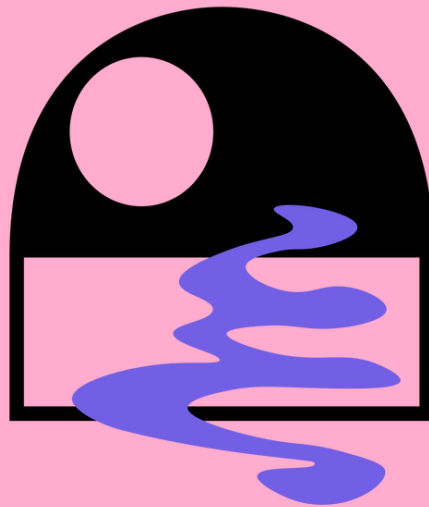




EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT

Co-funded by
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PROJECT BOOKLET

Turku 2025 - 102nd International Session of the EYP

EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
SUOMI FINLAND



102nd International Session in Turku, Finland in July 2025

- 17th to 27th of July 2025
- Around 300 participants from over 35 countries, between the age of 16-25
- Discussions about 14 relevant topics
- For more information on International Sessions visit the EYP website [here](#).

Theme & Vision

Turku 2025 will gather around young people from all around Europe in Finland. With the theme "Piecing Together: Innovating, Reflecting, and Connecting", Turku 2025 will provide a platform for meaningful discussions and solution-seeking on Europe's challenges and opportunities. Our theme focuses on innovation and change through local and global cooperation and highlights the importance of recognizing the interconnected nature of global challenges.

Turku strives to draw from lessons of the past and build a socially and materially sustainable future. This requires placing the scope of analysis of issues and policies into a historical and global context. There will be 12 topics discussed, from the importance of democratic participation to the importance of sustainability in food production, combatting public health risks, finding innovative solutions for challenges posed by climate change, and much more. Topics of all different facets and consideration of the cross-sectional influence of policies will be central to the event.

Celebrating and reflecting on Finland's 30 year-long journey in the EU and the future direction of the union is also central to the session. Additionally, Finland's accession to the NATO and OECD presidency in 2025 will provide opportunities to consider European-level and global cooperation beyond the scope of the EU.





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European Youth Parliament Finland (EYP Finland) is a politically independent non-governmental youth organisation. Our mission is to inspire and empower young Europeans to become open-minded and active citizens. We are supported by the Ministry of Culture and Education and Foreign Ministry. We work closely together with the Helsinki European Parliament Liaison Office.

EYP Finland forms part of the international EYP network. The European Youth Parliament is one of Europe's largest youth platforms for civic education, intercultural encounters, and the exchange of ideas – run by young people, for young people. EYP operates in nearly 40 countries in Europe since 1987. Our mission is to inspire and empower a young generation of informed, open-minded, responsible, and active citizens that shape society and drive impact.

With its events and forums the EYP tries to create a hub for young people, passionate people and aims to form friendships across borders – as well as acquiring skills related to cultural awareness, self-assessment, and actively shaping the society around them. Through the concept of peer-to-peer-education and experienced-based learning, we allow the young participants to acquire long-term competences that will enhance their future career chances.

The EYP exists through the work of young volunteers all over Europe. Around 3,500 volunteers plan, prepare and carry out EYP activities, and these same young people make the decisions on how the EYP is run. As an organisation for civic education, the EYP seeks to equip its members with transversal skills that formal education often does not provide. To guarantee a high level of educational value, the EYP puts a strong emphasis on capacity-building and training formats for active members and volunteers.



INTERNATIONAL SESSIONS

During an International Session, or in short an “IS”, around 300 young people from 40 European countries debate the pressing issues of our time, based on the EYP Methodology.

Since 1988, nearly 100 International Sessions have been organised in more than 29 countries and 70 different cities, allowing over 20,000 young people to experience the #EYP spirit and learn how to collaborate across borders.

During EYP sessions, peer moderators guide participants through a structured program. They work in groups called “committees”, discuss current political topics and develop resolutions, putting forward solutions to the given challenges. These solutions are then debated with all participants in a parliamentary setting. The topics of an EYP event centre around current topics of the European political agenda, such as energy, security, human rights, and foreign affairs.

“Baku 2023 was **unexpected, insightful** and in many ways an **experience I won't forget**. The organisation was immaculate, and I leave **very impressed** and having greatly **enjoyed participating**.”

Delegate at Baku 2023 International Session

“I **shifted attitude** towards life. Conference showed me how **strong and powerful** I could be and how **big impact** I can generate.”

Delegate at Tromsø 2023 International Session



PROGRAMME

The programme of Turku 2025 will consist of two Training days for volunteers, one Team Building day, three days of Committee Work, two days of General Assembly, Cultural elements, and travel days.

Volunteers' Arrival Day & Teambuilding: Thursday 17th of July

Volunteers arrive and partake in team building intended to facilitate a welcoming, inclusive, and efficient working environment throughout the rest of the event.

Volunteers' Training & Evening program: Friday 18th of July

The team leaders of each volunteer-team; the Academic team, the Media team, and the Organising team give interactive training modules for team members in connection to skills relevant to their tasks such as team management, soft skills, and advanced photo and video editing skills. There will be a focus on sustainability, welfare, and anti-racist approach in the volunteers' work and such skills will be emphasised in the training. External expert trainers will also be invited. The day will conclude with an engaging evening programme.

Volunteers' Training, Delegates' Arrival & Eurovillage: Saturday 19th of July

The volunteers' training modules and planning for their work during the event continue. The delegates arrive at the event and are registered. The day ends with a Eurovillage where participants present their food, art, and other cultural traditions of their home country.



Teambuilding and Finnish Cultural Evening: Sunday 20th of July

During Teambuilding, the participants, in their respective committees, get to know each other through a series of activities and games. The experience-based pedagogy is used to build international teams and establish principles of cooperation. The Opening Ceremony will welcome external speakers, patrons, and panellists to introduce the participants to the event theme and officially celebrate the opening of the conference. A Finnish Cultural evening will give the international participants the opportunity to submerge in Finnish culture.

Opening Ceremony and Committee Work: Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd of July

Throughout Committee Work, the delegates analyse the topic of their committee, identify the problems surrounding it and discuss solutions to these issues, all based on sound research and constructive discussions. The output of Committee Work is a written resolution that is shared with European and local decision-makers.

Cultural Day: Thursday 24th of July

All participants can enjoy the cultural offer of the city based on their interests. Options will ideally include various museums to visit, biking tour of the Turku archipelago, visiting the Turku Castle and other landmark monuments, exploring the Moomin world, taking a river cruise, and much more! Sustainability will be a central consideration in planning the cultural activities.

General Assembly – Friday 25th & Saturday 26th of July

The last part of every conference is a General Assembly. During these last days, all participants come together to present and debate the resolutions they wrote. In the end, the resolutions are put to a vote.



Cultural Programme

Throughout the programme in the evenings, there is attention for cultural exchange for example in food, dance, and song. Elements include Euroconcert with local Finnish artists, Sitsi-party, Eurovillage, and Cultural Day. By including these elements participants are included in and will cultivate a space of respect and intercultural understanding. Participants are especially introduced to the Finnish culture as the hosting country. Some elements of the cultural programme are intended to be opened up to the local community to facilitate further cultural exchange.

Other programme elements (in planning)

- Teacher's day
- Career Day / Civil Society Day
- Expert lectures
- European Parliament Liaison Office Programme Element
- Panel Discussion with Members of European Parliament
- Alumni Day
- Delegation Dinner



Turku is a city with a commitment to a more sustainable tomorrow, a diverse and multicultural population, a beautiful but easily navigable nature, a focus on innovation, and a future-orientated approach without losing sight of its rich history. Thus, Turku fits – as we say in Finland – like the nose to the head when it comes to our session's overall theme.

It is the oldest city in Finland as it used to be the country's capital until the 19th century. Not only does the city have a large immigrant population with people from all over the world currently, but also historically served as a crossroads for many cultures and "Finland's door to Europe" going back to Turku's roots as a Hanseatic city and Finland's previous capital. It also has a relatively big Finnish-Swedish population and also has a big Swedish-speaking university.

Simultaneously, Turku is very much a city focused on building a better tomorrow. The City of Turku has been selected in 2020 as the best climate city in Europe in the category of mid-sized cities. Turku also strives to become carbon-neutral by 2029 and thereafter climate positive. Moreover, Turku is currently buzzing with innovations in areas such as healthcare, business, and scientific innovation. Some key aspects of Turku are its "**Blue Economy**" focus on maritime industry and the Baltic Sea, commitments to a "**Green Transition**" in the form of climate, energy, circular economy, and mobility as well as "**Smart Transformation**" focused on digitalisation and smart urban solutions.

Linking the session to the host city through for instance serving sustainable local food, planning educational and fun cultural elements, and possibly doing a panel discussion, workshops, and other projects in cooperation with local institutions, schools, NGOs, and other actors relating to the topics. Furthermore, we strive to open up some of the session elements like Euroconcert or GA to the local community, and local artists could working in cooperation with the media team. We would aim to have Turku and its residents leave a positive impact on the participants and vice versa.



INTENDED IMPACT

- Facilitate cultural exchange and mutual understanding
- Provide young people (participants and beyond) the opportunity to network
- Contribute to active citizenship and civic education of young people
- Teach young future leaders interpersonal, academic, leadership, and practical skills
- Provide a learning space guided by values of inclusivity and accessibility
- Create guides on organising sustainable and accessible large-scale youth events in Finland
- Reach stakeholders across civic society
- Make young people's voices heard regarding various political issues
- Disseminate media content from the event and connected projects to a large audience (eg. an Instagram reach of over 18,000 followers)
- Opening event elements' like expert lectures, the general assembly, Career Day, and EuroConcert to the wider community for them to get to benefit
- Offer local community organisers and young people opportunity to attend workshops on topics like sustainability, non-violent communication, leadership styles, anti-racism, and bias
- Partnerships with Swedish-speaking actors
- Tying policy issues into real-world (local when applicable) case studies
- Facilitate internationalisation at home (kotikansainvälistyminen)
- Organising mini-events on Europe Day and at the Turku Europe Forum
- Build connections between Finnish and international partners
- Bring guests from international partner organizations and sponsors to Finland
- Introduce Finnish companies to international participants
- Showcase Finnish culture, society, and opportunities (eg. studying or working in Finland)
- Offer Finnish teachers and educational administrators the opportunity to learn about non-formal learning and how it can contribute curriculum and to meet international teachers
- Allow young people to see future career opportunities through career fair where they can contribute to society across fields



MEET THE PROJECT TEAM

Our core organising team for the project consists of nine Finnish volunteers that have all been involved in the EYP-organisation for five to ten years. The team is lead by two Project Managers; Eeva and Jasmin, and a core team; Maisa, Laura, Alexandra, Henri, Mira, lida, and Veera. Our organising team will also soon be joined by around 20 Finnish and international volunteers. Aside from the organising team the event is formed together with a total of 70 volunteers in the organising, academic, and media teams.

We are all Masters or Undergraduate students or recent graduates of Tampere University, University of Turku, University of Helsinki, Maastricht University, Haaga-Helia, University of Lapland, and University of Antwerp.

The project is also supported by the work of the Board of EYP Finland and EYP Finland's two office employees as well as the International Office of the EYP in Berlin.



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Materials

During EYP sessions we need all kinds of materials; paper, post-it notes, plastic, pens, yarn and so on. We want to organize this session as sustainably as possible. We in EYP Finland have our own office that has a storage. Our storage has so many materials that have piled up over the years and we want to start the hunt for our materials from there. We believe it would be the most sustainable and the cheapest option for us to use all the things we already have. If we must buy new materials, we want to also investigate using reusable materials. We want to make the session as digital as possible when it comes to materials. This would mean only few printed resolution booklets and so on. If we do have to print something, we want to investigate more environmentally conscious choices such as Finnish made paper, eco-friendly ink (e.g. soybean based), local printing houses and so on.

Merchandise

EYP merch is one of the biggest things people expect from a session. Clothing industry is also one of the worst polluters in the world. While we do want to offer our participants the memory of the session and for them to be able to wear something represents us, we want to do it in a more sustainable way. Our idea is to offer the opportunity for participants bring a piece of clothing to the session and embroider our logo and name to these clothes the participants bring to us using a local producer or give out patches that can be added to existing clothing. This would give us the amazing opportunity to give the participants a unique piece of merch. With any other merch we will investigate the sustainability of supplying companies and carefully count the ordered amounts to avoid excess.

Food

We aim to offer breakfast and lunch as vegetarian (and vegan) and include (non-red) meat options at dinners. We realise that not everyone is accustomed to vegetarian lifestyle and might not even want to do it. We want to offer quality, Finnish produced, vegetarian choices at the session and really give in depth explanations why we believe this is a more sustainable choice. Our goal is to be able to offer local products (such as locally harvested carrots, cucumbers, apples, and berries) at coffee breaks and truly focus on Finnish products instead of imported goods. We want to invite local producers, restaurants, and others to the Eurovillage to bring their own green choices and tell the participant about them.

Travel & Transportation

International travel is a key polluter. We know that it is extremely hard (and sometimes expensive) to travel to Finland in a sustainable way but we aim to challenge this notion. We want to work on a sustainable travel guide with some NGOs that are focused on sustainability. We would love to collaborate for example with Discover EU and discuss if it would be possible to get interrail tickets to some of the participants and if they would like to broaden this event into an adventure where young participants can also explore more of Finland, Nordics or Baltics and Europe in a green way. Additionally, we would like offer larger amount of travel reimbursement to participants traveling fully or partially green. Since the session is going to need to rent a couple cars, we aim to rent fully electric cars or at least making sure that the cars are hybrid.