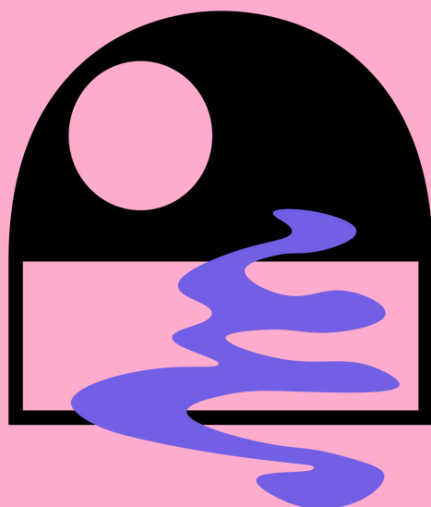




EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT

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

- 18th to 27th of July 2025
- Around 270 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](#) and the [Turku International Session website](#).

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 14 topics discussed, from the importance of democratic backsliding, fisheries' sustainability challenges, and AI's impact on creative industries to the protection of Arctic and Sami rights, fair climate and debt policies, femicides, and asylum seekers' legal rights to work, and much more. Topics of all different facets and consideration of the crosssectional 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 OSCE 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



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

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.

Volunteers' Arrival Day, Teambuilding & Training : Friday 18th 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. 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.



Career Evening

The Career Evening invites participants to reflect on their futures and connect with inspiring speakers and representatives from diverse professional backgrounds. The evening will feature a short keynote and speeches to frame the theme, along with stands giving out information on employment, internship or study opportunities. Designed to be honest, engaging, and helpful, the event will include small-group discussions—such as roundtables or speed-networking—with EYP alumni, professionals, and representatives from fields like sustainability, innovation, EU affairs, and education. The event is planned to be open to session participants along with local students and young people.

Expert Talks

Experts from academia, policy institutions, the private sector and beyond are invited to give deeper insights into topics featured at the session. The interactive lectures are aimed to enrich the participants work on solutions to specific topics. Some of the expert talks will be opened up to the general public.

Panel Discussion with Members of European Parliament

Organised together with the European Parliament Liaison Office the panel discussions will feature Finnish MEPs across political parties. The discussions will center pressing political topics, aligned with the session themes, that are relevant to Finland, the EU, and beyond.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will mark the official start of Turku IS 2025. It will feature keynote speeches and a panel discussion exploring the session's theme — "Piecing Together: Innovating, Reflecting, and Connecting". Speakers will represent a range of Finnish and European institutions, as well as civil society and cultural communities. The event aims to inspire dialogue on shared challenges and cooperation across borders.

Euroconcert

Euroconcert is another hallmark event of an EYP Session. At this event participants will be able to perform various acts, including song, dance, spoken word, slam poetry and more. This is a chance for participants to show off their creative talent and culture on an iconic stage in Turku. Local musicians and artists are also invited to perform. The event will be open to the general public.

Finnish Cultural Evening

The Finnish Cultural Evening invites participants to experience Finnish life through music, food, traditions, and interactive activities. The evening blends fun with reflection, offering a light introduction to local culture while connecting it to broader European themes like innovation and sustainability.

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.



- 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 accross 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 wokring in Finland)
- Offer Finnish teachers and educational administators 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 accross 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, Iida, 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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Participant Support*



*Iida Salonurmi,
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Website

<https://eypfinland.org/en/turkuis-25/>

Project Team

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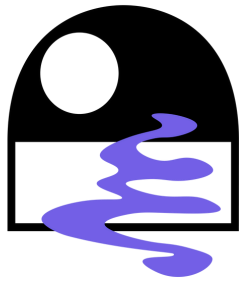
EYP Finland ry – Euroopan Nuorten Parlamentti Suomessa

European Youth Parliament Finland – EYP Finland ry

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TURKU 2025

102nd INTERNATIONAL SESSION

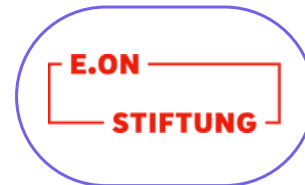
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



The Schwarzkopf Foundation is the international umbrella organisation of the European Youth Parliament (EYP). EYP Finland is a National Committee in the EYP network.