

NEWS YEPPer

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Violence against women: a systemic problem

"It is today and now that we must fight tenaciously against violence against women, ensuring that gender equality becomes an undeniable reality, not just a topic of discussion."

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Pioneering a Sustainable Future

"YEPP's role in this journey is vital. We are leaders, not just participants. By pushing for ambitious climate policies and fostering international cooperation, we can secure a sustainable future for all."

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ONNED's mission was clear: empower young people with the values of democracy and freedom, and give them a voice in shaping the future.



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Editorial

YEPP at COP29: Pioneering a Sustainable Future

COP29 exceeded expectations, showcasing the power of collective action in addressing climate change. Despite global political tensions, Trump's re-election, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and the absence of key leaders, being present at G20, the conference achieved a significant agreement, highlighting the EU's critical role in leading climate ambition. The COP29 agreement, including tripling funding for developing economies and advancing the global carbon credit market, underscores our collective impact. These measures are vital for reducing global carbon emissions and ensuring financial support reaches those in need.

As young leaders within the European People's Party (EPP), YEPP plays a crucial role in shaping the future. Our involvement in global decisions is essential, bringing fresh perspectives and urgency to the climate agenda. Our commitment to combating climate change is reflected in European citizens' actions. Recently, Eurobarometer show nearly two-thirds of Europeans have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprint, the highest level since 2011. This grassroots movement demonstrates growing awareness and responsibility among our generation.

YEPP's role in this journey is vital. We are leaders, not just participants. By pushing for ambitious climate policies and fostering international cooperation, we can secure a sustainable future for all. The fight against climate change is seen as an opportunity for both EU citizens and the economy. Nearly nine in ten respondents agree that tackling climate change should be a priority to improve public health, and more than six in ten believe adapting to climate change can have positive outcomes for EU citizens. Promoting EU expertise in clean technologies can create jobs, drive innovation, and make EU companies more competitive. Reducing fossil fuel imports can increase energy security and benefit the EU economically.

There is widespread understanding that more public financial support should go towards the transition to clean energy, and that the cost of climate damage is higher than the investment needed for a green transition. Science is clear, and the will of the people is evident. We must continue to exceed expectations, working together across countries to save our planet. Together, we will keep moving forward, building on recent progress and striving to meet future challenges. Let's continue to lead, inspire, and make a difference for future generations.

Lídia Pereira,
YEPP President

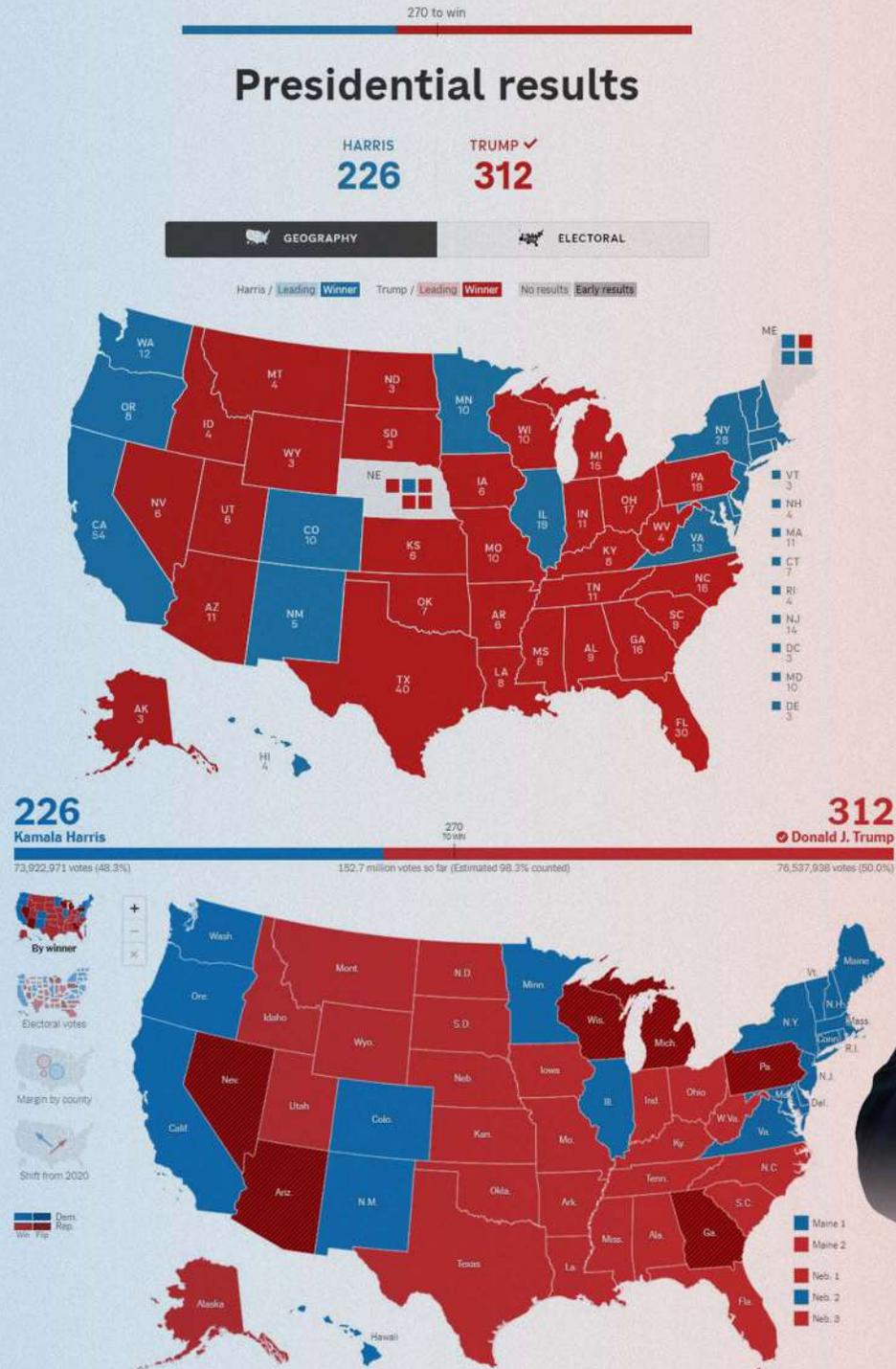


Editorial

Analysis of the US-Election results 2024: “Europe and the EU have to grow up”

Analysis of the central results

Contrary to most polls, which had predicted a close race or a narrow lead for Harris, Trump achieved a decisive victory, securing all seven swing states and winning 312 electoral votes compared to Kamala Harris's 226. This broad sweep in traditionally contested regions highlighted a significant rightward shift that many polling models failed to capture, as well as strong resilience within Trump's base and broader appeal across various voter demographics.



Editorial

Analysis of the US-Election results 2024: “Europe and the EU have to grow up”

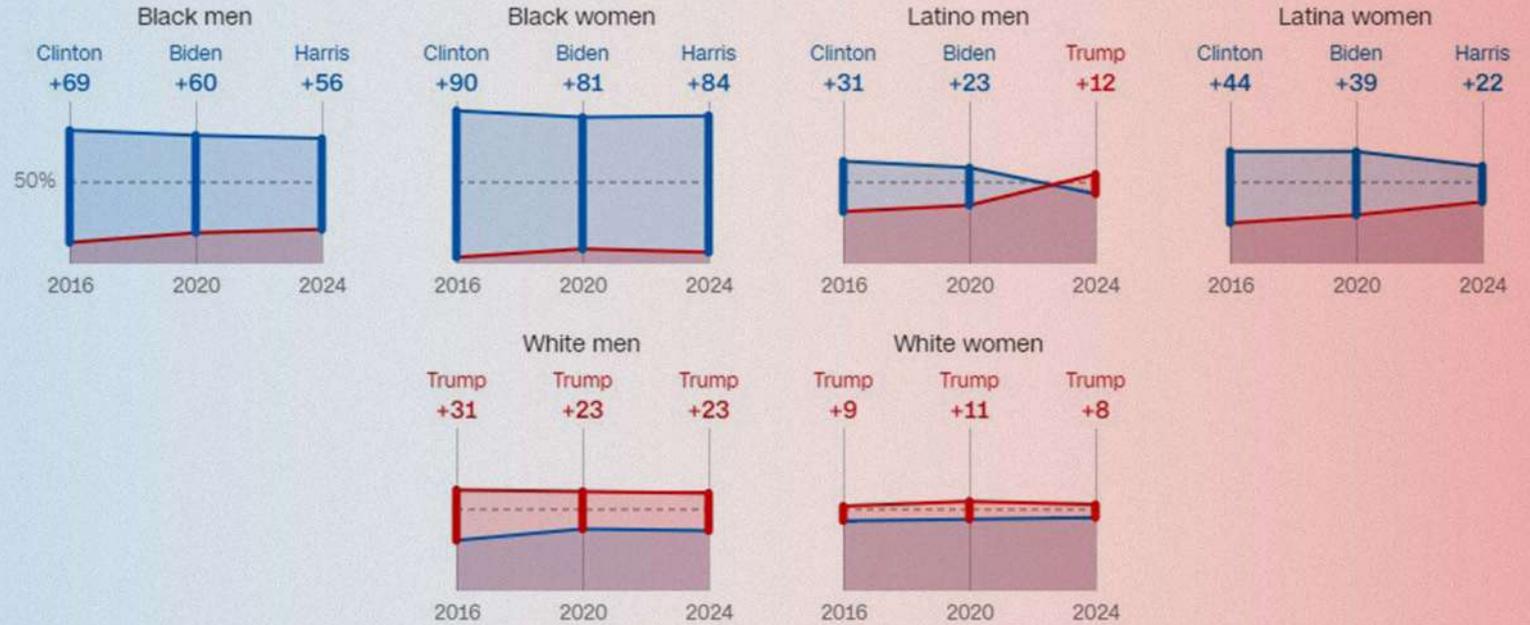
Voter Demographics and Shifting Support

Exit polls highlighted Harris’s struggle to galvanize the female vote as effectively as past Democratic candidates. While Harris retained strong support among Black voters, her appeal among Latino men faltered, a demographic that previously leaned Democratic in 2020 but now changed strongly toward Trump. Younger voters, typically a Democratic stronghold, displayed reduced enthusiasm this cycle and Trump was also strongly favored by first-year voters. Interestingly, Harris gained some ground among older voters, who traditionally align with Republicans, but it was insufficient to bridge the gap in key battleground states.

Latino men embraced Trump

— Voted for the Democrat — Voted for Trump

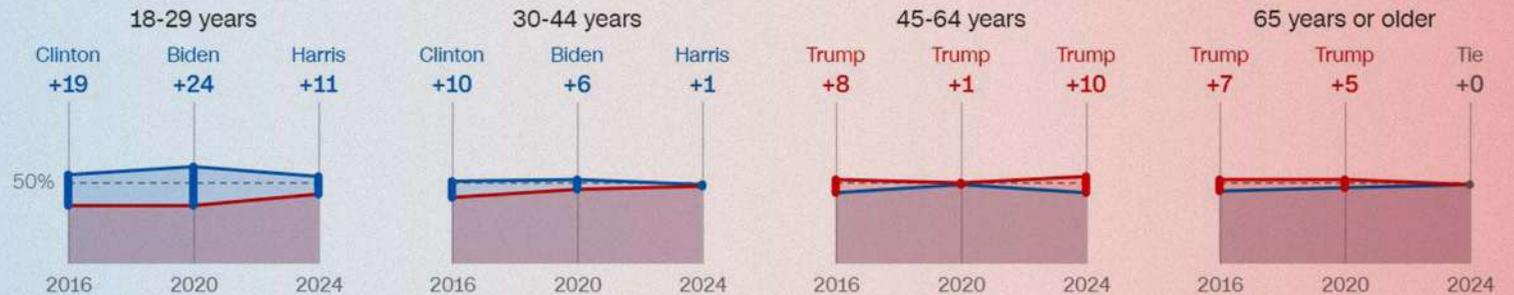
Race/ethnicity and gender



Younger voters shifted toward Trump, while he lost ground with senior voters

— Voted for the Democrat — Voted for Trump

Age



Economic Discontent and the Influence on Voter Decisions

Economic dissatisfaction played a pivotal role in the election. A majority of voters reported negative views on the economy in 2024, benefiting Trump, who campaigned on promises of economic recovery and stability. Issues like inflation and economic stagnation resonated more strongly with voters than the social issues, such as abortion rights, that Harris emphasized. Traditional battleground states like Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin flipped back to Trump after narrow victories for Biden in 2020, marking a nationwide shift to the right not seen since several decades. Trump also made inroads in Arizona and Michigan, turning what had been close 2020 Democratic wins into significant Republican margins in 2024. This led to Trump's popular vote victory, a Republican milestone not reached since George W. Bush's presidency in 2004.

Unified Government for the Republicans

Republicans regained control of the Senate and the House, which enhances Trump's capacity to implement his agenda with fewer obstacles. With control over judicial appointments and major policy decisions, a conservative Republican Senate and House will likely expedite Trump's domestic and foreign policy objectives.

Why Kamala Harris Fell Short

According to Forbes¹ Harris was able to collect more than 1 Billion USD in less than 80 days which is an unprecedented record in raising campaign money. With outside groups the amount is estimated at around 1.6 Billion USD. Trump was able to raise around 400 Million USD, including outside groups around 1 Billion USD.² Besides Harris's financial advantage several factors combined to impede her path to victory. Economic issues proved a formidable challenge, overshadowing her focus on social topics that did not resonate as strongly with the broader electorate. Her limited success in energizing women and younger voters, along with a loss of support among Latino men, weakened the Democratic coalition in pivotal states.

Additionally, the dropout of Biden was highly likely to late for the democrats to build up a strong and well thought campaign to compensate the lost typical "incumbent bonus". However, after the drop-out of Biden, Harris was in the end unable to distance herself and her policy ideas from him in a politically clever way, which would have been pivotal, since according to a NBC News-poll, two third of the population saw the country on the wrong way.³

Potential implications for Europe and the European Union

A Trump return to the White House could have significant repercussions for Europe and the EU, likely reviving his "America First" approach and reshaping established transatlantic relations across several key areas:

Trump has historically pressured European NATO allies to increase defense spending, and a renewed push in this direction could challenge EU members to allocate more resources toward military capabilities. This could lead to a shift toward a more independent European security framework and reduced reliance on American political backing.

Trump's economic focus on reducing trade deficits and bolstering domestic manufacturing could reintroduce tariffs or trade barriers against the EU, potentially disrupting export-driven economies.

A renewed Trump administration may deprioritize global climate cooperation, conflicting with the EU's aggressive climate agenda. First hints are out that Trump will leave again the Paris Agreement.⁴ Reduced U.S. participation in environmental initiatives could hinder EU-led efforts in global climate policy - or could be the chance to take on a leading role.

Trump's potentially conciliatory stance toward Russia could create tensions, especially with Eastern European EU countries that favor sanctions and containment. Differences in approach to Russia and regional security, particularly concerning Ukraine, may strain the transatlantic alliance.

To summarize, a Trump presidency will likely test transatlantic resilience, with European leaders navigating these shifts cautiously while moving toward greater self-reliance in areas where U.S. support could become more conditional or limited.

It is highly likely, as Donald Tusk mentioned on X prior to the election, that *"the era of geopolitical outsourcing is over"*, and Europe must *"take more responsibility"*, as Commission President von der Leyen added in her statement regarding the U.S. election. Perhaps it is time for Europe and the EU to finally grow up and foster stronger internal cooperation to be internationally recognized as an equal global player. In short, it is time for us to be stronger together.

Florian Gasser, PhD
YEPP Vice President

Op-ed

Violence against women: a systemic problem

Violence against women remains a systemic problem in virtually all countries around the world, and EU Member States are no exception. Without attempting to generally analyze the different factors that may contribute to it, the questions we should really be asking ourselves are how can we eradicate this scourge that continues to afflict women and girls. Why, despite all the information and available campaigns, women and girls must still face this kind of violence and insecurity on a daily basis?

Looking back in time, the first records of figures regarding the levels of violence against women at the European level date back to the decades following the 1990s. This can be explained by the fact that it was not until 1992 that the CEDAW Committee in its General Recommendation No. 19 officially recognized gender-based violence as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination. To this day, there is still no specific legislative act developed by the EU that addresses violence against women or domestic violence.

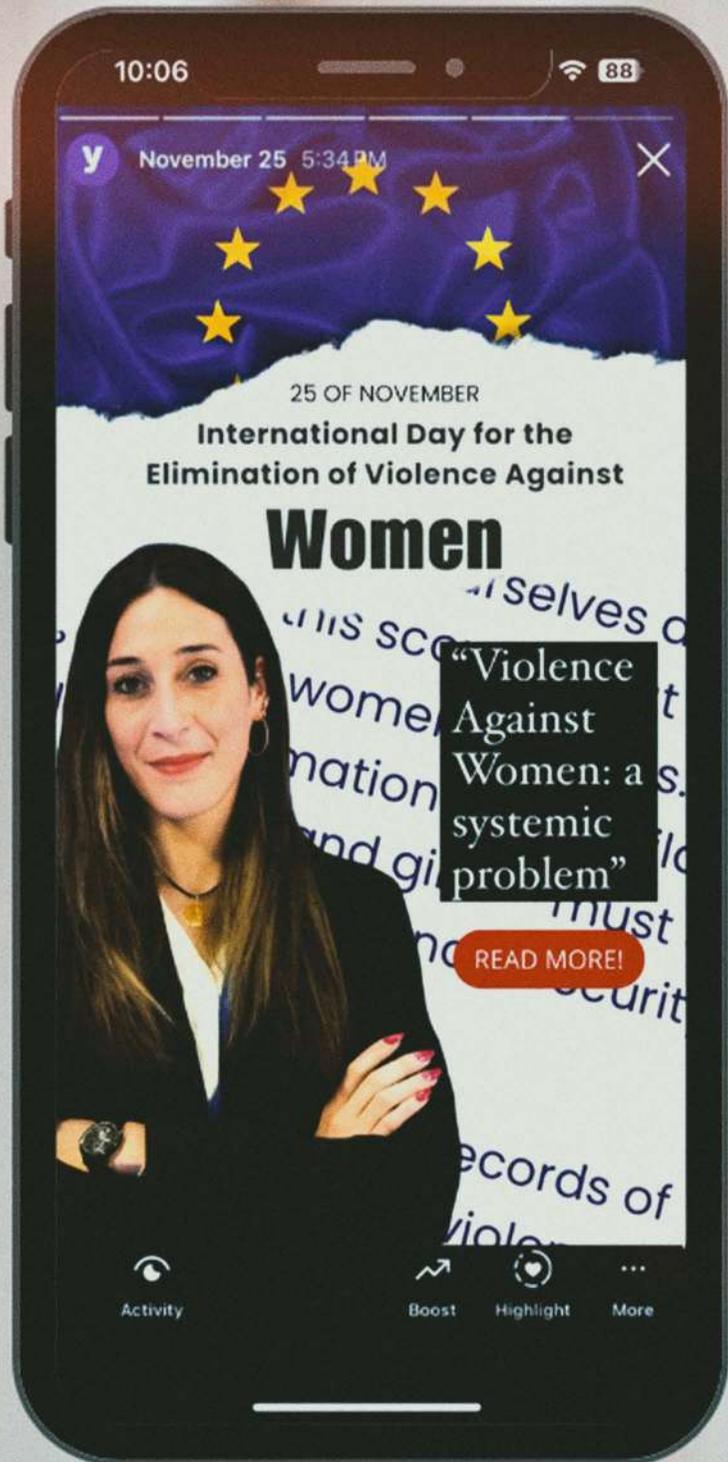
According to official data, one in three women has suffered physical or sexual violence (most often by their partner or ex-partner), and one in two claims to have experienced sexual harassment. These

figures appear to have worsened, on one hand, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and on the other, due to the increase in other forms of violence against women, such as cyber violence or cyber harassment.

However, combating violence against women remains one of the goals and priorities of the European Commission to ensure at least some coverage regarding certain crimes at the European level. Evidence of this is the Directive that the Commission itself proposed on March 8, 2022, and which was finally adopted by the Council on May 7, 2024. This Directive aims to harmonize sanctions and statutes of limitations for crimes such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, cyberstalking, cyber harassment, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and incitement to violence or hatred through cyber means. Despite the Directive's efforts to address various forms of violence against women and girls, one must ask whether it is sufficient or, conversely, should be taken as a starting point for the future development of European legislation that expands the coverage of crimes and toughens the measures and penalties to be applied.

At the international and European levels, the reference legal document in the fight against violence against women and domestic violence is the Istanbul Convention, which entered into force in April 2014 and was signed by the EU on June 13, 2017. Subsequently, in 2023, the Council requested the approval of the European Parliament to adopt the Decision regarding the EU's accession to the Convention, which took place on June 1, 2023, with the EU's final accession to the said Convention.





On the other hand, the European Commission has also focused attention on the need to promote and meet gender equality objectives. In this sense, in 2020, this institution adopted a strategy for the 2020-2025 period that includes a set of measures to also put an end to violence against women and domestic violence. Regarding this strategy, periodic reports have been produced on the impact of these measures in areas such as ending gender-based violence, combating gender stereotypes, closing gender gaps in the labor market, achieving equal participation in different sectors of the economy, addressing the pay and pension gap between men and women, reducing the gender gap in caregiving responsibilities, and achieving gender balance in decision-making and political activity. We will have to wait for the conclusion of the planned period to conduct a more concrete analysis of the success of the measures implemented in recent years.

Apart from all the institutional measures and international treaties and agreements available, it is necessary for us as young European to keep this issue on the political and social agenda. What makes this type of violence seem—if we look at existing figures for deaths, attacks, abuses, and rapes of women and girls—an almost unsolvable problem? Is it due to the continuous sexualization of women, currently incentivized by the increased use of social media? Is it a cultural or religious issue, as we see in countries like Afghanistan or Iran? Are we facing a matter that should be "handled at home," through family education, or should it be an imperative in all schools, high schools, universities, public institutions, and private companies?

Any type of violence is combated and prevented through education. Teaching from a young age that there should not be a power relationship among equals is everyone's responsibility. We, as part of this youth that shapes the world, are responsible for promoting by example and word that it is possible to end any form of violence against women and girls. We must learn to "unlearn" behaviours rooted in our own society, starting from our homes and most intimate circles. Feminist movements have historically played a fundamental role in the fight for the public recognition of the existence of gender-based violence and have opened the door to national and international bodies to continue raising the issue of violence against women as an urgency that must not be ignored. Now, in the 21st century, in the year 2024, it is up to all of us to continue promoting behaviours that ensure the protection of women and girls, which will, in turn, have social benefits and impacts that affect all of us.

It is often said that young people are the future, and while that may be partly true, I prefer to think that we are the present, and the present is where the important changes take place that will shape future generations. It is today and now that we must set our goal to fight tenaciously against this form of violence so that it truly comes to an end, and gender equality is no longer and merely a topic of discussion, but an undeniable and unquestionable reality.

By Edelmira Ferri,
YEPP Vice President

Past Events

Driving Europe's Sustainable Future: A Roundtable on Sustainability through Innovation

On 6 November, YEPP held its roundtable event on *Advancing Sustainability through Innovation*, co-hosted with **Microsoft**, providing an invaluable platform for discussing Europe's approach to a sustainable and competitive future through innovative solutions.

YEPP President and MEP Lidia Pereira presented a comprehensive overview of key European Parliament milestones in sustainability policy, highlighting recent legislative accomplishments and setting the stage for future initiatives designed to

support the green transition. YEPP Vice President and Director of Dutch Carbon Consultants, Derek Groot, added a practical industry perspective on challenges within the green transition, discussing carbon management strategies and the balance between sustainability and growth.

Throughout the roundtable, speakers engaged actively with attendees, including a dynamic group of young professionals who posed insightful questions and shared unique viewpoints on the opportunities and obstacles in Europe's sustainability journey. This interactive exchange underscored the value of engaging emerging leaders in shaping impactful, forward-thinking policies.

As YEPP continues to foster these crucial discussions, we are excited to collaborate further on innovative, sustainable solutions for Europe's future.



Past Events

Strengthening Moldova's European Path: YEPP Connects with PAS Youth Delegation

On 6 November, YEPP had the privilege of meeting with the energetic PAS Youth delegation from Moldova, the youth organisation of the Action and Solidarity Party. Joined by EPP Group Vice President Siegfried Mureşan, this gathering celebrated the inspiring efforts of these young leaders, who served as ambassadors for Moldova's

Referendum for European Integration held on 20 October. Through their dedication, PAS Youth played a crucial role in promoting the benefits of EU membership and decisively contributed to the success of the referendum. As ambassadors, PAS Youth engaged at the grassroots level, organising informative sessions, conducting door-to-door visits, and raising awareness about EU membership's benefits.

This meeting also reinforced YEPP's commitment to Moldova and the EU's enlargement process, a top YEPP priority. YEPP believes that enlargement strengthens alliances for defending democracy, sustaining peace, and promoting European values.



Past Events

YEPP connects with Junge ÖVP Delegation

On 14 November, YEPP had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation of young Austrians from Junge ÖVP to the European Parliament, hosted by YEPP First Vice President and MEP Sophia Kircher.

The visit offered an inspiring opportunity for the delegation to learn more about YEPP's mission and values, reinforcing the critical role youth play in European politics. At YEPP, we remain committed to empowering young people, who are essential for driving change, fostering solidarity, and shaping Europe's future.

Through this exchange, we underscored the importance of involving young leaders in political discussions and decision-making processes, strengthening our shared vision of a united and democratic Europe.



Past Events

YEPP Seminar: Migration: Necessity or a choice?

On November 19th, **YEPP Working Group on Legal and Foreign Affairs** organized a seminar titled **“Migration: Necessity or a Choice?”**. The event featured **Margaritis Schinas**, the European Commission Vice-President for Promoting Our European Way of Life. The discussion was moderated by **Tea Jerković**, YEPP Vice-President.

As an expert in European Affairs with a **focus on youth perspectives**, Schinas provided a detailed overview of **Europe's current migration challenges**, specifically addressing the **New Pact on Migration and Asylum**. He reflected on the evolution since 2019, when Europe lacked a clear migration policy, to the introduction of the Migration Pact five years later. This journey was marked by setbacks, limited resources, and complex negotiations. A significant **turning point** occurred in 2020 after the **fire at the Moria camp in Lesbos**, which underscored the **urgent need for reform**.

“In 2019, when we began developing a migration policy, we started from scratch. Five years later, we successfully established a Migration Pact built on three pillars: relationships with countries of origin, strong border management, and solidarity—the core values of the EPP,” remarked the Vice President of the European Commission.

Schinas also highlighted the **need for legal, organized migration systems**, noting the generational workforce gap and the importance of managed mobility. He underscored Europe's capacity to manage migration effectively, with the necessary financial resources and tools. Additionally, he called for a people-centric approach to development aid, focusing on the root causes of migration.

The seminar concluded with a Q&A session, where Schinas addressed participants' questions, further emphasizing the importance of a collaborative, comprehensive approach to migration.

Past Events

YEPP in Athens - Securing Europe's Future: Overcoming Challenges

From November 21st to 24th, YEPP convened in Athens for the conference titled “*Securing Europe's Future: Overcoming Challenges*”.

This YEPP initiative, organised by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, was hosted by our Greek members from Organossi Neon Neas Demokratias (ONNED). The event brought together 80 young delegates from across Europe to engage in discussions addressing some of the most pressing challenges Europe has been facing, including migration, security, artificial intelligence, and digitalisation.

The meeting officially commenced on Thursday evening with a welcome dinner hosted by ONNED. Delegates were greeted by key figures from the Greek mother party, Nea Demokratia, including Tasos Chatzivasileiou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament and International Secretary of Nea Demokratia, alongside Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, MEP and Head of the Greek Delegation of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

Friday's session took place at Nea Demokratia's headquarters, and it opened with welcome remarks by Orfeas Georgiou, President of ONNED; Vassilis Sakellaris, YEPP Deputy Secretary General and International Secretary of ONNED; Marian Wendt, Director at KAS for Greece and Cyprus; George Dimakos, Project Officer at Martens Centre. The participants took part in engaging panel discussions moderated by the YEPP Board and other experts, where they had the opportunity to interact with prominent leaders and Members of the Hellenic Parliament. These included Nikos Panagiotopoulos, Greek Minister of Migration and Asylum; Giannis Kefalogiannis, Deputy Minister of National Defence; Sophia Zacharaki, Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs; Konstantinos Kyranakis, Deputy Minister of Digital Governance; and Giannis Smyrlis, Director at Nea Demokratia. A keynote address by H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, was the highlight of the day. Mitsotakis emphasised the importance of empowering the younger generation and involving them in high-level EU decision-making processes.

Saturday opened with remarks by Dimitris Tsiodras, Member of the European Parliament, who inspired delegates to continue their active engagement. The day featured three workshops where delegates engaged in dynamic discussions. The participants addressed the impact of DANA in Valencia and the urgent need for international assistance, the critical situation in Lebanon with a call for a pathway to peace, and the reinforcement of the European pillar within NATO to enhance security and defence collaboration.

The Conference in Athens underscored the critical role of youth in shaping the future of Europe, delivering actionable solutions and fostering international cooperation. As YEPP concludes its activities for 2024, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower young leaders and provide a platform to address Europe's challenges head-on. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more united Europe, ensuring the voice of youth is heard in shaping its future.



Get to Know: ONNED

ONNED: the voice of the Greek youth for the last 50 years

In 1974, as Greece emerged from the darkness of a military dictatorship and embraced democracy, its youth found themselves at a crossroads. Ready to help build a better future, they lacked a clear path forward. ONNED (Οργάνωση Νέων Νέας Δημοκρατίας), the youth wing of Greece's center-right New Democracy party, stepped in, becoming a vital force in shaping Greece's political life for generations to come.

ONNED's founding was tied to Greece's transition from dictatorship to democracy. It channeled the energy and optimism of young Greeks into rebuilding their nation. Amidst the recovery from the junta years, ONNED's mission was clear: empower young people with the values of democracy and freedom, and give them a voice in shaping the future. It became not just a political movement but a beacon of hope for a country rediscovering its democratic roots.

Recognizing the power of the university student body, ONNED's student arm, DAP-NDFK (Democratic Renewal – New Democracy Student Movement), became a driving force in higher education. In the late 1970s and 1980s, amidst intense political polarization, DAP-NDFK provided

an alternative to the dominant left-wing student movements, shaping academic life with its commitment to reforms and democratic ideals.

In the 1990s, as Greece became more integrated into the EU and pursued economic liberalization, ONNED adapted to address the concerns of a new generation: unemployment, economic opportunity, and Greece's place in a united Europe. Beyond political advocacy, ONNED led cultural and community initiatives, fostering a sense of civic duty among young people.

The turn of the century brought technological change which ONNED embraced, focusing on the digital platforms to engage with youth.

This proved critical during the 2008 financial crisis, when ONNED advocated for economic reforms, youth employment, and Greece's EU commitment, ensuring long-term recovery and stability.

The 2010s were marked by Greece's debt crisis and widespread disappointment with traditional politics. While many turned away from established parties, ONNED stood firm, advocating structural reforms for economic recovery and youth empowerment. Its efforts rejuvenated New Democracy during this challenging time.

Leading up to New Democracy's 2019 victory, ONNED mobilized younger voters disappointed by the crisis and populist movements. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who became New Democracy's leader in 2016, prioritized reforms addressing youth concerns like unemployment, brain drain, human rights and digital transformation. ONNED's grassroots efforts were crucial in amplifying Kyriakos Mitsotakis's message, securing the youth vote, and shaping the party's platform.

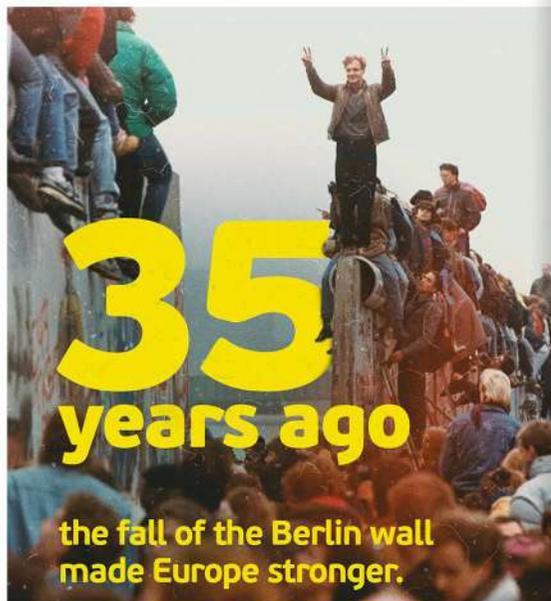
Today, ONNED remains a key pillar of New Democracy, advocating for issues like climate change, technological innovation, and youth entrepreneurship. Its commitment to education, civic engagement, and leadership development ensures Greece's next generation is ready to tackle future challenges. From its roots in post-dictatorship Greece to its continued role in shaping the country's political and social landscape, ONNED's journey is one of resilience, vision, and progress. It also maintains a strong presence in European affairs, ensuring that the voices of young Greeks are heard and integrated into broader European dialogues. ONNED's work at the European level ensures that the values of democracy, freedom, and progress are not just a national goal but a shared European ambition.

By Vassilis Sakellaris
YEPP Deputy Secretary General



Social Media Highlights

y youthepp



Today in history: the fall of the Berlin Wall On November 9, 1989, the world witnessed the triumph...

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EUROPE: practice what you preach.

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24 November, young delegates from across Europe discuss the continent's most pressing challenges.

[4 comments](#)

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