

20



Years_{of}
EuroPeers

2005-2025

Stories, Moments & Reflections

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20 
Years of
EuroPeers



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EuroPeers Strategic National Agency Cooperation (SNAC)

Co-ordinated and monitored by the Estonian National Agency
Organised by the network of National Agencies of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programme. This booklet is financed by the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes and published by the Estonian National Agency of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

This booklet celebrates 20 years of EuroPeers by bringing together stories, experiences and voices from across the network. It reflects the journey of EuroPeers from its beginnings as a small initiative to a vibrant European community built on shared values, peer learning and active participation.

Through personal stories and collective reflections, the booklet highlights the impact EuroPeers has had on young people and local communities, as well as the connections, inspiration and sense of belonging created over two decades. It also looks ahead, honouring the past while continuing to open doors for future generations to explore Europe and shape its values.



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For 20 years, EuroPeers has been about people, stories and shared experiences. What started in 2005 as a small initiative in Germany has grown into a vibrant European alumni network across 14 countries, built on peer-to-peer learning, trust and connection.

From the very beginning, EuroPeers believed that Europe is best understood through real experiences and honest conversations. Young people involved in Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps share their journeys, promote European opportunities and inspire others to explore Europe and gain enriching intercultural experiences.

Over time, the network expanded across borders while staying true to its core values. Through workshops, events and online activities, EuroPeers empowers young people to make a positive impact at grass-roots level in their communities.

Celebrating 20 years of EuroPeers means celebrating the stories, connections and impact created together, and looking ahead with the same vision, inspiration and commitment to the future generations.

Marie Heimburg

International Coordinator
(2022-2025)

EuroPeers
Germany

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

I joined the EuroPeers after I had been doing my European Voluntary Service in Lleida, Spain 2012-2013. I loved my experience as a volunteer and

wanted to connect to other young people that can understand my fascination of living abroad, learning a new language etc. When I found the EuroPeers training, I applied and was so happy to finally find other people that had also been volunteering before. The EuroPeers were my door to an international community of young Europeans that are motivated to get active for positive change. I participated in many different training courses and later also tried out the junior trainer role. Ultimately I became a trainer as well...



My membership in the EuroPeers influenced what I decided to study and when I started to work as the international network coordinator in 2022 - this network had turned from a hobby into a career. The EuroPeers have made a big difference for me and I am very grateful that I was supported by the network for many years. Hopefully I could give back a little bit to the network as well during my last years as a coordinator!

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

One of my best EuroPeers memories was attending the EYE in 2018 - I had so much fun. But I think more importantly for me - through the EuroPeers network I learned to understand the power of a network and how much you can actually achieve if you are working together. The young people join this network voluntarily, because they want to connect with likeminded people and many of the EuroPeers share the same motivation. I think I will be forever amazed at how much creative ideas and motivation you can find in a room at any EuroPeers event. Another big moment was: when I was actually recruited as the international network coordinator and then got to sit in this international position, coordinating between all my European colleagues - that was such an adventure and a great challenge that I mastered in the end! :)

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I remember some of the people that I met during my onboarding training and how much they inspired me to study the Bachelor degree that I studied. At this time I was looking for a program and university - and I trusted the cool people I met during my training. But during the last 11 years in and around the EuroPeers network I met so many different people - other EuroPeers from different countries, cool trainers that I got to work with, National Agency colleagues and even the people from the European comission - some of the most kind and creative people out there. I strongly believe that even though I am leaving the network now, I will stay in touch with many people and I am happy to call the EuroPeers a little bit of my European Family.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

The EuroPeers have empowered me to develop facilitation skills and public speaking skills. When I first tried to be a junior trainer I was 22 I think and this was all very new. A few years later I took part in the Training of Trainers and became a freelance trainer. This was a big step out of my comfort zone, but it also let me grow as a person. In the end I got a job in the network - because I had all this experience! So volunteering lead to a job for me! Yay :)

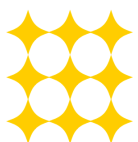
If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

My EuroPeers experience feels like one of these long and interesting conversations at a campfire, where you share snacks, stories and teach each other a song - all while simply feeling at peace!



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I hope for the network that it continues to grow and to encourage young people to promote European Values - in the current times we need it more than ever to live in solidarity with our neighbours. I think the network is a powerful way to engage and activate young Europeans to connect across borders, to dare to travel and learn new things and so I wish for the next 20 years that you will continue to support European friendships across the Union, because friendship and a network is what we need!



Virgil Eijkhout

**EuroPeers
Netherlands**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

It gave me direction and possibilities. Especially in the area of youthwork and seeing more of Europe has added knowledge about the topic as well as getting best practices and fostering new connections.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

The annual meeting in Germany it showed me the professionalism of the network and how it operates as well as showing the impact and was impressed by the amount of input the peers have.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I still talk within the app groups of all the projects I've been on. A lot of it is sharing practices or meeting up in countries when we are close together, some of them are now partners of Bildung Nijmegen (organisation I did a pba for in Luso Portugal).

Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Skills and confidence in presentations and event management.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

Happy



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

More EuroPeers



Alise Lase

EuroPeers
Netherlands &
Latvia

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

I study in the Netherlands, but I was born in Latvia, therefore because of Europeers this has made me feel connected with both countries that I call as my home. I have gained amazing people in my life who I can have a laugh about anything, but work very hard in the networks, as much I am capable, even being abroad.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

Europeers weekend in Heemskerk this May, since that was the first time I had the chance to meet the Dutch Europeers where it was all about generating new ideas and bonding together. In the upcoming months, I will be meeting the Latvian Europeers which I am very excited about and that, for sure, will be a special moment.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I got into Europeers thanks to a long time friend from another programme in Latvia, Simona from Latvia, which I have formed a very close bond and always will have each others back. From the Netherlands, the current coordinator Bente, who I could always talk about concerts and travelling, but not forgetting to work hard, and Nadja, because we have a similar story, both are working/studying in the Netherlands, but are from different countries, therefore we are on the same page and relate to each other more.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

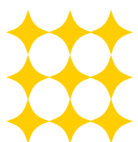
It has made me feel more confident, for example, when taking part in different Dutch events (even though I do not speak the language), made me more confident in trying to speak the language and going with confidence (even not knowing the language).

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

It is just more than a network, it is a way of thinking outside the box in creative ways!

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

To keep expanding and having the chance to meet Europeers from different countries more often!





Michalina Kosakowska

**EuroPeers
Poland**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Belonging to the community of young, ambitious people builds and drives me to act. Having participants of Erasmus+ projects or organisers of

European Solidarity Corps projects around me gives me a lot of opportunities and inspiration. I joined the EuroPeers network when I started to realise my first solidarity project. I didn't expect much, I was curious about the activities of other active, young people. Joining the team helped me realise my project even better than I thought. Now I implementing another solidarity project and I am sure that in moments of crisis I will have great support from the group. Belonging to EuroPeers has changed my life a lot, but I also think my community.

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

At first it was difficult for me to find myself in the group. I think I'm ambitious, but with a lot of people around me, joining the team can seem difficult. The Polish EuroPeers network organises two meetings a year bringing together network members. Despite my doubts, I was a participant in the meeting and this changed my perception thanks to the organisers and participants. As members of the EuroPeers network, we are building a huge community and we have one goal. I realised this during the workshop at which we planned our activities. With our ambitions, we are able to achieve a lot and encourage young people to actively participate in the life of the European Union together.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

When I joined the EuroPeers network, I didn't think that the people I met would have such a significant impact on my activities. I met Kamil Oleszkiewicz there, who surprised and inspired me with his commitment. He is a cybersecurity specialist. Thanks to his invaluable knowledge, he helped me in the realisation of my solidarity project. He also gave me great support when I joined the team. Thanks to him, I found my place in the group and continue to actively work with the network...

Despite the fact that we live in other parts of the country, I can always count on his help and we often meet at various events. On my way to EuroPeers I also met Simon Smith, who is a member of the network from Austria. I met him at one of the training courses in Austria as a trainer. With his attitude and active participation, he inspired me to act. Later we saw each other at other European activities. He showed me that despite our diversity and origin, we can build the EuroPeers network together.

Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Of course it is! I am an active person. I think talking about our plans is very important, because on our way we can meet people who have the same goals or can help us. That's how it was with me. I was implementing a solidarity project that focused on cybersecurity. Membership in the EuroPeers network has helped me gain knowledge on this subject. I took part, among other things, in the Youth Policy Dialogue with Executive Vice-President Roxan Mînzatu, where we discussed the digital future of young people in Europe. Also, as an active participant in the network, I promoted European values during the Erasmus Days organized in my region. Thanks to this, I encouraged local youth to actively participate in social life and gained participants for my solidarity project.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

I'll use a quote for this: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I wish that the stories of EuroPeers and their projects are regularly visible in the mainstream media, not only youth, becoming an inspiration for the whole society.



Nina Ladouceur

EuroPeers France

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Being a Europeer allow me to meet so many interesting people and to expand my network.

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

In april 2025 I had the chance to attend "Europe Engagée" an event about youth engagement in Paris. It was definitely a great experience, I get to exchange with so many others young people and learn about their volunteering journey. This event was not only an occasion to meet people, it was also an occasion to learn more about the democratic process and european institutions. We get the chance to do the Europa Experience in Paris wich is a simulation of the european parlement and I loved this activity!



What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

Thank to Europeers I meet other young people dedicated to promote youth engagement and european mobility. We were brought together by our share experience from the ESC. Furthermore I had the chance to meet many professional working with the youth and/or with Europe such as europe direct and eurodesk employes, the head of my local erasmus network, the municipal delegate of european affairs ... those encounters were a chance for me to reflect on my own professional aspirations.

Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

It definitely help me get out of my comfort. For exemple, it made me much more confident at public speaking. As a Europeer I had to gave speeches in front of a crowd for the firts time! It also teach me to take initiative and reach out to people, as a Europeer I had to take initiative to create my own actions, I reached out to my former high school and many other to propose a Europeer intervention promoting european mobility opportunities.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

Sharing our experience is one of the most valuable things to inspire and empower others.

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I wish that the EuroPeers network will continue to grow and to gave unique opportunities to its members.





Wendy Broos

**EuroPeers
Netherlands**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

When I was 27, I went to Poland for nine months of European Voluntary Service. There, for the very first time, I met what felt like "my kind of people". The other volunteers were amazing, and those nine months made a MASSIVE difference in my life, but then the project ended, and I decided to go back to the Netherlands, and suddenly everything went back to normal, while I had changed... So initially I joined the EuroPeers network to (re)connect with people who are (and/or have been through) more or less the same, and to help younger versions of me find out about these opportunities, and to regain that sense of learning, growing, exploring together. By now, it's pretty much impossible to imagine my life WITHOUT EuroPeers. This network brings out the best in me, and I hope it's the other way around too.

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

In every EuroPeers meeting or event I have attended, there were moments and people that left a lasting impression on me. If I need to pick one, I would say the EuroPeers training course in Heemskerk. I laughed SO much and SO hard during those days! More than during any other EuroPeers event. Which says A. LOT. because they are always super fun.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

So many meaningful connections!!! It's amazing how sometimes we don't see each other for years, and then we meet again, and there's this immediate sense of friendship and trust, while remaining open to new peers who've joined the network. Special shout-out to the Dutch EuroPeers, and to the EuroPeers I have worked with so far!



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Definitely!! I became a trainer thanks to this network. Which is already incredible, in and of itself, but the opportunity to work as a trainer from time to time also supported my decision to start freelancing. Which is something I'd been interested in even before I went to Poland, but I didn't have the guts back then. Although, confidence- and trainer-wise, I am still not where I would like to be, but I am on my way, and the EuroPeers network plays an important role in that progress.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

'Europapa' by Joost Klein



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

Once a EuroPeer, always a EuroPeer! On the one hand, my wish is that this network stays the same at heart, while on the other I wish that it will grow into something (even) bigger, better-known, more active and aware, like a counter-movement to the injustice and inequality in Europe and the world these days. But I have the feeling that many EuroPeers share that dream, so let me end with this: stay awesome!



Marine Bouille

EuroPeers France

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Being part of EuroPeers gave me a group of friends. I became aware of the European opportunities.

Everyone is allowed to participate in no matter who we are.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

The meeting with other EuroPeers members. People were so passionate with beautiful and inspiring backgrounds. At this time I understand the motivation allow us to do what we want. European opportunities permit us to achieve amazing dreams as meet people and help people.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I met so many inspiring and inspiring friends. The motivation to encourage young people to travel, to meet different people and to share together. The believe in the European solidarity and learning.

Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

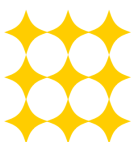
By being EuroPeers, I acquired a better knowledge about Europe and European programs. I improved my speaking skills. I did a presentation alone and by online for the first time. I learnt how to contact some local organizations for presenting programs.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

EuroPeers is the amazing journey of inspiring meetings.

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

Realizing dreams together





Almut Röder

**EuroPeers
Germany**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Being a EuroPeer brings a European perspective into my daily life. It motivates me to take action, speak up for European values and stay engaged both locally and internationally. It has made me care deeply about Europe, feel a sense of responsibility, and realize that we can all contribute to the change we want to see. EuroPeers also connects my studies with a broader European lens, and what I experience in the network flows back into my learning. Through the network, I've had the chance to join international conferences and events, building a circle of contacts that has become both a professional network and friendships across Europe.

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

One unforgettable moment for me was CIOST in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2022, where I had an amazing time with fellow EuroPeers. Working side by side with NA officers showed me that young people can truly make a difference in growing and developing the network, and it highlighted how crucial it is to collaborate within the European bubble we are part of. What has stayed with me most is how valued I always feel in the network. My ideas, experiences, and suggestions are genuinely heard and appreciated. That kind of openness and respect is rare, and it made me realize just how powerful youth participation can be.



What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

Being part of the first International Advisory Group really helped me feel at home in the network. Working on its structures and growth gave me a sense of responsibility and also brought friendships that continue to matter today. During my Erasmus semester in Finland, I connected with Finnish EuroPeers and made lasting, precious friendships. That's something truly special about this network: wherever you are in Europe, you'll find people who share same values and experiences. I also built strong connections with some fellow trainers and colleagues, and I'll always feel close to my Austrian EuroPeers, since I did my European Solidarity Corps project in Vienna. EuroPeers feels like a network that supports each other beyond our yearly events. We learn, we travel, and we share life together!



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Through EuroPeers I experienced a lot of personal development. I took my first steps as a trainer in international youth work and was invited to international conferences, fairs, and panel discussions. The network encouraged me to advocate more strongly for international youth work and youth participation, while also showing me how these areas intersect with other societal fields. Through these experiences, I improved my presenting and networking skills, gained insights into policymaking and European institutions, and met key actors shaping these fields. And, of course, I built an international network that is both professional and full of lasting friendships.

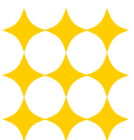
If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

EuroPeers is an engaged community that connects, supports and empowers young people across Europe.



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I hope that more countries will join the international network, so we can expand its reach and impact even further. I also wish for EuroPeers to have a stronger voice in shaping future program generations, inspire more political engagement, and receive stable funding and recognition from the EU. Most importantly, I hope the network continues to grow more diverse and inclusive, where everyone feels truly heard and valued. Through our experiences with EU youth programs, we have experienced Europe in a very personal way. This gives us the opportunity to represent the young European perspective, stay active as European citizens, and speak up for democracy across Europe. I hope that in the next 20 years, EuroPeers will continue to be a space for change, connection, and active participation throughout Europe.



Kristina Zimaj

**EuroPeers
Western
Balkan**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

In short, EuroPeers made a big difference in my life. In long... bear with me.

*EuroPeers shaped my professional path;
The EuroPeers training*

course in Vienna in 2016 is where my journey in European youth work truly began. I had already participated in a few youth exchanges, and when I saw the open call, I was drawn to the idea behind EuroPeers' aim: motivating and encouraging others to join international activities. These experiences, after all, help young people become more open-minded and interculturally aware.

At the time, I had no idea how many opportunities were available through EU youth programmes...



The training introduced me to everything — EVS (now ESC), Erasmus+, and SALTO SEE, which was supporting the participation of youth from Western Balkan. That training opened up a whole new world for me. Right after the training, I applied for several EVS calls, but I wasn't lucky enough. Still, life has a funny way of taking you where you're meant to go. A few years later, I became involved in the ESC, but in other roles — first as an ESC coordinator, then as an ESC accreditor, trainers, collaborator with the Contact Point to promote ESC in Kosovo, and eventually as a researcher and consultant for SALTO SEE, the Irish National Agency, Europe Goes Local, and others. In the past years, I have been quite involved in European youth work — and EuroPeers is where it all started.

EuroPeers changed my mindset about inclusive promotion of opportunities; Being a EuroPeer helped me realise that it's not enough to create youth opportunities and promote them — we also have to promote them in a way that is accessible and inclusive. Not everyone grows up in an environment where learning mobility or non-formal education is known, valued, or encouraged. This is exactly where EuroPeers play an important role. Although I haven't been very active in the EuroPeers network lately, I have carried this mindset with me into other roles or programs — whether supporting organisations and young people in ESC volunteering projects or, more recently, when promoting the EPAL platform...

Inclusivity should not only be part of programme design; it must also be considered very carefully at the promotion stage.

Even in my daily life, I still share opportunities with young people around me, and I continue to believe in motivating others to explore beyond their local surroundings. In fact, I learned about EuroPeers because a neighbourhood friend casually passed the opportunity on to me — and that small act ended up being pivotal.

Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

Definitely — the first training in Vienna in 2016. Not only did I learn about the full range of opportunities, but I also heard firsthand how EVS impacted my fellow participants. Their stories were inspiring, and they helped shape my decision to be involved in youth programs professionally and do a career shift which I have been considering.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

One of my closest friends today, Aleksandra, is someone I met during the regional Western Balkans EuroPeers meeting in Novi Sad. If it hadn't been for EuroPeers, I would have missed the chance to meet such an amazing person and friend.

Over the years, through EuroPeers and other youth activities, I've met many like-minded people — people who share my values, perspectives, and personal and professional interests.

Has EuroPeers helped you grow — maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Without a doubt, it expanded my understanding of what was possible. Before, I wasn't aware of all the learning mobility programmes out there. EuroPeers didn't just inform me about these opportunities; it gave me the impetus to shift my career (which I was already considering) into something more meaningful and aligned with my interests and passions.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

A door-opener.

If access to information is what it takes to enter the world of European youth work, then EuroPeers is exactly that — a gateway.

Because that's what it was for me: a doorway into a community, a sense of purpose, and an entirely new career path.

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I hope EuroPeers continues to promote volunteering and mobility opportunities, especially in regions where they are still underrepresented. Keep opening doors for others, just like you did for me. And keep promoting these opportunities through an inclusive lens.

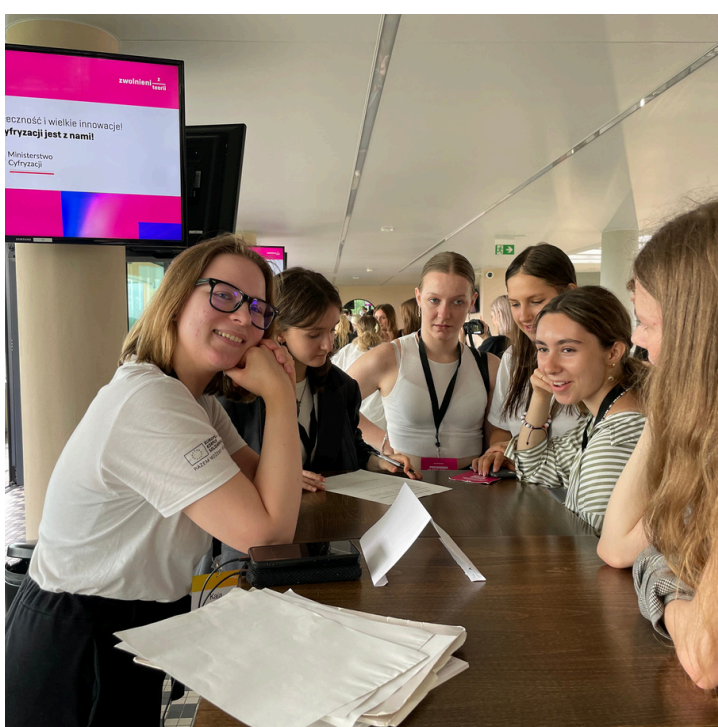


Kaja Możdżeń

**EuroPeers
Poland**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

I feel like being part of this network helped me to be braver and become an active spokesperson who knows how to encourage my peers to take advantage of opportunities that are around them - whenever I have a chance, I speak up and tell others about E+ and ESC. :D



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

The first event I attended as an EuroPeers representative was a huge event for a couple hundred young participants from all over Poland. Being at an info stand of the Polish National Agency and co-leading an interactive workshop quickly made me realise "This is amazing!"

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I have to give a shout-out to all the people I met within my national network because we truly create a tight-knit community and have a lot of fun together while promoting european possibilities to young people.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

I would say that being an EuroPeer made me reassured about the knowledge that I have about european programmes and I feel competent to provide information as a sort of consultant to youth.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

"Exhilarating!" - from my experience I can say that being an EuroPeer is all about putting energy and heart into activities and conversations about Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and the more you get involved the more you have this feeling of belonging to a bigger cause.



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

I wish that our network grows and receives the recognition that it deserves as we reach out to more and more young people! <3



Jeremy Vomberg

**EuroPeers
Belgium**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

It increased my sense of wellbeing and engagement in an intercultural environment :)



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

How uncomfortable it is to move over cobblestone when being in a wheelchair, when I pushed a befriended Europeer, who is such an inspiration in her role as a europeer and showing what inclusion can evoke.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I made good connections and even some friends I managed to visit in their local community.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Definitely, even though the major impact had been done by my ESC beforehand. It kept me involved in Erasmus + engagements.

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

Growth, more publicity and acknowledgement in society, current peers staying active





Dario Algeciras Castillo

**EuroPeers
Spain**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

For me, EuroPeers has been a gateway to a world beyond Erasmus+.

A community full of inspiration, values, and a desire to share our passion for youth participation.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

I would like to highlight our first national meeting (August 2024), organised with great care and with the full support of our national agency, INJUVE. It was a turning point in our sense of belonging to the network. Also, the annual network meeting in 2024, where I felt the international leap that allowed us to go further and share our passions and hopes for this great family. For me, EuroPeers is a place where I feel comfortable, more capable, and useful.

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I will never forget the good times we had at the different meetings I attended: in Panarbora (Germany), Graz (Austria), and at the national meeting. I have met wonderful people, people whom I have fortunately seen again in Erasmus+ projects and at a conference on youth welfare that I attended in Leipzig (Germany), through SALTO Youth. Erasmus+ is a small world where dreams come true.

Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Yes, it has increased my sense of international belonging to the network. I am filled with the desire to get more involved in Erasmus+. I have the sticker on my water bottle and on my mobile phone, a beach towel, a tote bag, a T-shirt, and a fridge magnet. All I need now is to get the EuroPeers logo tattooed on me, haha.



If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

EuroPeers is a small world where dreams come true.

Or

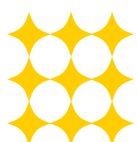
EuroPeers is the adventure that starts with one step and lasts forever.

Or

Once EuroPeers, forever EuroPeers :)

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

For the next 20 years, I wish that EuroPeers spreads and grows even more across Europe, and that it will have physical EuroPeers houses/offices, kind of “safe EuroPeers spaces”, around different countries, where people can meet, find new peers across the EU, and connect.



Antonie Solomon Kovacs Medayefe

EuroPeers
Romania

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

I think EuroPeers has changed my life in such a beautiful way, from getting to know amazing people within EuroPeers Romania or EuroPeers International, to getting to experience new things and new horizons in telling youngsters about EU opportunities, and to even having the coolest merch out there. It's truly a life changing network.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

One of my favorite memories is actually meeting the group for the first time when we had the national annual meeting, and it was just such a crazy experience to know that all of these people are there to spread the word of EU opportunities, and want to tell youngsters about their experiences. It was just a big realization that this is what EU is really about, spreading the word to people from everywhere

What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

The people within the National EuroPeers network are the people I made the biggest connection with. Especially now with the second generation after I came, this group has been huge and very active and willing to make connections, and even making the older connections stronger. I met the new generation at the Annual National Meeting, and the connections were created almost instantaneously, which is a breeze.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

Yes, EuroPeers has helped me to develop a sense of belonging to something greater. It's kind of like a sense of being in a community that has the same goal and we work together with no problems, like there's nothing that would keep us from reaching our goal together with all the resources we have.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

COMMUNITY

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

To be available in more EU countries, and to grow bigger and better with every new year!





Alexandra Ioana Simon

**EuroPeers
Romania**

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Through EuroPeers I feel like my usual activity (sharing opportunities for youth) received more support and a better structure, I know I can count on my colleagues both national and international and, not last, the National Agency!



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

My first international meeting - the EuroPeers Annual Network Meeting 2024 in Germany was for me a great experience because I met so many of my colleagues, learned about the network and could really feel part of this great network! The most unforgettable experience was in April 2025, when I had the chance to be a trainer for the Romanian National Meeting - and it was AWESOME!



What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

I speak on a weekly basis with my romanian colleagues and we see each other at the online monthly meetings. Moreover, we also manage to meet at different events or organize events together.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

I am definitely better at public speaking and networking - our work, peer-to-peer, really makes it easy for us to develop our skills and make new connections.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

EuroPeers in a nutshell is friendship, selflessness and energy!

What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

Happy Anniversary to us and let's keep up the great work, become stronger, expand the network and reach more youth so they can be informed about all the wonderful opportunities they have!



Alexandra Person

EuroPeers
Germany

How has being part of EuroPeers made a difference in your life – big or small?

Doing my EVS in 2015 and joining the EuroPeers network in 2017 has brought a lot

of positive change in my life. I wouldn't be where I am today without those experiences that have made me learn and grow so much. I've met amazing people that have become good friends and important people in my life, and it has shaped my career path. Over the last 5 years I have been working in the area of non-formal education youth projects, first as an ESC coordinator, Eurodesk advisor and project coordinator of international seminars, and now as the project coordinator of the DiscoverEU learning cycle in Germany. Thanks to EuroPeers, I have also started working as a trainer a few years ago. I wouldn't have had all those experiences in so many different places if it wasn't for EuroPeers and Erasmus+ and I'll always be grateful for that.



Was there a moment with EuroPeers that really opened your eyes or stuck with you?

I still remember my first ANM in Viljandi, Estonia, in 2018 - drinking cranberry juice in a small local pub, watching other EuroPeers play table tennis. Since then, I've attended many other ANMs, making many more precious memories, the most recent one in the middle of nowhere in Panarbora in Germany where some of us woke up at 6am to see the sunrise that never arrived because of all the fog, but then at night we got to watch the stars from the tower.

It is about those places I would have never visited otherwise, and those wonderful people and human connections I would have never made otherwise.



What kind of connections or friendships have you made through EuroPeers?

There are so many people in my life I would have never met without being a EuroPeer - first of all of course many amazing fellow EuroPeers, and also through new doors and opportunities that have been opened for me because of being a EuroPeer, like getting my last job. It is almost like a domino effect - the more involved you are, the more opportunities and wonderful new people will come into your life.



Has EuroPeers helped you grow – maybe to speak up more, try something new, or take action in your community or abroad?

In my first few years as a EuroPeer, being part of the network has given me a lot of courage and encouragement to organise my own public events talking about international youth mobility projects. Those were the first times I actually enjoyed public speaking, as it was about sharing my own experiences and talking about things I loved talking about. Through all those activities and events I got to learn a lot of new skills and many things I was not able to learn in school or university.

If you could sum up your EuroPeers experience in one word or sentence or maybe song, what would it be – and why?

*The old, true saying:
Once a EuroPeer,
always a EuroPeer :)*



What do you wish for the next years in the EuroPeers network?

Hopefully in the next 20 years the network will grow even stronger with more countries involved, with many new motivated network members from diverse backgrounds and with different life experiences. Hopefully European youth programmes and networks like the EuroPeers will become more accessible to all young people, especially those who wouldn't be able to go abroad otherwise.



This booklet gathers stories, memories and voices from across the years. And yet, we know it holds only a part of what EuroPeers truly is.

Not every member who has been part of this journey since 2005 has shared their story here. But we know that wherever they have been, they have never left their European story untold. Through conversations, workshops, friendships, events and courage, they have carried the mission of EuroPeers forward.

For twenty years, young people have stepped into classrooms, youth centres, public spaces and online communities to share what Europe means to them. They have passed on opportunities, inspired confidence, opened doors and encouraged others to take their own first step.

Thank you to every single EuroPeer who, since 2005, has helped keep this mission alive, bringing European youth opportunities closer to young people and proving that Europe is not just a place, but a shared experience.

Twenty years of stories.
Twenty years of impact.
And the journey continues.

