and unbiased opportunities for prospective members and its outreach activities that facilitate youth empowerment in a manner that is socially and economically inclusive. We are an equal opportunity provider.

The current global youth population is around 2 billion (ages of 10 to 24), the largest it has ever been in history. Youth plays a crucial role in combating climate change as agents of change, for example, as activists, entrepreneurs and innovators.

YES-Europe's existing membership and outreach activities show that it has achieved great diversity and inclusivity in its membership, in terms of the gender ratio (male:female ratio), and member composition (e.g. students versus young professionals; STEM versus other backgrounds).

Based on our current progress, YES-Europe will continue to build an even more inclusive representation and empowerment of youth voices across Europe (YES-Europe defines youth as persons of ages 18 to 35 years). Specifically, YES-Europe encourages acceleration of Europe's energy transition by facilitating more inclusive youth participation from:

- The **LGBTQ+** community
- **Low-income** regions and communities
- **Ethnic minorities**
- **Indigenous** communities
- **Under-represented** European countries
- Persons with expertise in the **Humanities and Natural Sciences**
- **Strategic collaborations** with other regions outside Europe
- People with **disabilities**

Financial Report 2025

YES-Europe has no paid positions. The financial statement is presented and must be accepted every year at the General Assembly.

Below is a statement of sources of income and expenditure over the last year. The following details are in Euros.

Most of YES-Europe’s revenue in 2025 came from two major donations and from services provided to partner companies.

YES-Europe’s costs in 2025 are mainly related to the Annual Conference organised in Vienna, Austria during the month of October.


Notes

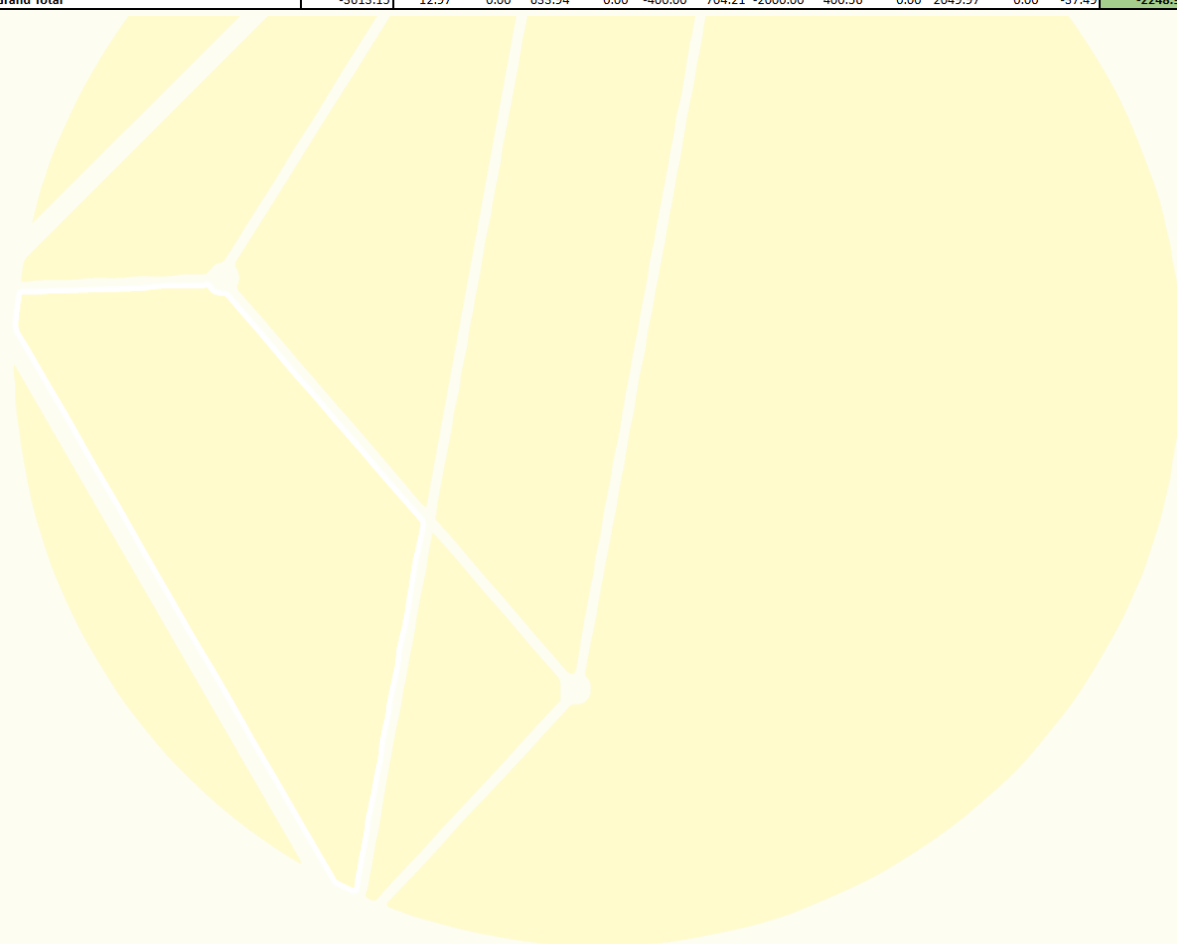
All amounts listed below are in Euro

Balance Sheet 2025

Date: 01.01.2025 - 31.12.2025		Financial balance sheet												Arnav Agarwal, CFO	
Level 0		BS												Currency: Euro	
Sum of amounts	Column label												Grand Total		
Line label	2024	2025	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	
Class 1: Active															
Liquidity															
Box	3613.15	-12.97	-633.94	0.00	400.00	-704.21	2000.00	-400.56	-2049.97					37.49	2248.99
Grand Total	3613.15	-12.97	-633.94	0.00	400.00	-704.21	2000.00	-400.56	-2049.97					37.49	2248.99

Profit & Loss 2025

Date: 01.01.2025 - 31.12.2025		Financial balance sheet												 YES - Europe Young leaders in Energy and Sustainability
Level 0		P&L												Currency: Euro
Sum of amounts	Column label	2025												Grand Total
Line label	2024	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	
Products	0.00													0.00
Donations	0.00													0.00
Accessory products	-14976.53					-400.00	-2000.00							-17376.53
Charges	0.00													0.00
Other professional reimbursements	178.92									862.17				1041.09
Website	351.75			159.38			25.43							536.56
Membership fees, donations, gifts and tips	0.00													0.00
Donations and gifts	0.00													0.00
Bank charges	0.00													0.00
Advertising costs	0.00													0.00
Travel expenses	2617.94						678.78		400.56					3697.28
Advertising print materials, advertising materials	20.00													20.00
Internet advertising	34.80													34.80
IT costs	0.00													0.00
Software	12.97	12.97												25.94
Leasing and hardware/software rentals	0.00			474.56							87.80			562.36
Other fees	0.00													0.00
Public relations	8152.00										1100.00			9252.00
Interest received	-5.00												-37.49	-42.49
Grand Total	-3613.15	12.97	0.00	633.94	0.00	-400.00	704.21	-2000.00	400.56	0.00	2049.97	0.00	-37.49	-2248.99



Interviews

We interviewed 3 of our leading members who have established themselves as **pivotal figures in their roles in 2025**. Hear what they had their say on their **backgrounds, how they joined YES-Europe and their ideas and plans for the future!**

Karolina Panko

Communications Lead

You joined YES-Europe some years ago and became our Comms Lead in Autumn last year. How would you describe your journey in the organisation over this time?



I joined YES-Europe four years ago, and my time with the organisation has been very enriching, especially since taking on the **role of Comms Lead in the fall of 2024**. During my time at YES-Europe, I had the opportunity to **work with two different Comms Leads, each with distinct leadership styles**. I learned a great deal from both and adopted practices that I valued most, such as **holding regular weekly meetings, creating opportunities for casual conversations, and getting to know team members beyond work tasks**.

I also appreciated being able to **meet with both Team Leads in-person outside of our formal NGO day-to-day work**, which strengthened my connection to our organisation. At the same time, I was given the **freedom to shape my own team and leadership approach**. I'm very grateful for the **trust, learning opportunities, and personal growth** that this experience has provided me, all of which I will carry with me into my future career.

Why is communicating information in an engaging way so important within the energy and sustainability space?

Communicating information in an engaging way is crucial in the energy and sustainability space because **humans understand the world through stories, not just**

data. **Complex topics** need to be translated into messages that resonate with different audiences, by taking their perspectives, values and motivations into account. If communication is overly technical, too lengthy, impersonal or feels AI-generated, it risks losing its impact. Engaging storytelling, relevance, and authenticity helps turn information into understanding and, ultimately, into necessary action.

What have you learnt in your time in YES-Europe that you have been able to extract into your academic life?

During my time at YES-Europe, I developed **several skills** that I have been able to transfer directly into my academic work. I became **highly proficient** in graphic design, which proved **particularly valuable** during my **master's degree**, where I was required to deliver **numerous presentations**. In addition, **my involvement in YES-Europe strengthened** my **leadership** and **collaboration skills**, especially my understanding that **meaningful outcomes** in **group settings** require **time** and **effective communication**. Finally, the experience reinforced the importance of **approaching topics holistically**, particularly when engaging with **complex socio-technical issues**.

Describe your experience at one of the highlights of the year, ReGeneration Week!

ReGeneration Week was one of the **highlights** of my time as **Comms Lead**. I absolutely loved **Åland**, and I am quite certain that I would not have had the opportunity to experience this beautiful island and its community if it had not been for ReGeneration Week. Spending a **full week** there with **young activists** from across the **Baltic region** created a **meaningful space** for **learning** and **connection** and left a **lasting impression** on me. Throughout the week, I took part in a **wide range** of **workshops**, with one of my favourites focusing on **eco-fascism**.

How will you be aiming to make an impact in your professional career once you graduate next year?

After spending time working within the NGO sector, I have become increasingly drawn toward **pursuing** a career in the **public sphere**. At the same time, the more time I spend at university, the more I realize that the most **impactful work** often happens at the **local level**. As a result, **localised** interventions are where I might find myself working. I am truly motivated to work in places where **environmental action** is pursued with **genuine commitment**, rather than treated as a **branding exercise** or a **mere tick-box exercise**. My goal is to contribute to work that **upholds social and environmental responsibility** and leads to **meaningful change**. In short, you won't find me writing a sustainability report for a big oil company, so fingers crossed I will find something that **aligns with my goals!**

Jeremias Jobst

YES-Europe Austria Country Representative

When did you first hear about YES-Europe and why did you decide to join your local YES-Europe Austria Team?



I first came across YES-Europe in 2020 through a close friend with whom I had worked with for years and with whom I had gone bikepacking in Italy back in 2017. At the time, **Alin-Florin Calin** was the **Country Representative of YES-Europe Austria**. He was going through a phase of significant **personal and professional change**, with **new responsibilities** both **privately and professionally**, and approached me quite directly: “**Hey, I’m involved in an international youth network working on energy and sustainability – would you like to drop by and talk about your Master’s thesis?**”

I did exactly that. I **joined**, got **involved** rather **intensively** for a while, and at some point in **Spring 2021**, I unexpectedly found myself taking over the **leadership role**. For me, it was immediately **clear** that **YES-Europe** represented a **rare opportunity**: **engaging**

voluntarily in socially and energy-politically relevant topics, experiencing genuine international exchange, and at the same time initiating concrete local action. At that moment in my life, this combination was precisely what I had been looking for.

In your many years of leading our Austrian Team, you have had a number of memorable moments - probably none bigger than getting to host this year's YES-Europe Annual Conference in Vienna! How would you describe your multi-year journey that led up to this October?

I owe a great deal to YES-Europe, which is why I was always willing to give just as much in return. In professional life, one is constantly confronted with dependencies, hierarchies, or people who prefer to slow things down. For me, YES-Europe was something else entirely: a space of freedom

That feeling was certainly amplified by my own rather unconventional life path, but two elements have always carried me through: commitment and a deep sense of gratitude towards the YES-Europe community. The international networking experience at the 2022 Annual Conference in Turin was a decisive moment; it made me realise that organising something of that scale in Vienna was not unrealistic. In 2023, our ten-person team ran what I would call a highly convincing “dress rehearsal” with the Energy & Sustainability Day in Vienna – a compact, professional event bringing together around 20 speakers.

Designing and executing that first self-developed format in 2023 in Vienna unlocked a core resource that YES-Europe has always thrived on: visibility through meaningful connections. In 2024, however, we went through an inspiration crisis. The idea of hosting the Annual Conference in Vienna surfaced occasionally, but the momentum was missing. It was only after three very successful afterwork events hosted by companies, where our members work professionally, that we fully realised the potential we had built up on a purely voluntary basis. That was the turning point. From a position of collective confidence, we applied – and then steadily bundled our forces to deliver what ultimately became a shared, almost surgical effort: the 2025 Annual Conference in Vienna - our masterpiece.

What have been some of the most rewarding aspects about overseeing the organisation of this year's Annual Conference?

The most rewarding aspect was the realisation of an **imagination** – that moment when **puzzle pieces** suddenly **align** into a **coherent composition** and something that **existed only in your head** becomes **tangible**. Quite frankly, we came very close to **perfection** in **executing** this conference. The **efficiency** with which some **team members** worked was nothing short of **remarkable**.

That said, moments of **doubt** were inevitable: **Will we make it? Will we secure sufficient funding? Will we still have enough charisma to attract new members?** These questions occasionally produced a sense of powerlessness. The key, I learned, is **not to eliminate** such moments but to **tolerate** them. **Frustration and tolerance, combined** with **trust** in oneself, is **essential**. The reward, eventually, is **renewed strength** – and a **resilient network** that lasts far beyond the event itself.

What are some of the main energy and sustainability topics that YES-Europe Austria have led the conversation about in recent years?

At the core, **three thematic strands** have consistently shaped our activities. First, **energy transition and sustainability** in the **context of urban development**. Second, **alternative models of energy distribution**, particularly **energy communities**. And third, the **broader socio-political question** of how **innovators** – especially **young founders** – can contribute to making the **economy more sustainable overall**.

Given that all of our **team live and work** in **Vienna**, we have also **repeatedly addressed** the **role of the city itself**. **Vienna** speaks a **very clear language** through instruments such as the **“Vienna Climate Roadmap”** and its own **“Climate Law”**, and we considered it important to showcase these **positions** to the **international YES-Europe community**. One achievement we are particularly proud of is the **establishment** of a **YES-Europe energy community** ourselves. In short: **we did not just talk – we implemented**.

Why do you think that, in the journey to globalise climate action, initiatives must gain energy at a local grassroots level first?

It ultimately comes down to acceptance, agency and networks. For most people, climate change and the energy transition remain abstract phenomena. Temperatures rise slightly, electricity prices fluctuate, rainfall or dry periods become more intense – these micro-changes are then aggregated into a grand narrative called “transition,” which remains intangible for the individual.

Change, however, only occurs when people are genuinely convinced. That is why it is essential to generate momentum at the local level – where beliefs, practices and relationships can form – and allow these to scale up into global improvement.

How has YES-Europe helped shape your experience as a young professional in the energy and sustainability space?

First and foremost, YES-Europe has been a stage for networking and a catalyst for creative, collaborative engagement. In this context, I would like to express my particular gratitude to Guntram Pressmair and Barbara Gösenbauer, who over many years have been a reliable and generous backbone of our shared work, both professionally and personally, as the Co-Country Representatives of YES-Europe Austria.

The experiences gained there are more enduring than any “Jour Fixe” in a company or any exam in a lecture hall. For that, I am deeply grateful – and I hope that this very particular YES-Europe feeling will stay with me for a long time to come.

Julien Lemaire

Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project Lead

When did you learn about YES-Europe's desire to form cross-collaborations between Africans and Europeans to facilitate the energy transition and why did you decide to join us to lead this project?



Since the beginning of my master's degree in **renewable energy**, I wanted to join a **youth NGO** that allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the **energy transition** together with **like-minded peers**. I first joined **EYEN** and the **Young Energy Consumers Taskforce**, where I could have an impact at the **European level**. But I also felt the need to **broaden my scope**, both **geographically** and **thematically**.

When I discovered that YES-Europe was launching a **new cross-continental project**, I immediately felt it was the perfect fit for me and for what I wanted to achieve. I joined the **project team** in **September 2024**, when the initiative was still at the **concept stage**, but I saw **huge potential**. As I was taking a year off to travel and volunteer, it was the right moment to **commit more time and effort**, and I eventually stepped into the **Team Lead** role.

With my background in **renewable energy studies** and **hands-on experience** in **energy access projects**, particularly in **Africa**, the project **resonated strongly with me**. I believe that the **energy transition** must be a **fair one**, and that requires **mutual understanding** of **different contexts** and a **willingness to learn** from each other. This is exactly what this **project embodies**.

What are some interesting insights you have learnt in your role this year?

The most striking insight was the overwhelming **interest** from **young people**. When we **launched our very first call for applicants**, we received **more than 1,000 applications**

in under a week – so many that we had to close the call earlier than expected. It was deeply inspiring to see how engaged and concerned youth are about the energy transition.

Equally encouraging was the enthusiasm from senior experts. Many were eager to mentor the next generation and generously share their knowledge. Their passion is infectious, and it reinforced for me what this project is really about: connecting across countries and continents, but also across generations, to accelerate the transition together.

YES-Europe has a long history of managing its own novel projects and sharing intelligence with various stakeholders. How would you say your leadership style and values have overlapped with our principles?

I consider myself fortunate to be surrounded by a strong project team and to have had the support of the Operations Team and Governance Team. Their trust made it easier for me to guide the project in the right direction.

Leadership takes many forms, but I try to lead primarily by example. I dedicate significant time and energy to the project because I believe in its potential, and I think this commitment motivates others to do the same. I also try to inspire, encourage, and create a collaborative environment where everyone feels empowered to contribute. In that sense, my leadership style reflects YES-Europe's principles of empowerment, trust and collective action.

What do you think are the most important things to seek out when building long-term relationships with other parties to collaborate for the energy transition?

The first and most important quality is the ability to listen and to understand different contexts. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the energy transition. By listening, exchanging knowledge, and valuing diverse perspectives, we can build trust, which is the foundation of long-term partnerships.

It is also essential to keep people **motivated** and **engaged**. Sometimes **small actions** – a **short call**, an **encouraging email**, a **progress update** – can make a **big difference**. Ensuring that **partners feel connected** to the **project**, see its progress, and can **envision the opportunities ahead** helps sustain collaboration over time.

What can we expect from the Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project, both in the short-term and in the long-term?

In the **short term**, we are looking forward to the **first outputs** from our **inaugural cohort of participants** in the **coming months**. We are eager to **gather feedback** from both **participants** and **senior experts** to **refine and improve the programme**. We also plan to **launch the second round** soon and hope to see the **same strong level of interest** as in the **first edition**.

In the **longer term**, I see many **opportunities**. As a team, we will reflect on **possible directions** – whether **replicating the model with other continents**, expanding to **wider audiences**, or **strengthening our policy engagement**. We also want to **participate more in international events and conferences** to **share our learnings** more broadly.

The dream outcome would be to organize an **in-person event** where all **senior experts** and **youth participants** could **come together**, **present their work**, and **exchange knowledge face-to-face**. That would be a **powerful milestone** in building a truly **cross-continental and intergenerational community** for the **energy transition**.

Events

2025 YES-Europe Annual Conference

In October 2025, we gathered in 9 different locations across Vienna, Austria, for the 9th Annual Conference in our history and our 8th yearly in-person gathering. Our YES-Europe Austria team hosted our energy community, centred around the themes of Sustainable Cities, Energy Transition and Meaningful Impact!

Before we were united in Vienna, our 2025 YES-Europe Annual Conference attendees were divided into 3 separate locations across the city for 3 high-profile events on Day 1, courtesy of our incredible AC25 partners:

1) **IN-PLAN (Integrated Energy, Climate and Spatial Planning)**, a project coordinated by FEDARENE, contributed its European perspective to the dialogue on sustainable urban and energy development with an exclusive full-day workshop to select few attendees in Vienna.



Our special guests enjoyed a day learning about how the project supports **cities, municipalities, and regions** in **systematically integrating their climate and energy goals** into **spatial planning, governance, and concrete projects**. By doing so, the project **strengthens the local delivery of the energy transition** and fosters **coherent, long-term planning** across different levels of **administration**.

2) Many of our Day 1 attendees received a **wonderful guided tour of *Vienna's Town Hall (Rathaus)*** in the afternoon.



This included a **high-level meeting** with the **City of Vienna's Director of Planning Thomas Madreiter** on the **sustainable decisions** being made by the city and their goals of **climate neutrality** and **climate-neutral administration by 2040**, as well as the **pillars**

of climate protection, climate adaptation and circular economy for the City of Vienna.



3) After this and before our Day 1 Welcome Evening, our conference attendees held an excursion to *Vienna's waste incineration plant Spittelau*, which features a **Power-to-Heat facility**, turning surplus green electricity into sustainable district heating.



Since 2017, **Wien Energie GmbH** has operated **one of Europe's most advanced power-to-heat systems**, by using **electrode boilers** to convert that energy into **district heat**, which is fed directly into **Vienna's district heating network** to warm **Vienna's general hospital** and **thousands of homes**



Our Day 1 Welcome Evening event, where we all gathered, after a day of workshops and excursions, was **at the FAKTory - a truly unique venue in the heart of Vienna, Austria!**



The venue became a **vibrant hub for discussion and exchange**, which created exactly the kind of inspiring atmosphere that makes our Annual Conferences so special!



We're very thankful to FAKTory for opening their doors to young people from across Europe to convene. By hosting our Welcome Evening, FAKTory became the **starting point for three days of international dialogue on sustainable cities, energy transition, and meaningful impact**, where leaders such as Jeremias Jobst, Guntram Pressmair, Barbara Gösenbauer and Henry Coggins (YES-Europe Austria), President Eric Balakrishnan, CR Lead Evi Makri and Advisory Board Member Sara Nyberg (YES-Europe), Anna Teresa Steiner (UIV Urban Innovation Vienna on the IN-PLAN Project), the Clean Tech Academy's 1st Edition winning team members (NanoLime Shield) Antonio Gaglione and Antonio Abbatecola, Marco Gervasi (European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)) and Valentin Wedl (Arbeiterkammer Österreich) brightened our evening with their speeches and discussions, before some light networking.



Our Main Conference Room at Wiener Bildungsakademie hosted Day 2, where we all gathered for a full day of enlightening speeches, presentations and panel discussions in both German and English



Vienna, Austria brought our energy community to the heart of climate action in this wonderful city for our latest annual gathering, with enlightening contributions from our partners, members and invited guests on the main stage throughout the day



Our Main Conference day would not have been possible without the many local and international collaborations, namely from:

- Jeremias Jobst, Guntram Pressmair, Barbara Gösenbauer, Henry Coggins, Marie-Luise Zwicker, Leonard Zottl, Oleg Khoroshev, Rachel Leutgöb and Rebecca Hauschild (YES-Europe Austria),
- Eric Balakrishnan, Stefano Cisternino, Maximilian Buchsteiner, Fidan Karimli Toccaceli and Dario Barcella (YES-Europe),



- Nina Abrahamczik , Julia Girardi-Hoog and Liisa Andersen (City of Vienna),
- Maximilian Jäger (AustriaTech),
- Johannes Lutter (UIV Urban Innovation Vienna),
- Stefanie Lamp, Martina Schorn and Christoph Reinprecht (University of Vienna),
- Barbara Steffner (European Commission),
- Nina Alexandra Anzeletti (Schoenherr Attorneys at Law),
- Bernhard Fuernsinn (Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism),
- Georg Benke (e7 energy innovation & engineering),
- Carolin Monsberger (AIT Austrian Institute of Technology)
- Jacob Wöginger (neoom)
- Andreas Freilinger (Sustainable Development Together),
- Sara Nyberg (South Pole & YES-Europe),
- Johannes Stangl (Klimadashboard),
- Vasso Kontou (SingularLogic & POWERYOUTH Project)
- Valerie-Sophie Schönberg (Schönberg Consulting)



As our Main Conference Room at Wiener Bildungsakademie illuminated Day 2, many **excursions, workshops and events** around **Vienna, Austria**, both within a **breakout room** at our venue, or **outside our venue**, enticed numerous of our conference attendees to get involved



Highlights from these sessions include:

- A site visit to the **Smart City Development of Aspern Seestadt**
- A workshop on the **Power of Maps and Actionable Cartography**, by Markus Jobst



- A project presentation on **Creative Actions for Climate Emergencies**, by Bernd Herger (Wiener Bildungsakademie)
- A **POWERYOUTH** Project workshop, a project YES-Europe is a part of, by Vasso Kontou (SingularLogic), Penny Kazaki (Sustainable City), Evi Makri (DSS Lab, EPU-NTUA) & Irene Stoegerer (OurPower Energiegenossenschaft SCE mbH)



- Unlocking the Hidden Value of Energy Audits, by Georg Benke (e7 energy innovation & engineering & KNOWnNEBs Project)
- A Green Compliance workshop, by Nina Alexandra Anzeletti (Schoenherr Attorneys at Law)



- Our Sustainable & Energy Party at Roter Bogen Bar in Vienna, hosted by our YES-Europe Austria team



We concluded our **2025 YES-Europe Annual Conference** in Vienna, Austria, on Day 3 with **3 engrossing events across the city:**

1) A high-level **Regulatory Breakfast** hosted by our conference partners **Schoenherr Attorneys at Law**, centred on what shapes **Europe's Energy & Sustainability Landscape**. This was an interactive **Morning Session** on **key EU Developments in Energy and Sustainability Law**, with insights into the **Legal Trends** shaping Europe's **Energy Future**, with a conversation on **challenges** and **opportunities** in the energy sector



2) A **workshop** from our **President Eric Balakrishnan** on how our **5-year Strategy** (from **2024 to 2028**) was conceived and is being implemented by our **NGO's leaders**, hosted at **e7 energy innovation & engineering's offices** and attended only by YES-Europe members



3) A **City Walk through Vienna** with YES-Europe Austria, where our conference attendees discovered how **sustainable planning** has been integrated into the **metropolitan, residential and infrastructural aspects of the city**



62d Session of UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB62)

As part of the preparations for COP30, the global climate action community convened once again in Bonn, Germany in June 2025 for the yearly Session of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies. Our conference delegation consisted of our COP30 Project Leads of Caterina Bittendorf and Amaryllis Perotti, with support of COP30 Project Team Members Martina Chiarini, Maximilian Buchsteiner and Suvd-Erdene Otgonbaatar, where our delegation attended all 11 days of SB62.



Hear what our COP30 Project Leads Caterina and Amaryllis had to say about our experience in Bonn:

“This year, the COP30 Team joined SB62 as UNFCCC observers. Thanks to our presence, YES-Europe actively connected with key stakeholders and civil society members through numerous side events and informal sessions. Witnessing youth advocates coming together to call for climate action within the negotiation tracks was both inspiring and energising for our entire team. Now more than ever, we must strengthen youth networks and raise our voice to ensure policymakers turn our recommendations into action.”



“SB62 was intense - two weeks of negotiations, early mornings and late nights. Unfortunately, we left Bonn without walking the big steps that we all wished and hoped for - but we have not left completely empty-handed: at least Gender has a draft text for the new Gender Action Plan. It’s not completely what we would like to see, but it is something to work with. After a good nap, it will be time to plan again and continue our work towards ambitious climate policies! “



2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30)

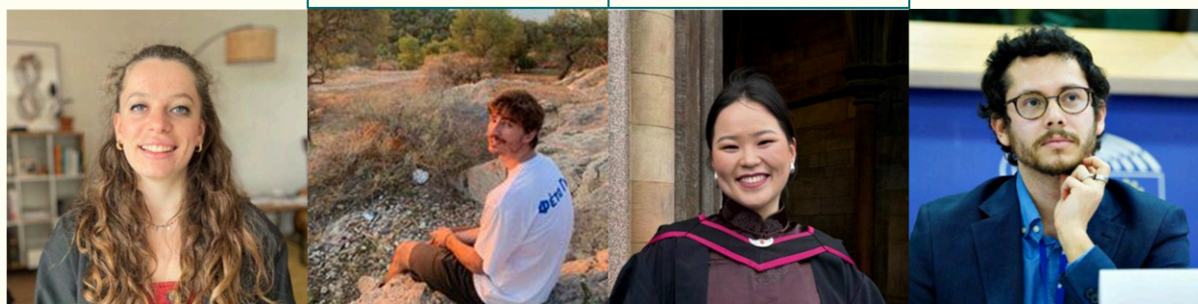


YES-Europe continued its yearly tradition of active engagement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by participating, first in the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB62), and then the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30). As an accredited UNFCCC-observed organisation, these landmark events serve as a pivotal moment for climate decision-making, influencing the trajectory of global sustainable development goals and the energy transition. Our presence at COP30 reaffirmed our commitment to empowering youth and advancing just and equitable climate solutions. After our entire COP30 delegation was present in Bonn, one of our Future of Energy Report Project Leads Stefano Cisternino joined the COP30 Project Team to support our communication and advocacy efforts (Read the full [press release here](#))



Caterina Bittendorf
COP30 Project Lead

Amaryllis Perotti
COP30 Project Lead



Martina Chiarini
*COP30 Project Team
Member*

**Maximilian
Buechsteiner**
*COP30 Project Team
Member*

**Suvd-Erdene
Otgonbaatar**
*COP30 Project Team
Member*

Stefano Cisternino
*COP30 Project Team
Member*

The journey to COP30 began in March 2025 with the selection of our two Project Leads who guided YES-Europe’s preparations. Over the following months, the team was assembled to develop our advocacy strategy. YES-Europe, in partnership with our parent organisation EYEN (the European Youth Energy Network), conducted extensive research on the most pressing debates concerning the energy transition, youth and competitiveness at the EU level. Our research suggested that these topics converge on the issue of employment for young people. The outputs and policy recommendations were outlined in an advocacy roadmap. Jointly, we demanded ambitious and targeted climate policies alongside 5 pillars:

- **Promote a just energy transition:** We recommended that stakeholders target green youth employment schemes in regions where brown industries are downsizing. Transition plans should focus on replicating the high labour standards of brown sectors in emerging green ones.
- **Ensure the necessary skills:** We urged policymakers to ensure that people receive adequate training to contribute to the energy transition at all levels, from the more innovative fields (AI, data-science, etc.), to the most practical ones (electrician,

installer, operator, etc.). This effort should support both **youth entering their first jobs** and **experienced workers transitioning from brown to green sectors**.

- **Ensure substantive youth inclusion:** We asked **policymakers to include social and labour conditionalities** in all **public subsidies and procurement**. These should have included the **ban of unpaid internships and objectives** in terms of **youth hiring quotas** (e.g., having at least 15% of entry-level workers).

- **Commit to gender-transformative outcomes:** In line with the **UNFCCC objectives**, we called on **stakeholders** to ensure that the **negotiation outcomes** of all tracks **deliver gender-transformative policies**. Such policies include **equal parental leaves for all genders** and **valorising house labour and activism** within the **job experience**, especially for **jobs in the green sector**.

- **Secure adequate funding:** We highlighted the need to prepare the **provision of financial resources to national and local actors** based on **historic contributions** and the **polluter principle** to ensure the **implementation of climate policies**.

The **Green Jobs for Advocacy Roadmap** can be read on [our website!](#)

Another advocacy effort centred around a **UNICEF x UNFPA x YOUNGO call for Child Inclusion**. **Children are disproportionately affected** by the **climate crisis**, especially those already marginalised by **gender, geography and socioeconomic status**. From increased **risk of malnutrition, loss of education and a higher burden of disease to displacement and increasing risk of early and child marriages and gender-based violence**, **children face compounding vulnerabilities** that demand **urgent, targeted responses**. Yet, **current gender policies** – including the **Informal Note on the new Gender Action Plan (GAP)** – overlook how the **climate crisis** intersects with the **life course of children and adolescents**. Under the **leadership of YES-Europe's COP30 Project Lead Caterina Bittendorf**, **YOUNGO's Women & Gender Working Group** joined forces with **UNICEF and UNFPA** to issue a **collective call** on Parties to guarantee that **child-focused measures are included and streamlined** throughout all **Priority Areas** of the new **Gender Action Plan (GAP)** and beyond. Read the **position paper** on [our website!](#)

Our COP30 Project Lead Caterina Bittendorf presented our policy pillars at COP30 in Belém, Brazil as Germany's Youth Delegate to the UNFCCC. As YES-Europe and EYEN are voluntary organisations, we received zero funding, sponsors or grants for our research. Budget and badge constraints meant that only Caterina attended COP30 in-person from our COP30 Project Team, and the rest of our team supported Caterina remotely. You can read Caterina's thoughts on why COP matters on [our website](#).



For us, as an NGO, COP is a platform for us to advocate for our communities who are often excluded from decision-making, in order to hold our governments and

policy-makers accountable for their climate promises, as well as collaborate across borders to scale solutions and share innovations. Our advocacy is year-round and extends to various events and opportunities by, presenting our demands to negotiators and stakeholders, in-person or online. These were our programme of events in Belém:



YES - Europe
Young leaders in
Energy and
Sustainability

**COP30
BRASIL
AMAZÓNIA**
BELÉM 2025

OUR COP30 EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

**HANGAR CONVENTION AND FAIR CENTRE OF
THE AMAZON, BELÉM, BRAZIL**

- 10** ● **INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE:
YOUTH GENDER AND INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY**
6.30pm, Side Event Room 5 - Blue Zone
- 12** ● **FROM PLAN TO PRACTICE:
IMPLEMENTING THE NEW GAP**
11.30am, Norwegian Pavilion - Blue Zone
- 17** ● **CHILDREN & YOUTH INCLUSION
TOWARDS COP30 & BEYOND**
2pm, Danish Pavilion - Blue Zone
- 18** ● **VOICES OF NORDIC YOUTH
THE NORDIC CHILDREN & YOUTH STATEMENT**
11.45am, Nordic Pavilion - Blue Zone
- 19** ● **INTERSECTIONALITY IN ACTION:
YOUTH ON GENDER, CLIMATE & JUSTICE**
2.50pm, Children & Youth Pavilion - Blue Zone
- 20** ● **BRIDGING EQUITY AND EVIDENCE: INCLUSIVE,
SCIENCE-DRIVEN NDCS THAT KEEP 1.5 IN REACH**
11.30am, Side Event Room 6 - Blue Zone

All times are GMT-3 For More Information: caterina.bittendorf@yeseurope.org

Caterina's presence at COP30 was highlighted in a speech that she was fortunate to give at a UN SG Youth Roundtable with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and other fellow youth delegates, which you can read on [our website](#).



With COP30 behind us, and our efforts turning towards our COP31 Project to kick-off 2026, you can read Caterina's reflections on COP30 on [our website](#).



European Sustainable Energy Week 2025 (EUSEW25)

YES-Europe was an official partner organisation of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency's (CINEA)'s 2025 EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the biggest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe, held in Brussels, Belgium in June 2025



Together with our friends at the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) we hosted a stand at the Energy Fair on all 3 days, where our objective was to be part of the leading voices to build a secure and clean energy future for Europe. We met other young professionals and leading experts in the energy community, as well as advocated for this year's theme 'Net-zero energy solutions for a competitive Europe'



Our stand was attended by our Operations Manager Laia Guitart, our Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Host João Costa and our Vice-President Max van der Linden, who had the following to say about our EUSEW25 visit this year:

“YES-Europe was delighted to host a stand at the Energy Fair. With our spot positioned right next to the lunch tables, you can imagine how busy our ‘breaks’ were. We were delighted to attend, to meet so many amazing, driven and impressive people, and to learn so much from one another”



“EUSEW 2025 showed us how complex the green transition is, but also how incredibly rich and diverse the potential solutions are. It is clear that no one single piece of technology or policy is enough - the answer to this complex problem requires interdisciplinary cooperation.”



ChangeNOW 2025 Summit

Our COP30 Project Lead & YES-Europe Sweden Country Representative Caterina Bittendorf participated in all 3 days of the ChangeNOW Summit in Paris in April 2025 - the world's largest expo for sustainable solutions!



Following on from our former YES-Europe France Country Representative Golnoosh Mir hosting an engaging networking meet-up event in the Friends Area as a proud Ecosystem Partner at 2024's ChangeNOW Summit, we are delighted that Caterina attended this year's insightful conferences, workshops, solutions exhibitions, artistic programmes, networking applications & tables, featuring:

- 40,000 changemakers across 140 countries, all with diverse backgrounds and expertise to connect with
- 1,000 groundbreaking solutions to explore

- More than 70 inspiring conferences featuring the world's top impact leaders
- 10,000 companies to network with



Caterina attended numerous workshops and discussions and was fortunate to speak at the 'Inside Multilateral Climate Diplomacy' interactive workshop, hosted by Marie-Claire Graf from the Youth Negotiators Academy (YNA), by contributing fruitful insights into demystifying the complex world of UN environmental negotiations, while speaking on her role at YES-Europe and how to be engaged in an NGO.



European Youth Energy Forum 2025 (EYEF25)

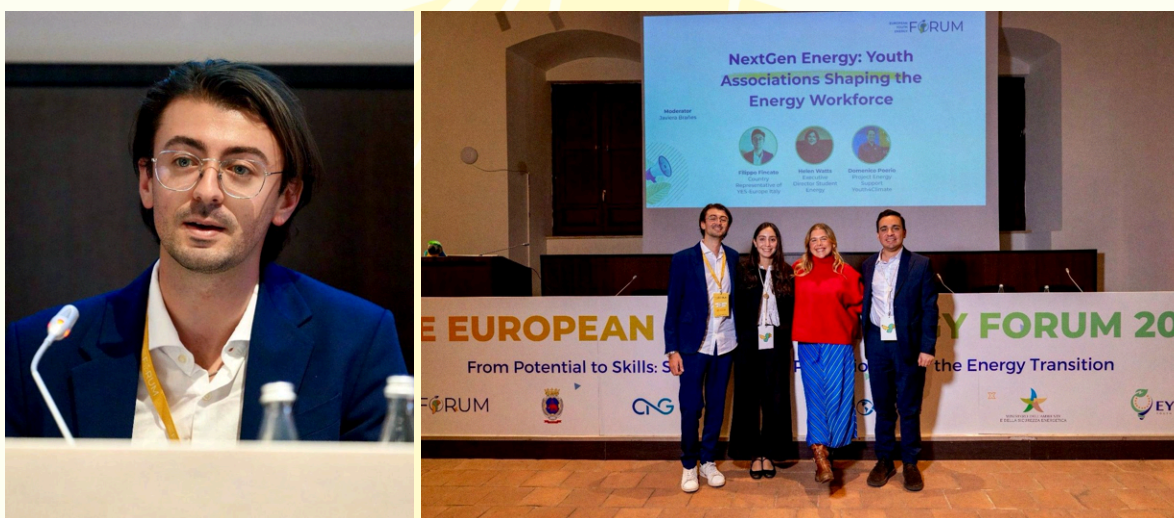
In October 2025, YES-Europe attended our parent organisation, the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)'s, latest European Youth Energy Forum held across several locations in and around Catania, Sicily, Italy.



Our President Eric Balakrishnan delivered an interactive workshop on the POWERYOUTH Project to the EYEF programme participants at Palazzo della Cultura. He explained the project's origins, milestones (including the capacity-building programmes), toolkits and strategic objectives, and also presented a feedback session on the participants' understanding and insights towards energy communities, renewal energy technologies and citizen action



Our YES-Europe Italy Country Representative Filippo Fincato participated in a “NextGen Energy: Bridging Local Impact and EU Ambition” panel discussion, moderated by Javiera Brañes Alarcón (EYEN) with Helen Watts (Student Energy) and Domenico G. Poerio (UNDP) on the panel too, to discuss how our organisations are connecting young people, companies, and public entities to foster collaboration and bring fresh ideas for strengthening local initiatives and scaling them nationally and internationally



4 of our YES-Europe Members were amongst the 100 carefully selected EYEF programme participants in a highly-competitive application process last year. One of our Co-CR Leads Mariami Modebadze, our Future of Energy Report Lead & COP30 Brazil Project Member Stefano Cisternino, Policy Team Member Nuril Hidayati and YES Europe Germany Member Valentin Eckmann took part in the online EYEF journey last year and got to finalise and present their policy proposal at Enel Green Power’s Innovation Lab, to round off the week in Catania



ReGeneration Week 2025

With thanks to our partners at ReGeneration 2030, we were delighted to have returned for 2025's ReGeneration Week for the 2nd year running, in Mariehamn, Åland (an autonomous region in Finland)! ReGeneration Week is a powerful platform for *young activists from the Nordic and Baltic Sea region*, who have been meeting every year since August 2018, to share strategies, knowledge, and experiences in order to strengthen the overall climate action in the Nordic and Baltic Sea region.



Through the years, more than 200 high-level executives have accepted the opportunity to go into dialogue with youth. Last year, *ReGeneration Week 2025* was also the *Youth Forum for the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference*, where the theme was *Safety Beyond Borders*. We partnered with *ReGeneration 2030* to host 2 exciting workshops:

- Our Communications Lead Karolina Panko hosted a workshop on Climate Justice at the Parliament of Åland

- Our YES-Europe Finland Country Representative, and Observer on the ReGeneration 2030 Board, Jannat Ara Rahman hosted a workshop on Mental Health, Safety and the Environment at the Parliament of Åland



ReGeneration Week 2025



We greatly enjoyed exchanging ideas with our youth Baltic and Nordic climate community!



Nordic Youth & Children Climate Conference (NYCCC)

YES-Europe was delighted to have collaborated with Global Shapers - Stockholm Hub, Global Shapers Malmö, PUSH Sverige, The Student Union of JAMK University of Applied Sciences JAMKO, Ungir Umhverfissinnar - Icelandic Young Environmentalist Association, Global Shapers Copenhagen and Global Shapers Helsinki to host the Nordic Youth & Children Climate Conference (NYCCC) in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2025.



This NYCCC was the **first-ever regional platform** which **empowered young voices** from across the Nordics, by including stakeholders from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Greenland. Together, **building momentum** ahead of COP30 by **addressing climate risks** and **bridging the gap** in youth participation. From **co-designing resilient futures** to delivering a **collective Nordic Children and Youth Statement** – NYCCCC is where youth led the way.

From climate justice to a just transition, from forests to youth empowerment – the NYCCC dove deep into the following core themes:

- UNFCCC & the Paris Agreement
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Adaptation & resilience
- Forests & conservation
- Children & Youth in Climate Empowerment (ACE)
- Indigenous Rights & Representation
- Just Transition
- Climate Justice & Equity

YES-Europe was represented in the NYCCC's planning and organising by our COP30 Project Lead Caterina Bittendorf (who also temporarily served as our YES-Europe Sweden Country Representative until the NYCCC was over), as we entered the home stretch in our COP30 preparations for Belem, Brazil, with these crucial activities to engage youth at a local level and broaden perspectives for international climate negotiations

You can read the **full press release** on the event, written by Caterina, on our [website!](#)

Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bulgaria

An exciting event took place in October 2025! YES-Europe was delighted to have been endorsed by YOUNGO, together with the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria, ManEco Foundation and PanGea, to host a Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Sofia, Bulgaria.



This LCOY Bulgaria was part of the global Local Conference of Youth network, with a mission to create a **platform to inspire and empower young people to be active drivers of the sustainable transition – both locally and globally**. The conference aimed to **unite the voices of youth to be in a position to present them to world leaders as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations**

The focus areas of LCOY Bulgaria were:

- Climate Adaptation
- Just Transition
- Decarbonisation

YES-Europe was represented in LCOY Bulgaria's planning and organising by our YES-Europe Bulgaria Country Representative Elizabeth Chavdarska, as she brought her experience as our COP29 Project Lead in 2024 to support the youth engagement and perspectives at a local level in order to contribute to international climate action initiatives

EESC Events

YES-Europe enhanced its engagement with the EESC (European Economic and Social Council) in 2025, after formally enrolling itself in the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC in 2024. Though the Policy Team have continued our involvement with this consultation tool, some of our members have also gotten the opportunity to attend a handful of events organised by the EESC throughout the year.



In March 2025, our Policy Team Member Aleksandra Lazic represented YES-Europe at the "Your Europe, Your Say!" (YEYS) annual youth event, organised by the EESC in Brussels, Belgium. Aleksandra represented her home country of Serbia, an EU membership candidate country, as a YES-Europe Serbia Team Member, where she was previously a member of our COP27 - UN Climate Change Conference delegation. The EESC brought together nearly 100 young participants from youth organisations, national youth councils and secondary schools as well as 37 teachers from EU member states, candidate countries and the UK for a focus on the role of young people in collectively shaping a resilient future. The event aimed to equip the

participants to engage in **civic action** and continue to **contribute to participatory democracy activities** in their communities and beyond.



YES - Europe
Young leaders in
Energy and
Sustainability

#YEYS2025

Aleksandra
Lazic

**Your Europe,
Your Say!**

by the EESC

 13-14 MARCH, 2025

Brussels, Belgium

In June 2025, our Policy Team Member Nuril Hidayati attended an energising meeting with other youth organisations and youth representatives at the EESC in Brussels, Belgium. This meeting revolved around the EU Youth Test, which was held by the EESC NAT Section. The EU Youth Test is a tool aimed at enhancing youth participation and integrating youth perspectives into policymaking through consultation, impact assessments and mitigation measures. After expressing interest, YES-Europe was invited to a meeting with the NAT President Peter Schmidt, along with three other NAT members, to discuss the NAT work programme for the next mandate and possible future cooperation. The timing was especially impeccable as the EESC NAT

Section was soon to go through a **mandate transition period**. The **discussion** that afternoon was **lively and engaging**, exploring **different opinions** from **different perspectives**. The main topics discussed were as follows:

- **Roundtable discussion 1: Pollution, climate change and biodiversity:**

All economic activities are **dependent** on an **intact climate** and **biodiversity**. How can we **ensure** – with **other parties across the globe** – that we keep the **agreed ambitions** on **international agreements**? What steps need to be taken to **protect citizens** from the **impact of climate change** in their **daily lives** (extreme heat, weather events, etc.)?

- **Roundtable discussion 2: Food security:**

Are we able to keep **European food security** and help/support the **global South** to **achieve** the same? How can **food producers** be **supported** to make the **transition** while **not losing track** of the **sustainable transition**?

Besides this current **youth engagement form** under the “**EU Youth Test**” programme, the **NAT Section** is currently working to create a more **stable structure** of **youth engagement**. **Participating** in this engagement has been a **door opening** for **YES-Europe** to potentially **collaborate further** with the **EESC** and **other youth organisations**. Moreover, there is always an **empowering sense** from these **meaningful meetings**, especially the **in-person ones**.



In December 2025, our YES-Europe Germany Team Member Rohan Manjesh attended the “No Future Without Us – Youth Shaping EU Enlargement” conference, organised by both the Regional Cooperation Council and the EESC in Brussels, Belgium. As a sustainability student, this topic was not directly within Rohan’s academic specialisation, but it was a **valuable learning experience** to understand how **youth engagement, governance and policy frameworks** shape **long-term societal and sustainable development outcomes**. Listening to **policymakers and leaders** discuss **EU enlargement, intergenerational dialogue and democratic resilience** offered **perspectives that strongly complement technical sustainability studies**.



EU Climate Pact Events

In March 2025, the EU Climate Pact Annual Flagship ‘Together in Action 2025’ event took place at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium with the Ambassadors, Country Coordinators and Partners of the EU Climate Pact attending. YES-Europe was represented at this event by our President Eric Balakrishnan, YES-Europe France member and former Vice-President Livia Kalossaka and Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project Lead Julien Lemaire, while we also caught up with President Federico Barbieri and Vice-President Carlotta Ferri from our parent organisation the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN). With the event taking place just a month after YES-Europe’s annual General Assembly, where our membership systems was restructured, the EU Climate Pact event was an opportunity for us to spread the word of YES-Europe and, subsequently, numerous people ultimately acquired membership at YES-Europe some time after the event as a result of engaging with us in Brussels.



The beginning of the Pact Community Day on Day 1 was a wonderful opportunity to learn how the EU Commission has been implementing sustainable and energy efficient solutions and demonstrating carbon footprint reduction, both at the heart of the European Union in Brussels and in the wider European community, through a guided Climate Walk around Rue de la Loi. Some highlights from the day include a wonderfully inspiring Climate Pact photo exhibition, insights into the future of EU climate policy, practical and actionable strategies on how to maximise the impact of a

Climate Pact Ambassador and ambitious advocacy for climate actions through a rapid design-thinking process



Day 2 was a chance to have a front seat to learn how the EU is adapting to global challenges while mitigating the effects of climate change and also how AI is assisting in breaking down barriers and enhancing and empowering citizen engagement. The perspectives of Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra and Director-General Kurt Vandenberghe shed light on the EU's current progress on the energy transition and the status of innovation accelerating this transition in a more inclusive way.



A month later, in April 2025, Eric then delivered a presentation on YES-Europe at Malta's EU Climate Pact National Event being held at the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Malta Golden Sands, Mellieha, Malta, in his capacity as an EU Climate Pact Ambassador for Malta. Eric communicated how we are a youth organisation that facilitates the acceleration of the energy transition by connecting, empowering and growing a platform, network and community for young professionals passionate about energy and sustainability across Europe. He also connected with his fellow Climate Pact Ambassadors and Partners in Malta, along with the coordinators from the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA).



Young Energy Researchers Conference 2025

YES-Europe was delighted to be a promotion partner of the Young Energy Researchers Conference, being held in March 2025 in Wels, Austria - a unique opportunity for young researchers to interact with industry experts from all over the world and build-up a peer network.



We were excited to support the organisers World Sustainable Energy Days in 2024 in seeking young researchers and professionals in the field of technology, economics, social sciences, law, arts and more submitted their wonderfully insightful papers and promoted the conferences in 2025, centred around this year's theme of biomass and energy efficiency.

We were delighted that Policy Team and YES-Europe Serbia member Aleksandra Lazic, who was part of our first COP27 delegation to Sharm-El-Sheikh in 2022, promoted a policy paper on 'Promoting green policies in Croatia, Serbia and North Macedonia: a strategic approach' with her research colleagues at the conference.



YES-Europe have also supported the call for papers and promoted WSED's conferences in Wels, Austria in early 2026 throughout 2025, with Karin Krondorfer from OÖ Energiesparverband (Upper Austrian Energy Saving Association), the key partner behind WSED, attending our 2025 Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria to promote the upcoming events

Enlit Europe 2025

Our Talk-Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Project Lead Helen Heinz represented YES-Europe at Enlit Europe 2025 in Bilbao, Spain in November 2025 - a yearly event that brings people closer to the energy transition. Enlit Europe is a constantly growing, inclusive and end-to-end forum that addresses every aspect of the energy agenda and, this year, included:

- 15,000 Attendees
- 700+ International Exhibitors

- 140+ Countries represented
- 500+ Speakers
- High-level Summit sessions
- Topic-led Hub sessions
- EU Projects zone
- Future Energy Leaders programme
- Multiple Networking opportunities



While in Bilbao, Helen caught up with our **Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project Lead Julien Lemaire** and **YES-Europe Bulgaria Team member Sinda M'Saada**, who were at Enlit Europe in their professional capacity. Read what Helen had to say about her experience in Bilbao:

“What an event! **Three days full of knowledge sharing, inspiring conversations and countless opportunities to learn.** I’m truly grateful that I had the chance to **represent YES-Europe** in **panel discussions** and reconnect with **fellow YES-Europe members Julien Lemaire and Sinda M'Saada.**”

“We explored the **current landscape of energy democracy**, especially in the context of **energy communities**. There are **great initiatives emerging** – for example in **Valencia** or **planned in Gran Canaria**, where **municipalities take an active role**. Also, **EDP provides a low-risk business model** enabling more **inclusive participation**. Yet key questions remain: Are we **moving towards the energy democracy** we envisioned? And do we truly **reflect the diversity of our society**?”



“I believe the way forward starts with **listening to communities** first, and then **building business models** that create **real win-win situations** – ensuring **no one is left behind**. Thank you to all **panelists (Francisco Puente, Alice Kleba, Andreia dos Santos Fernandes and Corentin Girard)** and our **moderator Carmen Gimeno de la Fuente** for a great discussion!”

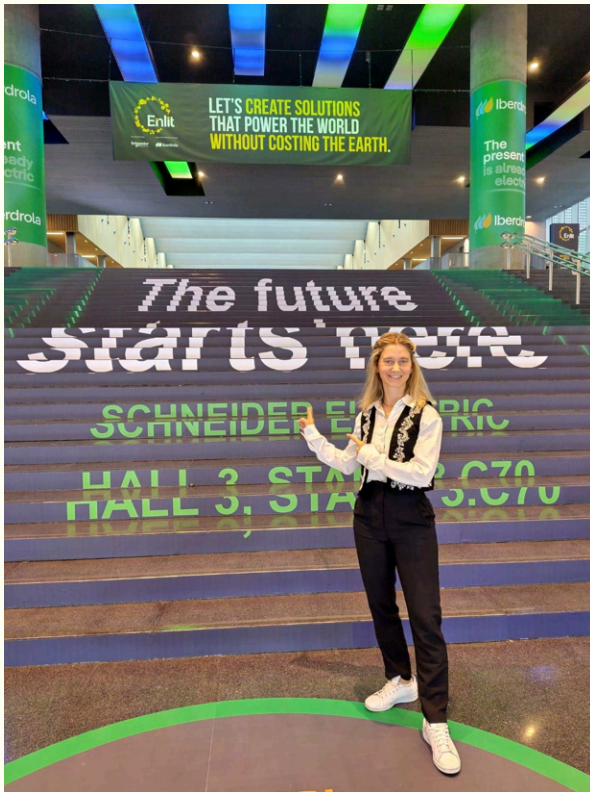
“Our conversation on the **Workforce Roadmap of 2025** focused on how to **attract young people** to the **energy sector** and what the **sector is doing already**. While **companies say they are actively recruiting** and **struggling with workforce shortages**,

our YES-Europe survey and YES-Europe Policy Roadmap (coordinated by our COP30 Project Lead Amaryllis Perotti) paint a different picture: many young professionals still find it difficult to enter the sector.”



“This is why we **advocate** for a *minimum hiring quota of 15% for young people*, and for *greater gender diversity* – even though the **panel** showed **encouraging progress** with more and more women joining the sector. Thank you to all contributors (**Gema Góngora Bachiller**, **Yuliana Onishchuk**, **Guilherme Castro** and **Alexandre Siné**) and moderator **Julia Kramer** for the engaging session!”

“Enlit is leading by example— taking youth perspectives seriously and creating space for meaningful exchanges about the future energy workforce. A big thank you to **Heather Johnstone** and **Leon Pulles** (Energy Investment Management BV) for the organisation and the opportunity to contribute.



Projects

POWERYOUTH Project

Throughout 2024 and 2025, YES-Europe has been proudly taking part in [POWERYOUTH](#), a project funded by the LIFE Programme (the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, which is administered by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)), which has been designed to engage and empower young people in energy communities, fostering their active role in the energy transition. It has emphasised the importance of youth leadership in adopting new lifestyles and acquiring skills to support sustainable energy practices.

POWER youth

Inspired by the **European Year of Youth in 2022**, **POWERYOUTH** has aimed to address the **lack of tools promoting sustained youth participation in energy communities** and their **training in energy sustainability**. The project has adopted a **collaborative approach to facilitate dialogue** between **young people and local stakeholders** (such as **local authorities and policymakers**) encouraging their **active involvement in energy communities**.

Coordinated by the **Greek-based [SingularLogic](#)**, who have brought their **R&D and Innovation expertise** to the consortium, the project began in **January 2024** with a **kick-off meeting in Athens** and will last for **36 months**, with a **budget of €1.5 million**. The consortium comprises of **10 organisations** - **nine partners from six countries**, along with a **pan-European partner (us!)**:

- [SingularLogic](#) (Greece)
- [Space Hellas](#) (Greece)
- [Decision Support Systems Laboratory \(DSS Lab\), SEPU-NTUA](#) (Greece)
- [AdEPorto - Agência de Energia do Porto](#) (Portugal)
- [Riga Planning Region](#) (Latvia)
- [OurPower Energiegenossenschaft SCE mbH](#) (Austria)
- [PNEC – Polish Network Energie-Cités](#) (Poland)
- [Sustainable City](#) (Greece)
- [alda* - European Association for Local Democracy](#) (France)
- [YES-Europe](#) (Pan-European, Swiss-based)

POWERYOUTH is being implemented through **five pilot projects** within the **EU**, aiming to create at least **ten youth energy communities (two in each pilot)** with a

minimum engagement of 1,000 young people and other stakeholders. These pilots are located in Austria, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, and Portugal.

The objectives of the POWERYOUTH Project are to:

1. Effectively engage young people and other key stakeholders in collective actions;
2. Develop a toolkit that facilitates the empowerment of youth in energy communities;
3. Set up and support collective actions in youth energy communities;
4. Create and execute a comprehensive and easily replicable capacity-building programme to train young people in green energy skills and promote their participation in energy communities;
5. Mobilise youth organisations and local authorities to replicate the POWERYOUTH approach across the EU;
6. Formulate policy recommendations and develop exploitation plans for accelerating youth energy communities' adoption in new areas.

POWERYOUTH were major aspects of our [2025 Annual Conference](#) in Vienna, Austria and our visit to the [2025 European Youth Energy Forum](#) in Catania, Sicily, Italy. Aside from this, our YES-Europe Austria Co-Country Representative Guntram Preßmair represented YES-Europe at the yearly POWERYOUTH Project Meeting in Vienna, Austria, hosted by POWERYOUTH's Austrian partner OurPower Energiegenossenschaft SCE mbH in February 2025! Representatives from each of the POWERYOUTH project partners gathered for another inspiring project meeting, bringing together brilliant minds and dedicated partners to advance youth participation and empowerment. They engaged in meaningful discussions, exchanged insights and took key steps toward shaping more inclusive and innovative opportunities for young people across Europe



Furthermore, our Policy Team Member Nuril Hidayati attended the Youth Impact Forum, hosted by our POWERYOUTH Project partners alda* - European Association for Local Democracy, a dynamic and engaging event dedicated to rethinking how young people participate in democratic life. The Forum brought together youth leaders, policymakers, EU institutions, local and regional authorities, and civil society actors to explore how youth participation can evolve from short-term initiatives into permanent and institutionalised democratic structures



Keep up to date with **developments** from the **POWERYOUTH Project** on its dedicated [LinkedIn page](#) and check out the [project's first Newsletter](#) that was published in **September 2024**, detailing **progress, developments and outcomes** up until that point.



Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project

2025 marked the **first full year of implementation** of the programme. The **project** moved from **concept to operational reality** with the **successful launch** of the **first round of participants**. Interest exceeded all expectations: the **initial call for applicants** received **over 1,000 applications within one week**, demonstrating the **strong demand among youth for platforms dedicated to energy transition and Africa-Europe cooperation**.

Objectives

Our Africa-Europe Youth Collaboration Programme within this Energy Transition Project aims to:

- Foster cross-continental collaboration between young people from Africa and Europe;
- Promote intergenerational exchange through mentorship by senior experts;
- Enhance understanding of regional energy challenges and opportunities;
- Support youth in producing concrete and impactful knowledge outputs;
- Build a long-term network of young energy leaders and professionals



Progress in 2025

A selection process led to the formation of mixed groups of 3-4 youth participants, each supported by two senior experts - one from each continent. This structure ensured diversity of perspectives and genuine cross-continental collaboration. Throughout the year, participants engaged in research, online meetings and capacity-building webinars, particularly on scientific writing and methodology.

Key Milestones & Achievements

The key milestones and achievements in 2025 were:

- Establishment of a consortium of senior experts from academia, industry, and international institutions
- Selection and onboarding of 22 youth participants representing diverse countries and backgrounds
- Creation of structured mentoring relationships between youth and experts
- Organisation of thematic webinars and methodological training sessions
- Progress toward the minimum project outcome: a 10-page article per group to be published on the YES-Europe website
- Growing visibility of the programme through YES-Europe communication channels and external networks

Beyond the written outputs, the project succeeded in creating a vibrant community where youth and experts exchange knowledge on topics such as energy access, hydrogen, climate resilience, and policy innovation. The intergenerational dimension has proven particularly valuable, with senior experts actively supporting and inspiring participants.

Meet the Project Leads

In 2025, our Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project was led by Julien Lemaire and Dario Barcella



Julien is a renewable energy professional with an academic background in renewable energy engineering and sustainable development. Throughout his studies and professional experiences, he has focused on energy access, decentralised renewable systems, and the social dimensions of the energy transition. His work has included involvement in projects across different regions, particularly in Africa, where he developed a strong interest in equitable and context-sensitive energy solutions.

Julien joined YES-Europe in 2024, motivated by the organisation's commitment to youth empowerment and international collaboration. He first became involved as a member of the Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project team during its concept phase and later took on the role of Project Lead. In parallel to his engagement with YES-Europe, Julien has contributed to other youth energy initiatives at the European level, including the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN) where he works with the Young Energy Consumers Taskforce to tackle energy poverty affecting young people in Europe. He is passionate about building bridges between continents and generations, believing that a fair energy transition can only be achieved through mutual learning, dialogue, and shared knowledge. Within YES-Europe, Julien is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people to actively shape the future of energy systems while learning from experienced professionals.

Dario is a **partnerships professional** with a **background in sustainable development** and a **focus on climate and energy challenges**. His work sits at the **intersection of international cooperation, relationship building and business development**, with experience spanning **housing, circular economy and renewable energy initiatives**.

Dario joined YES-Europe in 2025 as **Partnerships Manager** within the **Africa-Europe Programme**, contributing to **cross-continental collaboration** and **programme development**. He later became our **2nd Project Lead**, overseeing the **programme strategy and work plan** while **coordinating operations, team engagement and stakeholder management** across the **programme**. In parallel, **Dario** is involved in **Generation Climate Europe**, where he **leads a project** focused on **Critical Raw Materials** and their role in **Europe's energy and digital transitions**. **Passionate about climate action and energy justice**, he is committed to **building partnerships** that support a **fair and resilient transition**.

Project Plans for 2026

In 2026, the **programme** will enter its **second round** with the **ambition to consolidate and expand its impact**, moving from a **primarily research-focused initiative** toward a **more action-oriented platform**.

Priorities for the Next Phase

- **Launch a new call for youth participants** and further **diversify geographical representation**
- **Expand the consortium of senior experts** and **strengthen partnerships** with **universities, institutions, NGOs and companies**
- **Improve the project framework** based on **feedback** from the **first cohort**
- **Ensure that each group delivers high-quality outputs** while **exploring more practical and field-based applications**

From Knowledge to Impact

While **theoretical research** and **article writing** will remain the **backbone** of the programme, a **key objective for 2026** is to **bridge the gap** between **knowledge** and **practice**. The project team aims to:

- **Develop partnerships** with **on-site organisations, local energy initiatives** and **companies** where **participants** can **connect** their **research** to **real-world challenges**;
- **Encourage groups** to **complement** their **articles** with **case studies, pilot ideas** or **applied recommendations**;
- **Facilitate exchanges** between **youth participants** and **practitioners** working directly on **energy access, renewable deployment** and **policy implementation**

The goal is not to **replace the academic dimension**, but to **build upon it**, ensuring that the **insights produced** by **participants** can **translate** into **tangible contributions** to the **energy transition**.

Expected Developments

- **Publication** of **articles** from the **first cohort** and **promotion** through **blogs, webinars, podcasts** and **events**;
- **Support** for **selected groups** to **transform** their **work** into **scientific papers, policy briefs** or **conference presentations**;
- **Increased collaboration** with **other YES-Europe initiatives**, including the **podcast** and **communication teams**;
- **Exploration** of **opportunities** for an **in-person** or **hybrid event** bringing together **youth, experts** and **partner organisations**

Long-Term Vision

The **long-term ambition** is to establish the **Africa-Europe Youth Collaboration Programme** as a **flagship initiative** within **YES-Europe** - a **recognised platform** that **connects theoretical reflection, practical action** and **intergenerational dialogue**. **Future editions** could involve **additional continents, stronger institutional partnerships** and **direct engagement** with **field projects**, ensuring that **youth voices** not only **analyse the energy transition** but **actively help to shape it**.

Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project Team Members in 2025

Julien Lemaire (Project Lead), Dario Barcella (Project Lead), Orielia Pria Egambaram, Juliette Ardisson, Sara Bartoli, Giang Ngoc Huong Vu, Simone Vebner, Vedika Kulkarni, Julian Nilsen, Zachary Muscat, Nina Luger, Mustapha Chdaya & Benedetta Giugliano

Policy Map Project

The **Policy Map Project** is building a **database of energy and climate policies** across **Europe**, with **particular focus** on how **young people** are included in **climate action** and **energy transition**. A project managed by the **Policy Team**, their goal is to create a **reliable, evolving resource** that helps **policymakers, youth organizations, and the public** understand and learn from **climate policies** across **European countries**.



2025: Kickoff, Fundamentals, and Rebuilding

2025 was a year of **significant transition** for the **Policy Map Project**, marked by both **launch activities** and the need to **rebuild elements** of their **foundation**.

Project Launch and Initial Design

The project launched in early 2025 with the original team establishing the fundamental vision and framework. They developed the initial project concept, defined the scope of creating a dynamic database for European energy and climate policies, and outlined the methodology for data collection and quality assurance. This foundational work established the project's commitment to neutrality, youth focus, and cross-border collaboration that continues to guide our approach today.



Transition and Rebuilding

New leadership stepped in during November to ensure continuity, with Fidan replacing Sofie as Project Lead, and new Policy Team members joining the Project team. This required us to rebuild from the ground up, reassessing implementation plans, refining the methodology established earlier in the year, and creating a sustainable path forward.

Building the Team

From November 2025, we focused on assembling the right people and creating the right systems. We recruited new members through a structured interview process, bringing together expertise in policy research, data management and youth

engagement. By late January 2026, the plan was for new team members to be fully onboarded with clear roles across our participating countries.

Launching the Pilot

With our team in place, we continued the launch of the pilot phase covering six countries: Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Romania. These countries offer diverse political and policy contexts, providing a solid testing ground for our approach. Data collection has begun, starting with foundational policy frameworks, the core climate and energy policies, legislation and national strategies that define each country's approach to climate action.

Looking Ahead: 2026 Implementation Plan

We're taking a phased approach throughout 2026, building systematically on the foundation we established in late 2025:

Pilot Phase I: Core Policy Framework (January–April 2026)

Our first priority is establishing a comprehensive policy database across the six pilot countries. Team members are gathering information on national energy and climate policies, which then undergo quality control. This phase covers two key areas:

- **Section I** (completing by end of February 2026): Overview of selected climate and energy policies, including existing legislative frameworks, national strategies and regulatory approaches.
- **Section II** (completing by end of April 2026): A deep-dive into selected policy area mechanisms while also examining how young people are engaged in climate and energy policy development and implementation.

Pilot Phase II: Best Practices and Synthesis (May–June 2026)

The second phase shifts to identifying what's working. Section III will document successful policy implementations, innovative youth engagement approaches, and case studies demonstrating effective climate action. We'll also synthesise our findings and prepare the data for visualisation, creating accessible formats like interactive maps and dashboards.

Platform Development and Scaling (Second Half 2026)

After completing both pilots, we'll develop the **public-facing platform**. This includes creating **data visualisations**, launching a **beta version** of the **interactive map**, and **conducting user testing** with **youth organizations** and **policymakers**. The results from our pilot will inform **decisions** about **expanding** to **additional European countries** and establishing **protocols** for keeping the **database current** as **policies evolve**.

How We Work

Neutrality is core to what we do. We present **each country's policy framework** objectively, **without judgment** or **bias**. Our goal is **not to achieve immediate completeness** but to create a **growing, adaptable resource** that stays **relevant** as **policies change**. We use **standardised questionnaires** to ensure **consistency** across **countries** while **allowing space** for the **unique context** of **each nation's policy landscape**. Every **policy submission** undergoes a **review** and **analysis** before **entering the database**, ensuring **accuracy** and **reliability** for everyone who uses it.

What This Means

The **Policy Map Project** will serve as a **pan-European reference point** for understanding **how countries engage young people** in **climate transitions** and what **participatory opportunities** exist for **youth advocacy**. By documenting both **policies** and **best practices**, we're creating a platform for **cross-border learning** and **collaboration**.

While **2025** was about **rebuilding**, we've established a **solid foundation** for **meaningful work** in **2026** and **beyond**. Our **pilot approach** lets us test and **refine** our **methodology** before **scaling** to **additional countries**, ensuring **quality standards** are in place when we expand.

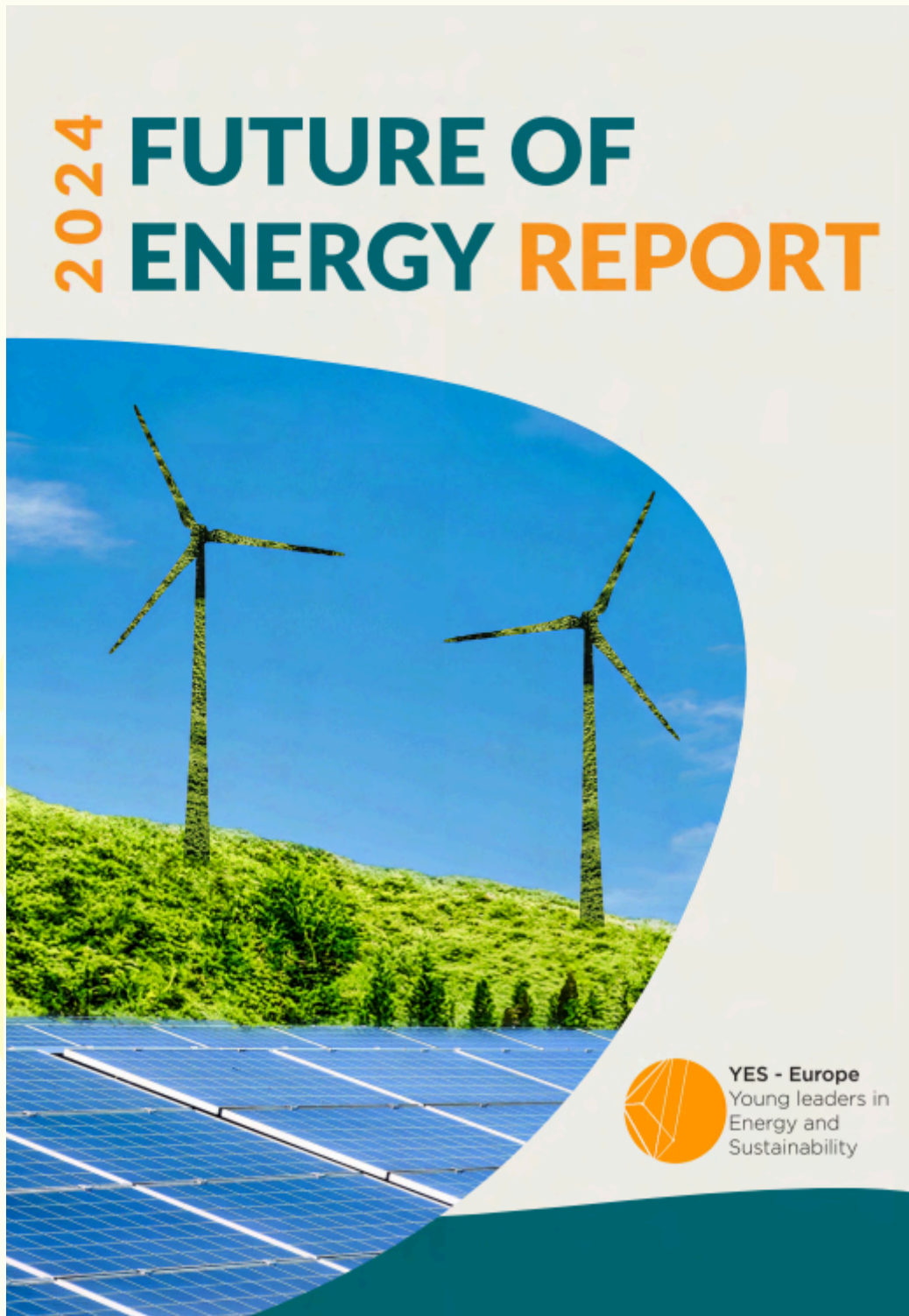
This project will increase the **visibility** of **YES-Europe** as a **key player** in **youth climate engagement**, helping **bridge the gap** between **policymakers** and **young people**. Most importantly, it will remain a **living resource**, continuously **updated** to reflect the **latest developments** in **energy** and **climate policy** across **Europe**.

Future of Energy Report 2024

Since 2016, YES-Europe has been managing its own **analytical projects** to generate **novel intelligence** on the perspectives of **Energy Students and Young Professionals (ESYPs)**. **Research outputs** and **results** have been gathered by various members in our community in an **annual Future of Energy Report**.

Energy is at the heart of everything we do; **powering industries, driving innovation, and connecting communities worldwide**. As we **transition** towards a **sustainable future**, the choices we make today will define the world of tomorrow. For over two centuries, **scientists** have warned of the impact of **greenhouse gases**, highlighting the **urgent need** to build **resilient, sustainable, and equitable energy systems**. Today, nations are racing to **reduce carbon emissions, diversify energy sources, and balance sustainability with accessibility and affordability**.

But **transformation** requires **new ideas** and **bold leadership** and that's where **youth comes in**. The **next generation** brings **fresh perspectives, digital expertise** and a **deep commitment to sustainability, driving the innovations** needed to **accelerate the energy transition**. This report by YES-Europe provides a **comprehensive look at Europe's energy landscape, the challenges** ahead, and the **groundbreaking solutions** shaping a **cleaner future**. More importantly, it highlights why **young people must play a central role in this transformation**.



2024's Report (published in early 2025) touched upon the topics of:

- The key highlights of 2028
- Energy Security & Energy Poverty, including water scarcity, youth perspectives and the energy transition
- Energy Technology trends, including EU market reforms, energy communities, electric grids, nuclear energy and wind energy

Expert insights for the **2024 Future of Energy Report** were brought forward for publication by **Kalliopi Lennax, Anuj Gopalsamy Sakthivel, Daphne Sotirchou, Florentina Oldani, Medha Gayathri, Spiros Touloupakis** and **Zeinab Hassano** with illuminating design by our **Communications Lead Karolina Panko** and our **Comms Team Member Marko Milutinović**. Indulge yourself in the **[full report on our website!](#)**

2025's Future of Energy Report team has been led by **Kallopi Lennax** and **Stefano Cisternino**, and would have been expected to be **published in early 2026**.

Future of Energy Report Members in 2025

Kalliopi Lennax (Project Lead), Stefano Cisternino (Project Lead), Bianca Rigo, Antoine Belleguie, Francesca Matera, Giulia Lo Gerfo, Hayri Kahvecioglu, Joao Costa, Laura Catarinella, Michela Aquilina & Wissal Bouissan

Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast

Overview

In **2025**, YES-Europe relaunched 'Talk Energy with YES-Europe', a knowledge sharing initiative to **bridge the gap** between **professionals** and **young people** by **connecting policy, industry and academia** through **storytelling and conversation**.

Building on 2 successful seasons between 2022 and 2023, the podcast has served as a **dynamic space** where the **next generation of energy experts** can engage in **substantive, actionable conversations** with **policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs and more**. Our **podcast is not a career podcast or a new tech podcast** – it's a space to **disentangle the energy puzzle** and **spark hope and engagement** for a **sustainable future**.

By providing a **dedicated environment** for the **fusion of ideas** and **real-time reflections** on **global energy trends**, we invite **collaborators** and **prospective guests** to engage with the project via **yeseurope.org/projects/podcast/**.



Why "Talk Energy" Matters

Our podcast is more than just a media project; it is a vital tool for fostering knowledge exchange and driving the green energy transition - thus becoming a key pillar of YES Europe's advocacy actions. Our mission is to ensure that young voices are not just observers but protagonists in the climate narrative. The podcast is essential because it is:

- **Demystify the energy transition:** The energy transition is complex and involves different sectors, stakeholders, and highlights apart from environmental and also diverse social, economic, and technological connections. Each episode aims to address a unique topic relevant for the energy transition and discuss it in an accessible way, connecting it to the wider picture to provide our listeners a systems view;
- **Empowering youth action:** It creates a platform for young people to share innovative ideas, take on responsibility and make a tangible difference in the sustainability sector. Thus, we aim to inspire curiosity, agency and collaboration and build a pan-European community of changemakers;

- **Democratising expert knowledge:** By interviewing high-profile guests and industry experts, we translate complex regulatory, technical insights and political insights into actionable knowledge for students across the continent;
- **Bridging global and local perspectives:** We untangle the complexities of international governance and connect them to the specific, unique needs of local energy communities.

Mission Alignment

The project operates under **three core strategic pillars** designed to maximise impact:

- **Knowledge Democratisation:** We focus on making energy systems more equitable and understandable for all;
- **Authentic Community Building:** Our roadmap emphasises cross-border collaboration, ensuring that youth organisations learn from one another rather than working in silos.
- **Youth Empowerment:** We connect emerging leaders with experts to inspire active participation and provide the tools necessary to propel professional careers.

The Podcast Team

Our diverse team brings together technical expertise and creative passion to ensure every episode inspires positive change:

- **Jinar Fallahi & Helen Heinz:** Both led the initiative, driven by the belief that collaboration and knowledge exchange between industry experts and the next generation is the fuel for a successful transition. Jinar is an experienced energy engineer and Helen, a PhD in Energy & Business Innovation, complementing each other to manage the project and support their team.
- **Kim Jessica Wahnke & João Costa:** Our Podcast Hosts! Kim, an International Relations student based in Germany, facilitates unique conversations on energy positions. João, with a background in Chemical Engineering, brings a focus on how science drives real-world climate solutions.
- **Jade Lormeau:** Jade, our professional audio editor, utilises her sound design background to create engaging listening experiences.

In 2026, the Podcast Team will aim to increase their team size by strengthening their research and communications function



<p>Jinar Fallahi <i>Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Project Lead</i></p>	<p>Helen Heinz <i>Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Project Lead</i></p>
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<p>Kim Jessica Wahnke <i>Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Host</i></p>	<p>João Costa <i>Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Host</i></p>	<p>Jade Lormeau <i>Talk Energy with YES-Europe Podcast Audio Editor</i></p>
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Episode Releases from 2025

	<p>Episode 1: COP Talk - "COP in Brazil: Energy on the World Stage": In this episode, we chatted with Amaryllis Perotti and Caterina Bittendorf, our two COP30 Project Leads. We dive into everything COP: what it is, what it does and why it matters. They share their experiences, insights and hopes for the future as we explore whether, and how, international governance can meaningfully shape the energy transition.</p> <p> https://open.spotify.com/episode/7spjZKqz0La2NbXUW1CsLH.</p>
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	<p>Episode 2: "Going Local: Energy Communities and Grid Resilience": This episode, with Gonçalo Quieros, a market intelligence analyst and expert in citizen-led renovation, saw us discuss energy communities and grid resilience, two important topics in today's energy landscape. We discuss how these topics relate to each other, and how they will shape the near energy future.</p> <p> https://open.spotify.com/episode/4XwxCp6vTaCGWCKYr8bsLc</p>
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Future Outlook: Heading into 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, the Podcast Team will focus on working more closely with other YES- Europe teams, building practical skills, and creating a strong podcast platform to highlight Energy Transition projects and share their insights widely.

- **Keep up learning and improving:** Continuously learning to bring our podcast to competitive standards - meaning increasing the confidence of our hosts will help the flow, always having good audio quality on our side, having our tasks and processes in place that ensure we release an episode every month on a scheduled day.
- **Episode line-up:** Establishing a pipeline for our monthly episodes facilitates our internal progress and team work, and also gives our guests and collaborators a structured outlook. Stay tuned and wait for our episodes e.g. on the Africa-Europe Joint Transition Programme, the curiosities of energy

modelling, or the inspiration and engagement behind innovative energy start-ups.

- **Enhanced Engagement:** Creating more opportunities for direct interaction between listeners and energy experts by actively engaging audiences on Instagram and LinkedIn, collecting questions in advance, polling listeners on episode themes, and sharing key episode highlights through short video clips.
- **Social Media and Scaling Impact:** We are developing a strategy to increase the impact and reach of our podcast through a dedicated and better-coordinated social media presence, supported by improved planning and collaboration within the Communications Team. At the same time, we are expanding distribution by publishing episodes on additional platforms such as YouTube and Apple Podcasts while optimising our website and channel structure. By analysing listener data and actively involving our audience through interactive pre-episode engagement, we aim to grow our listener base and continuously improve episode relevance and outreach.
- **Fundraising and Synergies:** As we increase our listener base and scale our quality and impact, we will seek partnerships with global organisations to maximise the impact of youth narratives on green energy.

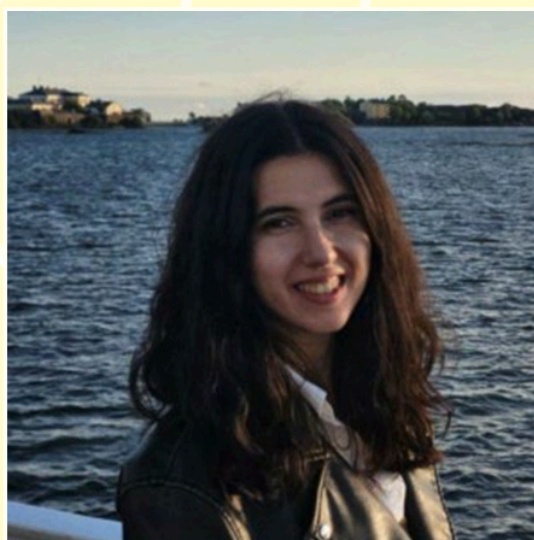
The Podcast Team are glad and thankful to have such a motivated team and the great support of the entire YES-Europe community. Keep up to date and follow on LinkedIn, Instagram, and [Spotify](#) for updates and new episodes.

Women in Energy Transition Interview series

The consequences of not sufficiently including women in the energy transition go far beyond gender equality and could have a detrimental effect on the progress of the transition. We are facing challenges that require an extremely large pool of talents, and without their inclusion, this pool is only shrinking. Innovations are necessary not only on the technological front, but also on the societal, political and regulatory ones. In order to succeed, strong focus must be put on diversity, inclusion and equality.



Launched in 2023, the goal of this Policy project, led by its Project Lead **Andrea Ruskovic**, is to produce a series of interviews to promote female role models and empower girls and women in pursuing their education and careers in energy related sectors. Through presenting topics related to policies in the energy transition, we want to increase visibility of women involved in the field and break down all the negative perceptions about education and careers in energy related sectors and abilities of girls and women to take their part in it. This project has been spearheaded by the Policy Team and Communications Team.



Andrea Ruskovic
*Women in Energy
Transition Project Lead*

After releasing 6 interviews between 2023 and 2024, the team released 2 more interviews in 2025:

1) **Dorothy Grandia**, the Director of the Communications Department of Information Systems for a Sustainable Society at the University of Cologne, dove into why diverse leadership is essential for a sustainable energy future. The energy transition is not just about technology; it is about people. As renewable energy communities and

energy co-ops expand across Europe, how can they maximise their social value and overcome key barriers to scaling? She shared insights on the shifting energy landscape, the role of community-driven micromarkets and why policy coordination across all levels is essential for a just transition. She also explored the importance of demand-side action and how rethinking energy efficiency could be the key to long-term sustainability.



**WOMEN
IN ENERGY TRANSITION**

“We need to shift our conversations away from debate and away from discussion, which is always looking for an answer or a solution, and never asking questions: “Are we trying to solve the right problem? Are we just doing a mandate?”. We need to head to dialogue.”

Dorothy Grandia
Associate Director of Programming

2) **Antonia Proka**, a Project Manager at REScoop.eu, dove into the exciting world of energy communities. As an energy transition expert, **Antonia** is the Head of Capacity Building at REScoop.eu – the European federation of energy communities. We were

fortunate to have Antonia share her **insights** on her **journey** into the **energy space**, the **future of citizen action**, a **gender-just energy transition** and more!



**WOMEN
IN ENERGY TRANSITION**

“If we can celebrate small wins along the way, they give us the energy and motivation to keep pushing toward our bigger goals for 2030. They help us stay driven to overcome the barriers and challenges ahead. Collaboration both within national contexts and across Europe is key.”

Antonia Proka
Project Manager

Talk Policy with YES-Europe Article series

Launched in **early 2025** as a new **Policy Project**, readers can dive into the **latest policy developments** in Europe through **informative articles**, curated by the **Project’s Lead Timothy Alden**. We are exploring a **variety of topics** ranging from **climate action** and **renewable energy**, to **geographical topics**, to the **impact on industry and society** and much more!

From the **urgent** to the **unique**, **pivotal** issues to the **peculiar**, YES-Europe have released **2 publications in 2025** on our website:

1) **“Breathing LIFE into Policy”** - The **LIFE Programme** is the **EU’s way of turning policy ideas** into **real-world impact**. By **funding projects** that **help businesses cut energy costs**, **support youth involvement in energy communities** and **drive sustainability**, it **bridges the gap** between **ambition** and **action**. But what does this look like on the ground? This article explores how **LIFE projects** are **making a difference** such as **helping industries decarbonise**, **tackling funding barriers**, and **shaping a greener future for Europe**.



BREATHING LIFE INTO POLICY

TALK POLICY
with YES-Europe



“Through LIFE projects such as POWERYOUTH, YES-Europe is able to participate directly in the implementation of European policy on the ground, while making its own unique contribution. Tackling the barriers preventing youths from participating in energy communities.”

Timothy Alden
Project Lead



1) **“Warming to Climate Action”** - On the **13th November 2025**, the **Climate Action Tracker (CAT)**, one of the **world’s most respected independent watchdogs** for **global**

emissions and policy reality, released a report warning that for the 4th consecutive year, there has been little to no measurable progress on lowering warming projections. The CAT, whose research measures the world's warming trajectory, underlines that the world's median warming pathway under current policies and actions remains on track for 2.6°C of warming. Nonetheless, the same report underlines the importance of the Paris Agreement for having shifted the warming trajectory from 3.6°C to 2.6°C.



WARMING TO CLIMATE ACTION

TALK POLICY
with YES-Europe

“Returning to youth activism, in particular, YES-Europe’s efforts on renewable energy, one can understand its contribution as a polycentric one, given that it mobilises youth activists operating on multiple levels of governance, from its delegations to COP annually, to producing policy on a European-level while further mobilising youth on national units of organisation. In of itself, YES-Europe therefore stands as a case study and best practice example for climate action.”

Timothy Alden
Project Lead

 YES - Europe

Hackathon

From mid-2025, YES-Europe took the first steps to revive its Hackathon project - an initiative aimed at fostering innovation, collaboration, and practical problem-solving

among young leaders in the energy and sustainability space. The project represents a strategic priority for our NGO and aligns closely with YES-Europe's mission to empower youth through hands-on engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Led by our Operations Manager Juni Victoria Moe Moltubak, the Hackathon will allow students and young professionals from diverse backgrounds to co-create solutions which address real-world energy transition challenges, and will be encouraged to develop solutions that are not only innovative but also socially inclusive and scalable. In collaboration with external partners from industry, academia and civil society, the participants will work in multidisciplinary teams, supported by mentors with sector-specific expertise.

From an organisational perspective, the Hackathon will also serve as a platform to strengthen the YES-Europe network, encouraging interaction and connection between teams and prospective members. Moreover, it will serve our broader objective of upskilling YES-Europe members to become well-rounded energy and sustainability professionals.

In 2025, the Hackathon remained in its conception phase, with no operational activities being undertaken. From March 2026 onwards, the Hackathon would have begun taking concrete shape, with structured planning, partnership outreach and team formation activities set to commence.

CleantechAlps' Projects

As part of YES-Europe's partnership with our friends at [CleantechAlps](#), we are delighted to present the 4th Edition of their Swiss Cleantech Report and an overview of a few cleantech startups!

The swiss contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

4th edition

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An overview of cleantech start-ups



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The Board

Check out our 7-member Board that led YES-Europe in 2025!

			
Eric Balakrishnan <i>5th President (2024 –)</i>	Max van der Linden <i>Vice-President (2024 –)</i>	Arnav Agarwal <i>CFO (2024 –)</i>	Evi Makri <i>CR Lead (2023 –)</i>
			
Laia Guitart <i>Operations Manager (2024 –)</i>	Karolina Panko <i>Communications Lead (2024 –)</i>	Paola Castillo <i>Community Engagement Lead (2025 –)</i>	

International Teams

The Board directs bespoke International Teams to exercise specific functions of the organisation. These International Teams are led by a **Team Lead**, who will also form part of our **Governance Team**. **International Team Leads** lead all aspects of their **Teams' operations** and provide updates on their **Team's activities** to the **Governance Team**, in order to facilitate the **smooth operation of our organisation**. Check out our **International Teams** that have been operating in **2025** below

Governance Team

The **Governance Team** exists to ensure the **smooth running of the organisation** in all of its aspects. **The Team is led by the President** and consists of all of the **Board Members** and **International Team Leads** of YES-Europe, along with **Operations Managers** and the **Country Representative** of the **upcoming Annual Conference**.

In 2025, the **Governance Team** convened once a month to discuss, action and resolve any matters pertaining to the organisation, with meeting minutes being taken and action plans being developed and implemented for the next month and beyond. Check out the **Teams** that make up our **Governance Team** below!

Operations

In 2025, the Operations Team continued to support the international projects of the organisation. This included the latest iteration of the **COP project (COP30)** and the **Future of Energy Report**, the continuation of the **POWERYOUTH Project**, as well as the **2025 Annual Conference** held in **Vienna, Austria**. Under the support and guidance of the Operations Team, the 2025 also saw the revival of 'Talk Energy with YES-Europe' podcast, as well as the formal kick-off of the **Africa-Europe Energy Transition Programme**.



Furthermore, the Operations Team also took important steps towards reviving the YES-Europe's **virtual hackathon project**, as well as facilitated the start of the work

towards the **2026 Annual Conference**. The Operations Team also supervised the **Policy Map Project** before it was handed over to the Policy Team midway through the year.

YES-Europe bid **farewell** to our **long-standing Operations Lead Sakari Teerikoski** in the **final quarter** of **2025**. His **mentorship** and **experience** saw YES-Europe **exponentially enhance** its **quality** and **quantity** of **projects** under his **leadership**. His **successor, Mario Cavolo**, has been aiming to **continue** this **trend**. **Laia Guitart** also **departed YES-Europe**, after **2 years** as an **Operations Manager**. **Inez Brogowska**, who was one of our **2 COP29 Project Leads in 2024**, assumed an **Operations Manager** role in **2025** to support the **recruitment** of our **2 COP30 Leads** and **establishment** of the **project**.

The Operations Teams also welcome **2 new Operations Managers in 2025**. **Policy Team Member Orielia Pria Egambaram** took on her **new role**, **specifically focusing** on **supporting** the **Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project** on behalf of both the Operations and Governance Team. **Midway through 2025**, we welcomed **Juni Victoria Moe Moltubak**, who has been **specifically responsible** for **assuming** our **representation** on **POWERYOUTH**, **supporting** the **planning** of the **2026 Annual Conference** and **developing** the **concept** for the **relaunch** of the **Hackathon project**. In **2026**, the Operations Team will aim to **recruit 1 or 2 more Operations Managers** to **support** its other **activities**.

The Operations team can proudly conclude that **2025** has seen YES-Europe **grow** to **new heights**. Our **projects** have **grown** in **size**, **scope** and **impact**. The **project teams** have grown to **operate** more **structurally** and **autonomously**. The **achievements** of **2025** have established a **good foundation** on which to build further. Browse through the **Projects and Events** sections of this year's Annual Report to marvel at the **incredible effort** that our **Operations Team** contributed in making **2025** a **tremendously active year** for YES-Europe! In **2026**, **new Internal Projects** will be **explored** and, with **POWERYOUTH** coming to a **conclusion** in **December 2026**, YES-Europe may consider **joining** more **consortiums** for **new External Projects**.

Finance

The **Finance Team** worked on **multiple projects** in **2025**. After undergoing a **complete restructuring** and **onboarding** of **new talent** to the team in **2024**, the team actively sought opportunities for fundraising across multiple avenues.



Arnav Agarwal
CFO (2024 –)

The team functioned effectively by assigning **one project** to each **team member**, instilling a **sense of responsibility** within the **team**, and ensured **seamless knowledge sharing** through **weekly touchpoints**.

The major focus this year was to **raise funds** for our **in-person events**, namely **COP30** in **Brazil** and the **2025 Annual Conference** in **Austria** with the support from **YES-Europe Austria** for the latter. Simultaneously, the team has been focusing on the **2026 Annual Conference** in **Italy**, which was scheduled to take place in **April 2026**.

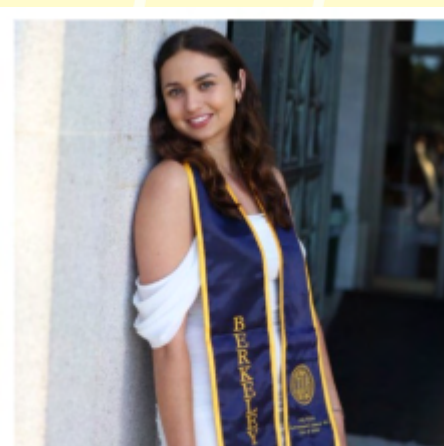
The team has undertaken **key responsibilities** in adherence with the **leadership's vision** for a **long-term fundraising strategy** for YES-Europe. The idea is to establish **meaningful partnerships** across the **public sector**, the **private sector** and the **university ecosystem**, facilitating positive change at each level. The efforts of the Finance Team continue to remain true to the **mission** of **YES-Europe**, and the **talented team** is bound to **contribute massively** to YES-Europe's success in the coming years.

Finance Team Members in 2025

Arnav Agarwal (CFO), Sami Miah, Paul Pöcksteiner, Valentina Scavelli, Eleni Georgianna Michopoulou, Emil Waskönig, Oliver Cressall, Cristina-Florentina Dinca & Mattia Stracchi

Policy

The goal of the Policy Team is to serve as a community to foster open dialogue, contribute to an array of sub-projects in the field of environmental policy, and create a network of like-minded individuals. Our team members work and study across an array of disciplines and encompass nearly 20 countries. The Policy Team is, therefore, a community of diverse youth perspectives coming together to contribute meaningfully to initiatives that look to promote sustainable change across European nations.



Lily Elisa
Policy Lead (2025-)

In 2025, Lily Elisha joined us as our new Policy Lead, replacing Dimitris Symeonidis, who began to organise biweekly team meetings to touch base on ongoing work across Policy Team projects, YES-Europe networking events, and other external opportunities shared by our partners. The Policy Team Project Teams have independent check-ins to discuss their work, which is then shared during the Policy Team calls.

The launch of the **Talk Policy with YES-Europe Article series** in 2025, led by **Timothy Alden**, will continue to create **communal contributions** from **other members** in the **Policy Team**, where **writing policy briefs** on a **variety of topics** will become more **widespread**. The core messaging will be to allow **Policy Team members** to **pick a topic** within the **realm of sustainability** or **environmental policy**, which they are passionate about, while **linking the topic to youth engagement**.

The **Policy Map Project** is expected to continue to **grow** under **new leadership** in 2025, while the **Women in Energy Transition Interview series** continues to find **new female leaders** to engage with in the **energy sector**

Policy Team Members in 2025

Lily Elisha (Policy Lead), Sofie Schönborn, Fidan Karimli, Andrea Ruskovic, Timothy Alden, Alexander Bremer, Orielia Pria Egambaram, Kristiāna Plāte, Clotilde Cerdan, Katerina Bilbiloska, Phaedon Angelopoulos, Shkurte Musliu, Sidra Amir, Aleksandra Lazic, Ishank Sharma, Antoine Belleguie, Mohamad Tawhid, Antonio Di Sarno, Nuril Hidayati, Evanthia Maria Vaswani, Merushe Zeneli, Noble Thomas, Sophia Rehim, João Santos, Francesco Paolo Antinori, Federica Miranda, Ruchita Salian, Milena Ferrari, Rodrigo Lugo Ochoa, Oluwatosin Omolola Oni, Marian Ignat, Gonçalo Queirós, Aastha Bindra, Tuan Minh Nguyen, Anastasia Gorencova, Nancy Clare Nyabokeye, Cloé Bini & Rahel Koch

Communications

The **Communications Team** at YES-Europe **shapes** how the organisation is **seen** and **understood**. Through **thoughtful** and **consistent communication**, the team **connects people** within the **network** and gives **visibility** to **YES-Europe's work** and **values** beyond it. By telling **meaningful stories** and **amplifying youth voices**, the team **strengthens YES-Europe's presence** and **influence** in needed **ecological** and **social change** across **Europe**.



Karolina Panko
Communications Lead
(2024-)

In 2025, the Communications Team played a **central role** in **supporting and amplifying YES-Europe's work** across **energy, climate justice and youth-led policy engagement**. The team accompanies **key organisational milestones**, including the release of the **Future of Energy Report** and the **Annual Report**, as well as major moments, such as the **2025 Annual Conference** in Vienna. Through **announcement posts, reflections and follow-up content**, Communications helps make these processes **visible** within the **network** and beyond it.

Throughout the year, the team supported YES-Europe's presence in wider movement spaces, including **COP30**, the **Nordic Youth & Children Climate Conference**, and **Regeneration 2030**. Communications also works closely with YES-Europe's projects and teams, such as **Women in the Energy Transition**, the **Policy Map Project**, **Talk Policy**, and the **Podcast Team**, to strengthen their impact.

At the same time, the Communications Team **nurtures** the life of the **organisation** itself by **sharing opportunities and open positions, welcoming new leads**, and marking the transition of **outgoing team members**. The year is also shaped by **collective moments of reflection and celebration**, including **Earth Day, zero-waste initiatives**, and **reflections** from **Annual Conferences**. Through this ongoing work, the

Communications Team helps connect people and ideas, ensuring that YES-Europe's values and youth perspectives remain visible across Europe.

Looking ahead to 2026, the **Communications Team** aims to further strengthen YES-Europe internally by becoming a space that actively supports members in their work and communication needs. The team seeks to ensure that members feel confident and equipped to share their work and ideas with the wider network.

At the same time, **Communications** envisions a more resilient team structure, where individuals are encouraged to take initiative in projects. Building internal capacity and independence is central to this vision, allowing the team to grow collectively while reducing reliance on "specialised skills". Through this approach, the **Communications Team** aims to cultivate a supportive environment that strengthens YES-Europe from within and enables more effective, values-driven communication across the organisation.

Communications Team Members in 2025

Karolina Panko (Communication Lead), Olatz Dasilva Insunza, Naol Jima, Shriya Srivastava, Karina Sorana Caraus, Kato Ambokadze, Marko Milutinovic, Mathieu Cressy & Elpida Dalietou

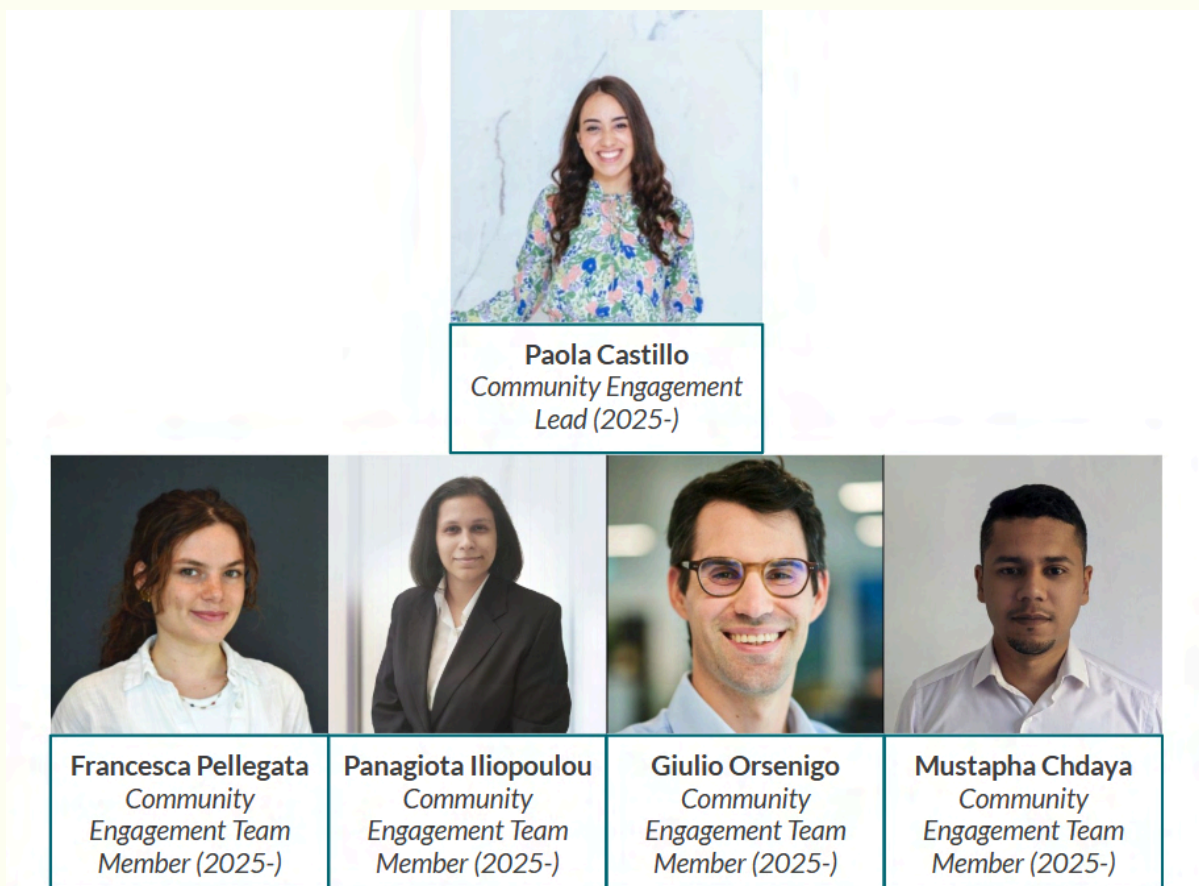
Community Engagement

Purpose and Impact of the Community Engagement Team

The **Community Engagement Team** strengthens the core of YES Europe: its people; by fostering connection, belonging and active participation. Through inclusive communication and intentional spaces, the team encourages members to share, contribute and connect.

Internally, this work strengthens organisational cohesion, supports collaboration, and fosters a culture of shared purpose and mindset. Externally, it enriches the member experience, increases visibility among members and reinforces

YES-Europe’s identity as a dynamic, people-driven European network where cross-country collaboration drives meaningful impact, particularly on sustainability and energy topics.



Community Engagement Activities in 2025

In 2025, the team was created from the now defunct Community Management Team to focus on strengthening relationships and making the community more accessible, visible and interactive. The Community Engagement team, led by Paola Castillo after our previous and long-standing Community Management lead Filippo Angarano left the organisation, grew with the addition of four new members: Francesca Pellegatta, Panagiota Iliopoulou, Giulio Orsenigo and Mustapha Chdaya, bringing fresh energy, diverse perspectives, and expanded capacity to drive community initiatives.

To encourage live interaction and shared presence, the team launched a new series of Community Engagement Calls. These calls provided open and welcoming spaces for members to reconnect, learn about ongoing initiatives and engage directly with the

wider YES-Europe community, fostering dialogue and a stronger sense of togetherness.

The team also introduced **Thunderlight Introductions**, a weekly short-video initiative recorded by YES-Europe members themselves. Open to the entire community, this format aimed to put faces to names and highlight the people behind the network.

In parallel, the team began developing a **Community Map**, using membership data to visually showcase who is part of YES-Europe, where members are located and what interests and backgrounds they bring. This initiative is designed to support networking, collaboration and a deeper sense of belonging across the community.

Plans and Ideas for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, the **Community Engagement Team** aims to further strengthen its strategic contribution by ensuring that community voices actively shape the future direction of YES-Europe.

The team aims to develop a **materiality assessment**, designed to capture member perspectives and identify the topics and priorities that matter most to the community and the Board. This process is expected to guide YES-Europe's focus areas, ensuring they are both relevant and grounded in collective insight.

In addition, the team wants to enhance face-to-face engagement at YES-Europe Annual Conferences by creating intentional spaces for purposeful networking to build meaningful connections, exchange ideas, form lasting relationships and attract new members to the community.

Country Coordination

The **Local Teams** of YES-Europe are one of the most vital elements of the community, enabling youth in more and more European countries to create their own youth networks and national groups on energy and sustainability, while remaining part of a pan-European platform with broader initiatives. At the same time, these local teams

enrich the cultural and sectoral mosaic of backgrounds that make YES-Europe so special and shaped its high potential. In addition, the local teams are the means to spread the organisation’s values and to achieve its mission and vision Europe-wide. This kind of structure, complex, broad and delegate as it is, needs to be carefully managed so that it can be preserved and further expanded.

Targeted in this direction, the Country Coordination Team, which includes the CR Lead and the co-CR Leads aims to inspire and empower all the current CRs of YES-Europe and to onboard even more CRs at the same time. The Country Coordination Team is the main communication channel between the local and the international teams of the organisation. It also represents the CRs, bringing their voices into the decision-making process of the organisation’s governance.



In parallel, the Country Coordination Team is the main bridge between the local teams per se, as it facilitates community or bilateral meetings and exchanges among the CRs. Lastly, the Country Coordination Team is available to guide the CRs through

challenging times and to help them **implement ideas and projects** they aspire to develop.

Within 2025, the **Country Coordination Team** expanded to a **new team**, after previous **Co-CR Lead Paola Castillo** left to become our **new Community Engagement Lead**. The new team has contributed a lot in **managing the CRs**, while at the same time, **regular meetings** within the **community** have been taking place to preserve **internal communication** and sharing of our **common insights**. Apart from that, the **Country Coordination Team** has supported the **development** of the **Policy Map Project** - heavily focused on the **inputs** from our **respective countries**.

Since **2023**, the **Country Coordination Team** has been led by **CR Lead Evi Makri**. Evi is a **PhD candidate** conducting research on the **field of climate justice**, while her **research interests** additionally include the **fields of energy democracy and circular economy**. At the same time, Evi is among the **co-founders of Beak-on | The Hummingbird Project**, an initiative dedicated to **spread knowledge and raise awareness on climate change in simple and interactive ways**.

As an **active climate and human rights advocate**, Evi has volunteered to **support civic engagement and inclusive decision-making**, mainly for **youth** but also for **underprivileged communities**. Since **2020**, she has volunteered with **YES-Europe**, while in the meantime she has also been trained as **youth trainer** and as a **Climate Fresk facilitator**. Additionally, she holds the role of an **EU Climate Pact Ambassador**, aiming to further **boost climate action**.

Evi's **academic background** includes a **Bachelor's degree in International, European, and Area Studies**, with **special focus on International Law and International Relations**; an **MSc in Energy Law, Business, Regulation, and Policy**; as well as a **second MSc in Climate Crisis and Information & Communication Technologies**. Recognising the importance of also **making small changes**, Evi is committed to **supporting citizens, civic society organizations and SMEs** in becoming **sustainable**.

The Country Coordination Team has made **concrete plans** for **2026**. Among these, a **further expansion of the team**, the handover between the **current CR Lead, Evi Makri**, and the **new CR Lead**, as well as a plan for the creation of **regional subgroups** among the **network's countries**. In addition, the Team plans to – once again – **support the host country (YES-Europe Italy)** of the **2026 Annual Conference** (as it has done all the years before that), and to find the **host** for the **next Annual Conference for 2027**. Apart from these, the Team will **create and circulate** a “**repository**” of **good ideas and best practices** to the **CRs** to keep **motivation high** and to **facilitate empowering** of the **community's members**.

Advisory Board

YES-Europe has its own **Walk of Fame**, courtesy of our **Advisory Board**! This team consists of some special people who were once part of our illustrious Board and Governance Team in the past, particularly the **previous leadership generation** between **2022** and **2024**, and have since stepped away from their leadership positions to pave the way for the **next generation to lead**. In order to facilitate a strong transition between key members, and to also be a **sounding board** to help our organisation **gain insights, solve problems or explore new opportunities**, we have maintained the function of YES-Europe's Advisory Board.

In 2025, our **President Eric** and **Vice-President Max** met the **Advisory Board** a handful of times to **seek guidance** on a number of topics as they developed. The **next Advisory Board** will likely be composed of **members of the current Governance Team**, ahead of the **next Leadership beginning their terms from 2026 to 2028**.

Advisory Board Members in 2025

Dimitri Zogg (former President), Livia Kalossaka (former Vice-President), Sara Nyberg (former Country Representative Lead), Erik Turner (former Operations Lead), Filippo Angarano (former Community Management Lead), Sakari Teerikoski (former Operations Lead) & Stephen Lezak (External Advisor)

Local Teams

YES-Europe created **local representation** in **individual European countries** at the start of the **organisation's story** in **2016** and we have been proud of our **endeavour** to **maintain, develop** and **emerge new country teams** up until **2025** and beyond.

Each **Local Team** has a **Country Representative (CR)** to manage the **formation** and **maintenance** of their **team's activities**. The **CR** may appoint **one or multiple Co-CRs** to **assist** in their **team's operations**. Each month, the **CRs** meet the **Country Coordination Team** to **update each other, collaborate** and **continue** to **grow** and **diversify** our **local initiative space**.

Check out the **Local Teams** that have been **active** in the **YES-Europe world** in **2025**:

Austria

YES-Europe Austria's Background

YES-Europe **Austria** has been an **active Local team**, based in **Vienna** since **2020**. Over the past years, the **Austrian** team has developed into a **stable** and **interdisciplinary network** of **students, young professionals** and **early-career experts** working across the **fields** of **energy, sustainability, urban development** and **social transformation**.



In **2025**, the team consisted of a **core group** of a **number of highly active members** with **diverse academic backgrounds**, ranging from **engineering** and **business administration** to the **social sciences**, complemented by **practical professional experience**. The **core objective** of **YES-Europe Austria** has been to **create spaces** for **exchange** between **disciplines, sectors** and **generations**, while **strengthening** the **role** of **young voices** in **shaping Europe's energy transition**. This **objective** has been pursued through **regular in-person meetings, internal strategy sessions** and **close cooperation** with **other Local teams** across **Europe**. **Thematic exchanges** on **topics**

such as **energy communities**, **hydrogen technologies** and **emerging policy** approaches have been complemented by **workshops**, **discussion formats** and **networking events**.

Through these activities, YES-Europe Austria has **continuously expanded its network**. By the **end of 2025**, the **Austrian team** had reached more than **200 individuals** who had **participated in YES-Europe Austria events** since **2021**, reflecting a **significant increase in visibility** and **outreach following the 2025 Annual Conference in Vienna**. The year was characterised by **intensive collaboration**, a **strong focus on team building** and the **successful organisation of YES-Europe's Annual Conference in Vienna**, which marked an **important milestone in the development of the Austrian team**.

Meet their Country Representative

Jeremias Jobst

YES-Europe Austria has been led since **2021** by **Country Representative Jeremias Jobst**, whose background as a **socio-economist** and **urban sociologist** has **strongly shaped YES-Europe Austria's focus on the social and urban dimensions of the energy transition**. He has been supported by **Co-Country Representatives Guntram Preßmair** and **Barbara Gösenbauer**, who contributed their expertise in **social sustainability** and **project management**. During **Jeremias' leadership**, the focus has been on **consolidating the Austrian team**, **strengthening its thematic profile** and **embedding a distinct Austrian contribution** more firmly within the **international YES-Europe structure**. A particular priority in recent years was the **expansion of the leadership team** following the **departure of former Co-Country Representative Amir Muzaferovic**. This transition phase was **deliberately used to broaden responsibilities** and **integrate additional expertise** and **professional networks** into the **core leadership**.



In this context, **Guntram Preßmair** joined the **Country Representative Team** as **Co-Country Representative**, contributing **strong expertise in energy systems** and

applied sustainability, as well as extensive professional networks within the Austrian energy sector. Barbara Gösenbauer complements the leadership team with her background in social sustainability and project management, ensuring a strong focus on organisational processes, stakeholder coordination and the social dimensions of sustainability initiatives. Together, the Country Representative Team provided a stable leadership framework during a period of growth and increasing organisational complexity, culminating in the successful hosting of the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna.

At the end of 2025, Jeremias stood down from his role as Country Representative as he had reached the age of 35 and was no longer eligible to retain his YES-Europe membership. This planned transition marked the conclusion of a multi-year leadership phase and opened the way for a new generation of leadership within YES-Europe Austria. That forthcoming handover was understood as an opportunity to further develop the organisation, build on established structures and continue strengthening the Austrian local team within the international YES-Europe network.



Their Projects in 2025

The central milestone of 2025 was the organisation of the YES-Europe Annual Conference in Vienna, held from 2nd to 4th October. For the first time, Austria hosted the international flagship event of YES-Europe, welcoming more than 120

participants from across Europe, alongside over 40 speakers, moderators and workshop facilitators.

The conference was the result of long-term team development and close cooperation between experienced members and newer colleagues. Conceived as a three-day format, it combined excursions, policy-oriented discussions, technical and societal perspectives on the energy transition and intensive networking opportunities. Key thematic focuses included sustainable cities, energy transition and meaningful professional and voluntary engagement, with Vienna serving both as host city and as an example of socially inclusive and sustainability-oriented urban development.

Preparations spanned several months and covered programme design, partner coordination, fundraising, communication and logistics. Regular in-person meetings, an expanded steering group and close cooperation with national and international partners proved to be decisive success factors. In parallel, 2025 was marked by targeted internal consolidation, including the onboarding of new members, the strengthening of shared responsibilities and structured knowledge transfer, laying the groundwork for the long-term continuity of YES-Europe Austria beyond the conference year.

<p>JEREMIAS JOBST</p> <p>COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE TEAM AUSTRIA</p> <p><i>"Bringing together around 100 young changemakers from across Europe, the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna is a unique platform for in-depth dialogue on sustainable urban development. It's this combination of intellectual exchange and international collaboration that fuels my motivation to volunteer."</i></p> 	<p>BARBARA GÖSENBAUER</p> <p>SOCIOECONOMIST & URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROFESSIONAL</p> <p><i>I believe international and interdisciplinary cooperation is key to a successful societal transformation. YES-EUROPE brings together motivated young professionals and students across the continent to work towards a just energy transition at the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna.</i></p> 	<p>GUNTRAM PRESSMAIR</p> <p>RESEARCHER AND CONSULTANT FOR ENERGY INNOVATIONS</p> <p><i>"YES-Europe is a place to learn from like-minded and passionate peers, have intense but educated discussions, organise hands-on projects and simply have a good time. Excited to meet many new faces at the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna."</i></p> 
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The Country Representative Team was the driving force behind the conceptual development, fundraising and overall organisation of the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna. The successful delivery of the conference was made possible through the joint leadership and commitment of Jeremias Jobst, Guntram Preßmair and Barbara Gösenbauer.

STEPHANIE KOCH

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANGAGER
IN THE ENERGY SECTOR**

"I'm very much looking forward to meeting young experts from different backgrounds and discussing current topics in the field of energy and sustainability at this year's YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna. You can join too - either as participant or as volunteer like me in the organization team!"



HENRY COGGINS

**IT PROFESSIONAL -
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY
SECTOR**

"YES-Europe brings together young professionals with unique backgrounds and perspectives who want to build a more sustainable society. I'm looking forward to connecting with industry experts and participants at the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna!"



MARIE-LUISE ZWICKER

**EXPERT IN DATA ANALYSIS &
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**

Data helps us understand the complexity of energy and mobility systems - and shows where solutions can be found. With my background in geography, spatial planning and modeling, I am passionate about using evidence-based insights to drive sustainable transformation. The YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna is a great place to exchange ideas and turn knowledge into action for Europe's energy future.



Stephanie Koch had been actively involved in YES-Europe Austria since 2021 and provided substantial support behind the scenes, including accompanying and coordinating delegations on-site in Vienna. Henry Coggins joined the team more recently and delivered outstanding moderation across two conference days. Marie-Luise Zwicker was a key pillar of the conference, contributing both to data management and as a speaker on stage.

REBECCA HAUSCHILD

EXPERT IN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

Achieving a socially and environmentally just energy transition requires interdisciplinary cooperation across borders. I'm excited to join the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna to meet people from a wide range of backgrounds, exchange ideas, and work together towards a more sustainable future.



Copyright Chiara Hammerer

OLEG KHOROSHEV

ENGINEER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE & URBAN SYSTEMS

Real change happens when people start working together. The YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 is the perfect opportunity to expand your horizons on energy and sustainability transitions at the European level – and to connect with inspired people. Excited to see you there!



RACHEL LEUTGÖB

ECONOMIST & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROFESSIONAL

I am passionate about shaping cities that are not only sustainable but also socially inclusive. The YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna is a great opportunity to bring people together, foster exchange, and inspire each other to create impactful solutions for a just energy transition.



Rebecca Hauschild, Oleg Khoroshev and Rachel Leutgöb contributed substantially to the conceptual development of the comprehensive programme and delivered highly impactful performances on stage during the conference.

LEONARD ZOTTL

PROJECT DEVELOPER IN THE WIND INDUSTRY

The energy transition remains one of the biggest challenges of our time. For it's success, nations, fields and generations have to work together. The YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna enables young professionals from different backgrounds to take part in the conversation.



SAHAR ASHJAEI KHAMANEH

SOLUTION ENGINEER IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND ENERGY SYSTEMS

With a strong foundation in electrical engineering and hands-on experience in renewable energy, control systems, and energy modelling, I am passionate about driving innovation for a sustainable future. At the YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna, I look forward to connecting with peers across Europe and exploring how technical expertise and collaborative action can accelerate the energy transition



FELIX TRAWÖGER

ENVIRONMENTAL- & BIORESOURCE MANAGEMENT STUDENT

As the newest member of YES-Europe Austria, I am excited to contribute fresh perspectives from my studies in environmental and bioresource management. The YES-Europe Annual Conference 2025 in Vienna is a unique chance to connect with young professionals from across Europe, share ideas, and co-create pathways towards a sustainable and socially inclusive energy future.



Leonhard Zottl, Sahar Ashjaei Khamaneh and Felix Trawöger contributed their expertise on-site and helped ensure the smooth execution of the conference, both on stage and behind the scenes.



Their Plans for 2026

Following the **2025 Annual Conference 2025**, YES-Europe Austria entered a phase of transition. After more than four years of voluntary leadership, Jeremias stepped back from his role as **Country Representative**. This transition was **deliberately linked** to the conference in **Vienna**, which marked both a **collective achievement** and a **symbolic handover** to a younger team.

Looking ahead to **2026**, the **Austrian local team** plans to **further institutionalise** its team structures, **introduce a renewed leadership constellation** and **continue organising smaller, regular formats** that **foster professional exchange** and **interdisciplinary dialogue**. The **experience gained through large-scale event organisation** in **2023** and **2025** provides a **strong foundation** for future activities.

At the same time, YES-Europe Austria remains **closely embedded** in the **European network** and **committed to contributing Austrian perspectives** to **international initiatives, conferences and policy discussions**. 2026 will focus on **consolidation, continuity** and the **empowerment of new team members** to shape the **organisation's next phase**.

The **activities of YES-Europe Austria in 2025** illustrate the **potential of voluntary engagement** when combined with **professional standards, strong teamwork** and **international cooperation**. **Successfully hosting the Annual Conference in Vienna** reflects years of **collective effort** and **underlines the role of the Austrian local team** within the **broader YES-Europe network**. With a **renewed team** and a **clear strategic outlook**, YES-Europe Austria is **well positioned to continue fostering exchange, learning and affecting meaningful impact** in the years ahead.

YES-Europe Austria Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Jeremias Jobst (CR), Guntram Pressmair (Co-CR), Barbara Gösenbauer (Co-CR), Sahar Ashjaei Khamaneh, Stephanie Koch, Rebecca Hauschild, Henry Coggins, Rachel Leutgöb, Marie-Luise Zwicker, Temitope Ayanlade, Felix

Trawöger, Roman Öfferlbauer, Oleg Khoroshev, Paula Friederichsen, Irene Stögerer, Martin Mayr, Oliver Eismair, Lisa Wolf & Niklas Thannhäuser

International Team Members: Paul Pöcksteiner, Mohamed Tawhid, Maximilian Buchsteiner, Francesca Matera & Nina Luger

Belgium

YES-Europe Belgium's Background

YES-Europe Belgium is one of the organisation's oldest local teams, having had their formal kick-off event to attract members to the organisation and create a local platform for engagement in November 2020. More than 120 people from 20+ countries attended that event. The Belgian Team has organised a number of online and in-person meetups in the years since and have actively collaborated on numerous projects and events to showcase Belgium's perspective on the climate action front. This set off a timeline of events that culminated in that country team summiting the Local Team peak by hosting the 2024 Annual Conference, with our Country Representative at the time, Essam Elnagar, hosting our YES-Europe community and friends for a one-day event at KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium as part of our yearly gathering for all things energy



Meet the Country Representative

Marina Manti

Marina is a Sustainability Reporting Junior Technical Manager at EFRAG, with a specialisation in circular economy and resource use. She holds a Master's degree in Economics, Finance and Sustainability (Sustainable Finance) from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where



she developed strong expertise in sustainability reporting. Marina also broadened her academic perspective at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, studying in the Master's program in Environment, Development and Sustainability. Since 2025, she has been serving as Country Representative for YES-Europe Belgium, actively advocating for youth engagement in sustainability.

Their Plans for 2026

In 2026, YES-Europe Belgium will strengthen its role by publishing insights on EU sustainability regulations, building connections with Brussels-based organisations, and hosting interactive in-person events. Through collaborations with universities and local partners, they aim to engage more young people!

Since YES-Europe Belgium are mainly based in Brussels, it will be important to strengthen the team's connections with local organisations. In addition, YES-Europe Belgium would like to organise more in-person gatherings, informal talks on sustainability topics, which could also take the form of quizzes or interactive activities, whilst also exploring ways to engage more people in their initiatives at the University of Leuven.

YES-Europe Belgium Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Marina Manti (CR), Valentina Couceiro & Fershta Akbari

International Team Members: Laia Guitart, Inez Brogowska, Amaryllis Perotti, Stefano Cisternino, Julien Lemaire, Shriya Srivastava, Olatz Dasilva Insunza, Evanthia Maria Vasvani & Marko Milutinovic

Bulgaria

YES-Europe Bulgaria's Background

YES-Europe Bulgaria were formed in the 2020s with the aim to externalise YES-Europe's vision in the country and be one of our key country teams in the Eastern European and Balkan regions.

The projects they have worked on aimed to either deal with **important local** or **current global issues**.



Meet the Country Representative

Elizabeth Chavdarska

Elizabeth is currently completing her **Master's degree in Bioeconomy**, with a **major in Biotechnology**, at the **Technical University of Munich**, while also working as a **data analyst on corporate GHG emissions and decarbonisation policies**. She is deeply committed to **strengthening youth participation in environmental policy-making and the green economy**. This commitment led her to **join two youth-led European NGOs**.



As the **Just Transition Coordinator** at **Generation Climate Europe**, she worked to **empower young people to play an active role in shaping the transition away from fossil fuels and to elevate youth voices across different levels of governance**. On the other hand, in her role as **COP29 Project Lead** at YES-Europe in 2024, Elizabeth participated in **international climate policy alongside other youth networks, advocating for more decisive, fair and inclusive global climate action**. After witnessing firsthand the **complexities of advancing climate efforts at the global level**, she felt **inspired to share this experience with young people in her home country and to work alongside them to create small but meaningful change at a local level**. This motivated her to assume the **leadership of the YES-Europe country team in Bulgaria** and to **organise the country's first Local Conference of Youth**.

Their Projects in 2025

The landmark project for YES-Europe Bulgaria in 2025 was its own Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) - an annual event organised by young people for young people in many countries around the world, aiming to inspire and empower them to take an active role in the sustainable green transition. It is under the umbrella of YOUNGO, which amplifies youth voices in climate negotiations, promotes participation in decision-making and raises awareness of the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). One of the main objectives of LCOY is to consolidate the perspectives of young people into a statement that becomes part of the global youth position presented during the UN negotiations.

Together with the National Youth Council, the WWF youth organization (Pangea) and the ManEco Foundation, YES-Europe Bulgaria began organising the conference in April. Securing funding, finding a venue and building the network needed to bring the event to life were all significant challenges, but the Local Team remained determined and ultimately hosted the conference in October 2025 at the Sofia University Faculty of Economics.



The event brought together young people from Sofia to exchange knowledge, ideas and solutions on mitigation, adaptation and just transition. Over two days, participants heard inspiring talks from Bulgaria's lead negotiator to the UNFCCC, climate diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and national youth delegates to the UN. The LCOYS also hosted several workshops to gather young people's perspectives on the green transition and gathered them in a statement which we sent to YOUNGO.

Their Plans for 2026

Next year, YES-Europe Bulgaria plans to build on the capacity developed during this first edition of the LCOY and to broaden the conference's outreach by involving participants from across Bulgaria, with the goal of inspiring youth action and advocacy for sustainable development.

YES-Europe Bulgaria Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Elizabeth Chavdarska (CR) & Sinda M'Saada

Finland

YES-Europe Finland's Background

Our Finnish Team has been around since the early 2020s and have been one of our key local teams in lending their voices to the discourse on renewable and alternative forms of energy.

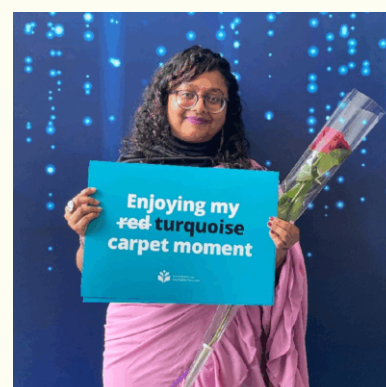
Their members have been prominent in publishing their views and research on social media and on our website down the years.



Meet the Country Representative

Jannat Ara Rahman

Jannat recently completed her second master's in pedagogy and teaching for sustainability from the



University of Eastern Finland. She is originally from **Bangladesh**, and currently lives in a **small town in Finland** called **Joensuu**. Her **interest** is in **active volunteering**. She has been engaged with **street children's education** and **sex workers' children's education** when she was in **Bangladesh**. She moved to **Finland** in **2022**, and since then she has opened her own **club** called **Sustainable Lifestyle UEF**, engaged with **YES-Europe Finland** and **ReGeneration 2030** as **Country Representative** and **Board Member** respectively. Her **hobbies** are **reading books**, **playing her favorite song** and **dancing badly**.

Their Projects in 2025

In 2025, Jannat has been **facilitating workshops** on **mental health** in different **movements/events** such as **Towards Action Weekend Oulu'25**, **Regeneration Week 2025** etc. Jannat also **late in 2025** held a **stand-up booth** at **UEF** about **YES-Europe**, and the **responses** were **pretty positive**.



Their Plans for 2026

Jannat's personal plan for 2026 is to get into a PhD program, preferably in her university of UEF. Her goal for YES-Europe is to get more people actively involved, especially in the Finnish team.

YES-Europe Finland Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Jannat Ara Rahman (CR), Dawa Thilen Sherpa, Mengjia Chen & Melika Akaf Dehkordi

International Team Members: Sakari Teerikoski

France

YES-Europe France's Background

YES-Europe France is one of our oldest Local Teams and were formed to externalise YES-Europe's goals in Western Europe, given how exciting the energy transition and innovation is in France. The French Team was led by our long-term Country Representative Golnoosh Mir Moghtadaei, whose professional and academic connections established YES-Europe France as one of our key local teams and generated multiple networking and dissemination opportunities, with the ChangeNOW Summit in Paris being of particular importance to YES-Europe France in recent years. In 2025, the French Team established new leadership in order to continue to showcase the acceleration of the energy transition in France



Meet the Country Representative

Mathilde Drousseau

Mathilde is a student of European Studies and Politics with a strong passion for environmental issues. She is currently writing her Master's thesis on the EU's influence on international climate negotiations. Since high school, she has been actively involved in student organisations, working to address the climate crisis, and is aspiring to pursue a career



in this field. **Mathilde joined YES-Europe in late 2025** because she wants to help **build a community that tackles climate challenges collectively**, and because she is excited to **organise inspiring events that encourage critical thinking about climate change**. She is looking forward to working with everyone at **YES-Europe to build a more sustainable future**.

Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe France has **3 main objectives for 2026**:

1) Advocacy:

- **Create and repost content twice a week on key environmental topics**, including **climate policy, sustainability initiatives and relevant EU or international developments**, to **raise awareness and influence audiences to the urgency of the climate crisis**;
- **Post occasional content about the association's activities and events**, in order to **grow their membership**;
- **Encourage interaction through discussions and collaborations with relevant organisations and individuals**, through **both of the previously mentioned impacts**

2) Events:

- **Organise conferences focusing on specific environmental themes like biodiversity, pollution or energy**, to **strengthen the community's visibility** (especially through **partnerships**) and make **environmental policy and actions more accessible**;
- **Organise internal debates among members**, in order to **encourage learning and a global perspective**, **provide a space for friendly and respectful confrontation of ideas**: **moderation by two committee members and increase their members' self-confidence and public speaking skills**

3) Internal development:

Build a team by recruiting for the following positions:

- **Social media manager x1**
- **Content creation, who will respond to messages received**

- **Communications/Public Relations Manager x1**, who will **respond to emails and manage official communications**
- **Events Department x3**, who will look after **logistics, outreach/partnerships and event content**

YES-Europe France Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Mathilde Dourousseau (CR) & Livia Kalossaka

International Team Members: Juliette Ardisson, Giang Ngoc Huong Vu, Antoine Belleguie, Vedika Kulkarni, Hayri Kahvecioglu, Mustapha Chdaya, Ruchita Salian & Marian Ignat

Germany

YES-Europe Germany's Background

YES-Europe Germany is one of YES-Europe's oldest Country Teams, with some of our **founding members** at the EPFL Lausanne in 2016 being **German**. Hence, our **first Annual Conference outside of Switzerland** (the 2nd in our history) was hosted at the Technische Universität Berlin in Germany in 2017.



Meet the Country Representative

Julian Gläser

Based in **Berlin**, Julian has been **passionate** about driving the **energy transition** and the **socio-ecological transformation** since **2020**. Academically, he delved into **environmental economics** during his **Bachelor's degree in Economic Policy** at **HTW Berlin** and into **sustainable development and international energy transitions** during his **Master's degree in Political Science** at **FU Berlin** and **SciencesPo Paris**. During that time, he gathered **professional experience** in the **political affairs departments** of the **German Energy Industrial Association BDEW** and the **TSO 50Hertz**, **advised the German Government** with **Ramboll Management Consulting**, **interned in the Federal Ministry**



for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and worked as an Energy Advisor for a German MP in the Bundestag. Since the summer of 2025, Julian has been rebuilding YES-Europe's local team in Germany as our new German Country Representative, where they are seeking to create impactful cooperations and appealing events around energy transition issues. Their ultimate goal is to make climate action fun and accessible for young people

Their Projects in 2025

- **May-June:** Relaunch of the German local team with, promotion of YES-Europe in different sustainability networks, getting to know each other, impact brainstorming and goal formulation
- **July:** Initiating our first online event “Young Professional Insights”, a format in which members present their professional experiences with different actors in the energy transition
- **August:** Initiating our first cooperation with the Comparative Research Network CRN, a Berlin-based organisation for research on climate action and social impacts of climate change
- **September:** Becoming part of the Future Energy Lab Community of the German Energy Agency dena and the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, presenting YES-Europe on their community event
- **October:** Planning of our first on-site-event “Future of Energy Day” and attending the 2025 YES-Europe Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria
- **November:** “Future of Energy Days” Event



Their Plans for 2026

- Growing the network
- Form new partnerships
- Create After-work events with new partners
- “Future of Energy Days” Event

YES-Europe German Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Julian Gläser (CR), Franka Sunder, Jonas Wacker, Valentin Eckmann, Hanna Klar, Rohan Manjesh, Anh Vu, Saurya Banerjee, Kai Michael Winterheld, Khanyi Sibanda, Kedar Balasubramaniam, Damilola Ojeniyi, Munam Ali, Aseel Al-Aghbari, Luzian Singer, Namik Gedik & Carlotta Krone-Danhier

International Team Members: Sofie Schönborn, Kim Jessica Wahnke, Tuan Minh Nguyen, Shkurte Musliu, Nuril Hidayati, Noble Thomas, Wissal Bouissan, Rodrigo Lugo Ochoa, Softy Otgonbaatar, Oluwatosin Omolola Oni, Bianca Rigo, Aastha Bindra & Nancy Clare Nyaboke

Greece

YES-Europe Greece’s Background

YES-Europe Greece have been one of the organisation's **most active Country Teams** for an extensive period of time, spotlighted by their opportunity to host the **2023 Annual Conference in Athens** last year. Under the **leadership** of their **former CR Evi Makri**, before she took on the CR Lead role, the Greek Team hosted our YES-Europe community and friends for **3 energetic and radiant days of diverse insights, networking, site visits and memory-making** at the wonderful **Impact Hub Athens** in the centre of the ancient city.

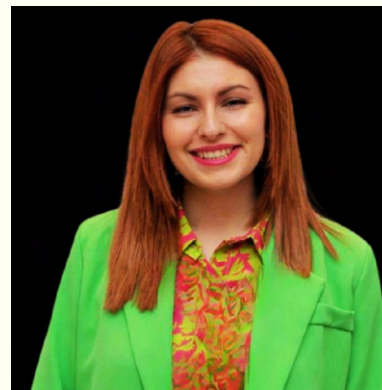




Meet the Country Representatives

Elpida Besi

Elpida holds a BA in International, European and Area Studies from Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens, Greece. Since 2021, she has been responsible for managing research projects focusing on the wider Black Sea region. Her work has contributed to a continuous process of engaging citizens in this multicultural region in relation to topics such as the environment, culture, alternative tourism and gender.



Since her school years, Elpida has been interested in environmental challenges and their impact on societies, as well as measures to reverse this situation. In recent years, Elpida has also become more interested in how we can communicate credible information on these topics in creative ways. In this framework, she joined YES-Europe Greece in 2022. She has been a podcast content creator for the Greek podcast series 'Sustainability YES-Talk' for almost four years, and she also participates in other activities of the Greek team, including training sessions and dissemination events, and became one of the Greek Team's 2 Country Representatives in 2025.

Dimitra Karystinou

Dimitra's interest in the energy transition was sparked from a young age when she envisioned making a positive impact on the world. It did not take long for renewable energy to pique her interest in her studies as a mechanical engineer while the search for a sustainable society led her to pursue a Master's degree in Sustainable Energy Technology at TU Delft.



Following her studies, Dimitra took the opportunity to work as a Researcher and Consultant in energy modelling, focusing on the EU energy system and the

integration of policy measures introduced by the European Commission. Through this role, she engaged with the technical and policy dimensions of the energy transition, aiming to support evidence-based decision-making for a more sustainable Europe.

Dimitra joined YES-Europe in 2025 and was eager to connect with individuals who share a passion for energy transition and sustainability. Through her involvement, she has looked forward to contributing and supporting initiatives that empower young people to actively shape Europe's sustainable future.

Their Projects in 2025

Over 2025, the YES-Europe Greece team has been actively engaged in initiatives related to sustainability, climate and energy. The team appointed 2 new Country Representative and recruited new Team Members

One of the team's main activities has been the 'Sustainability YES-Talk Podcast', which launched its fifth season in 2025-2026. During 2025, this podcast series explored a wide range of topics, including the climate crisis, the European Climate Pact, food waste and the circular economy. 2025 marked a year of remarkable growth. The podcast saw a 42% increase in overall audience, a 999% rise in new listeners compared to 2024 and a 32% increase in followers. It reached audiences in 12 countries, with Greece, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and Switzerland comprising the top five. During the year, the podcast ranked in the Top 10 for 66 listeners, in the Top 5 for 45 listeners, and as the No. 1 podcast for 14 listeners. The most popular episode highlighted the topic of Circular Economy and Sustainability.

Sustainability YES-Talks

with YES-Europe Greece



31. Κυκλική Οικονομία και Βιωσιμότητα

με την ιδρυτική ομάδα της Beak-on | The Hummingbird Project, Ράνια Πιέρρου, Δημήτρη Τσιριγώτη και Εύη Μακρή

00:00



29:00

YES-EUROPE GREECE
Young leaders in Energy and Sustainability

In addition, YES-Europe Greece was selected to participate in the first Podcast Day organised by WHEN Hub, where one episode was recorded. WHEN Hub is a co-working space in Athens created by WHEN, an organisation working for the economic and professional empowerment of women and for gender equality and inclusion in the workplace.

Beyond the podcast series, the Greek team of YES-Europe contributed to our POWERYOUTH Project. The team supported the project's communication and dissemination activities. Moreover, they participated in a relevant capacity-building training programme which took place in Athens in May 2025.

Their Plans for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, YES-Europe Greece plans to **continue producing new podcast episodes** covering a **diverse range of relevant** and engaging topics. In parallel, the team aims to **participate in events** that will **strengthen networking opportunities** and **enhance the visibility and recognition** of the organization.

YES-Europe Greece Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Elpida Besi (CR) & Dimitra Karystinou (CR)

International Team Members: Evi Makri, Kalliopi Lennax, Phaedon Angelopoulos, Eleni Georgianna Michopoulou & Elpida Dalietou

Hungary

YES-Europe Hungary's Background

YES-Europe Hungary was formed in the **2020s**, based on **student developments at Obuda University in Budapest**. Their founding **Country Representative Lily Tanui** attended both the **2023 Annual Conference in Athens, Greece**, whilst also representing YES-Europe at the **2024 European Youth Energy Forum**, organised by our parent organisation the **European Youth Energy Network**, and was part of a **panel discussion on energy communities**, where she spoke about our **involvement in the POWERYOUTH Project**.





Meet the Country Representative

Diana Lukela Wataka

Diana Lukela Wataka is a **finance and accounting professional with a strong background in economics, development finance and sustainability**. She is currently pursuing a **Master of Economics (Business Development) degree from Obuda University in**

Budapest. Diana holds a Bachelor's degree in **Commerce-Accounting from Kenyatta University** in her native **Kenya** and is part of a number of **accounting professional bodies**. Throughout her career, she has supported **financial planning, regulatory compliance, MSME banking and sustainability-related initiatives**.



Diana is passionate about **volunteering** and her role as a **young person** as a **key actor** towards **sustainable development goals** are **vital**. She is currently serving as the **Finance Head of Do It With Boldness (DWB)** - an **NGO** in **Kenya** that advocates for **female education, proper menstrual health hygiene management and economic empowerment** in line with **SDG Goals 3, 4 and 5**.



Diana was drawn to YES-Europe in 2025 because of the opportunity to channel her passions into grassroot contributions to sustainability and energy. Her desire to bridge youth leadership, sustainability and policy-oriented action within the YES-Europe space motivated her to join as a Finance Team Member. She actively worked on fundraising and grant applications to support the organisation's various projects and Teams. Additionally, supporting the Africa-Europe Energy Transition Project as a Finance Team member enabled her to effectively collaborate with both internal and external stakeholders on various research articles that support the sustainability framework. After attending the 2025 Annual Conference in Vienna, Austria this year, Diana's commitment to serving as Country Representative for Hungary steamed up and, shortly afterward, she decided to make the step up to that position. She is committed to strengthening youth engagement in sustainability,

energy transition and inclusive development across Europe and Africa. She hopes to further increase her passion for sustainability through organising and participating in YES-Europe activities and gaining crucial knowledge, experience and leadership skills to engage in policy debates on energy and sustainable development.

Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe Hungary will be seeking to expand its membership in 2026, by increasing visibility and presence on social media by targeting passionate university students and externalising YES-Europe's vision in Hungary in more events, activities and projects. both internally and externally. Since Diana was supporting the Africa-Europe Energy Transition project, this will greatly help the Hungarian Team boost membership engagement, as it is a great opportunity to explore more.

YES-Europe Hungary Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Diana Lukela Wataka (CR) & Phoebe Apiyo Omondi

Italy

YES-Europe Italy's Background

YES-Europe Italy was formed back in 2017, so they're nearly a decade old! The number of members in the team has fluctuated over the years, reaching its peak in 2022, and peaking again in 2025.





The **standout moment** for the Italian Team was getting to host our **2022 Annual Conference in Turin** - a **pivotal moment** in YES-Europe's history, as it was our **first in-person Annual Conference post-pandemic**, and we made so many friends and partners that week, who we are **still in contact with** or are **part of our community today**.



The Italian team's vision aligns perfectly with YES-Europe's, they strive to create a platform where students and young professionals feel welcome and empowered to pursue their passion in energy and sustainability. This goal fits well with their local approach, as we're passionate about engaging with young Italians and offering them the tools and network that the school system often struggles to provide.



Meet the Country Representative

Filippo Fincato

Filippo completed his Bachelor's in Industrial and Environmental Chemistry, focusing his thesis on photovoltaic technologies, particularly Luminescent Solar Concentrators (LSCs), as he developed a strong interest in the energy field. For his Master's, he shifted



to Materials Science with a specialisation in Nanotechnology, continuing to focus on energy and completing a thesis on graphene-based solid-state hydrogen storage. During his studies, he also participated in academic projects related to sustainable innovation and the hydrogen economy, driven by a strong interest in energy technology and startup development. After university, building on this energy-focused trajectory, he obtained a postgraduate in Energy Resources Management. This path ultimately led him to his current role in the "Sustainability and Business Transformation" division of the consulting firm EY.

Filippo's journey in YES-Europe started in 2023, as he was a founder and had been a President of a local organisation (Planeta) that was included into the YES-Europe network and participated in the 2023 Annual Conference in Athens. After AC23, he decided to move to YES-Europe Italy, as he wanted to further explore the context, finding it extremely motivating and with huge growth perspectives. As his first project, he collaborated on the "Dietro le quinte della transizione energetica" project in partnership with A2A, a major Italian multiutility, a 4-month long project involving power plants visits and workshops open to students and young professionals.



Filippo assumed the Country Representative role of YES-Europe Italy at the start of 2025 and quickly began to assemble a team of new Italian-based members in preparation for our 2026 Annual Conference in Milan (to be held in April 2026), after the team had successfully been awarded the hosting rights of our yearly event. Internationally, Filippo participated in a "NextGen Energy: Bridging Local Impact and EU Ambition" panel discussion, at our parent organisation, the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)'s, latest European Youth Energy Forum held across several locations in and around Catania, Sicily, Italy.



Their Projects in 2025

As Italy was selected to host the 2026 YES-Europe Annual Conference, 2025 was focused on **establishing a solid foundation** on which to **build the following year's conference**. Even though the **Italian team** experienced **some turnover**, in 2025 they

continued working toward their strategic goals of increasing engagement with both local and international actors.

During 2025, the team successfully carried out **one strategic project**, aligned with the vision of the **2026 Annual Conference**. Building on their **2024 project**, “**Behind the Scenes of the Energy Transition**”, conducted in **collaboration** with the **major multiutility company A2A**, they proposed an **updated version** of the project.

In 2025, YES-Europe Italy collaborated with **A2A** and the **University of Calabria** on a **four-month project** entirely focused on **water resource management** and **hydropower innovation**. The project began in **May 2025** with a **brief presentation** of YES-Europe to the **University’s engineering students**, providing an **overview** of the project scope. The **students, divided into teams**, had the **opportunity to develop policy recommendations** and **share their perspectives** as **young, local citizens** with **technical backgrounds**, **effectively aligning three different and relevant stakeholder categories** within a **single group**. The **kick-off day** concluded with a **site visit** to a **recently renovated hydropower plant** managed by **A2A**. Over the course of **three online sessions**, students engaged with **A2A experts** who covered **various critical aspects of hydropower development**—from **balancing water usage** for agriculture and power generation to **upstream water management**—culminating in an **overview of A2A’s technological innovation approach** in the sector. For each **webinar**, students participated in **activities designed to prioritise critical issues** and discuss them with **experts**, gaining a **deeper understanding** of the **variables involved** and how **public entities and companies address these challenges**.

Finally, in **early September 2025**, the **student teams**, together with YES-Europe, participated in the **AEIT (Associazione Italiana Elettrotecnica, Elettronica, Automazione, Informatica e Telecomunicazioni) Annual Conference** in **Amantea, Calabria**. There, they **presented proposals developed during August** with **mentoring** from YES-Europe. The **students’ study** addressed **critical aspects of water management**, including **innovative solutions** and **associated policy**

recommendations, and was presented to the local municipality, AEIT board members and other conference stakeholders.

The project was extremely successful, both due to the participants' enthusiasm and the positive public reception. It also strengthened the YES-Europe-A2A partnership, which became crucial in defining the themes and program of our 2026 Annual Conference, as A2A officially expressed their interest and commitment to serve as the Main Partner of our AC26.



Their Plans for 2026

The major plan of YES-Europe Italy, and YES-Europe as a whole, will be of course, the **2026 Annual Conference**. As always, the **local team** will use **our yearly event** as a **catalyst for disseminating the latest trends within energy, sustainability and policy** at a **local level, building new relationships and partnerships with stakeholders and potential partners** and **attracting new members for further Italian projects and activities**.

YES-Europe Italy Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Filippo Fincato (CR), Alessandra Scapati, Martina Matucci, Silvia Briscese, Lisper Kemunto Mwebi, Beatrice Contino, Suaeba Hegazy, Davide Pio Scicchitano, Naveen Kumar Mannam & Ilaria Parello,

International Team Members: Arnav Agarwal, Mario Cavolo, Jinar Fallahi, Fidan Karimli, Dario Barcella, Marco Petrosino, Martina Chiarini, Valentina Scavelli, Sara Bartoli, Emil Waskönig, Naol Jima, Antonio Di Sarno, Francesco Paolo Antinori, Giulia Lo Gerfo, Laura Catarinella, Cloé Bini, Mattia Stracchi & Corrado Maria Caminiti

Luxembourg

YES-Europe Luxembourg's Background

YES-Europe Luxembourg is a new Local Team formed in 2025 with the aim to externalise YES-Europe's vision in the country and be one of our key country teams in the Western European/Benelux region.



Meet the Country Representative

Beatriz Beccari Barreto

Betariz has a background in Environmental Engineering, with a PhD focused on carbon removal from Politecnico di Milano / Heriot-Watt University. She has academic experience from her PhD, and also



worked at EY and currently is a **consultant** for **Carbon Gap**. She has always been very interested in **sustainable finance** and how the **energy transition** can be **financed**. She is also very passionate about **climate justice** and **technology transfer**, being from Brazil.

Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe Luxembourg will be planning to **expand their membership** and **externalise** the **energy transition** at a **local level** in 2026.

YES-Europe Italy Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Beatriz Beccari Barreto (CR)

North Macedonia

YES-Europe North Macedonia's Background

YES-Europe North Macedonia were formed in the 2020s with the aim to **externalise YES-Europe's vision** in the country and be one of **our key country teams** in the **Southern and Eastern European region**. The projects they have worked on aimed to either deal with **important local or current global issues**.



Meet the Country Representatives

Maja Naumoska

Maja has been studying **Electrical Engineering** and **Information Technologies** at the **Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies** in **Skopje, North Macedonia**, having completed **high school** at the **St. Clement of Ohrid**, with a **GPA of 5.00**. Maja has been actively engaged in **university projects** and **student organisation activities**.



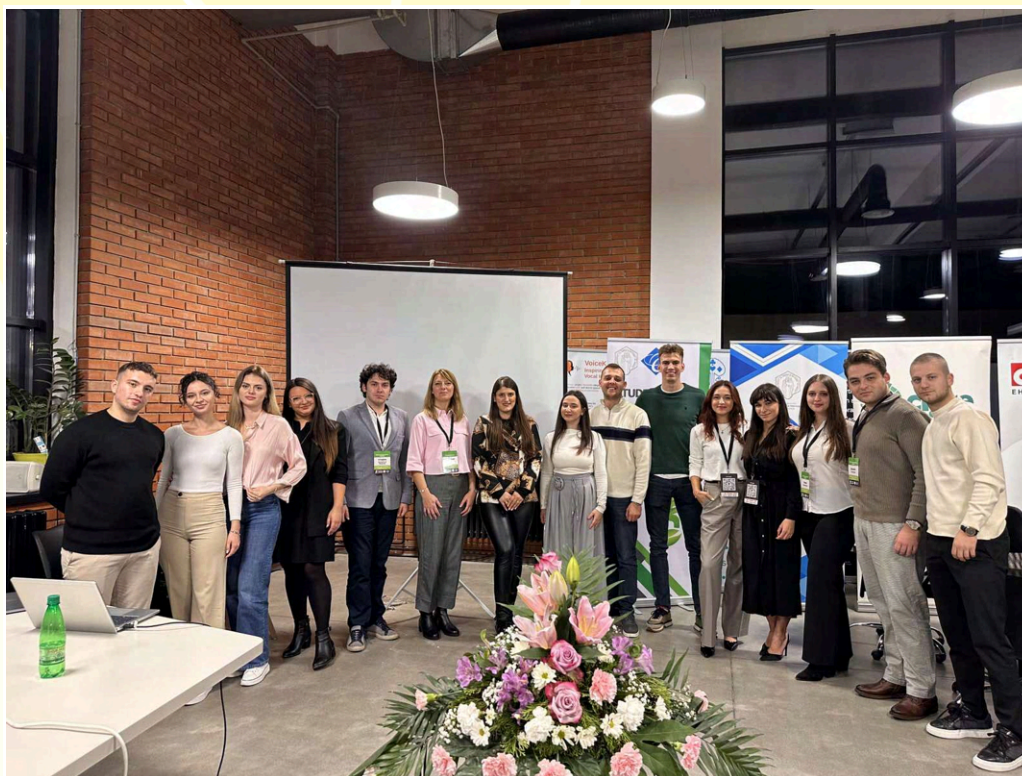
Jelena Gjosikj

Jelena Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies in Skopje, North Macedonia and previously completed high school with a strong academic record. She was a travel guide assistant and former climate change ambassador for NGO GoGreen in high school. Now, she is a member of the SCEESD and BEST faculty organizations at her university



Their Projects in 2025

YES-Europe North Macedonia's most significant activity of 2025 was the 13th Student Conference on Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Development (SCEESD 2025) in October 2025, hosted by SKEEOR/SCEED, an Association for Research and Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development based in Skopje, North Macedonia.



With Maja and Jelena both being part of **SKEEOR/SCEED** and this event's **Organising Committee**, they also represented **YES-Europe** in its co-organising, which gathered students, professors and professionals to exchange ideas on energy efficiency, sustainability and innovation. Together with colleagues, they had the pleasure to present their research papers, and at the same time, helped coordinate sessions and speakers throughout the event.



Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe North Macedonia will be seeking to **expand their membership in 2026** and continue to **externalise YES-Europe's vision in North Macedonia** by engaging in more projects, events and activities.

YES-Europe North Macedonia Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Maja Naumoska (CR), Jelen Gjosikj (CR), Stefan Atanasovski Trajkovic & Ema Bogdanovska

International Team Members: Katerina Biblioska

Poland

YES-Europe Poland's Background

YES-Europe Poland were formed in the 2020s with the aim to externalise YES-Europe's vision in the country and be one of our key country teams in the Central and Eastern European region. The projects they have worked on aimed to either deal with important local or current global issues.



Meet the Country Representative

Igor Burdzy

Igor is currently studying Renewable Energy Engineering at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin (ZUT). Alongside his studies, he works in the Development Team at Vortex Energy, a leading renewable energy developer in Poland. As a



Development Team Assistant, where he supports early stage wind and solar projects and cooperates with municipalities and landowners. This role gives him practical insight into how the energy transition is developing in Poland.

In September 2025, Igor joined YES-Europe and became the Country Representative for YES-Europe Poland, with the goal of building the national structure of the organisation and making YES-Europe Poland the leading space for young people in Poland who are interested in renewable energy, climate action and sustainability. In parallel, he serves as an Ambassador of the Energy Transformation in the national "Inkubator Transformacji Energetycznej" programme, where he helps to promote awareness of renewable energy among students. He has also been selected to join a student research team working on the "Octopuses" project in the NASA Space Apps programme, which focuses on environmental protection and the use of data for climate related challenges, with work starting in 2026.

Their Projects in 2025

During 2025, YES-Europe Poland have focused on **creating their internal systems** needed for a **national launch**. They have **defined key roles** in the **country team**, **delegated a Co-County Representative** and began **targeted recruitment** for **future leaders** who will support **national coordination** in 2026, while enhancing the **team structure** and **documentation management system**.

A major priority in 2025 has been preparing the **YES-Europe Poland Kick-off event**, which took place in **December 2025**. YES-Europe Poland organised the **presentation, script, visual identity, event logistics** with the **hosting faculty** and **distributed recruitment posters** across **three universities** and **six different faculties**.

In addition to the main Kick-off, **Igor** was also **invited to present YES-Europe Poland** during the **final event** of the **“Akcja InTEgracja”** programme on **11th December 2025**, together with the **Ambassadors of the Energy Transformation**. This gives YES-Europe Poland an **additional platform to introduce itself nationally**.

To **build long-term visibility**, YES-Europe Poland launched their **LinkedIn and Instagram pages** and developed a **local communication and social media strategy**, including a **publication calendar** running **until June 2026**. This has already helped **grow an initial network** of **supporters** and **potential partners**. Their **social media channels** officially launched at the **beginning of December**.

To **support future cooperation** and **national activities**, YES-Europe Poland have created a **comprehensive outreach system**, including a **database** of around **350 academic study programmes** and **approximately 150 institutions** and **organisations** across **Poland** that can be **contacted** for **partnerships, university collaborations** and **youth engagement**.

Their Plans for 2026

In 2026, YES-Europe Poland's main goal is to finalise and implement the projects prepared in 2025 and build on the December 2025 Kick-off event. This includes completing the recruitment of the first national coordination team, launching the initial national projects, deepening cooperation with universities and youth initiatives and using the outreach database to build long-term partnerships. They also plan to develop regular communication activities, including social media, and to connect insights from the NASA Space Apps project and the Ambassador of the Energy Transformation programme with the activities of YES-Europe Poland. These steps will mark the full launch of YES-Europe Poland and strengthen its integration within the wider YES-Europe network.

YES-Europe Poland Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Igor Burdzy (CR), Oskar Dzedzic, Wojciech Marcinkiewicz, Maksymilian Wontka, Jakub Duk, Kamil Brol, Piotr Nowak, Mateusz Grzywacz & Alicja Sobótka

Portugal

YES-Europe Portugal's Background

The Portuguese Team was formed in 2023 with the aim to externalise YES-Europe's vision in the country and be one of our key country teams in the Iberian Region. With Portugal being a key nation in the clean energy sector and renewable technologies, our presence in the country is of great importance to our NGO



Meet the Country Representative

Siddharth Jhajharia

Siddharth has a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering and a Master's Degree in Energy Engineering and Management. He has worked



with **designing solar and battery systems** and is currently working in **thermal storage** in **Lisbon**. Siddharth has an experience of a year **designing renewable projects** in **India**. **Post-Master's**, he worked with **pvcomplete (Porto)** on their product, **developing and designing PV+BESS features**. He **co-founded a startup "enersoul"** based in **Germany**, where he has been working on **developing thermal storage solutions for industries**.

Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe Portugal will be seeking to **expand their membership in 2026** and continue to **externalise YES-Europe's vision in Portugal** by engaging in **more projects, events and activities**.

YES-Europe Portugal Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Siddharth Jhajharia (CR) & João Sequeira Sena

International Team Members: João Santos & Gonçalo Queirós

Serbia

YES-Europe Serbia's Background

YES-Europe Serbia were **formed in 2022** with the aim to **externalise YES-Europe's vision** in the country and be one of **our key country teams** in the **Balkan region**. The projects they have worked on aimed to either deal with **important local or current global issues**.



In **2022**, they organised a **roundtable on Multidisciplinary Perspectives of Applying ESG** and **published a report on the construction of small hydropower plants in Serbia**. In **2023**, a few members of the local team prepared **youth-friendly reports on COP15 on biodiversity and COP27 on climate change**. The aim of the Local Team has been to continue preparing **youth-friendly materials on pressing global and local issues**, with **hydrogen** being their **next challenge**. Their activities are conducted in the **English language** and/or the **Serbian language**.

Meet the Country Representative

Natasa Rajkovic

Natasa is an **international lawyer** interested in **dispute resolution, energy and climate matters**, becoming the **Serbian Team's Country Representative** in early 2022, because she wanted to take part in a **youth-centred organisation** offering **transboundary cooperation** on **matters** that help **accelerate the energy transition**.



Joining YES-Europe was a good step to try to make a **positive change** in her **home country**, which suffers from **significant ecological damage**. She believes it has been refreshing to see how many **young people** in **Serbia and neighbouring countries** are interested in taking part in reaching **YES-Europe's goals**.

She holds a **master's degree with Distinction in Oil, Gas and Mining Law** acquired at **Nottingham Trent University**. Currently, she is a **PhD candidate in Renewable Energy Investment Arbitration** at the **Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona**, where she also provides **practical lessons on Public International Law**.

Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe Serbia will be seeking to **expand their membership in 2026** and continue to **externalise YES-Europe's vision in Serbia** by engaging in **more projects, events and activities**.

YES-Europe Serbia Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Natasa Rajkovic (CR)

International Team Members: Aleksandra Lazic

Spain

YES-Europe Spain's Background

YES-Europe Spain emerged in 2023 as our Spanish local team for young people and leaders passionate about energy and sustainability to connect, network and be empowered, led by our Country Representative at the time **Markel Alcaide**. The team demonstrated great initiative in showcasing positive news stories and developments in their country to highlight the clean energy transition and green innovations.



Meet the Country Representative

Sofia Formoso

Sofia is a Risk & Compliance professional with international experience in advisory and corporate roles across Europe and Latin America. She specialises in the design and implementation of internal control frameworks, process optimisation and regulatory compliance in global transformation projects.



With a background in both consulting and industry, Sofia brings a pragmatic and structured approach to risk management, ensuring operational efficiency while meeting audit and governance standards. She has led and supported initiatives involving ERP implementations (SAP S/4HANA, Coupa), SOX compliance, internal audit readiness and cross-functional collaboration between finance, IT and operations.

Sofia is passionate about sustainability, energy efficiency and using her work to contribute to making the world a better place. She enjoys building bridges between technical requirements and business needs, translating complex processes into clear controls and actionable insights. A fluent in Spanish and English, learner of Catalan

and French, Sofia is currently based in Barcelona, and comfortable navigating multicultural environments.

Their Projects in 2025

In 2025, YES-Europe Spain have

- Recruited the current YES-Europe Spain team of 4–6 active members;
- Recovered historical materials and reviewed their usefulness;
- Recovered and maintained YES-Europe Spain's social media accounts, ensuring they remain active.

While YES-Europe Spain have not run any social media campaigns yet, these steps have prepared them for upcoming initiatives.

Their Plans for 2026

Given YES-Europe Spain's growing team size, their focus will be on recruitment and raising awareness of YES-Europe at a local level. During brainstorming sessions, YES-Europe Spain have agreed on:

- Organizing a university tour to connect with student groups;
- Strengthening their presence on social media to reach more potential members;
- Establishing periodic team meetings to coordinate efforts and maintain engagement.

YES-Europe Spain will aim to expand the team and increase visibility of YES-Europe activities at a local level in 2026

YES-Europe Spain Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Sofia Formoso (CR), Ana María Sánchez-Valdepeñas López, Jacopo Sala, Raffaele Barbato, Danilo Méndez & Mateo Narváz

International Team Members: Clotilde Cerdan & Milana Ferrari

Sweden

YES-Europe Sweden's Background

YES-Europe Sweden were formed in the early 2020s as one of our key Local Teams in the Nordic and Scandinavian regions.

With Sara Nyberg, our former Country Representative Lead

and current Advisory Board member being from Sweden, the Swedish Team had a close connection to the international network and their Country Representative at the time, Shubham Sethi, represented YES-Europe at the inaugural 2022 European Youth Energy Forum in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by our parent organisation EYEN. Our Swedish Team saw a surge in activity in 2025 to reignite our Nordic and Scandinavian activity once again



Meet the Country Representative

Ronny Kedogo

Ronny is presently undertaking an MSc in Renewable Energy Engineering at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. He also has a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and holds several professional certifications like ESIA (Environment & Social Impact



Assessment), HIRA (Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment, among others. Ronny brings a diverse professional background to the organisation, with extensive experience in Project Management across the construction, electrical and mechanical sectors. His expertise also encompasses Quality, Health, and Safety (QHSE).

Outside of his technical pursuits, Ronny is a dedicated Human Rights Activist. He joined YES-Europe to merge these interests, seeking to create a synergy between environmental sustainability and social justice. His personal vision is to see the merging of various sustainability causes in life into one singular force, be they societal, legal, academia and/or environmental.

Their Projects in 2025

The major highlight for YES-Europe Sweden in 2025 was representing YES-Europe in the co-organisation and co-hosting of the Nordic Youth & Children Climate Conference (NYCCC) held in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2025. Throughout most of 2025, one of our COP30 Project Leads and Swedish-resident Caterina Bittendorf served as our YES-Europe Sweden Country Representative until the NYCCC was wrapped up. Following this, Ronny assumed the position of the Swedish Team's CR permanently



Their Plans for 2026

YES-Europe Sweden has outlined several key objectives to grow the local community and represent YES-Europe on the global stage:

- **Team Coordination:** Strengthen the Swedish team's collaboration, working closely with other established Sustainability clubs and groups, for instance the 'Students for Sustainability' group and also the 'Engineers Without Borders' chapters of the KTH university and, additionally, also utilising dedicated workspaces for events and meetings at the premises of the Climate Action Center (KTH CAC). Ronny has also managed to introduce YES-Europe to the Director and Deputy Director of KTH CAC;
- **Local Onboarding:** Lead the integration of new Swedish-based members to expand the chapter's impact and presence in Stockholm and beyond;
- **Sustainability & Human Rights Initiative:** Establish a new community initiative that pairs human rights activism with environmental sustainability;
- **Recycling Initiative:** Launch a specialised project focused on the recycling of single-use consumables as part of the Local Team's sustainability outreach.

YES-Europe Sweden Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Ronny Kedogo (CR) & Nagendra Gouthamas

International Team Members: Karolina Panko, Caterina Bittendorf & Sidra Amir

Switzerland

YES-Europe Switzerland's Background

YES-Europe Switzerland is our original (and founding) Local Team, with our first ever Annual Conference in 2016 taking place at the EPFL University of Lausanne. As YES-Europe began to internationalise in successive years, and our activities began to diversify to other countries, the focus on local activity in Switzerland began to shift away to other countries, as our founding members relocated away from Switzerland for work or further studies. In spite of this, Switzerland has remained a crucial Local Team, and we have usually maintained at least one Governance Team member based in Switzerland throughout our history and a Swiss partnership network. In 2025, YES-Europe



Switzerland saw a significant surge in new Local Team members joining the organisation, with a new Country Representative also being confirmed

Meet the Country Representative

Sinh Nguyen

Sinh is a climate-tech professional who makes complex sustainability systems behave. Based in Zurich, she works as an MRV Specialist at Recoal, building the monitoring and verification frameworks that prove carbon removal is real, measurable and trustworthy.



She came to climate work through her background in Environmental Studies, Business, Circular Economy, and now spends her days turning scientific processes and messy datasets into clean, auditable stories. Outside of work, she reads a lot, learns languages, tries different hobbies (with mixed success), including organising spreadsheets that absolutely did not need organising! She learned about YES-Europe in 2025 from a current member based in Switzerland and was sold on the mission to build a "sustainable community for sustainability".

Their Plans for 2026

In 2026, YES-Europe Switzerland's main focus will be to grow and nurture a low-barrier entry point into YES-Europe Switzerland through a monthly book club called 'Read for the Planet'. The club will provide a welcoming space for people to explore climate and sustainability topics through shared reading and discussion, while serving as a natural introduction to the YES-Europe network for those who wish to become more involved. The team's goal will be to steadily expand this community and use it as a bridge between curiosity and action.

Alongside the book club, YES-Europe Switzerland plans to support and empower members who want to initiate projects aligned with energy and sustainability themes. This includes connecting members with relevant contacts within the YES-Europe network, offering light-touch guidance on project development and

encouraging collaboration across Switzerland and the wider European network. In addition, the team aims to strengthen the visibility of YES-Europe Switzerland through occasional public events and partnerships, while keeping commitments realistic and manageable for a volunteer-led initiative.

YES-Europe Switzerland Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Sinh Nguyen (CR) & Dimitri Zogg

International Team Members: Paola Castillo, Lily Elisha, Helen Heinz, Alexander Bremer, Lunafarsha Wielyanida, Penny Iliopoulou, Giulio Orsenigo, Simone Vebner, Jade Lormeau, Rahel Koch & Mathieu Cressy

UK

YES-Europe UK's Background

YES-Europe UK is one of YES-Europe's oldest Country Teams, with some of our founding members at the EPFL Lausanne in 2016 continuing their studies in the UK and establishing our British Team. Though they were very active in the late 2010s, they have now returned under new leadership in the mid-2020s.



Meet the Country Representative

Marianna Rostkowska

Marianna is an environmental consultant, working in the sector of environmental impact assessments and specialising in energy infrastructure projects. Marianna has coordinated a range of renewable energy developments, through the planning application process

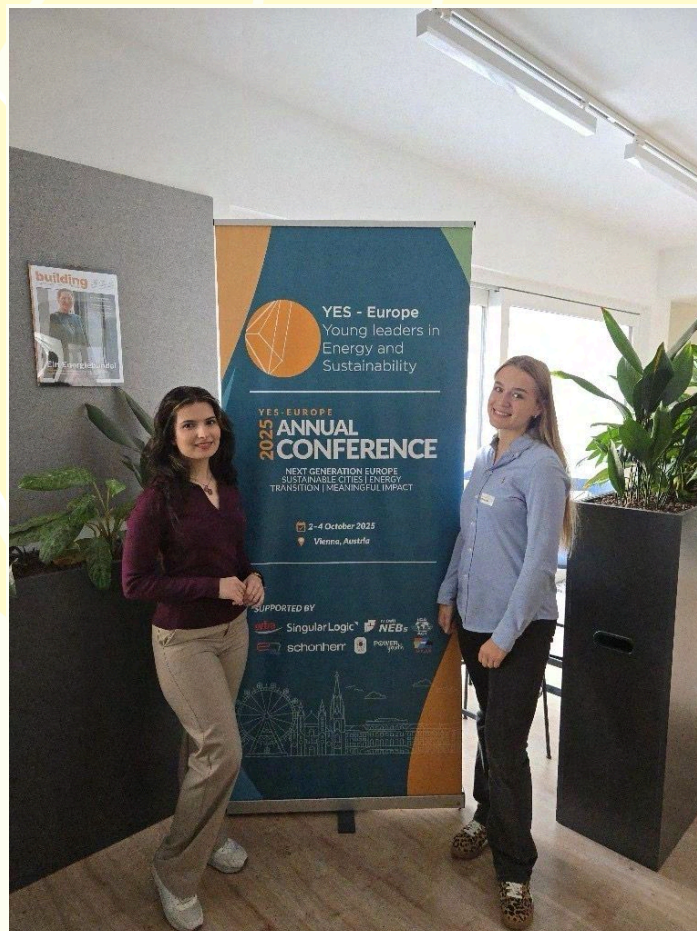


and has also supported arboriculture projects to ensure compliance with UK standards and regulations. In June 2024, Marianna graduated with honours from the University of Leeds, where she completed her dissertation on the barriers and drivers of energy transformation in Poland. She is passionate about sustainability and the

transition to clean energy. Marianna is currently gaining industry experience while contributing to the growth of the YES-Europe UK team.

Their Projects in 2025

- Developing a social media presence:
 - Launching a LinkedIn page
 - Establish regular content on socials such as LinkedIn and Instagram
- Set up at least 1 in-person event with student societies and to contact them at the beginning of the year (planned for Q1 2026)
- Host an online kickoff meeting for current members to introduce plans, roles, and opportunities.
- Research and map potential sponsors or partners:
 - Create a strategy document
 - Spreadsheet with potential partners/universities connection



Their Plans for 2026

- Strengthen their **social media presence** with the goal of reaching **over 250 followers on LinkedIn** by the end of the year.
- Launch a **webinar series in collaboration** with **student societies** and expand **engagement** across **universities**.
- Attend **student fairs** and **career events** to **promote YES-Europe** and **attract new members**.
- Explore the possibility of organising a **Future of Energy Days** event in **2026** to **showcase innovation**, **host expert discussions** and **inspire student involvement**.
- Develop **partnerships** with **industry organisations**, **NGOs** and **academic departments** to **support events** and **content**.
- Build a **small advisory network** of **early-career professionals** to **support content creation** and **events**
- Deliver at least one in-person networking or skills-building event for students and young professionals.

YES-Europe UK Team Members in 2025

Local Team Members: Marianna Rostkowska (CR), Malaika Arshad & Kushal Joshi

International Team Members: Orielia Pria Egambaram, Joao Costa, Sami Miah, Oliver Cressall & Anastasia Gorencova