

YEN 2023:

„Keeping Traditions Alive! Since 2023“

Every year we develop a plan for the year to come, based on your impressions and feedback. With our activities in 2023 we want to address some of the topics that you mentioned to us and we hope you will enjoy our activities. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Traditions are an important element in the lives of minority communities, they support identity and community building and bring us together. Minorities in Europe have their own traditions and rich culture which is filled with life and are a way to express ourselves.

At the same time traditions can also be a base for conflict when different interpretations and wishes for change or continuation clash. Traditions are not constant, they change continuously even though this might be seen by many as a threat to their existence.

In the interaction with majority communities, traditions can have different interpretations. Being an element that makes the existence of minorities visible it can also lead to simplification of community identity and prejudices.

Young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities are often confronted with these opposing realities when living with their communities' traditions. We experience that traditions can be vital for ensuring the existence of our communities, but also that they pose challenges and can be harmful specifically for those critical of them.

Therefore, in 2023 we want to reflect on and better understand the power, opportunities and possible challenges that lie in traditions. Together we want to learn from each other and find ways to make traditions our own, initiate a process of change with other members in our communities or create new traditions that express our identity and make our voices heard.

This topic is mostly discussed during the three Seminars: Kick Off, Easter Seminar and Autumn Seminar. Additionally, we also invite you to take part in events of YEN's partner organisations.

Of course, all our activities will only take place according to the existing Corona regulations, we will keep you updated in due time.

We are looking forward to seeing you!





Keeping Traditions Alive! Since 2023

Events 2023

... Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Okt ...

"Traditionally yours" Kick Off Seminar*

13.-19.2.

Minority Changemaker Programme

26.3 - 23. 6.

"It's all around you" Easter Seminar & GA*

31.3.-6.4./7.4.

Diversity Festival

24.7.-30.7.

Dikh He na Bister

28.7.-4.8. (to be confirmed)

"Tradition in Transition" Autumn Seminar

16.-22.10.

Project Rise up: Safeguarding endangered languages

throughout the year

*events organised by YEN

How to participate:

About 2 months before each event, we start the application process. We will send out a "Call for Participants" and post about the events on our social media and send more information to YENs member organisations. You will be asked to sign up through your organisation.

Make sure to follow us [@yenjev1984](https://www.instagram.com/yenjev1984) so you don't miss anything.

Kick Off “Traditionally yours”, 13th – 19th February 2023 | Kruševo, North Macedonia

Organised by: YEN and VYCM (Vlach Youth Council of North Macedonia)

Our year 2023 starts with a Kick off Seminar where we will visit the Vlach Community in North Macedonia. In the workshop we will start to think about the impact traditions of minority communities have on their identity.

More specifically, you will:

- Learn about and discuss different definitions of “tradition”, how traditions are shaped, which forms they can take and what impact they can have;
- Start a process of self-reflection on the traditions and cultural expressions of your own community and personal relation to it. You and the other participants will be encouraged to rethink your own identity as a young minority member and which elements make you feel like belonging to your community.
- Have opportunities to exchange with other youth from minorities in Europe about different traditions, expression of culture and your own perception of them.

If you are interested to explore these topics and meet with 30 other young minority members from all over Europe this seminar is right for you!

Easter Seminar “It`s all around you”, 31st March – 6th /7th April 2023 | Stadtschlaining, Austria

Organised by: YEN and HAK (Youth organization of the Burgenland-Croats)

Our biggest event of the year will take place in Austria hosted by the youth of the Burgenland-Croatian minority.

The workshop will address the positive and negative impact that traditions can have on minority communities. It will encourage critical reflection about the existing traditions in the communities of the participants and the possible need and advantages for change.

More specifically, you will:

- Learn and discuss about the role and impact traditions have on minority communities. Together, you will address traditions as a tool for representation, community building or as a tool against forced assimilation but also discuss questions related to power and ownership, such as who can and who can't participate in traditions and who is deciding this?
- Be led in a process of critical reflection about your own minorities' traditions. With some input collected from the participants at the Kick Off Seminar you will try to figure out why and which elements of traditions have a value for your minority and specifically for young minority members and which can cause harm.
- Reflect on the (possible) need and advantages that lie in preserving, adapting, adopting, changing or inventing new traditions to address the needs and wishes of young people but also to keep minority communities alive and relevant.

If this sounds like something you want to learn about while also meeting 60 other young minority members from all over Europe keep your eyes open for the open call and information on how to sign up!

General Assembly 6th of April 2023 Stadtschlaining, Austria

Organised by: YEN

General Assembly of the YEN serves as the **supreme organ of the organisation**.

During the General Assembly the new board members will be elected, resolutions will be passed, and both the direction of the organisation and the current affairs will be discussed. The annual general assembly is usually held following the Easter Seminar.

Diversity Festival, 23rd - 30th July 2023 | Trst/Trieste, Italy

Organised by DM+, (youth organisations of the Slovene minority in Italy) 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.

Autumn Seminar „Tradition in Transition “, 16th -22nd October 2023 | Serbia (place to be decided)

Organised by YEN and Vifó (Youth organisation of the Hungarian Minority in Serbia)

Our last event of the year will take place in Serbia hosted by the youth of the Hungarian Minority. You as participants will follow a workshop that aims to help you gain concrete skills for negotiating about traditions within your own community. It also will support you to be able to show that progress of traditions is possible and positive. Thereby, it aims to have a lasting impact on youth participation in your communities.

More specifically, you will:

- Learn and discuss about the role and value of “change” for traditions and cultural expressions. Reflecting on the question whether tradition is ever truly static and on the challenges and advantages related to it.
- Reflect on the different ways that young people can impact or “make traditions their own”, for example through a re-definition, change, understanding, embracement, or through starting something new.

You will also reflect on the process of “changing” traditions and how something that is linked to a community’s identity can be changed or adapted without losing the connection to its value and without losing connection to other community members.

- You will learn about and practice techniques and skills needed to negotiate change, have intergenerational dialogue or engage in processes aimed at adapting, updating, changing and/or keeping traditions.
- You will also have time to plan concrete actions, and reflect on specific topics that are relevant for your own minority communities

Join us in this great event and meet with other young minority members from all over Europe!

Study Visits all of 2023 | throughout Europe

Organised by YOU (with support of YEN)

You need an inspiration for your next activities, you have a problem and need to talk to other minority youth that is in a very similar situation, you’ve heard about a great project that another member or YEN is implementing and want to find out how they do it?

Then it’s time to go on a “Study Visit”. Contact someone at the organisation you are interested in and arrange a time when you can visit and learn from each other.

YEN wants to support you here, so contact office@yeni.org so we can figure out how to make this visit possible.

Rise up „Safeguarding endangered languages“, all of 2023 | throughout Europe

Organised by Rise up Partnership (YEN is a member)

From 2023-2025 YEN is a partner in this project that aims to analyse and document policies supporting the protection of endangered languages. It also aims to collect and analyse existing tools and to create new (digital) tools that help to keep endangered languages alive.

And for this we will need your input! We need your expertise on what motivates young people to speak their minority language, what hinders them and what support they wish for in the future.

Let’s make sure, that the ideas of young speakers of minority language are the basis for this projects policy recommendations, teaching guidelines and digital tools.

We will keep you updated!

Events of YENs partners:

Minority Changemaker Programme, 26th March-23rd June 2023 | Jaruplund, Germany

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

Maybe you already heard about this event at one of our Seminars, in 2023 the second edition of the Minority Changemaker Programme will take place. During a three-month course in spring 2022 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?

Application is still open, check out the website!

<https://minoritychangemaker.graenseforeningen.dk/>

Dikh He Na Bister, August 2023 | Krakow, Poland

Organised by ternYpe

DIKH HE NA BISTER ("Look and don't forget" in Romani) is Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative bringing together hundreds of young Roma and non-Roma from all over Europe each year.

During one week young people take part in workshops and lectures facilitated by experts and activists in the field of the Roma Genocide, Holocaust, human rights education and youth activism. This way, the bridge between the historic experience of the Roma Genocide and present concerns relating to far-right / neo-Nazi movements and tendencies in societies across Europe should be created. The nature of the subject links participation to both human rights education and to the recognition of Roma identity.

Find out more: <https://2august.eu/>

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