



## YEN 2021: „Changing the Narrative“

After the unusual year 2020 we are looking forward to opening a next chapter with exiting activities. **And we want YOU to join!**

There will be familiar activities but also some new formats to explore. In addition to the popular Seminars (like Easter and Autumn Seminar) we offer an Online Course, Regional Trainings and a Diversity Festival in Summer, happening at the same time as Europeada 2021.

The topic accompanying us throughout 2021 is “stories and narratives”. With the Workplan “**Changing the Narrative**” we want to take a closer look at the stories, that we tell about ourselves as individuals, that minorities tell about themselves and at the stories that society tells about us. We will learn and explore how we can write and tell our own stories.

Every day we are surrounded by stories and narratives that influence how we think about other people, about society and the world. Most of the time we only listen to those who are the loudest, the most powerful or have the best networks. Sadly, this often means that only one-sided, over-simplified or wrong stories are told about marginalised communities. This is exactly why it is important to understand and critically question how narratives and stories are written and distributed.

With the Workplan 2021 we want to **contribute to making the European society more diverse** and therefore focus on self-representation of young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities. **We want to offer a space in which you can reflect and strengthen your identity and have the opportunity to tell your own story and narrative with confidence.**

We will of course also address other topics in 2021! You can find all information below!

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## Minority Changemaker Programme, 28<sup>th</sup> March-26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 | Jaruplund, Germany

Organised by Grænseforeningen in cooperation with the University of South Denmark and Jaruplund Højskole and with the support of YEN.

Moved from 2020 to 2021: During a three-month course in spring 2020 the participants will be living and learning together at Jaruplund Højskole. With its belonging to the Danish minority in Germany the school is cultural melting pot of Danish, German and European culture.

The course combines the Folk High School's special Nordic concept for adult education with an academic curriculum which offers the students to obtain 15 ECTS-points for further studies. Besides the academic curriculum, the course offers a broad variety of elective subjects, such as music experiences, art history, personal development and coaching, rhetoric and communication, leadership and activism, yoga and meditation...

The school is situated in a green area in the outskirts on Flensburg, Germany, in the Danish-German border region, where Danes, Germans, Frisians and Sinti and Roma have lived side by side for centuries. "Change starts with knowledge and friendship. That is what we are building."

Curious? Check out the website! <https://minoritychangemaker.graenseforeningen.dk/>

## Easter Seminar "Story of my life", 26<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 | Bressanone/Brixen, Italy

Organized by YEN and SJR (Youth organisation of South Tyrol)

With the Easter Seminar we start with our Workplan „Changing the Narrative“. The activity focusses on the concept of "narrative Identity" and the question how stories and narratives reflect our identity.

Participants will address three perspectives:

1. they will explore their own identity, and which important events and developments in their lives impacted it;
2. they will examine which stories and narratives their minority is telling about themselves - in songs, fairy tales, poetry, jokes or in politics;
3. they will reflect on how society (majority) talks about their minority.

Together with individual reflection participants will get the possibility to improve their competences in dealing with media and in critical thinking.

If you are interested in the portrayal and self-representation of national minorities, then this seminar will offer you a chance to discuss with others and deepen your knowledge and insight into this topic.

## “Power of a story”, 4-weeks in April-May 2021 | E-Training

Organised by YEN

With this online activity we aim to understand how “stories” impact our societies and individuals. Since many stories are told and shared online, we will take a closer look at them through this digital activity.

During the E-Training participants will learn practical tools to reflect critically about media and their impact on our lives and ways of thinking.

**How exactly will the E-Training look like?** Participants will sign up for the whole activity, which is spread throughout four weeks, thereby forming a fixed group. Each week will consist of a live webinar, videos and group work. Apart from the webinar all activities can be done at any point during the week.

Each week will address a specific topic:

1. Why are stories powerful?
2. Power relations, objectivity, agenda.
3. Critical Media consumption.
4. The importance of a diversity of stories and the role of my story.

The E-Training will enable participants to understand the mechanisms and impact of stories through practical examples. They will get the opportunity to reflect and understand together how minorities are represented in the media and will be encouraged to think about individual experiences and share ideas and thoughts.

## Regional Trainings „Stories in Action“, May –September 2021 | in four countries

On the national Level: in France, Brittany (with Kenstroll Breizh) | Poland, Gdansk (with Pomorania) | Serbia, Vojvodina (with VIFÒ) and in Germany, Bautzen (with PAWK) - in cooperation with YEN

Between May and September 2021 four of YEN’s member organisations will hold a regional training. The trainings invite the members of the respective organisation, but also youth from other minorities living in the region. The language will be determined by the organisations and the trainings are planned for two days each.

The trainings are part of YEN’s Workplan “Changing the Narrative” and will focus on skills related to self-representation, such as story-telling, social media, campaigns etc. The topics of the trainings will be determined by each of the four hosting organisations.

The aim of the regional trainings is to bring a small group together, so that they can learn concrete tools and skills to help them represent themselves and their minority. With the participation in these events, young people can support their network and community by directly implementing their new skills.

## Y-Fed: Shape Europe – Youth Simulation of the European Union; 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> June 2021| Strasbourg, France

Organized by: JEF (Young European Federalists) in cooperation with YEN and other European youth organizations

The European Y-FED Project started in 2020 aiming to increase political activism among young people. An important aspect has been to find out what exactly it is that young people care about and how they would want to change their countries and the European Union for the better. The Youth Simulation was built on the outcomes of five Hackathons (that were implemented in Summer 2020 in Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Latvia). During these Hackathons young people concentrated for a short but very intense time on current problems and challenges of Europe. The recommendations to tackle these challenges will be tested during the simulation game.

As part of YEN-network you can participate in this simulation game. This activity is exactly right for you if you ever have wondered **how the politics of the European Union are influencing your life** and **how decisions could be taken more transparent**. The simulation offers an opportunity to address these topics and experience how it could be to determine European policies yourself.

150 young people from all over Europe will come together for the youth simulation in Strasbourg. Participants will take over the roles of decision makers, lobbyists or journalists and thereby learn how the political system of the EU is working and how it could be improved. Through the simulation young people can experience how they, as individuals can participate in the political life of the EU and impact their situation through political instruments. For members of national minorities this topic is especially interesting since the political impact of the EU can be an important factor in demanding and acquiring rights, support for the development of language or minority identity.

## Diversity Festival, 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 | Carinthia /Koroška, Austria

Organised by YEN, KSŠSD, KDZ and MLADA EL (youth organisations of Carinthian Slovenes) in cooperation with YEN

For the Diversity Festival we invite youth from different minorities around Europe to spend a week full of creativity, art, theatre, music and sport together, where they can share ideas, opinions and experiences.

We will offer workshops ranging from theatre, singing, dancing, photography, film to language and storytelling. And when you need a break, there will be open spaces that you can fill how you prefer.

The Diversity Festival will take place at the same time and at the same place as EUROPEADA: the football championship of European autochthones, national minorities with over 400 guests. If participants are interested in it, there will also be possibilities to visit games.

The outcomes of the creative workshops of the Diversity Festival will be combined into a show that will be part of the cultural program of EUROPEADA (if it will take place). This way we can create more visibility for youth from minorities in Europe.

## Europeada 2021, 19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 | Carinthia /Koroška, Austria

Organized by FUEN and Carinthian Slovenes

In 2021 the EUROPEADA – the football championship of the autochthones, national minorities in Europe – will take place for the fourth time.

[EUROPEADA](#) is a huge European event, promoting fair-play, enthusiasm for sporting events and the interests of autochthones, national minorities in Europe. The event focuses on exchange and connection between the different minorities and on raising awareness.

## Study Session “Unrepresented Diplomats of Europe” September 2021 (date tbc) | Budapest, Hungary

Organized by UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization), EFAy (European Free Alliance Youth ) and YEN

The Study Session “Unrepresented Diplomats of Europe: A Study Session for European Minority Youth on Shrinking Civic Space, Political Participation and Freedom of Association” Is built on the concept Model-United-Nations.

Invited to participate are young people from national minorities (networks of YEN and EFAy) as well as young people from Unrepresented Nations and Peoples (UNPO network).

Topics that will be discussed during the Study Session include Human Rights and Human Rights protection, communication and activism.

## Autumn Seminar „Re-writing our story“, 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 | Brittany, France

Organized by Kenstroll Breizh in cooperation with YEN

The Autumn Seminar is the last Seminar of YEN in 2021 and will conclude the year’s program „Changing the Narrative”.

The aim of the Seminar is to enable young people from the network of YEN to tell new and their very own stories about national minorities. These stories will be based on the ideas and stories that participants have collected and shared throughout the year.

The first part which is based on reflection and group work will focus on the question how stories impact our reality and can support social change.

The second part focuses on creativity - in small workshops we will create new stories in the form of videos, text, performances or graphics. The important thing is that participants can use what they learned throughout the year to write their own stories. With these stories from young people belonging to national ethnic and linguistic minorities we want to contribute to the diversity of existing stories.

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