

**YOUNG
EUROPE
IS VOTING**

**UNGDOMSØENS
MANIFESTO
– *YOUNG EUROPE CARES***



We, 200 young Europeans from 22 countries gathered on the Youth Island (Ungdomsøen) in Denmark 10.-12. May 2019. We wanted to debate the future of Europe seen from a youth perspective. Beforehand, at 10 Danish folk high schools, we have discussed and analyzed the following five topics: Youth under pressure, Identity and Culture, Refugees and Migration, Climate and EU in the World.

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THIS IS OUR MANIFESTO:

1. We demand a European Youth Commission (EYC) to ensure young voices are heard in the European Parliament. A Youth Commissioner will be delegated by the EYC.
2. We want the competitive nature of the current educational system to be changed and we want to make vocational professions more attractive. Additional mental health services must also be provided to help the struggling youth and to break the taboo around mental illnesses.
3. We want the EU to increase awareness, recognize, ensure and protect human and civil rights within the EU, by ensuring the right to have a family, diminish hate speech towards minorities, ensuring equal rights and accessibility for people with disabilities and ensuring advocacy for women's rights.
4. We demand the creation of a European folk high school which should be based in Grundtvig's theories including talks and debates about politics, human rights, democracy and other subjects that are important for the European youth.
5. We want to repeal the Dublin Regulation and create an alternative in which the EU countries contribute fairly with a standardized reception procedure, where individual integration plans are implemented for everyone.

6. We want the European Union to fund integration activities involving refugees and communities at a local level, promote topic-related programs in schools and universities, and spread good practices against discrimination in the media and politics.

7. We demand a diverse and environmental transition in the food and agriculture sector. We want to change the subsidy system and shift production in favour of plant-based food production.

8. We demand within the next 5 years, that transport in the EU shifts from cars and planes to an extensive and accessible public transport system that is powered by renewable energies.

9. We demand European institutions to change the way we approach international trade, focusing not only on economic, but also on sustainable values, and with a multilateral approach. And we demand the EU to revise and change its policies in Development Aid and increase the aid budget.

10. We demand European institutions to implement a common, coherent and unified foreign, security and defense policy, by engaging in a constructive dialogue with the USA, China and Russia leading to peaceful solutions.

YOUTH UNDER PRESSURE

Vision

Today, young people all across Europe are facing many challenges on an internal and external level. For too long, politicians have failed to tackle the state of emergency European youth are facing, particularly in three interconnected key areas; education, mental health and youth representation. We advocate for accessible, high-quality education with equal opportunities for young people, regardless of their background and career choices. The societal conditions have caused an increase in mental health disorders which should be addressed through a revolution in the healthcare provisions and by breaking taboos. The aforementioned issues should be addressed by the people experiencing them; therefore, we demand greater inclusion of the youth in the political debate and decision making.

Calls to action:

1. We demand a European Youth Commission (EYC) with indirect political power to ensure young voices are heard in the European Parliament. The EYC will discuss and vote for or against the laws proposed by the European Commission. A Youth Commissioner will be delegated by the EYC to engage in a multi-stakeholder, inclusive dialogue to present their resolutions.
2. The competitive nature of the current system must be changed. Measures, including implementing alternative educational systems and making vocational professions more attractive, will combat inequalities and improve employment opportunities.

These initiatives may have a positive impact on other key issues for youth, such as mental health. However, additional mental health services must also be provided to help the struggling youth and to break the taboo and create an open discourse surrounding mental illnesses.

IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Vision

Due to the complexity of merging these two topics in one, we will focus on two different visions:

In regard to common and individual identity, we want a European Union that increases awareness, recognize, ensure and protect basic human and civil rights within the European Union. We want these rights to be enforced by clear and strict policies to ensure the population, that their rights will be respected.

In regard to the development of (European) culture, we want to achieve so through European Folk High Schools. A meeting place for youth, regardless of education or background to forge a European culture and identity. We want to nurture a European cultural identity that is based on shared European values. A place to meet, talk and be inspired. The main goal is to meet and learn about each other and learn about how we can promote tolerance and understanding.

Calls to action:

1. In regard to identity: The European union shall increase awareness, recognize, ensure and protect basic human and civil rights within the European Union by:

- a.** ensuring the right to have a family – including the right to civil marriage and adoption regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation and disability.
- b.** ensuring policies to diminish hate speech towards minorities.
- c.** ensuring equal rights and accessibility in society for people with disabilities.
- d.** ensuring advocacy for women's rights and compulsory education regarding those.

The EU should raise awareness through information and education campaigns conducted on the entire European territory addressing those areas.

2. In regard to culture: We demand the creation of an European folk high school which should be based in Grundtvig's theories including talks and debates about politics, human rights, democracy and the subjects that are important for the European youth. An important part of meeting each other across culture is with arts, exhibitions, music, sports, outdoor life, dance etc. which therefore also should be provided.

This first European folk high school could be allocated in one of the two parliaments of the EU and use the funds saved by the closing to run the new European folk high school. After that the EU should stimulate that the European Folk High School movement is spread out to the rest of Europe.

REFUGEES AND MIGRATION

Vision

Our vision is to improve global conditions in order to decrease the flow of migrants and refugees coming to the EU. We want to create a safer, more regulated and informed flow to the EU while upholding the human rights both during their journey and in the receiving system, providing information about the possibilities in each country. We want cooperation within the EU, in which each country contributes to solutions and shares responsibilities by standardizing receiving procedures. We want an educational system that aims both to educate the European population in order to prevent discrimination and prejudice and to facilitate the introduction of migrants and refugees in the cultural and working sphere according to their merits. We want to promote a more inclusive, diverse and accepting behaviour and rhetoric towards refugees and migrants in the media, politics and civil society.

Calls to action:

1. We want to repeal the Dublin Regulation and create an alternative in which the EU countries contribute fairly with a standardized reception procedure, where individual integration plans are implemented for everyone.
2. We want the European Union to fund integration activities involving refugees and communities at a local level, promote topic-related programs in schools and universities, and spread good practices against discrimination in the media and politics.

CLIMATE

Vision

Our vision is an EU that acts responsibly towards a socioeconomic transition prioritizing climate across all sectors and beyond borders.

We want to see a change in our existing system to reflect the reality of climate change that we are facing and act accordingly to safeguard our futures. It is clear that climate is an issue far above private and national interests and thus we must act accordingly. This matter can only be tackled through deep systemic change. The Fridays for Future movement reflects young people's dedication to this cause.

We demand to see climate concerns considered in decision-making across all sectors at the national and regional level by 2022. This needs to be a directive that legally binds the EU member states. We want to see climate being included consistently and comprehensively. All decisions we make as a union, region and nation need to take a climate-sensitive approach now. We want to see this upheld through strong commitment and resourcing: We want the EU to double the climate budget from 19.5% in 2018 to 39% from 2020 to 2025. We want to see funding being moved away from subsidising the fossil fuel industry and other carbon-intensive industries, from being 'lost' in tax havens, and to tax evasion, and from going to other un-environmentally sustainable uses, to being used for climate action.

Calls to action:

We bolster this system change through calls for action in two specific sectors; the food and agriculture, and transportation:

1. Food and Agriculture: the sector transitions to support diverse and environmentally focused agricultural production and conduct of food. It is necessary to scale down the intensive agriculture and move away from harmful monocultural practices to a climate resilient food production system. One aspect of this goal is to change the subsidy system. Another is to shift production in favour of plant-based food production.

2. Transport and Infrastructure: In the next 5 years, transport in the EU shifts from cars and planes to an extensive and accessible public transport system that is powered by renewable energies. This means making transport cheaper, faster and with more connections – a bigger and broader service offer, which will encourage consumers to reduce carbon-intensive travel.

EU IN THE WORLD

Vision

Our vision is a European Union that considers itself a world-citizen, which is capable of engaging in a friendly global dialogue and sees potential in it. A European Union that holds unity amongst itself regarding international trade and migration policy-making. An EU that should be more transparent and with greater information accessibility to the average citizen in relation to international and global affairs. An EU that acknowledges, learns, and holds itself accountable for the right and wrong actions of the past, and is committed and engaged globally in a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable future. An EU that has a concrete and clear stance on global issues without policy contradictions, putting the human condition into the center of decision making and that ensures that human rights are respected internationally.

Calls to action:

1. We demand European institutions to change the way we approach international trade, focusing not only on economic, but also on sustainable values. Therefore, we call upon the EU to include clauses regarding environmental protection and workers' and consumers' rights as well as the payment of fair share of taxes by those trading on every trade agreement. These trade agreements should be negotiated at the European level multilaterally to demonstrate the unity of the EU in global affairs. We demand the EU to revise its policies in Development Aid increasing the budget and shifting the allocation of funds towards a social and environmental spending to empower independent governance in developing countries.
2. We demand European institutions to implement a common and unified foreign, security and defense policy. We urge the EU to cease contradictory policies concerning its involvement in weapon exports or conflicts that lead to forced migrations and refugees' waves. We demand to engage in a constructive dialogue with the USA, China and Russia leading to peaceful solutions regarding key strategical issues from economic, peace and environmental issues.



ULDUM HØJSKOLE
Frihed til forskellighed



GRUNDTVIGS



**egmont
højskolen**

Højskolerne

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE YOUTH

Young Europe is Voting is a platform for us young voters to form a stronger voice in the democratic debate across the EU and to express our opinions and visions for the future. A future belonging to the youth.

The purpose of Young Europe is Voting are:

- To strengthen the voice of the youth in the public debate across Europe and empower the youth to express their opinions and visions for EU affairs.
 - To transnationally connect young Europeans to address various problems and solutions that cross national borders.
 - To engage and motivate young people, particularly first-time-voters to engage in the European elections

After meeting at the at the European Youth Summit on the Danish youth island “Ungdomsøen” in May 2019 we, 200 participants from 22 different European countries, collected visions and calls to action for EU we want.

This is our manifest.

(The project is organized in a collaboration between the Danish Association for Folk High Schools, the NGO, Nyt Europa (“New Europe”), and 10 Danish folk high schools.

Read more about the project at www.yeiv.eu

