

YEN in 2024:

„ACTivism“ & “40 years of YEN”

Your feedback and ideas are the basis for planning our upcoming year. In 2024, we would like to specifically address the topics you mentioned. We hope you will enjoy the activities and look forward to seeing you there!

Activism and engagement are at the heart of youth organisations for autochthone, national, ethnic and linguistic minorities. As YEN, we are committed to empowering and encouraging young people from these minorities to play an active role in the youth sector and within their communities.

So in 2024, our theme for the year is "ACTivism".

Throughout the year, our seminars and training sessions will focus on the legal basis for minority rights and their implementation in reality. We want to reflect on our options for advocacy work and learn new ways to stand up for our rights, wishes and demands. There will be a particular focus on learning concrete skills which can help us in our engagement in our minority (youth) organisations or projects.

We want to help support young people from minorities to reflect on their existing rights and compare their situations with other minorities in Europe. In doing so, we not only want to raise awareness, but also create solidarity and incentives for activism. Activism can take many forms: Public relations, participatory youth projects, advocacy and much more. But it means more than just waiting - it is an active demand for change.

Our aim is to use knowledge, inspiration and skills to help young people become active members of their society who can bring about positive change. We also see the need to address this topic and reflect on democratic processes ahead of the EU Parliamentary Elections 2024.

In 2024, we will reflect together on minority rights and develop strategies for how we can work towards their fulfilment. We will learn practical activist skills and share our experiences with one another. We want to learn from each other and discover together how we can initiate change through activism. Our aim is to be active and engaged together in communities, and to make sure our voices are heard.

YEN will be 40 years old in 2024.

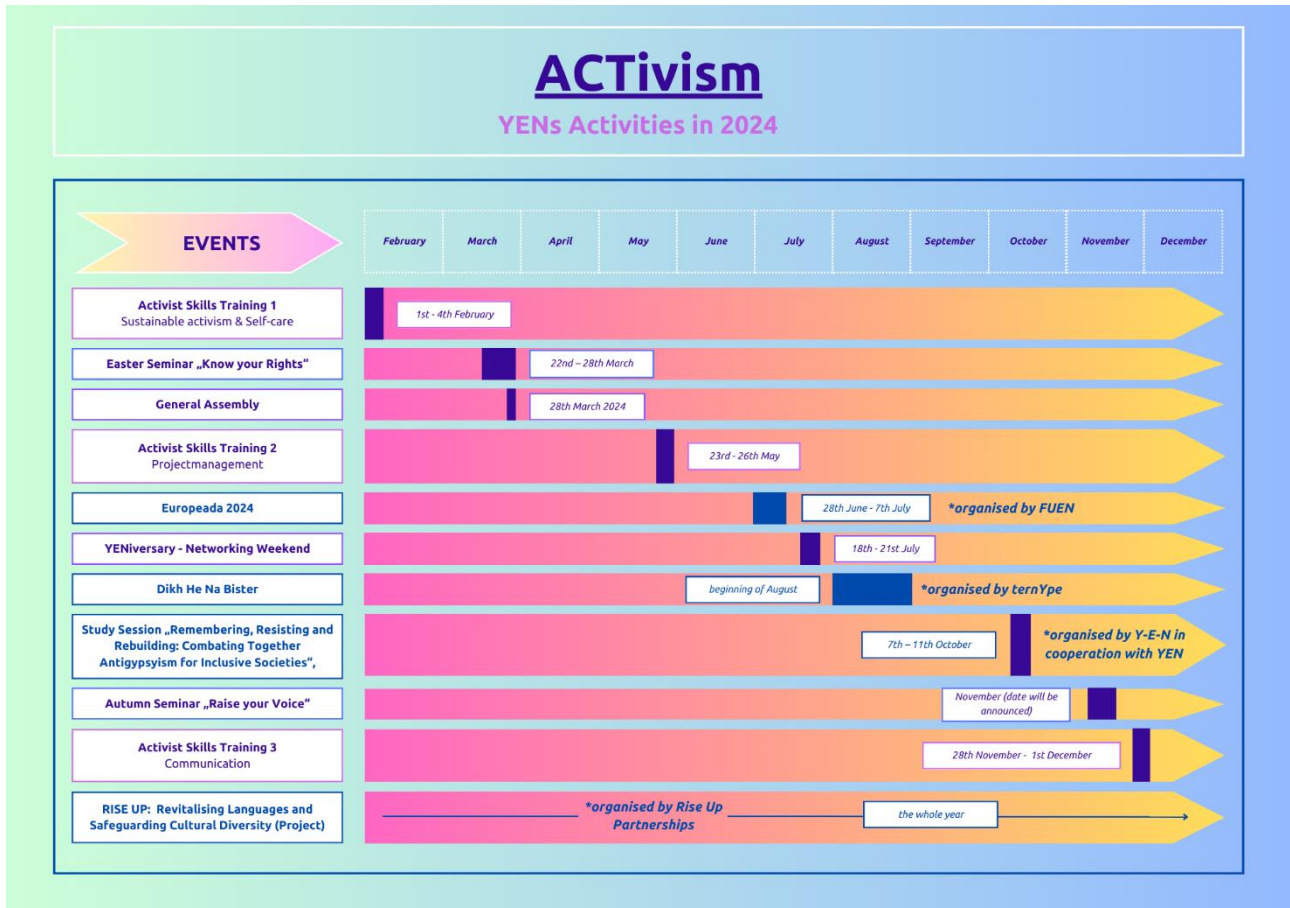
Since 1984, we have been working together to promote the interests of young people from autochthonous, national, ethnic, and linguistic minorities, forming a network of solidarity, and helping young people from minorities to network with others from across Europe. We would like to celebrate this together in 2024.

The topic of "ACTivism" will be discussed primarily in the following seminars: The Easter Seminar, the Autumn Seminar, and three Activist Skills Trainings. We also invite you to take part in our anniversary celebrations and events organised by our partner organisations.

We look forward to seeing you!



YEN JEV
Youth of European Nationalities
Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen



How can I participate?

2 months before each event, we will start advertising the event. We will share information about the events on our social media and via email with our member organisations. We ask you to apply through your youth organisation.

To make sure you don't miss anything, follow us [@Youth of European Nationalities YEN / YEV](#) on Facebook or [@yenjev1984](#) on Instagram.

Activist Skills Training 1 „Sustainable Activism & Self-Care“,

1st – 4th February 2024 | Berlin, Germany

Organised by YEN

Throughout the year, we will offer **three short training courses** - the "**Activist Skills Trainings**". These trainings will focus on the following topics: "Sustainable Activism & Self-Care", "Project Management" and "Communication and Public Speaking", and are aimed predominantly at young people who are in a leading, organising or coordinating position within their minority youth organisation, or who want to take on such a role in the future. It would be great if you would like to participate in all three trainings, but you can also participate in just one or two - whatever suits you best.

Our year 2024 starts with the Activist Skills Training "**Sustainable Activism & Self-Care**", in Berlin (Germany). As a young person from an autochthonous, linguistic, national and/or ethnic minority, we want to support you in acquiring practical skills to assist your activism. The training will help you acquire skills on how to sustainably include activism in your life, while simultaneously taking care of your mental and physical health.

You will also:

- learn strategies for making confident decisions
- reflect on a balance between your studies, work, activism and personal life
- have the opportunity to share skills, hurdles and learning processes of your activism with a small group of young people from minority groups in Europe.

If you are in a leading, organising or coordinating position in your youth organisation or would like to take on such a role in the future and would like to strengthen and expand your skills, this seminar is just right for you!

Easter Seminar „Know your Rights“, 22nd – 28th March 2024 |

Bautzen, Germany

Organised by YEN and Pawk (Serbske młodzinske towarzstwo / Sorbian Youth Organisation)

Our first major event of the year will take place in Bautzen, Germany and will be hosted by the Youth of the Lusatian Sorbs in Bautzen. The focus of this workshop is on **minority, youth and human rights**, with the aim to be aware of your situation as a minoritised youth, and to encourage you to confidently stand up for your rights.

During the workshop you will:

- Get to know definitions and concepts of the term and self-designation "minorities", and deepen them in discussions.
- Develop an understanding of the legal foundations of minority rights, youth rights and human rights, exchange ideas and reflect critically on them.
- Discuss current situations with around 50 other young people from different minorities in Europe and reflect on the extent to which your own minority rights are (or are not) respected.
- Think about what a world would look like in which all your rights are respected, and plan concrete steps for your own situations based on this.
- Acquire knowledge about the possibilities of democratic participation.
- Draft demands for the your minority rights and develop steps together on how these demands can be made.

If you are curious about all this and would like to take the opportunity to meet other young people from different minorities in Europe, keep an eye out for our open call and registration information!

At the Easter Seminar we would also like to organise an alumni meeting (meeting of former active YENies) as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations. More information will follow.

General Assembly 28th March 2024 | Bautzen, Germany

Organised by YEN

The General Assembly is the **highest decision-making body of YEN.**

During the General Assembly (GA), the new Executive Board and Working Group members are elected, resolutions are passed and both the general direction of the organisation and current topics and issues are discussed. For practical reasons, the GA takes place directly after the Easter Seminar, but other than that, it is an independent event.

Activist Skills Training 2 „Project Management“, 23rd – 26th May 2024 | Location to be announced

Organised by YEN

In the second Activist Skills Training we will focus on project management. This training will focus on developing an idea and turning it into a concrete plan, and monitoring and evaluating its implementation (which are the basics of working in many youth organisations and projects.)

In more detail, you will:

- have the opportunity to share your project management experiences in a small group of young people from minority groups in Europe.
- get to know the elements of project management by being introduced to the practical basics of organisation, time management, promotion, implementation and partnerships.
- work in groups on sample projects and reflect on the process.

If you are in a leading, organising or coordinating position in your youth organisation or would like to take on such a role in the future and would like to strengthen and expand your skills, this seminar is for you!

YENiversary „40 Years of YEN“ - Networking Weekend, 18th – 21st July 2024 | Bleiburg/ Pliberk, Austria

Organised by YEN with the help of Mlada El (Youth Organisation of the Carinthian Slovenes)

Our organisation is proud to celebrate 40 years, and we would like to celebrate this anniversary in style - and that is only possible with your presence! During an extended weekend with the young Carinthian Slovenes in Bleiburg/Pliberk, Austria, you can expect not only an intercultural, but also an intergenerational exchange, because not only active members will take part, but also YEN alumni, partners and friends of our organisation.

Together, we would like to look back on the last 40 years, share stories and develop ideas for the future. We offer a varied programme for this purpose:

- Short workshops
- Discussion rounds
- Inspiring lectures
- Sports activities
- An artistic programme
- The Cultural Exchange Market
- A future workshop

Celebrate 40 years of YEN with us and take the opportunity to network and exchange ideas with around 100 other people from different minorities in Europe, YEN partners, friends, and more! You can look forward to an eventful weekend full of inspiration, encounters and shared perspectives for the coming years.

Study Session „Remembering, Resisting and Rebuilding: Combating Together Antigypsyism for Inclusive Societies“, 7th – 11th October 2024 | Strasbourg, France

Organised by Y-E-N (Youth Express Network) and YEN

Study Sessions are international youth seminars organised in cooperation between several youth organisations and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. They bring together members of youth organisations or networks and experts to discuss a specific topic.

In 2024, YEN will hold a study session in cooperation with Y-E-N (Youth Express Network) at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Together, we will address discrimination against Roma (antigypsyism) and reflect on how we can contribute to shaping a society that creates fairer access for Roma.

More specifically, you will:

- gain knowledge about the historical contexts, patterns and structures of discrimination against Roma.
- be encouraged to reflect on social prejudices against Roma, along with your own socially internalised behaviour.
- develop your own action plans to combat Antigypsyism.

If you are curious about this event and would like to meet around 30 young Roma and non-Roma youth from Europe, keep an eye out for our call and registration information!

Autumn Seminar „Raise your Voice“, November 2024 (date will be announced) | Budapest, Hungary

Organised by YEN and DYN (Diverse Youth Network)

Our last major event of the year will take place in Pécs, Hungary, and will be organised by a network of young people from different minorities, mainly advocating for the rights of Roma and the LGBTQIA+* community. As a participant, you will take part in a workshop on advocacy work, which aims to provide you with concrete skills so that you can effectively represent your rights, needs, and wishes as a member of a minority.

Throughout the workshop, you will:

- Acquire knowledge and skills on how to effectively represent your interests as a member of a minority and make your demands heard.
- Reflect together with other young people from minorities in Europe on how standing up for concrete demands and recognising different voices and opinions is essential for a healthy and inclusive society. You will also discuss the importance of strengthening and promoting pluralistic democracies.
- Be able to raise awareness of unfulfilled rights through a coordinated advocacy action.

Take part in this important event and meet around 30 other young people from different minorities across Europe! Join this inspiring experience and stand up together for an inclusive and just society.

*LGBTQIA+ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Inter, Asexual + (and much more)

Activist Skills Training 3 „Communication“, 28th November – 1st December 2024 | Location to be announced

Organised by YEN

After the Autumn Seminar "Raise Your Voice", we would like to end the year with one last Activist Skills Training. We would like to offer you a safer space in which to further develop your communication skills for your activist work.

In more detail, you will:

- Familiarise yourself with the elements and different forms of communication (e.g. non-violent communication or body language).
- Practise how to speak confidently and clearly in front of others.
- Acquire skills on how to improve your listening.
- Reflect on communication patterns in group dynamics and discuss them in a small group of young people from minority groups.

If you are in a leading, organising or coordinating position in your youth organisation or would like to take on such a role in the future and would like to strengthen and expand your skills, this seminar is the one for you!

RISE UP: Revitalising Languages and Safeguarding Cultural Diversity, throughout 2024 | Europe-wide

Organised by the RISE UP consortium (YEN's partner organisation)

From 2023-2026, YEN is a partner in this project, which aims to analyse and document policy measures to protect endangered languages. In addition, existing tools will be collected and analysed and new (digital) tools will be created to help keep endangered languages alive.

And for this we need your contribution! We need your expertise on what motivates young people to speak their minority language, what prevents them from doing so and what support they would like to see in the future.

Let's ensure that the ideas of young minority language speakers form the basis for the policy recommendations, teaching guidelines and digital tools of this project.

We will keep you updated!

Events organised by our partners

EUROPEADA, 18th June – 7th July 2024 | North and South Schleswig, Denmark and Germany

Organised by FUEN (Federal Union of European Nationalities)

EUROPEADA is the European Football Championship of the autochthonous national minorities in Europe. The tournament is a major sporting event with more than 1000 participants that combines fair competition and the excitement of a sports festival with the concerns of the autochthonous, national minorities. In addition to the football matches, the event focuses on cultural exchange between minorities. On and off the pitch, it is about fair play, respect, tolerance and international understanding. The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), the largest umbrella organisation of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups, is the founder and coordinator of the tournament and organises EUROPEADA together with the local organisers. It has been held every four years since 2008, usually in the same year as the UEFA EURO. You can find more information at: <https://europeada.eu/de/>

Dikh He Na Bister, August 2024 | Krakow, Poland

Organised by ternYpe

DIKH HE NA BISTER ("Look and don't forget" in Romani) is the 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 aims to bridge the gap between the historic experience of the Roma Genocide and present concerns relating to far-right / neo-Nazi movements and tendencies within societies across Europe. The nature of the subject links participation to both human rights education and to the recognition of Roma identity.

Find more information at: <https://2august.eu/>

The work of YEN is supported and co-funded by:

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aufgrund eines Beschlusses
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the region Trentino South Tirol and the State of Schleswig-Holstein

