EYE
2016

THE EUROPEAN
YOUTH EVENT
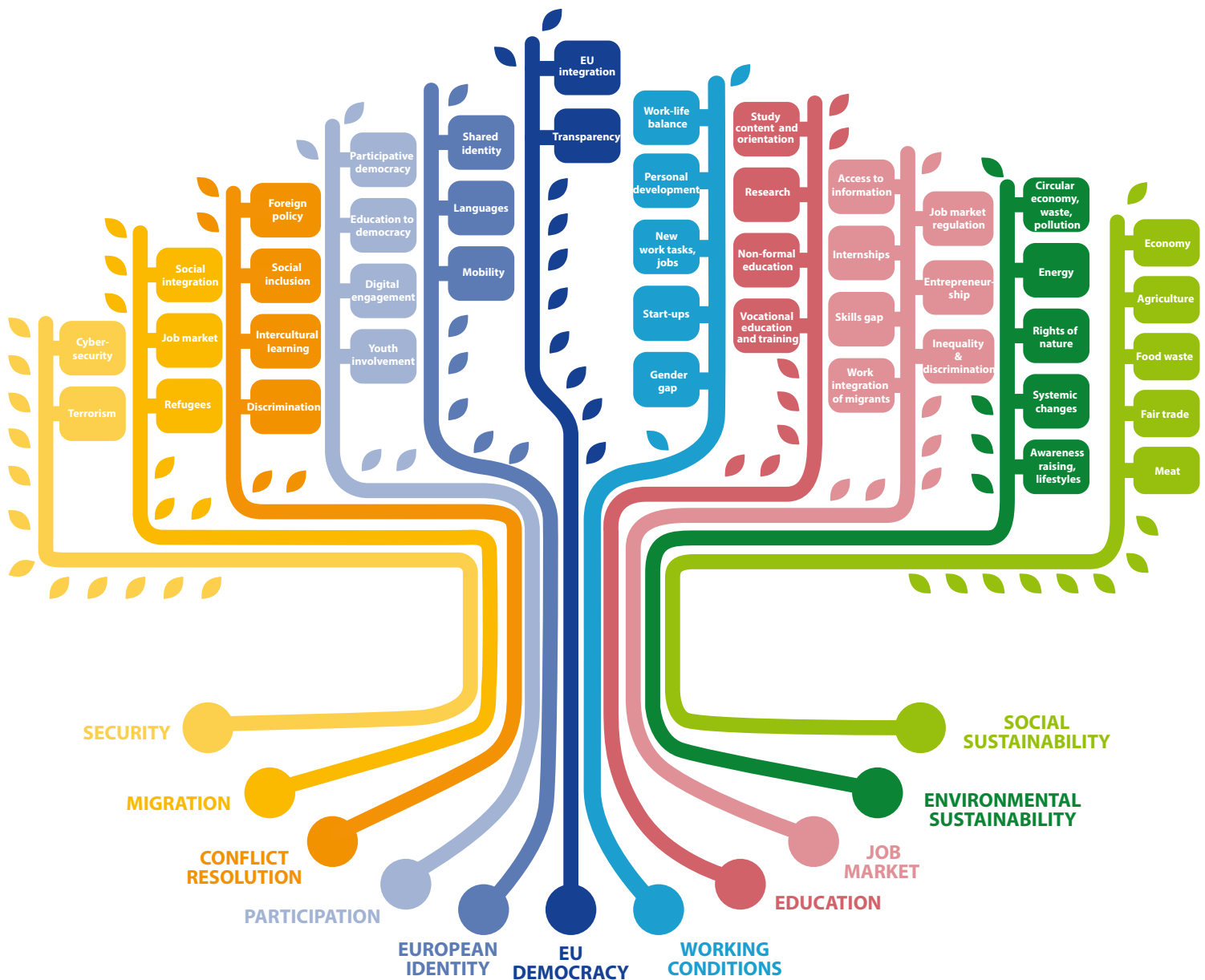
TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE
A CHANGE

EYE2016 ideas tree

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European Parliament

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● **SECURITY**

Cybersecurity

- Develop a **Universal Declaration for Internet Rights.** To be subject to voting and amendments every 5 years. There will be a Court instituted to enforce this declaration. (International Digital Human Rights Court). Effective right of definitive deletion.

- Create a **Convention on Internet rights.** It is regional in nature because it improves enforceability compared to a global Court. It could be part of a global network of regional Internet Courts.

- Making sure that the 'general' population is the creator of a **treaty to protect society's cyber rights.**

- The Internet is such a big world with its own set of rules. It will be good to come up with an international agreement between countries to **fix rules for internet and social media.**

- We believe in eliminating rights to privacy and **making all information accessible to a terrorism preventing organisation.**

- iP.E.A.C.E is an **International Agency aiming to create a safe and democratic internet sphere** by focusing on 5 target areas: Program development, Education, Accessibility, Creating a Legal Framework, and Edge-cutting innovation.

- **Non-profit social networks,** for a real alternative! If we want to use the Internet to share information, we know that our data will be collected and sold, but we don't have a real alternative. We imagined social spaces, owned by non-profit international organizations like the EU or the UN.

- A **software** that filters all sorts of data made by software engineers with algorithms that can **detect suspicious criminal activities** by decrypting secret codes. It should also be programmed so that it would make data traceable only if suspicious.

- **Security App** to monitor and control your data, including notifications.

- An **interactive license with points,** where points can be lost and internet access can be denied temporarily upon misbehaviour. Losing points based on internet law.

- Every person (and corporation) is given an **individual access identity for the internet.** With this it is possible e.g. to track down and punish the guilty, and to protect the data of individuals through encryptions.

- **Online access Pass** linked to your ID cards for protection and privacy to control your online actions.

- **Unique username and login** collected in a worldwide database.

- The project demands the creation of a series of **courses,** available in primary schools, **about the safe and conscious use of Internet.** Teaching children is the first step to create respectful adults.

- Early access to **education regarding the use of technology** and rights attached to it.

- **Teach in schools about responsible internet use.** Include data protection, possible online dangers and freedom of expression.

Terrorism

- The problem I would like to see solved is terrorism and violence caused by religion or political issues. To tackle this problem the Parliament should start a campaign, informing people about freedom of expression and thoughts. What needs to change isn't the security of a country or the way terrorists are tracked; what needs to change are people's minds. We have to promote a way of tolerance and acceptance to **make people understand how wrong this violence is.** This issue is particularly important because we are young and you are leaving us a world in war.

- The problem I would like to see solved is extremist ideas. Frustrations because of a lack of wealth but also employment are a cause for young people to find meaning in religious extremism. This should not happen. This problem could be solved by means of targeted, preventive measures through education in schools. Teachers are playing a crucial role in the life of every young person. They should teach youngsters to question things in a critical manner and to encourage them to **form their own opinion in order to find peaceful solutions** for the problems in our society. This issue is particularly important because young people need help in order to make sense of their lives and they have to be taught in their schools the necessary skills for this. Only then can we say, also in the future, that the EU is the world's biggest peace project.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that the EU should do more to **defend European students** and citizens' rights around the world. And be more demanding to ask the truth for Giulio Regeni. To tackle this problem the Parliament should create a prize for a student in the name of Giulio Regeni to honor his memory. This issue is particularly important because Gulio Regeni was curious student just like me and his passion for the world killed him. The EU should do more to defend European citizens and ask for the truth for Gulio Regeni.

- We believe **reducing the attention that terrorism gets in media** will significantly reduce the chance of terrorist attacks. Also, it will take away one of the major incentives of terrorism: spreading fear.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of **dialogue between radicalized groups.** The EU taboos far-right extremists and Islamic radicalization, though it is the new reality. To tackle this problem the Parliament should represent these groups in the society. This issue is particularly important because millions of people are followers of these ideas across the EU.

- **Cutting resources for terrorist** in a highly effective manner: oil, water, weapons, chemicals, etc.

● SECURITY

- Increased **restrictions and transparency in weapon industry.**

- Make one big **international Police organization.** Every country has the same education/training. So that all Police Forces have the same level of training and understanding.

- Create an international organization that could **coordinate the National police** around the world **and the secret services,** in order to exchange data and information.

- Improve the **collaboration between national police forces.**

- Establishing **supranational security institutions.**

- For us it is really important to have an **international justice institution.**

- New council consisting of **representatives of intelligence agencies** and improve the Security Council.

- Creation of a **European media channel** featuring educational programs about foreign policy and setting the information about terroristic attacks into relation **to avoid the creation of fear and spread awareness.**

- **Give people a purpose!** If you have something good to do, you won't do something bad.

● MIGRATION

Social integration

- The problem I would like to see solved is **teaching migrant languages.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should introduce Turkish and Arabic language in schools. This issue is particularly important because we also have to show our readiness to integrate!

- The problem I would like to see solved is that many Europeans think as if they were superior to others. They are too comfortable with their present lives to show some solidarity with less lucky ones and they don't want to take any effort to invest in migrants (social, economic etc). To tackle this problem the Parliament should create more **awareness about intercultural differences** (Sentio's global competence certificate) and how we all are equal. This issue is particularly important because Europe is facing a huge challenge with regards to migration. In order to make this multicultural society work, we should invest in it. Persons with an identity crisis are easy prey for extremists like IS.

- Mandatory **community services for young residents** (including young migrants) of the European Union countries. They can choose the field and the nature of their work, no matter what skills they already have.

- Find volunteers who wish to help in the facilitation of **cultural exchange** events offering different activities for migrants. They would learn to work together and trust one another as well as speak the same language.

- **Mentorship** programme between newly migrated and already integrated families.

- Locals could be a **guide or mentor or host-family,** who will help migrants with adaptation to society and intercultural exchanges.

- Highly recommended to **host someone** for a week or more, from another culture, without choosing them.

- Organise an annual cultural event in favour of immigrants, taking place in a different European country every year.

- **Youth organisations,** particularly those who advocate non-formal education, should be playing a more substantial role in integrating young migrants into society and promote intercultural activities.

- Special **social protection** for migrants.

- Establish a course aimed at incentivizing **children to do activities together.** It would be a set of group activities combined with lectures. The course has to create bonds and friendships and avoid the creation of groups that exclude migrant children.

- When kids start in school, they are assigned **a partner with whom they work with** for school assignments and projects in order for them to have the same starting point. The kids need to have different backgrounds/cultures to break down prejudices.

- Public/free **TV channels with language courses** (one for each level)

- Mandatory **publicity of integration** (YouTube, TV, Radio)

- Mandatory **orientation course** consisting of a theoretical and educational part, which introduces migrants to society, and a practical service part where migrants are involved in society through social service to increase tolerance and communication.

- Migrants' **participation in public and official matters.** It is important that they feel they are not just living in the society but also participating to its organisation for example through political groups. Integrate means that they are active citizens.

- I do believe in the power of youth. The European Union needs to **empower young migrants and young volunteers** so that they can use that power and become bridge builders - creating peaceful communities. First of all, empowering young migrants means, that their special needs and vulnerabilities receive special attention. Standardized Child Friendly Spaces have to be developed in all EU-supported Hot Spots along the migratory trail including psycho-social support for children and youth. Second of all, these services can be and are already provided by young volunteers. This is our, the EU's, window of opportunity to improve the recognition of and support for young volunteers in general. This is the moment we have to stop talking about youth and start to WORK with youth. The creation of concrete programs supporting young volunteers working with migrants, specifically looking at an easy access to funding, is crucial. Also smaller initiatives not being supported by staff must not miss out on support! Doing all of that means empowering youth as bridge builders creating peaceful communities and building a better future for all of us.

- For the successful integration of migrants and refugees it is of great importance for the adults also to be able to speak at least one of the three main languages of the EU. Here I propose this: every refugee and migrant to **receive financial help** from the Member State, in which he lives, **for 18 months.** Why? He or She will have to attend a language class during the first 6 months of its legitimacy in front of the local authority. In this period he/she will be financially supported by the Member State. In the next 6 months he/she will have to attend a professional class, depending on the degree, which he/she have said to have from his/hers home country. The vocational courses can be organized by the EU and voted as Strategies by the European Parliament according to the economic needs of the Member State, in which he/she is. The last 6 months should be used by him/her to find and start a job. During this period the financial assistance will remain. Even if he/she is unable to find a job, the financial assistance should not be given longer than 18 months. The continuation of any financial support of people who do not contribute to the economic development of the EU could be understood from the Union's citizens as a social injustice. If that happens, the hostility against migrants and refugees would increase.

- Awareness: the privilege of our 21st century. To enable the integration of children, who are not EU citizens, in the educational

● MIGRATION

system of the Union, they need to be accepted by children with European origin. I believe that for this to happen, **children need information.** It should be explained to the European children who the children are who will be placed in their schools. The EU, in particular the European Parliament, may establish/provide special informational and educational videos that will show not only the advantages but also the disadvantages that the foreign culture of the migrants brings.

Job market

- **Recognise migrants' professional qualifications:** I propose that qualifications of skilled migrants should be recognised and a universal system of recognition should be put into place shared by European member states. One of the biggest challenges for their insertion into the labour market is that refugees come with qualifications and skills but cannot put them into practice as European standards will not recognise them. Being skilled and qualified could lead migrants to enter the EU in legal ways.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **refugee's qualifications**. To tackle this problem, schools shall transform the refugees' degrees to degrees recognized by the European countries.

- The Commission should develop criteria for educated and trained migrants in jobs which are needed in some EU countries. Recognition of professional qualifications should be granted and a **system of complementary qualification and training** could work as an alternative when the third country qualifications are not regarded as sufficient.

- A **fixed quota for migrants** should be set up for the job market. Therefore, entrepreneurs will have to pay less taxes for their commitment to social causes.

- Set up a **public portal with migrants' professional profile** to improve their professional inclusion. This would include a CV creation tutoring/advising as soon as they arrive to the country. The website would publish their CV and make it available to companies and job providers.

- Strategy for the EU economic development. I propose a **special database** to be developed. The database should hold information about the legitimate refugees and migrants. This information should be associated with their degree, the job that they have worked in their native land and the job that they would like to work in the EU. Parallel to this, another database should be developed; providing information about the sectors in the Member States that need labor. Both databases can provided a strategic allocation of refugees and migrants within the Member States and within the European Union. The people will work in the field they want and the EU economy would be improved.

- We should create more systems such as "Europe Works" which is an employment mobile application for refugees and asylum seekers in Europe that **links migrants with green job opportunities and training** in Europe. How does it work?

A team of volunteers register refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe into the database of "Europe Works". The database is freely accessible to European companies or businesses in the renewable energy sector. Employers remunerate workers electronically through the "Europe Works" mobile banking application. An administration fee percentage is taken on every transaction for "Europe Works".

Refugees

- The problem I would like to see solved is the unequal distribution of refugees between EU member states. To tackle this problem the Parliament should introduce financial sanctions, e.g withholding regional funding, to **penalize states which do not wish to accommodate refugees in quantities corresponding with domestic conditions** like population and GDP. This issue is particularly important because to sustain European migration policy, the EU should send over clearer signals that the principle of solidarity shall not be abandoned as a result of the refugee crisis.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the refugees one (how it is sadly often called). I can't believe why Turkey is big enough to take the refugees and earn money from us while the whole EU including a much bigger area can't manage **taking enough refugees and giving them the possibility to live a life of freedom and safety** with their rights included. To tackle this problem it's the duty of the Parliament to find another way of dealing with this problem so that it's fair for all countries, and above for all refugees. This issue is particularly important because it affects all countries, all over the world. To achieve a good inclusion of refugees is a central topic and if we will reach this game it will show how strong the European Union is connected and what things in the world it can deal with. The prejudice that all the refugees only earn money from us without contributing to the wealth of our countries, is completely wrong.

- I propose that the **Dublin regulation should be revised** to ensure a fairer and more sustainable reception of asylum seekers and refugees across the member states as to respect both the human rights commitments of European countries as a whole but also put in place a proper burden-sharing system the way the common European Asylum System was intended to be. We should give the asylum seekers the opportunity to choose in which country they would like to stay. Not all countries would be available for choice in order to create a fair system but a system would be put into place with a quota based on calculation of the GDP and then give refugees 3-5 countries to choose where they would like to go. It gives the refugees the choice to decide where they want to stay and this is crucial for self-determination and creating an autonomous life in Europe. Some of our MS fought long and hard for freedom and democracy, and as we now enjoy these principles we should offer it to our new neighbours.

I will mention 3 components which should be taken into account while distributing migrants and refugees to various MS

● MIGRATION

1) Language skills; 2) Family > Having already someone from the family here would lead to an easier "arriving" and to a faster integration; 3) Employment / EDUCATION qualifications. In some EU countries different professions are needed more than in others. If the refugees have a profession which is needed in a country it could be proposed to go to this country.

- **Helping potential refugees to ask for asylum before they leave** in order to make their journey safer. Help controlling who is coming in. No walls inside or outside Europe.

- Talking about the current migration situation means talking about humanitarian work. I would like to highlight the importance of that work and the need to **increase the coordination of humanitarian actors and member states along the migratory trail.** In the current migration situation, the importance of the delivery of humanitarian services has been proven. In times of an (escalating) policy conflict among member states of the European Union, the humanitarian perspective, the delivery of services under the principles of neutrality and impartiality, has to come first under all circumstances. Second of all, EU member states cannot tackle this task alone and on an individual basis. I urge all member states to stand together and uphold the access of all migrants to humanitarian assistance and protection throughout the migratory trail, including at both borders and in hotspots. It is the first issue the EU has tackle, before talking about any other policy: Securing the coordination among both governments and humanitarian actors along the migratory trail. I propose that **all embassies from European countries are allowed to receive directly asylum requests.** The current system predicts that the asylum seeker can only apply after arriving to the destination country. This opens a breach on what comes to illegal immigration, since it says directly to any asylum seeker: "to come here, you will have to do it the illegal way". So consequently we have smuggling routes inside Europe. We show the fragility of our laws and the fragility of our security. Borders are being crossed illegally every day. The application of this measure will also have an effect on the actual crises: If you open embassies, you will end illegal arrivals to the countries and also prevent people from crossing the ocean in the conditions we all know. This Europe is more than vulnerable now. The European Union is fragile. Hurt on its heart. Because these crises brought up what their founders feared the most: the incapacity to think and act like a federal union. This, above all the nationalities. Above all sovereign interests. This refugees crises showed how Europe is not prepared to open itself.

- Regarding the resettlement program for refugees in Turkey I propose that **EASO** (The European Asylum Support Office) **eliminates the condition of mandatory registration in UNHCR till the 29th November 2015.** According to the resettlement program for Syrians in Turkey, an asylum seeker will only be allowed to present a request if their registration occurred before this date. Well, the largest number of refugees in Turkey was counted precisely after November., meaning this parameter was intentionally used to create a barrier for the Syrians wanting to reach European countries. Having said that, we can all understand that by applying this measure, we will enlarge the number of refugees in Turkey accessing to the resettlement program. This will show a clear political will of helping more people and we will also be avoiding the violation of the non-refoulement principle. In fact, going against what Europe decided in Geneva in 1951, we are sending back, and denying help to people fleeing from war!

- The problems I would like to see solved are war – crisis – refugees – unjust distribution – missing cooperation. Political instability in connection with bad living conditions, also caused by environmental degradation, create crisis which lead to people leaving their country in hope for a better future. To tackle this problem the Parliament should work together as one body to **find a solution for the source of problem**s and share the burden of refugees equally. Contribute your part, take refugees in, support other countries financially and opt for a welcoming culture. Fight racism.

- The problem I would like to see solved is how EU leaders take responsibility for not doing anything to stop the wars and the migrant crisis. I'd like to see how you solve all those people's problems, since you allowed them to happen. Also, I would like you to leave Balkan alone, stop controlling it! To tackle this problem the Parliament should **change their attitude towards the wars** I mentioned and try harder to stop them. Let people of the Balkan think for themselves, therefore stop strongly supporting those leaders which you find convenient. Let them choose their freedom! This issue is particularly important because when those wars were far from you, EP didn't seem to care that much. But now, when it's on your doorstep it is more than your duty to accept that you are responsible for all the terroristic attacks happening, so you have to do something about it. The world isn't just European Union, if you want a 'peaceful planet' you have to think about the whole planet.

- **One unified ID and no visa regulations.** Make it easier to come around, ban inequality, connect countries.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **refugee's qualifications.** To tackle this problem, schools to transform the refugees' degrees to degrees recognized by the European countries.

- It is essential for **children of the migrants and the refugees to be involved in language boarding schools** the education system of the EU. My suggestion is that special schools should be built for those children. Also the schools to be located in the European capitals /or in other major cities/ and to be established as boarding schools. Why in the capitals and why as boarding schools? Because children should be removed from the refugee camps - they could not become direct witnesses of the conditions that such an environment provides. Inclusion of the youngest to the European secular life can be achieved most easily when they are in straight contact with this type of living - for this I've suggested the schools to be situated in the capitals. I also propose those type of schools, which should be only for such children, to be attended only for one academic year. During this academic year the children should learn only one of the three main EU languages. At the end of this period, the children should receive a certificate for the European language they have learned

● **MIGRATION**

to speak and with it they can apply to the ordinary European schools. Financial aspect: the costs and expenses, related to the boarding schools, could be covered jointly by the EU and the UN. I presume this is some kind of solution because one of the Millennium Development Goals, declared by the United Nations Organization, is indeed the achievement of universal primary education. Besides, not only the education is a priority of the UN, but also peace.

The basic reason for the problems with the refugees in the EU is the Middle East war. UN should not just seek to success in the Geneva peace talks, but also to take real financial actions to mitigate the tensions in the EU, which are result of wars. And speaking purely humanly, if the costs are split between the EU and an organization as the UN, the EU citizens will not feel the social inequality and will not resent that part only of their finances are going for the refugees and the migrants. The EU citizens may feel/see the solidarity and willingness to share as truly existing things.

Financial restriction: if the child's parents denies to attend school after the academic year in the language boarding school, then the social assistance and the financial subsidies, given to his/hers parents, by the EU and the Member State, in which the refugee/migrant family is living, should not be given anymore or at least until the child start going to school.

- Refugees shall be offered **English classes within the first year** in their new country. EU has to provide the financial support for this. Everyone should be able to communicate on a basic level!

- Integration in the curriculum of **one lesson per week given to minor refugees by European students** in order to exchange knowledge and culture.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that public authorities struggle to cope with the large numbers of asylum seekers that they should serve, while individual level contact between asylum seekers and locals is lacking. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **encourage Europeans to accommodate asylum seekers in their home.** Adopt a legislative proposal to legalize the practice everywhere in the EU in case national legislation in some countries conflicts with this. This issue is particularly important because active citizens aid alleviates the pressure the public sector faces, individual-level contact with locals facilitates the integration of the asylum seeker to the society of the country where they seeks refuge.

- People and families can **volunteer to host a young asylum seeker** in their home. This way they can learn the culture of this country without becoming institutionalised.

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● CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Foreign policy

- The problem I would like to see solved is war and migrations. To tackle this problem the Parliament should make **European laws to regulate the arm market.** We are the champions at solving armed conflicts and then we don't want to help the victims of our arms. This issue is particularly important because when I see people dying in the Mediterranean Sea, when I see so many human beings losing their dignity, I think it's a crime for the EU and for me as a citizen.

- Increased **restrictions and transparency in weapon industry.**

- **Ban on military interventions and bombing as well as weapon exportation and weapon production.**

- The problems I would like to see solved are nuclear and chemical weapons. To tackle this problem the Parliament should have a law for a **complete ban on all nuclear and chemical weapons.** This issue is particularly important because chemical and nuclear weapons are so dangerous we don't want another Hiroshima disaster.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the relationship of the states outside the European Union. There is a lack of apathy for the situations of the ones that aren't near us. We notice this aspect only when something happens near our nations or in our cities. To tackle this problem the Parliament should obligate the nations of the union to **stop to buy or sell weapons to the nations that one time could attack our states.** This issue is particularly important because the solution of the problem can solve the difficult situation in our and different nations. For example immigration (caused by war).

- We need **superfast, free transportation and worldwide borders.** This way we can keep our political/cultural identity, but break down the real walls between our nations.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the approach to solving problems in the security field - mostly we are solving consequences of a problem and not the problem itself: migrant crisis (Libya, Lampedusa, Syria, Iraq…). But also it would be nice to see Russian conflict, with Western countries, settled. To tackle this problem the Parliament should focus on prevention of a conflict and prevention of situations that will likely start one, as war in neighbourhood countries, or high unemployment in our own. But if it is already started, try to **solve the reason of a problem not consequences.** Of course dialogue with other institutions and countries that are not in the EU, is necessary to achieve that. And reaching agreement inside EU. EP should try to facilitate such a cooperation. This issue is particularly important because as a defence studies student I would be really happy if I was forced to work in a different profession because of the lack of violence and conflicts. Balkan and also EU are not ready at the moment, to tackle the new challenges.

- The problem I would like to see solved is war elimination and peace overloaded. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **sign bilateral agreements.** This issue is particularly important

because this is the main reason in order to eliminate the refugee crisis.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **lack of peace and solidarity.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should have better laws. This issue is particularly important for peace and a better living.

- The problem I would like to see solved is no more war in the world. To tackle this problem the **Parliament should act as one,** work together! This issue is particularly important to enhance peace, security, no more war-refugees.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **poverty.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should develop adequate policies. This issue is particularly important to allow dignity owed to everyone.

- The problem I would like to see **solved is the frozen situation between the EU and Russia,** which should change into a normal dialogue situation. To tackle this problem the Parliament should build up trust and start by pushing countries with Russian minorities like as Lithuania to accept the citizens as normal. The EU could therefore make a sign and purpose sanctions or similar acts to show Russia that the EU wants a dialogue. This issue is particularly important because in the future it's vital to have good relations with Russia as well in order that no more conflicts can happen.

- The problem I would like to see solved is peace in Ukraine, we want no war. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **undertake actions for Ukraine.** This issue is particularly important because almost 10 000 people were killed.

- The **EU shall get involved in Syria military.** / End war in Syria: Work on a way to solve the problem at the source instead of the effect.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the Syrian war and Palestinian genocide. To tackle this problem the Parliament should be honest and **protect people who are the victims of the problem.** This issue is particularly important because we can also solve problems of migration.

- The problem I would like to see solved is avoiding wars. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **help migrants and help the countries where migrants enter Europe** (Greece). This issue is particularly important because my generation lives in peace and I want my children and grandchildren to leave in peace too.

- The problem I would like to see solved is how EU leaders take responsibility for not doing anything to stop the wars and the migrant crisis. I'd like to see how you solve all those people's problems, since you allowed them to happen. Also, I would like you to leave Balkan alone, stop controlling it! To tackle this problem the Parliament should **change their attitude towards the wars** I mentioned and try harder to stopthem. Let people of the Balkan think for themselves, therefore stop strongly supporting those leaders which you find convenient. Let them choose their freedom! This issue is particularly important because when those wars were far from you, EP didn't seem to care that much. But now, when it's on your doorstep it is more than your

● CONFLICT RESOLUTION

duty to accept that you are responsible for all the terroristic attacks happening, so you have to do something about it. The world isn't just European Union, if you want a 'peaceful planet' you have to think about the whole planet.

- We believe that **more equality between countries, religions and nations** will have a great impact.

- **International Contracts need to be truly binding!**

- Create a virtual world to **show people the outcome of a terror-society** and find other ways to let people express their hate.

- Governments and NGOS will **help countries with problems in respecting the human rights,** so everywhere there will be respected human rights.

- **Defend human rights. Without ANY exceptions.**

- Use **genetic modification to take the bad out of people.**

- People from **police and security should be subject to measure such as psychological and psychiatrical tests,** assessments and trainings in order to abolish mentally ill people.

- A situation that would unite humanity: **we need "a bigger problem".** Think, for example, about climate change. Something that will unite people regardless of their religion, culture, etc.

Social inclusion

- The problem I would like to see solved is immigration. Lots of people are worried about helping foreigners who actually need your comprehension. I wish we would be like Robin Hood, the one who steals rich people, to share their things with the poor ones. To tackle this problem the Parliament should have **more awareness, dialogue and cooperation.** 'Together we can make a change' must be applied also between EU states, we must avoid the walls and promote some inclusive policies. This issue is particularly important because woman rights are part of the game! We must protect them, we must project the dignity of every person. It's one of our duties: we are human, so everything human must keep our attention up. Anyway I think that the better way to solve the problem, it's helping migrants in their mother country. Together, European states must think about policies against terror.

- Canadian PM Justin Trudeau recently said that diversity is not just social policy, diversity is the engine that drives innovation and growth. Problem: There are no EU champions for inclusion and diversity. Where are the EU public figures that promote inclusiveness of young people, irrespective of race, ethnicity, origin, religion and economic status, both at the level of the MS and EU-wide? To tackle this problem the Parliament should **appoint Ambassadors for Inclusion** and promote high-level EU debates about inclusion. It should hold the EU MS accountable for their commitments on youth issues in international agreements,

in particular the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement Article 26 on 'youth issues'.

The European Parliament should also lead on 'youth mainstreaming', as part of Agenda 2030. This issue is particularly important because origins should not define opportunities. My own experience as European and non-European (UK & Trinidad and Tobago) makes me personally more aware of the problems of inclusion in the EU. Policies need to be implemented proactively to foster greater inclusion. Tackling inclusion tackles inter-related issues (employment, mobility, active citizenship and participation) and leads to better choice, opportunities and change to benefit all citizens.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **social inclusion, much more tolerance and acceptance** - that's why I am for and that's the better world! The Parliament is doing a really good job - Congrats! Keep up the good work! This issue is particularly important because of safety, peace and integration in the society.

- **Psychologists and social workers for social inclusion!** Every school receives in addition to the teaching staff, social workers and psychologists on a mandatory basis to assist teachers in their work to fulfil their duties to a maximum which goes beyond 'just' teaching and help students developing!

- **Incentives for so-called "Ghetto" residents.** Offering people to move away from dark, dirty surroundings in areas where they would prefer to live.

Intercultural learning

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of **awareness**. That's been the key word of the EYE to me. Both the problem and the solution to the problem.

- Organize **international house swaps.** For example, a German family travels to Mexico to visit a Mexican family in their house to get to know the culture.

- Focus on tolerance and mandatory **teaching of past mistakes in history.**

- Every **child** at a certain age **makes friends with another child from a different country** - via Facebook, Skype. They could meet every 6 months or every year.

- Integration in the curriculum of **one lesson per week given to minor refugees by European students** in order to exchange knowledge and culture.

- **Cultures teach each other** about their own language, values, and manners. Not only the host cultures who teaches the migrants, but also the other way around, to create a dynamic environment.

- **Promotion of multicultural events** e.g. national holidays for every single religious and cultural event.

● CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- The problem I would like to see solved is that many Europeans think as if they were superior to others. They are too comfortable with their present lives to show some solidarity with less lucky ones and they don't want to take any effort to invest in migrants (social, economic etc). To tackle this problem the Parliament should create more **awareness about intercultural differences** (Sentio's global competence certificate) and how we all are equal. This issue is particularly important because Europe is facing a huge challenge with regards to migration. In order to make this multicultural society work, we should invest in it. Persons with an identity crisis are easy prey for extremists like IS.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that I would like to see hate in future generations to removed. Tolerance to the different: build curiosity to gender ethic, religious and other differences. To tackle this problem the Parliament should develop policies and **create educational systems to build a tolerant community with attention to critical thinking.** This issue is particularly important because I have a nephew who is Bulgarian, born and lived in Bulgaria where ethnic minority are hated. When we visited London together he realised that there are other ethnicities and people with different religions. Now I'm confident that he will be tolerant to them in the future.

- **Meetings** once per month **for** 20 **people of different backgrounds** and different people each time. Testimonies/ integration experience/ further acceptance.

- Giving more means to lower classes people, the ones who don't have a lot of money. Give them the **possibility to travel and be part of exchanges** that go beyond neighbour countries.

- Encourage **politicians to come and try to understand how another country operate,** to share ideas and highlight problems from different point of views.

- **Open-minded religious education to all children** between 6 and 18. all religions, e.g. Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, Buddhism etc. talking about similarities, common roots, criticism of religious extremism.

- Religion is not a taboo. **Educate citizens about religion.** It should not be something hidden and discussions about it should be open, in school as well, in order to educate children and prevent racism.

- Education, education, education. Every child around the world should have equal opportunities. We should all **learn about all religions and cultures.**

- **Education, especially about Religions** (all in depth and without influences by a teacher). Integration of refugee children, learning from first hand experiences. Critical reflection of media as a subject.

- **New classes like worldwide history, religions, cultural work...**

- At school, people should not learn only about their own culture, **but also about other cultures.**

- **Education about different religions, cultures,** and believes in kindergarten in order to overcome prejudices.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the radicalisation of young people. I remember from my primary school education that we were separated in catholic religion class, protestant religion class and all the people who believed in something different, had no class at all. How can we promote cultural understanding within Europe if we teach small children in primary school that they need to be separated if they believe in different religions? A solution which would promote this intercultural dialogue we need is the **creation of an intercultural class-teaching all religions, critical thinking, engaging in dialogue, etc.**

- Having an **independent media platform,** in different languages, explaining major issues with neutral information and gathering resources from different countries / newspapers (translated) / political orientations (radio, press, videos etc.).

- We have to stop judging by considering our western values only. We have to see, **understand and respect the other cultures and values.**

- **International week of tolerance.** Exchanges for pupils, students and adults.

- **Workshops** (discussions, theatre, movies, idea labs) on **tolerance and mutual understanding.** Learning about other cultures, religions, minorities, groups.

- Prevent misunderstanding. **Learning History from different dynamic perspectives**. Both from other points of view i.e. exchanges among teachers from foreign countries, refugees telling their stories. And pointing on peace and achievements rather than on war and conflicts.

- **Cosmopolitan consciousness.**

- Teach how to love & discover: **create empathy classes; promote curiosity, make partnerships between primary schools** (I.e.Skype).

- Special **mentoring programme in school students, for immigrants, and for job seekers.** Including free access to psychological help and the teaching of religions and intercultural mediation.

- Change the focus of media to raise awareness about cultural differences, **perceive them as less threatening and as socially benefiting.** Furthermore, we should stop war propaganda.

- **Exchange programs for teachers** in order to make them discover different cultures and share their experience and gained knowledge with their students (both for European and third countries teachers).

- **Establish a day to celebrate peace.**

- Establishment of a **new official institution to make intercultural encounters possible.**

- **Two hours per week where students gather,** meet and

● CONFLICT RESOLUTION

share their values, culture, experiences... In order to improve integration and understand the other.

- **Educate to live together!** If people learn how to cooperate at school, states will be able to do the same.

- **Renewal of the faith on humanity.** Regardless of the cultural, religion or social background, creation of the sense of belonging and our responsibility towards our proliferation.

- Awareness: the privilege of our 21st century. To enable the integration of children, who are not EU citizens, in the educational system of the Union, they need to be accepted by children with European origin. I believe that for this to happen, **children need information.** It should be explained to the European children who the children are who will be placed in their schools. The EU, in particular the European Parliament, may establish/provide special informational and educational videos that will show not only the advantages but also the disadvantages that the foreign culture of the migrants brings.

- Instead of borders, **cultural Regions** will be built up to reduce national thinking and egoism as well as discrimination.

- Simple ideas for easy acceptance and equal start at school. Before a child with different origin is about to being accepted in a classroom, it would be a good start for this child to write an essay with theme **"The principles of EU for me"**. Once the ssay is written, it would be useful to be read in front of the new classmates. For the children this will pave the way for introduction to the principles and the values of the Union. The presentation of the ssay will show the way children of refugees and migrants understand the existence of the EU. This will reduce the barriers between the children, their acquaintance and their future communication.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that I would like to see a **European worldwide mentality,** not closed to Europe but welcoming and receiving input from other nations and cultures. After all, what is a European? To tackle this problem the Parliament should create more programs focusing on cultures, past and futures. State that you are not born European but you become one with your participation. This issue is particularly important because I am Mexican. I've been living in Europe for some time, in different countries (Spain, Sweden, and Germany) and even though I love Europe I know I can become an important positive player in Europe's future. Like me there are many people. How can Europe take advantage of this human capital?

Discrimination

- **Stop Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Homophobia, Xenophobia.**

- The problem I would like to see solved is that anti-Gypsyism is still part of the European society. Roma representatives in the European Parliament is not sufficient for representation of largest ethnic minority in Europe (3 Roma MEP's for 12 million Roma). To tackle this problem the Parliament should **have more Roma in the European Parliament. Sanction hate speech** (especially against Roma). Create better opportunities for Roma to held representative posts. This issue is particularly important because I am Roma and I am being affected every day! Roma make up 12 million people in Europe. Discrimination is huge and causes the suffering of a whole minority. We are all Europeans and have an obligation to help other European it concerns all of us!!!

- The problem I would like to see solved is the attitude towards the minorities which is mostly based on the historical past and the aggression towards refugees based on life-long prejudices. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **promote solidarity and embrace understanding among citizens,** even the citizens of the smallest countries. This issue is particularly important because aren't the citizens the ones who are capable of making the most objective decisions? If that is true then the peace among populations is vitally important.

- The problem I would like to see solved is discrimination and **equality of opportunities for all:** LGBT, different races... To tackle this problem the Parliament should have a **diversity and inclusion ambassador** and implement the already existing laws on such subjects in all EU countries. This issue is particularly important because as a non-white person, woman and lesbian I am a victim of discrimination every day in the streets of Europe and at work. This is not normal in 2016!

- The problem I would like to see solved is that there is not enough support for disabled people. To tackle this problem the Parliament should foresee more **financial aid for all European countries to support disabled persons.** This issue is particularly important because in my opinion a democracy is only a good democracy when our people are equal, respected and supported as much as possible.

● PARTICIPATION

Participative democracy

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of interest in the institutions of the EU and the lack of participation. To tackle this problem the Parliament should bring to the EYE and **making respond to young people, the president of the European Parliament, the president of the Council and the president of the Commission.** This issue is particularly important because it has more repercussion in the media and the people who do not listen the voice of Europe.

- The problem I would like to see solved is not enough and effective participation of European citizens in concrete political thematic decisions. Petitions are too symbolic, as the EC! To tackle this problem the Parliament should **make the European Citizens Initiative (ECI) more accessible to citizens** of the EU but especially make the ECI binding so that those citizens' opinions are heard also in between elections every four years.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of democratic participation in certain countries. My country's democratic participation rate is dangerously low. Populism and sensationalism is flourishing and intolerance is rising. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **encourage the UK to implement better education programs regarding Europe and the EU.** This issue is particularly important because I do not want my country to leave the EU. Much less do I want to abandon its values. Please help.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that people believe less and less in Europe and its capacities, because of lobbying, because of economic and human crisis that people almost don't believe to be possible to solve. It is a construction that needs to show to older and younger generation it is worth supporting. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **show that** they believe in Europe, that everything is possible, that **they want people of Europe to be a part of it,** that they are a part of it. If the EYE result in something good, if the ideas of the youth are listened, it would show it is not vain, because WE all together can do something to make the world a better place that we built. This issue is particularly important because before going deeply into something and investing your energy in it, you have to believe in its possibilities. And then only you will know that through this institution, you can really help and do something that matters.

- **Held European Referendums.** On the same day, with same rules and same questions in every single Member State. Otherwise, I can continue writing, but you will hear only my voice. How Europe can speak with one voice? Impossible, because we all are different and we all have different and individual opinions. But we are United in Diversity and indeed Diversity is what makes us United! Maybe if we speak with one voice, we will stop being united. This is the meaning of the Democracy - the voices of all to be heard and thus to be chosen the commonweal. Therefore, all of the EU problems must be solved through conversations and discussions. The solution to every problem is to be found within the good institutional coordination between the EU and the Member States. But what happens when the people do not trust their Governors? When they do not trust the EU Institutions as well? When there is a real crisis, but no real solution? Then people themselves should have to deal with the problems. In fact, people always are dealing themselves with the problems, just because the institutions are made from people - there is no Eurpean Parliament, but there are European deputies. And to be improved the trust and the credence in the Institutions, the Institutions must allow and help the people to improve them.

- **Organize the local communities** through collective housing, green zones, council of neighbourhoods, and cooperative decision-making process.

- **European civil volunteering service for all:** Let's combine the challenge of millions of unemployed young Europeans with that of the apparent fraying of the fabric of European unity. And then let's think about whether we can come up with a single idea that would both reduce youth unemployment and strengthen a common Europe. Young European service volunteers would be trained for entry-level community service jobs in schools, nursing homes, national parks and the like, as well as be taught the basics of the local language where they were sent. Imagine those young Europeans committing to two years of civic service. Plenty of people need more assistance than they receive. We need to leapfrog this crisis of confidence, the disappointment and disillusionment, and get ahead of the dangerous curve of unbridled social fear and anger. There are plenty of public spaces that need more tending to than they receive. There are trees to plant, graffiti to remove, sandboxes to build and schools and hospitals to decorate. There is urban wasteland to transform into community gardens and there are bicycles and tires to fish out of ponds and streams, wetlands to reclaim and stray pets to rescue. There are concerts to be given, plays to perform, and murals to be painted. There are languages to be taught, physical fitness to foster, blighted communities to strengthen, tolerance to develop and prejudice to dispel. And, there are also emergencies and disasters to prepare for, first aid to administer and public safety to ensure. In the present climate of massive youth unemployment and growing European disharmony, we need to boldly grasp an opportunity to take creative, decisive and appropriate steps to alleviate suffering and ameliorate damage. Let's make a grand gesture that faithfully conveys vision and hope, and truthfully delivers training, skills, jobs and public service across all of Europe. Let us stop talking of blame and victims, and instead talk of heroes, for truly that is what we need. European youth – unemployed or not – could be those heroes, and not just for one day.

- **Mandatory community services for young residents** (including young migrants) of the European Union countries. They can choose the field and the nature of their work, no matter what skills they already have.

- **Migrants' participation in public and official matters.** It is important that they feel they are not just living in the society but also participating to its organisation for example through political groups. Integrate means that they are active citizens.

- **Teach high school students to be critical on media information** in order for them to form their own opinions.

● PARTICIPATION

Education to democracy

- The problem I would like to see solved is the education system. To tackle this problem the Parliament should make a **European agenda for education.** We have to make the program that would allow learning about democracy and European values. This issue is particularly important because we need better Education.

- The education system should on all levels implement flexibility for the students to progress on their individual phase as well as to **implement more soft skills curriculum to foster their social conscience.**

- The problem I would like to see solved is social and political involvement and show of interest amongst people. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **communicate the work, the values and the goals of the EU** in a language that would appeal to people. This issue is particularly important because there cannot be exchange if democracy is not being taken advantage of fully.

- The problem I would like to see solved is low voter turnout amongst young people and knowledge about politics, especially EU workings. To tackle this problem the Parliament should improve young people's awareness of the EU and its work by promoting **educational packages for schools.** This issue is particularly important because I believe young people in the UK do not know enough about how the EU works and even what it is!

- In the current context of growing uncertainties about the future of the European Union, due to new simultaneous unprecedented challenges, such as: extremism and terrorist attacks, migrant crisis, economic situation in the euro area, Eurosceptic elites, we urge to create a **Common European School Programme,** based on non-formal and informal activities, co-constructed with pedagogical teams, that together with classic formal education will reinforce the discussions about EU issues in schools.

  This new programme aimed at promoting European citizenship and European values such as equality, human rights, tolerance, non-discrimination and solidarity, through a common educational approach in the European Union, based on creating a link between the school curriculum and the non-formal and informal education.

  This initiative would directly complete the Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (17 March 2015), by emphasizing the importance of a Common European Framework for activities promoting the European citizenship, based on non-formal and informal education in schools.

  This proposal has three main objectives: 1) Reducing inequalities of access in the European debates and European citizenship-related issues; 2) Creating a dialogue with young people across the Europe, facilitating their participation in various activities in the European Union; 3) Facilitating connections between the formal, non-formal and informal education in the European Union, all aiming at promoting the European citizenship.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that young generations in my country have problems. They are not used to take any decision and try something new but are rather following footsteps made by predecessors. For a short term, that means stagnation, but on the long term it is degradation of living standard and mental health. We need new ideas to improve our society and ourselves. To tackle this problem the Parliament should start some **programmes focused on innovative thinking, researches, etc.** but conducted by younger generation, not young adults but younger, 18 years old and younger. This issue is particularly important because I work as youth trainer and new generations don't have the will to research or invent new ways to reach the goal and even strength to decide what they like because they don't have/find/see opportunities.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of attention political parties receive from younger people as well as more political education in school in order for young people to be well informed later on in life. To tackle this problem the Parliament shall try to implement **political education in schools.** This issue is particularly important because a lot of young people are not interested in politics.

- We believe that **education** is the key point to shape the future generations.

- Adopt new methods to educate children, **democratic methods applied in school:** Montessori, Freynet, Steiner, democratic schools.

- Focus on new courses about the EU. **Teaching of new essential skills, such as critical thinking, intercultural understanding,** as well as harmonised formation of open-minded teachers.

Digital engagement

- I propose that European Parliament should **encourage more exposure of its MEPs through the use of social media,** specifically, by establishing a Twitter and Facebook account where a range of representatives can communicate with young people across Europe. We've all heard of structured dialogue. But I think, it's about time young people and representatives established a form of unstructured dialogue. Social media is the perfect tool to bridge the gap between young people and the EU in a relevant and accessible way. Currently, young people lack a concrete response by politicians to specific forms of youth participation – such as public protests or student demonstrations. We need to feel like our voices are being heard in order to establish a cooperative culture within the EU. This media platform will act as a form of informal dialogue. We can promote a Q&A Twitter hour, MEPs can consult with young people on issues and more importantly, establish a more open and relatable identity. I have a lot of burning questions for my MEPs. What can I do to help with issues like the refugee crisis? What's your favourite sub committee to work on and of course, which euro vision performance did you enjoy the most? Being able to tweet my MEP would allow me to get answers to these and many others. The EU is desperate

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for new channels of communication and innovative methods of dialogue to introduce young people into democratic life. If MEPs are willing to engage with us, we would be more than obliged to return the favour.

- I propose the **creation of iVoice, an app & website that would allow young Europeans to engage in civic life wherever they are, whenever they want, and in a funny manner.** iVoice would be designed in a very easy format such as Tinder. iVoice would include 4 parts:

  - "Your Projects": users can submit their project(s) and try to get support from other app's users. For instance: "build a new football pitch in the neighbourhood". If needed, you could enclose a small description of the project.

  - "Ongoing Projects": what the EU institutions are currently working on & other users' ideas/projects, and how this idea/ project could affect your daily life.

  - "Your Representatives": This section would include all the MEPs' profiles, with the objective to give them a "human face". Every profile would include information on each MEPs which users can like or dislike through a button. MEPS would have the possibility to access this information for interaction.

  - "How to Make a Change": This section would include tips & guidelines on how to build an idea or a project and make it happen (how to organise yourself, etc.).

  After a certain period (3 months), a report would be published to show how much support, in how much time, individual project got. On the basis of this report, MEPs (and politicians of other levels) could show their willingness to follow or not the expressed opinion. Users could monitor how much their opinion has been taken into account and by whom; they could come into contact with politicians and supporting users if needed. The point of iVoice is to bring and build a culture of participation in public life, of which vote is only a small component and to get young people interested in public affairs.

- **A digital platform to increase the direct role of citizens in the decision-making process** and to combat the notion that engaging in democracy doesn't change society or policy.

- Citizens shall be able to **vote through the Internet, using biometrical recognition.** Education on the Internet and the use of technological advances to protect your rights.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the general European consensus for a move towards e-voting. To tackle this problem the Parliament should not introduce e-voting. Encourage youth participating in politics through improved education regarding the importance of European political affairs. This issue is particularly important because **E-voting degrades the democratic process.** If it is too easy to vote, people will vote more carelessly! If people have to physically, walk to a polling booth or send off a letter, that encourages thought and effort going into their decision. Everyone has the right to vote, and my proposal will not effect this!

- Free WIFI Spots for people to get **free access to the Internet** and devices. / European Union "Free Internet" access for all European

Citizens. This will ensure the democratic values of Europe will be present online as well. An independent NGO will make sure Europe is 100% covered and this obligation is enforced.

- According to Eurostat in 2014, 81% of households in the EU had access to the Internet. We therefore need the EU to take a brave and necessary step into the 21st Century: we need the EU **invest in digital democracy.**

- Recent League of Young Voters research revealed that young people have turned to non-institutionalised platforms, preferring to engage in a more personalised, issues-based form of politics. I'm sure we agree that information needs to be shared in order for young people to participate in democracy? So what better way to share information then using a platform the majority of young people in Europe engage with- the internet!

  Therefore, I propose that the European Parliament **expands its digital Platform, EuroParlTV to include a new Channel called YouthEuropeParl.** This channel will produce short, comical videos, blogs created, produced and presented by a diverse range of young European Citizens. Each programme or activity on the channel would end with a democratic action for the young audience. This could be to write, lobby and or meet their MEP to their opinions on the current issues and ask them questions or to register and to vote in upcoming, local, national and European elections, and finally to participate in decision making and policy consultations process. This youth channel has the ability to grow and grow, I envision a YouthEuropParl App, campaign days organised by young people on specific issues and live online discussion chats. And having young people at the heart of this channel means we are supporting the future generation to engage with democracy. A Youth Channel that discusses democracy in a relatable manner will not only attract and engage young people but will empower more young people to be confident in raising their voices and in participating in democracy.

Youth involvement

- The problem I would like to see solved is to help those people fighting for their rights and struggling to have a brighter future. To tackle this problem the Parliament should encourage more young people to be more active when it comes to politics and to **join any political association** they can. This issue is particularly important because I find really disturbing watching young people doing nothing while the world is so rapidly changing.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the low youth participation and knowledge about the European Union, institutions and political processes. To tackle this problem the Parliament should promote **more cooperation between the European Parliament information centers and schools, provide more information, and teaching materials for teachers.** This issue is particularly important because the youth's interest in the EU is decreasing. There is a lack information and therefore lack of political participation. I think teaching people about EU and its processed should start in schools.

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- The problems I would like to see solved are migration, education, paid internships and quality jobs. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **encourage young people to become more engaged** and to actively participate in issues which concern them.

- I propose that on their 16th birthday, every single European citizen receives a letter from Brussels: **"Happy Birthday! 16? Perfect age to make your voice heard!** Here is Your EU Guide, to help you find how to". The European Commission, the Council (to get acceptance of Member States re: contact details; the political momentum might not be the best!) and the European Parliament should be leading together this initiative. Your EU Guide would be specially dedicated to young Europeans turning 16 ("Dear Benjamin,…") and signed by the presidents of the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council. Either the letter would contain a link to a website, or a (sort of) pack would be sent directly. A letter can sound very old-fashioned but is the only mean to ensure everyone is reached. Moreover, it is a big symbol to young Europeans to receive a letter directly from the EU institutions. The letter comes from Brussels and ends in your hands, wherever you live in the EU. It will create a certain physical connection to the EU. Your EU Guide would include information on EU missions & goals, EU institutional structure, what the EU does/does not (competences), what the EU does for you (direct impact in daily life), but most importantly what you can do with the EU (e.g. Erasmus programme), what you can do for the EU & how to make a change (e.g. tips, guidelines, events such as EYE, etc.), etc. Your EU Guide would trigger a response by inviting young Europeans to an event in her/his member state to meet MEPs, talk about Europe and give her/his opinion. Your EU Guide could moreover include a voucher to spend at an EU institution. Why is it important? The lack of public engagement often results from the lack of information, so does the lack of trust in public authorities. The unknown/not understood is always dubious. It is true that the European Union makes available a lot of information online and printed in offices of the Commission to member states for instance. But who goes there? Who reads this information? Brussels seems so distant to us, young Europeans. We need to feel more connected to the EU, we need direct links, and to know how to build them. Your EU Guide would help all of us.

- Organise **children international conferences:** ideas gatherer, future projects enforcers. **Create child networks:** their own NGO. Self-managed. The final goal is to build local and national children self-managed NGOs. Starting from initial formative talks, to further building a network wherein children can actively brainstorm, promote policies and become project managers.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that young people are not taken seriously! I do not feel respected and listened to by institutions such as the EP or even my own government. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **not treat us like children,** but as equals who have something to say and who don't need citizens' group to get heard. This issue is particularly important because through this event I got to know people with great ideas but I immediately doubted that anyone of their Parliament would take them seriously. You should for example offer positions to young people to participate directly in discussions of European institutions. (e.g create dual study programs alternating work and studies. Go directly to schools and universities to ask and listen to people).

- The problem I would like to see solved is that youth has too little occasions to discuss and debate. The potential of EYE isn't properly used. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **organize the EYE every year.** Single events should be longer. There should be more time for youth to speak than for panelists. More MEP's and people from the EC should meet with youth and discuss.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that politics **should always consult young people before making decisions.** Young people will actually be the ones affected for longest by those decisions. To tackle this problem the Parliament should ensure duly consultation of young people and make sure it is also concretely taken into account.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that being a French 16 year old, I am profoundly frustrated to witness parts of the French youth sowing an irresponsible, meaningless, and purely provocative behaviour in demonstrations against a law I suspect many have not actually thought about. The police, who have performed huge amounts of work following the terror attacks are now being rejected and shamed, and cities are suffering from vandalism. All of this is happening because people stubbornly want to show opposition to the government.

  I believe the source of this problem is the lack of inclusion of the youth in the political system. Since they feel left out they take uniformed decisions often in favour of extreme parties. I believe that along with more political critical thinking lessons in high school curriculums, vote should be accessible as soon as 16 years old. This greater inclusion will create a greater sense of national identity and diminish support and participation to purely provocative protests.

  Some think giving the **vote to 16** years olds to be dangerous because teenagers are easily influenced. I believe it would in fact have the opposite effect. They will feel more included and having a responsibility will increase their interest in political participation. Implementing this soon will help to be aware therefore helping them make more informed choices. Additionally critical thinking lessons will teach them to vote responsibly.

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth involvement in world issues. To tackle this problem the Parliament should offer more. This issue is particularly important to let us do what we are good at by encouraging our evolution and **acknowledging the need of youth participation.**

- Develop a "W.Y.E." (**world youth event**): an organisation for policy making and decisions by the world youth. Composed by regional representation, with minority quota. Once a year, the organisation makes the W.Y.E. in order to stimulate a worldwide dialogue.

- **Foster youth equality:** the youth needs to feel like one community and equal. They should feel like they can really

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make the changes. We can achieve that, by creating a sense of belonging within the youth, regardless of their background.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the right to vote for all Europeans regardless of their age. I believe the Parliament could allow **parents to vote for their children** until they are at an age when they can fully understand what they are voting for. This issue is particularly important because our politics need to think further than a legislation period (sustainability) and children needs. Especially regarding the world they will live in are under-represented.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the difference between who was born in the first part of the year and who was born in the last part. To tackle this problem the Parliament should approve a law where **people become legal to vote, have a driver's license ect. before their 18th birthday,** on the first of January of that year. This issue is particularly important because people with the same age should get the same nights of the beginning of the year. For example: youth from 1998 can't vote if they were born in December and someone of January can.

- I propose that the EU should implement a consistent commissioning infrastructure to **facilitate the engagement of young people from different minority groups in democratic and civic life.** This commissioning process will enable youth organisations to coordinate grassroots engagement, allow innovative and interactive methods of education in an informal setting. Currently, just 15 out of 766 Members of European Parliament have an ethnic minority background. I know this can't change overnight, but if we want to see things progress, the EU must start taking positive steps to reach out to all of today's youth, who are also tomorrow's leaders. Studies such as PODID show, levels of political and civic engagement vary significantly according to the intersection between age, gender and ethnicity. This is why I want to see a consistent educational programme, not a one off project. By being implemented at a grassroots level, we are more likely to access disengaged members of minority groups. In most cases, young people's apathy towards leading a democratic life begins and ends with lack of information. By increasing awareness, we are providing disadvantaged young people with the key to accessing opportunities and to be an active citizen. This key, is knowledge.

In 2008, the United States of America elected its first black president. If the US can have a black president, surely Europe can diversify its engagement of young people. Do we really want to be seen more behind than the nation that gave us Donald Trump? My message is clear; if you want to see more young people engage, reach out to all of them. Politics affects us all, LGBT, disabled ethnic minorities. We all have the right to choose a democratic life. Help us do that.

● EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Shared identity

- The problem I would like to see solved is that there is a big lack of the feeling of solidarity and sense of belonging in Europe. Europe is more than just politics. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **keep the borders open.** We are one! Walls don't protect, they separate! (e.g East/West Germany). An identity as Europeans needed (with more programs like Erasmus). How about an European culture clash festival? Singers (artists) in different places in Europe but at the same time? (laughing together connects). This issue is particularly important because if we want Europe as an open, free, and unique example for cooperative collaboration as it is/should be, if we want to stay able to act in this world and react to globalization, climate change and other global challenges, we need Europe and its people strong. We are Europeans! We are world citizens!

- The problem I would like to see solved is that Europe is a place without borders, but after recent events such as the refugee crisis, they have to some extent been brought back, not only physically but mostly mentally. To tackle this problem the Parliament should make it a priority to prevent all these mental borders from building up by **sharing with people all the positive things the EU has brought** but at the same time acknowledge that people's fears are real, and find ways to make their voices heard without it turning into a EU divide. This issue is particularly important because free movement has brought us so much on so many levels that we should not allow ourselves to let this progress crumble down.

- The problem I would like to see solved is European identity, European participation. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **promote European referendum** to decide on issues: migration, economics, war and peace. This issue is particularly important because I believe the most democratic union in the world should demonstrate to be integrating European citizens on European issues.

- The problem I would like to see solved is European identity, European cohesion, European common thinking. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **create a programme** (talk show, other initiatives) **to be shown on national televisions all over Europe.** This issue is particularly important to create symbols with whom a European citizens can identify him/herself.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that young people need to discover Europe themselves to become part of it. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **give each European who turns 18 a one month interrail pass and grant to attend it**. This issue is particularly important because if people discover Europe themselves, they will be convinced how useful it is.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that people don't feel European. Most of the EU citizens talk about the EU 'they' and not as 'we'. To tackle this problem the people should **try to understand what being European is and that common decisions that the EP makes are exactly that common.** This is a national government's problem, but the Parliament should try to

raise awareness between the national representatives to change their attitude because it reflects itself in their citizens' attitude. This issue is particularly important to my country because citizens must understand what is going on and why otherwise they will only think that everyone is against them. People question they don't understand and mainly what they hear and people still fear the EU because they don't feel completely part of it.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that many European citizens are not enough confronted with their European identity and are disconnected from their counterparts in other countries. Therefore, they feel little implication in European decisions and have a vague idea of it. Personally, as a French, I did not know what life in Bulgaria was like and only had a vague idea based on how I live in Western Europe. But it is with much interest that I was informed of ongoing economic and democratic challenges there by a Bulgarian diplomat I met. To tackle this problem the Parliament should firstly **set up "European tents"** in major cities where the all aspects of life - good and bad - in all other European countries are presented. Secondly having big companies organize internships for their employees where they discuss the company's role in the EU and how they can improve it. Thirdly, an EYP-like structure and EYE-like events for adults to allow a continuous participation in European debate. This issue is particularly important because to me the ideal form of democracy is a participative democracy where all citizens, of all ages, are correctly politically educated and invited to participate to European politics in different ways. I think the suggestions I made would effectively increase the population's feeling of European identity and responsibility to be engaged and vote. It is also the role of the commission to go address the citizens and inform them of the resources at their disposal in order to participate.

- Create a new compulsory **subject in schools about living together and cultural exchange.**

- Two hours per week where students **meet and talk about their culture, values,** etc. -> cultural sharing school councils.

Languages

- The problem I would like to see solved is that Europe lacks a genuinely common language, which excludes some citizens from European democratic debates (e.g. in the context of Spitzenkandidaten) and hinders labour mobility in the EU. English, by far the most widely known language, is only spoken fluently by 38% of Europeans (see Eurobarometer 386, 2012), while constructed languages haven't gained ground as lingua francas. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **introduce a final assessment of English competence to schools** where students complete their last mandatory modules of English. CEFR B2 should be the target level of competence (this equals ~600 hours of guided study, according to Cambridge ESOL). EC DG EAC shall craft a guide for language instruction, from which schools can draw, harmonising their methods without coercive

● EUROPEAN IDENTITY

legislation. This issue is particularly important because a common language is not only a prerequisite for smooth political debate but also a building block of shared identity. If everyone is fluent in one language, the language barrier is also brought down in the labour market. The EC guide would also facilitate efficient teaching in other languages than English.

- An **international language taught at school.** Compulsory. In addition to foreign languages.

- One **new language, which everybody would be able to speak, but all the cultures are respected.**

- **Either English, Spanish or a new language,** this would be taught in schools as part of the national curriculum and the education in this language would be offered for free as well as a new app so as not to exclude those not in school.

- **Europe would be divided in 3 great language areas:** Roman (French), Germanic (English or German), Slavic (Polish). So each country would keep their own languages but in school, children should learn these 3 languages. Goal : better communication.

Mobility

- **Scholarships funded by government to give people the freedom to work and study wherever they wish.**

- Provide more **free travel opportunities and exchange programmes to outside EU** countries (new Erasmus).

- Implementation of **exchange programs at all ages and in all fields.**

- Move your body: discover the world!! **Promote mobility and enhance programmes at a GLOBAL level** (ex. global Erasmus).

- Create more **partnerships in schools from different countries.**

- More projects like **Erasmus and a global program** for all students across the world.

- Create **ERASMUS Summer Camps** for a short period of time in order to spread the word and sensitize other kids to better integrate everyone.

- Cheaper travel, also accessible to people of lower economic class and from outside Europe/ the global north. **Visa access easier for people from outside Europe-** make travelling possible both ways.

● EU DEMOCRACY

EU integration

- Create a **United States of Europe** based on fostered collaboration and guaranteeing fundamental rights, in order to become an important part in an upcoming World Union.

- Many countries within the EU claim not to be ready for huge democratic progress and prefer to remain conservative; this is one of the main problems I would like to see solved. There seems to be very little balance between the two options and a little cooperation between those who have different views. The Parliament should **allow the conservative countries to firstly develop enough in order to understand the progress and then tell them to integrate.** This issue is particularly important to me because I live in a country where tradition is loved and cherished but we would also like to experience true and correctly applied democracy. Romania might not be ready to handle many changes at once like marriage equality and migration. We need to solve our own problems first and only after that better integrate.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of democracy in certain countries. For example, I'm from Poland and I claim that democracy is fine. People say and out as they wish. The problem is they/we as society act and vote against, instead of for, our common goals. What pushes young people having international experience to contribute to increasing nationalism? To tackle this problem the Parliament should find out what young people are afraid of. They should **admit that there are weaknesses within EU and acknowledge them.** This issue is particularly important to me because I was an exchange student myself and I do represent EFIL and AFFS international programs, intercultural learning. I wish that we, the youth, were not so divided. I admire the variety but we should start to believe in the power of discussion not arguments.

Transparency

- The problem I would like to see solved is fixing Europe's democratic deficit. To tackle this problem the Parliament should lead an initiative. Start legislating resolutions **calling for a constitutional convention to establish a constitution for Europe, which will reform institutions making them more democratic.** This issue is particularly important because Europe needs a stronger voice from its people. Bureaucracy and nationalistic policy making of member states heads of government need to stop. Give the power to the people and the EP.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of democracy and transparency in the EU regarding decision-making. It's turning our people inward and against each other. The privatisation of anxiety, the **fear of the 'other',** the nationalisation of ambition, and the re-nationalisation of policy, threaten a toxic disintegration of common interests from which Europe can only

suffer. This widens the social gap, threatens democracy and the disintegration of the EU.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of democracy and transparency in the EU, the lack of citizen participation towards the EU as well as a path forward to a political Union and more integration. To tackle this problem the Parliament should take action demanding a **European Convention to bring democracy to the EU.** Civil society should be allowed to join such debate and the shaping of new treaties, if necessary. This issue is particularly important because it can improve the whole democracy deficit within the EU and build society's confidence in EU institutions once again.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that National-level parties nominate their candidates to EP elections but in the Parliament high cohesion within European party groups makes European parties the main players. Sometimes there is ideological disparity between the two levels - Väyrynen's membership of the ALDE group is a case in point. This is a problem from the perspective of transparency. To enhance ideological cohesion within party groups, **European-level parties should have a veto to national-level parties' candidate lists.** This issue is particularly important because ensuring that a citizen knows what kind of a party they are voting for is paramount to the accountability, transparency and legitimacy of the Parliament.

- The problem I would like to see solved is lobbying. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **enforce registration of lobbies** (more transparency, more control).

- The problem I would like to see solved is that there is a lack of transparency and democracy in the EU regarding decision-making. Decisions are made but the EU doesn't always represent the will of the people, but the interests of people in power. Transparency can help democratize the EU by eliminating the threat that interests pose. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **review transparency in decision making:**

- Compulsory register for lobbyists (name, clients)

- EU council, Euro group meetings to be life streamed

- Minutes of European Central Bank concerning Council meeting to be published a few weeks after meeting have taken place

- All documents pertinent to Council negotiations (TTP, UK status) affecting every facet of European citizens future to be published on the web

This issue is particularly important because people need to know what is taken into consideration during the meetings in which decisions are being made. This not only affects the EU at an international level, but also each and every one of the citizens. Without transparency there's no democracy, and without democracy the EU will disintegrate and we don't want that to happen.

- **Ensure independence of media,** for more access to information, transparency and objectivity. Encourage investigations under the media framework.

● EU DEMOCRACY

- We need a new **unbiased media platform** which deals with important, realistic and global information and news.

- Everybody should have **uncensored access to the Internet.**

- The problem I would like to see solved is whistleblower rights: the lack of whistleblower protection in Europe, and their legal protection against the public interest. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **grant legal protection from persecution to whistleblowers whose revelations serve the public interest.** This issue is particularly important because in certain areas today, public interest (privacy rights, TTIP, labour nights) is being better served by certain individuals with high integrity than by their governments' legislative and juridical system.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the new law that will be implemented soon by the EU against whistleblowers. I think that business should be transparent and **whistleblowing should not be punishable by law.** If a business has a secret it is the citizens' right to know. Once that secret is reveled, whoever has discovered it should not be published by the law for exposing information which should not have been hidden. To tackle this problem the Parliament should vote against this law. Additionally, there should be an additional law for rising protectionism for whistleblowers (and not against them). This issue is particularly important because if this new law is agreed upon, the press all over Europe will lose its freedom and all citizens. All citizens won't be protected because they wouldn't know things going on in companies.

- The change in new laws for companies against consumers. For example, **consumer protection linked to food.**

● WORKING CONDITIONS

Work-life balance

- Workers should be able to **set work time** with the employers, and during their career change their tasks for a certain amount of years in order to make the work-life balance suitable.

- Employees should have the freedom to **choose tasks, working times, and colleagues** at their workplace. More entrepreneurship; no hierarchies.

- We need **better mental health care.** Negative emotional symptoms are as vital to address as negative physical symptoms. If you can call in sick due to stomach pain you should be able to call in sick for feeling worthless.

- There should be a balance in your life of **work** (25%), **training & learning** (25%), **holidays & rest** (25%) and **volunteering** (25%).

Personal development

- **Personal work time:** Time and resources should be provided by your employer for your personal growth/ idea development.

- There should be the possibility of **development and training on the job.** More personal and professional development.

- We need **life-coaching and mentoring** for a more holistic approach to the work place that helps individuals identify their needs, increases their consciousness and enables groups to identify and contribute to common values.

- We need to make sure that aside from a basic level of living, people have prospects in life. There needs to be the **prospect of a good education,** a job, and opportunities to travel and exchange in order for people to work towards a common goal.

- **Give people a purpose!** If you have something good to do, you won't do something bad.

New work tasks and jobs

- We need to foster ways in which people can share their skills and **work not for money but services and goods.**

- Build a **"re-greening industry".** We need large scale repair of damages done to the earth, creating jobs that bring people closer to nature and protect the future of all species.

- We need to **replace low-skilled workers with robot.** To avoid wasting time by doing stuff like producing products such as clothes, shoes, food, which should be done by robots.

- We need a **public workplace** if the company doesn't provide a workplace, for example, because employee work mostly from home. It allows exchanges and socialising between workers from different companies and industries.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that elderly people often feel lonely, useless and don't have enough **exchange between generations.** To tackle this the European Parliament should **support shared housing facilities for old people.** Old people 'work' part time in kindergarten/primary schools. This saves money. Children are cared for, the elderly are happy. This issue is particularly important because young people can and should learn more from those with more life experience. In modern Western societies families are no longer as close and important. Hence, there is a lack of different generations learning together.

Start-ups

- The problem I would like to see solved is the low amount of entrepreneurship in Europe. To tackle this problem the Parliament should provide **lower interest rate loans for start-ups** and allow them to begin the **return after 3 to 4 years.** This will provide the entrepreneurs with a considerable amount of time to develop their business and the possibility for success will increase sufficiently. This issue is particularly important because alongside with the growth of start-ups the European economy will grow as well. In turn this will mean higher GDP, more jobs and opportunities, etc. It is very important because for a lot of entrepreneurs funding is the main problem, myself included.

- Having, for example, **3 years tax relief** for new businesses will allow innovators and job creators to better develop their business ideas.

- **Second chances for start-ups and enterprises.** I propose that the EU gives more emphasis to a number of serious issues related to SMEs, given the fundamental role they play in economic growth and cohesion, including the change in bankruptcy and Second Chance legislation. I recommend an EU-wide harmonisation of bankruptcy legislation and liquidation aiming to complete all legal procedures in cases of non-fraudulent bankruptcy within a year. In addition, present national/regional programs as best practices that aim to help entrepreneurs break-out of the cycle of legal, economic and social stigmatisation that forges a strong link between business failure and fraud, would ensure that re-starters are treated on an equal footing with new start-ups, providing a framework that truly fosters innovation. When we talk about using the digital revolution as a foundation for jobs and innovation, we need to take into account that it's not simply done by creating digital start-ups. To benefit from Europe's digital agenda, a robust business environment and legal framework is conditio-sine qua non, but many policies so far have focused only on the necessity to "produce" more entrepreneurs and not so much on the necessity to preserve the stock of entrepreneurs. Many honest entrepreneurs feel discouraged from re-starting due to the stigma and difficulties they faced after a bankruptcy, even if research has proven that the second-time starters are more likely to succeed. In addition, bankruptcy

● WORKING CONDITIONS

has an important secondary effect on entrepreneurship: many would-be entrepreneurs do not start a company because of their fear of failure. If we compare it to the US, the tolerance there for failure is much higher, acknowledging that those that re-start have lower rates of failure and experience faster growth in terms of turnover and jobs created than newly established companies.

- How can Europe support digital and hidden champions to compete with the US? I propose the creation of a **legal framework and the recognition of Junior Enterprises** as a legal entity as well as the introduction of a best practice to tackle youth unemployment and close the skills gap at European level. I have worked for a Junior Enterprise and am currently Vice President of "JADE- the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises".   A Junior Enterprise is a non-profit civil social organization, formed and managed exclusively by students in higher education. JEs provide services for companies, institutions and society, which can be a consultancy project for a NGO or designing a website for low-budget start-up. Junior Enterprises have one goal in common: to consolidate and enhance the skills development of their members. They are an essential motor for innovation and economic growth, given the fact that 21% of former Junior Entrepreneurs start their own company within 3 years of graduation, while the EU average is between 4 and 8%. They are self-sustaining and self-developing organisations with little demand for external resources. However, the Junior Enterprise movement has grown tremendously since 1967. Finding themselves as an intermediary between university and businesses, the legal framework for them is very different, up to unclear, in each Member State. This could become, in a more and more connected and shared economy and society, a problem in the future. If we don't act, we risk losing the motivation for self-empowerment of those young people who are willing to create their own job opportunities in an ever changing and challenging labour market. It is vital that Junior Enterprises are being acknowledged and supported as an important driver of employment, social integration and economic growth through a legal framework and recognition.

Gender gap

- The problem I would like to see solved is the fact that it is still very difficult for women to coordinate work and family. It is also very hard to get back into their job after having left for a year or so. I think that it's a huge problem that has to be solved, because now many **women are forced to choose between work and family.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should make it easier for women to manage work and family. They should have a place for their children to go to while they are working as that's not always a given. I think it should also be easier for women to work part-time, which is sometimes hard to achieve because of the company they are working in. Therefore I think that the European Union should think about solutions to that problem, as this is a problem in many of the 28 states. This issue is particularly important because the question of success and family are big

questions for many women in the EU, because it effects their everyday life and their future.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the gender gap. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should a) **Solve the salary gap** and forbid the right to be a housewife!; b) Grant the **same parental leave for both parents!** c) Change mentalities towards the notion of gender: no men, no women, only **human beings.** This is particularly important because so many talents are wasted. We have to encourage the fact that men AND woman are able to do what they want. A significant part of the unemployment rate will decrease and we will be able to raise our kids in a NORMAL WORLD with equal people.

● EDUCATION

Study content and orientation

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **equal level of study.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should promote a universal European reform. This issue is particularly important to be able to communicate in all Europe with an equal knowledge and with an equal level of English.

- **Universities should work together with the actual labour market;** this cooperation would allow them to learn from each other as well as providing knowledge and fostering innovation.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that there are too many young people who are **going to universities just because they don't have another choice.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should encourage member states (especially Eastern Europe e.g Estonia) to improve the specialties offered in national schools. These countries could apply for the money if needed from the Cohesion Fund. This issue is particularly important because young people are complaining about not finding a job according to their profession, which results in countries having many people with master's degrees becoming cleaners. The state has put a lot of money into the education of these people but they get nothing back. Vocational schools are the key to solve this problem. Thank you.

- We need a **bottom-up social network approach to education:** 1) Education should be online, accessible to anyone; 2) teachers should be moderators; 3) education should be (partly) students' curiosity-based; 4) students should have all ages (including adults, working population, etc.)

- The problem I would like to see solved is more focus on what schools are teaching. Many schools focus on subjects such as Maths or Geography but neglect basic things, which we need for our daily lives. The EU should **expand the subjects being taught in schools in order to teach young people how to survive in 'the real world'.**

- **Teach young people more about the Internet** through cartoons, social networks and other forms of informal media outlets and actively use it as a way to give a voice to excluded social groups.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that international experience should be more important in today's labor market. By **studying abroad** for extended period of time European could accumulate such experience but the threshold of applying to do a degree abroad is high for many! To tackle this problem the Parliament should **encourage university exchange programs** so that students could do half of their undergraduate studies in their home countries and half of them abroad. This issue is particularly important because such initiatives offer even more than Erasmus in terms of careers prospects in a foreign country and preparation for a career. Transcending national borders, such competence is needed in the future.

- We should have **official international teachers** in public schools.

- Everybody should master **one language** to be able to communicate with everybody but still keep the mother language.

- **Refugees shall be offered English classes** within the first year in their new country. EU has to provide the financial support for this. Everyone should be able to communicate on a basic level!

- **Free education for everybody,** and it should include books, food, place to stay, and scholarships.

Research

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **lack of investment in research and the dichotomy between research in hard sciences and human sciences** that are equally essential for our society. To tackle this problem the Parliament should use the Bologna process to frame an investment and recognition plan for European research. This issue is particularly important because the world is running faster and faster thanks to research in 'hand sciences' and that is fine, but as human sciences cannot follow without investment en recognition, our society takes the risk to be overwhelmed by not controlling or needs, desires and what we create (robots for example).

- The problem I would like to see solved is to **make a career in research more attractive** for young university graduates and professionals. While funding issues are usually in the forefront of discussions on promoting academic research in science and technology, an equally important issue is that concerning developing the human resources necessary to perform the research. Even if all the funding in the world was available to university departments, some high-performing students would still avoid careers in academia because of what are currently considered prodigious shortcomings to such careers. Losing these students to industry and the private sector is a double tragedy: it deprives general fundamental research - critical to scientific progress yet not always immediately remunerative - of a large pool of human talent, while simultaneously depriving students of any real option of pursuing such research, even if they find it rewarding otherwise. For this reason it is critical for the sciences in Europe we promulgate a more attractive framework for careers in academic research and encourage the implementation of the new framework throughout the European Union. It is for this reason I would like to solicit the EP to:

- Encourage university research institutions to start the recruitment process early before graduation in order to establish personal connections to the students (e.g. at informal events) in a way that mimics the established and successful recruitment processes of private companies

- Consider possibilities to reduce the management workload associated with research funding and execution in order to allow more time for the scientific inquiry and research process itself

- Develop protocols that enable researchers to follow personal scientific interests as opposed to being confined to applied research

● EDUCATION

- Examine working conditions, productivity and performance incentives in the salary scheme of academic research institutions, and compare them to private industry standards

- Review the common practice of short-term research contracts and the provision of social security benefits in relation to the customary handling of said benefits in the industry.

Non-formal education

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **acceptance of informal learning / activities on the same level as diplomas.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should push for an internationally accepted document (some already exist, e.g. The youth pass), which should also get promoted a lot more throughout companies and businesses. This issue is particularly important because I am sick of people not getting accepted for jobs because they are just not the type to get good grades on exams, yet they can do so much more outside of the formal learning sector!

- I propose an **act local - think global citizenship programme** to help develop young people into active, responsible citizens. This three-year programme will consist of non-formal education workshops and online blended learning. Local governments know their communities best, particularly the disaffected groups of young people such as care leavers, youth offenders and those vulnerable to joining extremist causes. The EU must command all member states to deliver this through local government only. Local governments in partnership with local youth organisations and youth clubs will deliver two workshops. These will include: belonging to one Europe and one world, how we as young citizens can hold representatives to account and affect policies and decisions, and key soft skills such as take initiative and creative innovation. Online blended learning through weekly task missions will be used to reinforce what has been taught in the workshops. There is also a competition at the end of the programme for the young people to communicate their own act local think global campaign they have been working on, for example starting or increasing up-cycling in their local community to tackle climate change. To make this idea a success, targets need to include admitting a high percentage of vulnerable young people to be on the programme for example those excluded from school and in pupil referral units or the equivalent. This programme is about providing opportunities for ALL members of the youth population to make meaningful contributions to the decision-making process.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the gap between what we know at the end of the curriculum and what we should know to get a job and do it well. To tackle this problem the Parliament should not only talk about internships in professional studies, but also remember **the skills (including soft skills) that an experience in an association can bring.** This issue is particularly important because we seem to value technical skills far more than 'human' skills (teamwork, initiative, problem-

solving kills), whereas these are what everybody needs in any kind of work. Higher education is not only about earning a job though, but life.

- **European civil volunteering service for all:** Let's combine the challenge of millions of unemployed young Europeans with that of the apparent fraying of the fabric of European unity. And then let's think about whether we can come up with a single idea that would both reduce youth unemployment and strengthen a common Europe. Young European service volunteers would be trained for entry-level community service jobs in schools, nursing homes, national parks and the like, as well as be taught the basics of the local language where they were sent. Imagine those young Europeans committing to two years of civic service. Plenty of people need more assistance than they receive. We need to leapfrog this crisis of confidence, the disappointment and disillusionment, and get ahead of the dangerous curve of unbridled social fear and anger.

There are plenty of public spaces that need more tending to than they receive. There are trees to plant, graffiti to remove, sandboxes to build and schools and hospitals to decorate. There is urban wasteland to transform into community gardens and there are bicycles and tires to fish out of ponds and streams, wetlands to reclaim and stray pets to rescue. There are concerts to be given, plays to perform, and murals to be painted. There are languages to be taught, physical fitness to foster, blighted communities to strengthen, tolerance to develop and prejudice to dispel. And, there are also emergencies and disasters to prepare for, first aid to administer and public safety to ensure. In the present climate of massive youth unemployment and growing European disharmony, we need to boldly grasp an opportunity to take creative, decisive and appropriate steps to alleviate suffering and ameliorate damage. Let's make a grand gesture that faithfully conveys vision and hope, and truthfully delivers training, skills, jobs and public service across all of Europe. Let us stop talking of blame and victims, and instead talk of heroes, for truly that is what we need. European youth – unemployed or not – could be those heroes, and not just for one day.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- **Apprenticeships shall not be considered as a second-class education.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should show Europeans how important these jobs are. Start campaigns in capital cities, show videos on the national TVs, etc. This issue is particularly important because people who do an apprenticeship are seen as educated in second class.

● JOB MARKET

Access to information

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment. In order to facilitate the access of young people into the labour market I propose that the EU Institutions and Member States develop **supportive measures, new employment schemes and mechanisms** that will have a real impact on young people's employability. This can be achieved with the creation of an EU common platform where young people can be adequately informed of their working rights (especially for their right to employment and EU labour law) and a platform where they can search for only quality and fairly remunerated opportunities as well as transnational mobility opportunities. In addition to this, I strongly encourage the European Commission to develop mechanisms that ensure the existence and the provision of high quality employment opportunities in Europe, opportunities that provide a decent income to young people and not employment opportunities that abuse their eagerness to work and gain experience. Last, I believe that the development of new financial assistance schemes is really important in helping public and private employers to recruit more young people. I know that reducing youth unemployment is one of your priorities in the EU Agenda, but words and promises must be followed by actions and sometimes by money, too. We really need actions that will have a real impact on young people's lives and boost their employability.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the fact that some people are stuck in a career they don't love due to a **lack of opportunities.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should **better expose the jobs market as well as the talented young people** who are currently unemployed or working in a different field than their major. This issue is particularly important because I have been looking for a job in Europe since 2014. Regardless of the fact that I don't have an EU passport, the work opportunities are very few and don't cover the number of unemployed people.

- I would like to see a pilot project for a **career centre tailored to the needs of young graduates** in which the European Commission chooses partners (in 2 or 3 member states: university or job centre), develops a questionnaire for university students in their final year which will help them to identify what kind of workshops/support they need. The career centre will deliver insights into different industries and job sectors (e.g. media partnership). Finally, companies will become partners to close the "employment cycle" which can finally lead to the creation of a public-private partnership. This issue is particularly important because Europe is experiencing a high youth unemployment rate. A big number of the young unemployed people have a university degree. However, many job centres aren't ready to take care of the young unemployed graduates. Young graduates would already have the opportunity to visit the career centre in their final year of studies so that once they finish their studies, they feel ready to break into the job market. This pilot project will close the skills gap, increase the employability of young people, avoid future youth unemployment, and enrich knowledge of the job market (needs). Furthermore, it would give the European

Union the opportunity to promote their mobility programs for young people (e.g. Erasmus+). The Commission would lead by example and once this pilot project is successful in the "pilot states" it can be easily implemented in others as well.

- I would like to see a strategy for economic development of the EU. I propose a **special database** to be developed. The database would hold information about the legitimate refugees and migrants. This information would be associated with their degree, the job that they had in their native land and the job that they would like to do in the EU. Another database would be developed in parallel. This second database would provide information about the sectors in the Member States that need labour. Both databases can thus provide a **strategic allocation of refugees and migrants** within Member States and within the European Union. People would be able to have the job they want and are qualified to do and the EU economy would be improved.

- I would like to see a **public portal with migrants' professional profiles** including:

  - CV creation tutoring/advising as soon as they arrive in the country.

  - Publish their CV and make it available to companies and job providers.

  - Improved professional inclusion.

- The **youth unemployment battle** needs a **competition** between the best projects and ways to fight youth unemployment. Small and big projects can participate, from not just public organisations but also civil society organisations that help young unemployed people break into the job market or weather the effects of youth unemployment. All of them can upload a video where they explain what they did and what they achieved. They can do this of course in their native language, and English subtitles will be provided later. Later on, there will be an online vote for the best project and the winners will get a financial and a promotional boost. An additional idea for this competition would be not to leave it as a 'one time thing' but to seize this opportunity to create a platform where the different participants can exchange their ideas in a forum. The Parliament Youth Intergroup would be the link between the European Parliament and civil society. I believe that in order to create momentum and send a positive sign out there at a time of high youth unemployment, this competition would be an excellent way to do so.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that it is embarrassing how low the wages are that the European youth receive today – especially where I am from, Croatia. Working for 300 euros per month does not get you anywhere, and you are lucky if you can get any kind of job. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **interact more with the European youth** that is vibrant and wants to act like here at the EYE. We need more possibilities where we can exchange our thoughts and experiences. This issue is particularly important because these are our lives that we are talking about and our lives are Europe's future. Let's not let Europe's future be ruined!

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Job market regulation

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment and poverty. To tackle this problem the Parliament should provide **more funding for young people, more opportunities for young people to get a job, and more support.** This issue is particularly important because I am afraid for my future. Europe is not giving me any opportunity to develop my skills. I don't see a good future for young people here in Europe and I believe that not enough is being done to help young people! For example, are you ever going to read this? I doubt it! You make us think our voices are being heard but it really doesn't look like it.

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment. It could by tackled by introducing a **minimum number for staff under a certain age in a company** to allow adequate experience to be gained, for example. The Parliament should introduce legislation which enforces companies to commit to this within a legal framework. This issue is particularly important because young people struggle to acquire experience. Companies will not hire young people who lack experience. It is a vicious circle.

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment: we don't find nice jobs opportunities very often and when we do often some legislation conditions our opportunities. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **deregulate:** no SMIC, no conditions for companies to engage interns, freedom to agree any working terms. This issue is particularly important because some stupid legislation limiting the number of hours I could work has made me lose a nice job opportunity for this summer. **Free labour markets** now!!!

- The problem I would like to see solved is that older people keep full-time positions, making it very difficult for 'young' people to gain professional experience. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **lower the hiring age** and perhaps encourage 50+ people to change from full-time to part-time and train and exchange experiences with our generation. This issue is particularly important because it affects not only the graduates but also the quality of the work of those professionals who become totally out dated!

- Companies should establish centres where motivated people can come on the basis of wanting to be a part of the company, but do not have to apply formally (not covering all requirements but **compensating with will power**) + there is a trial period.

Internships

- In order to effectively tackle youth unemployment, the European Union should continue to facilitate the transition of young people from education into the labour market by ensuring **the provision of high quality and remunerated traineeships.** I propose that the EU Institutions a) adopt a *binding framework* to ensure that all traineeships in the EU are of good quality, fairly remunerated and based on a written internship agreement. The agreement should cover working conditions (including clear indications of the

salary, the duration, the working conditions, the hours and social security) as well as the learning content (education objectives, training and mentoring). In addition to this, I propose that the EU b) *offers tax or other incentives* to employers for providing quality and paid traineeship opportunities to young people. The European Commission should ensure the availability of traineeships and the accessibility of these traineeships to young people, especially to those who are not in education, employment or training. Last but not least, the Commission should c) *ensure that traineeships are not used as a low-cost replacement for existing jobs.* To conclude, early labour market experience in the form of traineeships is very useful for young people in order to make a smooth transition from academia to the competitive labour market. The EU should support young people in this transition and help them to build their future and the future of the European Union. Young people have dignity and we want to have a decent future for us and for our continent!

- A problem I would like to see solved is the issue of **pro bono traineeships** because they are something only a small entitled layer of society can afford. The majority is unable to get any work experience after graduation and actually survive on their own income. To tackle this problem the European Parliament should enable and promote paid traineeships for graduates. This issue is particularly important because I'm unemployed and work pro bono.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that of **unpaid internships.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should forbid unpaid internships. This issue is particularly important because young students and graduates have very little money, or at least most of them do. Only the rich elite have access to internships that are unpaid. It's unfair. It destroys a core value of the EU: equality and equity.

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **increase the number of internships across Europe** and should **ensure an increase in grants or for interns.** This could be done through the establishment of a payment practice according to the average living standard in a certain country, and taking a percentage from this. For example, 60 to 70% of the average living standard of a certain country could be the minimum payment for interns. This issue is particularly important because I was an intern in Belgium on the Erasmus programme and the grants provided to me were barely enough to live comfortably. On top of that, each young and ambitious citizen in Europe would like to enhance his or her experience and skills by doing an internship. It is, however, hard to live and deal with day to day issues when all of your week is busy with the internship and you are not paid even close to the average standard of living.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **unpaid internships**. To tackle this problem the Parliament should work with other EU Institutions on new legislation. This issue is particularly important because, as a student, it is important to have practical experience. But it is hard to find a paid internship, and unpaid internships cause financial problems for students. Intern work must be paid for! The EP should be a role model and pay all its interns (those working for MEPs should also be paid)!

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Entrepreneurship

- The problem I would like to see solved is that there is **not enough entrepreneurial spirit** and activity in Europe to boost our economy. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **support more start-up events, sponsorships, encouragement, organise challenges and competitions...** This issue is particularly important because it will drive innovation in Europe for new technologies and products. Europe's economy will profit and sustain as a result! Our industry's heart lies in technology and innovation and not in reproduction and imitation.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of jobs. To tackle this problem the Parliament should offer **traineeships and mentoring to young entrepreneurs** in order to help them start their own businesses and create new jobs. This issue is particularly important because in a few months I will be done with university and I'm going to start my career in a difficult economic situation as well as the other millions of young people in the same position as me.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that we don't focus enough on **teenagers' business ideas,** given that they represent our tomorrow. We should find and promote more financial aiding systems for new businesses and we should focus on start-ups. To tackle this problem the Parliament should modify legislation by reducing bureaucracy, and by creating more EU-based financial systems for start-ups. This issue is particularly important because I would like to become a businessman myself, and to develop my own business, to see my dreams come true, creating products and services which could make the lives of others easier.

Skills gap

- I would like to see that our **focus shifts from school grades to skills!** Companies need to see motivation, skills and the person behind them, not just the CV! We have a choice: either leverage the boost of intelligence, efficiency and progress that technology will bring for our advantage, and thereby create new and creative positions, or, on the other hand, face a huge problem, where we - as Europe - will be losing our competitive advantage. To enable the young generation to make use of this opportunity, we need to educate, not only the children and people looking for these positions, but first and foremost, those who make the hiring decisions! We should set the right incentives on a political level for companies following these guidelines, which motivate companies to invest in people, not school grades! Today, ONE exam alone can be the single most important reference point for a child's future career path, which, already, is predetermined by the financial background of his or her parents – were they able to afford a good education?! This is only to be solved by shifting the paradigms, through which we measure and grow our next generations and women in particular! We should introduce a tax or financial incentives for companies that are automating tasks and then use this income to provide social security for the people losing out on positions. Providing reimbursement incentives to companies that invest in people, and do NOT operate on a hire-and-fire basis! All in all, we need to start thinking about the seriously dangerous impacts that automation and technology can have, aside from the great progress it will provide! Invest in people, not competence!

- **Reward** unemployed students (everyone) for **creativity and problem solving abilities, not repetition!** We need to build an overarching fall-back option, to secure the basic needs for EVERYONE in competition with technology! We need to be prepared for the upcoming revolution on the job market due to machines becoming more and more intelligent. This, as I will suggest here, is best done by building social security nets, which will catch these upcoming unemployed people, re-educate them, provide openly accessible accredited schooling for everyone, so that initial conditions, like family background, can no longer be a predestination – like we all know it today! Just matching people to jobs will not further work to fight unemployment in this rapidly changing labour market. The EU needs to be a role-model for the world in this respect: I am strongly convinced that open, free education on things that will matter in the future - free-thinking and creative areas like programming, computer-science, data-science etc. - rather than on what mattered in the past - learning formulae, names and dates by heart in the ages of ubiquitous knowledge. This will be the best way to prepare us for the changes to come and make sure that we can truly benefit from the exponential growth of technology as a tool to leverage rather than a competitor in the job market, fearing our livelihoods! The first action that should be taken by the EU is to include more creative incentives into the schooling systems and change the schooling system from the Question & Answers that you get through with learning by heart, to one that strengthens problem-solving, free-thinking and creativity skills! These are the ones needed in the future, securing people's jobs for the future!

- The problem I would like to see solved is the gap between what we know at the end of our curriculum and what we should know in order to get a job and do it well. To tackle this problem the Parliament should not only talk about internships but about professional studies, and remember **the skills (including soft skills) that an experience in an enterprise, company or organisation can bring.** This issue is particularly important because we seem to value technical skills far more than 'human' skills (team work, initiative, problem solving kills), despite the fact that these are the skills that everybody needs in any kind of work. Higher education is not just about earning a job though, but for lessons about practical life.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **lack of balance between the educational system and skills needed for the labour market** in most of the EU countries. To tackle this problem the Parliament should discuss this issue with parliaments from countries like Romania, Bulgaria etc. and use the example of UK, Germany etc. i.e. systems where there is a balance between theory and practice. This issue is particularly important because I am a high school student in Romania and am forced to study abroad as I can't develop the soft skills necessary for

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today's working fields (IT, mathematics) in our old, theory only based systems. I'm not the only one in this situation.

Inequality & discrimination

- The problem I would like to see solved is social inequality. To tackle this problem the Parliament should introduce legislation and hold hearings/debates on the benefits of **implementing a universal basic income.** This issue is particularly important because we live in a globalised world in the 21st century. Technological progress will soon overcome our daily lives (work, livelihoods etc.). It is time for modern and progressive solutions to solve social inequality. UBI is the way forward!

- The Economic and social inclusion of everyone, for example through a **universal basic income.**

- We need to make sure that even if you have no skills, no job, no money, etc. that the **basic level of living is sufficient** to have a life worth living.

- Introduce **anonymous applications to end discrimination.**

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **integration of disabled but nonetheless skilled people.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should raise awareness in Member States through campaigning. This issue is particularly important because we should have a different view on things as they are in their current state.

- The problem I would like to see solved is youth unemployment and **unemployment of people with disabilities.** To tackle this problem the Parliament should do more in the direction of **remote work via the internet.** This is how we employ people to remote work from other countries and how we allow people from our country to work while travelling, so why is this not a viable option for people with disabilities too? This issue is particularly important because young people love to travel and the best work often only accessible in particular places (capitals, science villages etc.). Not everyone wants to or is able to move.

- **Equal opportunities for everyone**. Performance and personality should be more important than the (cultural, social) background. Everyone can do everything if they are given the right opportunity.

Work integration of migrants

- I would like to see a strategy for economic development of the EU. I propose a **special database** to be developed. The database would hold information about the legitimate refugees and migrants. This information would be associated with their degree, the job that they had in their native land and the job that they would like to do in the EU. Another database would

be developed in parallel. This second database would provide information about the sectors in the Member States that need labour. Both databases can thus provide a **strategic allocation of refugees and migrants** within Member States and within the European Union. People would be able to have the job they want and are qualified to do and the EU economy would be improved.

- I would like to see a **public portal with migrants' professional profiles** including:
  - CV creation tutoring/advising as soon as they arrive in the country.
  - Publish their CV and make it available to companies and job providers.
  - Improved professional inclusion.

- A **fixed quota for migrants** should be set up for the job market. Therefore, entrepreneurs will have to pay less taxes for their commitment to social causes.

- I propose that the **qualifications of skilled migrants should be recognised** and a universal system of recognition should be put into place and shared by European member states. One of the biggest challenges for their insertion into the labour market is that refugees come with qualifications and skills but cannot put them into practice because European standards will not recognise them. People who have formal and informal skills, ranging from highly-skilled to low-skilled backgrounds, should be allowed to have their skills translated. Being skilled and qualified could lead migrants to enter the EU in legal ways. The Commission should develop criteria for educated and trained migrants in jobs which are needed in specific EU countries. Recognition of professional qualifications should be granted and a system of complementary qualification and training could work as an alternative when the third country qualifications are not regarded as sufficient.

- **Mandatory community services** for young residents (including young migrants) of the European Union countries should be introduced. They can choose the field and the nature of their work, no matter what skills they already have.

- We should establish **obligatory community service** for young people to bring migrants and the local youth together.

- We should create more systems such as "Europe Works" which is an employment mobile application for refugees and asylum seekers in Europe that **links migrants with green job opportunities and training in Europe.** How does it work? A team of volunteers register refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe into the database of "Europe Works". The database is freely accessible to European companies or businesses in the renewable energy sector. Employers remunerate workers electronically through the "Europe Works" mobile banking application. An administration fee percentage is taken on every transaction for "Europe Works".

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Circular economy, waste, pollution

- **Long lasting technology:** Higher quality and interchangeable components that can be changed, upgraded or repaired individually.

- **Laws against planned obsolescence:** Planned obsolescence equals industry producing short term lasting products.

- Product life extension: Take steps to **lengthen the life of products** e.g. ban planned obsolescence and specify all ingredients and amounts in all products and packaging for easier recycling.

- **Encourage lifetime warranty** for electric goods (smartphones, TVs).

- After a product breaks, the **producer should be responsible for recycling it.**

- **Biodegradable or edible cutlery.**

- Encourage **edible packaging** to reduce packaging. / Packaging will be produced with **recycled or biodegradable resources.**

- **Ban plastic and toxic products** in all countries.

- People should be obliged to bring their **own bags to the supermarket** and shops.

- Re-plastic stands to **replace and recycle plastic.** We want to replace materials and products made of plastic with other, more environmental-friendly and recyclable substances, and forbid the use and production of plastics that are not recyclable.

- **Support no-packaging supermarkets** where the consumers bring their own containers for products.

- Create **sanctions** against countries or states that produce **goods that are not environmentally friendly.**

- **Sustainability tax:** From non-sustainable to sustainable, make sustainable products cheaper than non-sustainable ones.

- **Analyse the life of products:** Understand the full product lifespan from the ground back to the ground, so resources can be used in the best and most efficient way.

- **Laws on product design:** Upgradable. Clean. Clever Materials. Valorise by products.

- **Product resurrection:** We suggest that all products should be able to be used for more than one purpose or for the manufacturing of a different product.

- Create a **portable non-organic waste transformation device** (one per household) that separates household waste into its raw materials to sell on or back to manufacturers.

- Implementation of a **system to sort general waste into marketable products.**

- **Tax advantages** as a reward for households that produce little waste and recycle / If individuals, companies and communities avoid waste, they will receive some kind of **tax relief. / Financial incentives for good recycling** vs. **waste tax if there is evidence of bad waste management** for both producers and consumers.

- **Sanction exporting waste** from the EU to other countries and continents.

- To limit the amount of waste on earth, we can **send both nuclear and everyday waste into space** and if possible to the sun. We could burn waste to heat up Mars in order to make Mars habitable. We as a species need to use every asset we have to have a healthier planet; space travel is one of those assets.

- **"Zero Waste" communities:** The idea is to create communities of different levels (cities, districts, villages) which will be responsible for their own waste management. Rather than sending their waste to an external company, they will care about recycling and reusing.

- For non-essential items such as mobile phones, the **price goes up the more you buy.** This is proportional to income so that the poor are not penalised

- **Simplify the recycling process** for consumers.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the steadily growing problem of environmental pollution. To tackle this problem the **Parliament should introduce car-free days throughout the whole of Europe** (and lead by example), endorse car-pooling, make e-cars more attractive and cheaper, and create a deposit system for PET-bottles like in Germany. The EP should also **draft laws for a reduction in plastic and environmental pollution!** This issue is particularly important because this it not only affects Europe, but the whole world and when Europe starts to tackle problems, other continents will follow suit. Everything we eat/the oceans...are contaminated with plastic; this will affect us in the future if we don't act now. It's important to everyone all over the world that the EP acts now!

Energy

- Reduce our reliance on natural resources and **encourage use of and investment in alternative energies.**

- Put **Zero-Carbon Homes** back into planning. Around 2006 the UK Government announced that new homes would need to be carbon-neutral and made this a part of policy planning. Although the following Government abolished this requirement, developers researched and prepared for it. As construction industries begin to pick up after a crash, zero-carbon homes should become a European-wide component of planning systems.

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- The problem I would like to see solved is the current restriction on **building autonomous (off-grid) sustainable houses** e.g. earth ships. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should pass a resolution calling for restrictions on such buildings to be lifted or calling on the Commission to make a proposition. This is particularly important because building a sustainable Europe will ensure that citizens wishing to live in a greener lifestyle are able to do so, for themselves and also for others by reducing their carbon footprint.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the struggle that some member states have in **investing in renewable energies** and get their budget accepted at community level. I'd like to take the example of Portugal; last week it beat its record of electricity production from renewal energy by having 100% of R.E. production for 4 days in a row. That same week, the Portuguese government was under pressure, as sanctions from the Commission were to be taken for the economical results of the previous years. To tackle this problem the European Parliament should create a mechanism through which outstanding results in the fight against climate change are be taken into account when the Commission looks at the economic balance of a country.

- **Ban Hydraulic Fracking:** The impact on soil isn't sustainable if we use hydraulic fracking.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the slow movement from fossil fuels to a low-carbon economy. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **increase carbon taxes, increase support for energy transition, lower emissions units, invest in renewables where they are more efficient and develop the European electricity grid network.** This issue is particularly important because too many kids are born with health issues and there are too many environmental catastrophes as consequence of the rise in temperature level.

- **EU 2030 climate targets:** In recent a communication, the EC has claimed its 2030 climate and energy framework targets are "in line with science" and the expectations of the Paris agreement. They assert that the EU will only consider "progressively more ambitious action for the period beyond 2030". The EU executive's assessment of the Paris agreement makes no mention of the need to revise EU targets in order to keep global warming below 1.5C. The EU's 40% target for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990) is not enough to prevent extremely dangerous warming, and does not reflect the EU's significant role to play within the climate crisis. More equitable, science-based targets would increase commitments to an 80% reduction of emissions by 2030, and commensurate targets for renewables expansion and energy efficiency. The EU's framework is dangerously weak on detail and it needs far stronger and clearer provisions on the imperative for keeping the vast majority of hydrocarbons in the ground. We need an urgent revision of the EU's targets, and rewrite them to be actually "consistent with science and on the basis of equity" (Copenhagen Accord).

- We need to **end the flow of money from the EC to dirty energy by:**
  - Ending subsidies for fossil fuels across member states

  - Withdrawing EC investment in fossil fuels

  - Ending the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's financing of dirty energy projects

  - Increasing support for the climate

- Through **subsidies, loans and investments,** the EC is underwriting the leading contributors to global warming and delaying a transition to a fully decarbonised economy. All forms of finance are statements about the future, and the EC's reluctance to address this is perpetuating a future of high-carbon infrastructure. **EC investments should include restrictions on assets in those industries at the root of the climate crisis.** The EC should follow the lead of Norway's 791 billion pension fund or Sweden's Nordea Bank, in announcing a commitment to divest from fossil fuel companies. The EIB for example, despite proclaiming a commitment for tackling climate change, has reduced its lending for renewables. Investments in dirty energy projects have remained stable, and the bank is preparing to extend a historic loan to the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, a climatically lethal project. Finally, the European Commission must create an effective framework for eliminating all fossil fuel subsidies among its member states, and diverting public money towards democratic, clean energy, low-carbon public transport, afforestation, and other viable climate solutions.

Rights of Nature

- The problem I would like to see solved is that currently our legal system supports an economy that facilitates the destruction of nature. People do not live in harmony with nature anymore. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should acknowledge the rights of nature and enshrine them in EU law; **nature** (ecosystems, species, the climate, the atmosphere) **needs to have a legal personality.** This issue is particularly important because we need to establish in our laws a duty of care towards nature; otherwise we will keep destroying it and end up destroying the chances of future generations to continue existing on this planet.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that our current **economic system is largely based on the exploitation of nature**'s so called natural resources. This already shows that nature is not seen as a legal subject itself but only as an object we can use limitlessly. To tackle this problem the Parliament should encourage national parliaments to implement 'rights of nature' in their national constitutions. Nature should get intrinsic rights as humans do. This issue is particularly important because currently I cannot refer to any law to project my local river, forest, air, ground, water, habitats etc. unless there is a special protection law.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that since first the environmental laws were enacted 40 years ago, we have extinguished 50% of the populations of all species on earth; climate change is upon us and the world's ecosystems are

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collapsing. Europe functions on outdated paradigms which cannot prevent planet destruction because there are no obligations or legal duty of care toward nature. There is no legal requirement for governments to formulate policies that prioritise the health of ecosystems. Nature is priced according to its utility value. To tackle this problem the Parliament should legislate on a **European Directive which puts rights of nature into European law.** Recognising nature as a rights-bearing subject of the law equal to humans and corporations will allow us to carve out the level of human activity that is acceptable to maintain the dynamic balance. Such a law would recognise that the economy is a subsystem of human society which is a subsystem of the Earth. Property rights would no longer be absolute, but qualified by the rights of the ecosystems and species. This issue is particularly important because unless a workable solution is found to climate change and planet destruction, future generations will not survive. There is a huge movement around the world which shows this is an important issue for communities. Recognising we're a part of nature, implementing principles like duty of care and mutual enhancement and lawfulness would ensure that **balance can be found between economy and ecology.** A directive is already drafted and an ECI will soon be launched. Rightsofnature.eu.

- We must acknowledge that **nature has its own rights.** We need to change our constitutions to do so. This would give everyone the possibility to stand up for the juristic protection of the environment.

Systemic changes

- **Create a European Sustainability Fund.** Investing in Research and Development to create new, innovative and sustainable technology and products: encouraging start-up competition and university reach / **Increase funding for researching more sustainable materials,** research that will enable us to find more efficient ways to recycle.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that we need to **make economic systems more sustainable, becoming the world leader** in that sense. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should discuss and negotiate with the vested interests of the economic world and express this in a set of rules that will ultimately be sustainable environmentally and fair socially. This issue is particularly important because the world is ours and we need to reduce our ecological footprint. We are bright enough so let's sow this brightness, we must not destroy ourselves.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of scientific data on fish. For example, the fish stock numbers in European waters are still widely unknown. This data is important because it will allow us to better manage our natural resources. Without it, no proper management plan can be drafted. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **fight for standardisation of scientific data, enforcement of the natural protection laws in the member states and reporting around it.** But mainly, we need

to give scientists the means to gather the data that is still missing (this means increasing the research budget and we should fight for national research budget increases). Coordination is a major issue too: the European Environment Agency should be granted a bigger budget for all of these reasons. This issue is particularly important because knowledge of our environment is the only way to protect it is to draft sustainable management plans. Fish stock assessments and seabed makeup are two areas where lots of things are still unknown.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the **waste of financial resources by holding the plenary sessions in Strasbourg.** To tackle this problem in times of crisis, national pride of certain member states should not be a valid reason to waste valuable financial resources that could be used in important and urgent areas. This issue is particularly important because we can simply not allow a large amount of money to be thrown out of the window that does not serve anyone in the EU.

Awareness raising, lifestyles

- The problem I would like to see solved is the lack of cohesion and will regarding an environmental friendly economy or in general in European policy making. I wish to see the European Union tackling the problem of climate change and the environment even more. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should, for example, **introduce in every elementary and high school environmental education.** The EP should promote the introduction of fundamental environmental values in schools. This issue is particularly important to tackle the problem of the people's ignorance. We should be educating children about the importance of the environment in order to prevent future negative behaviour towards the environment. / The problem I would like to see solved is that the ideas of sustainability and ecology are still seen as a 'hippie', silly thing. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should invest in education and foster **teaching and empowering people to actually live sustainably.** This is particularly important because we are wasting resources and not taking advantage of our resources or health, food, sustainable accommodation.

- **Teach people starting from a young age** and thus change consumption habits towards reusing and recycling. / **Sustainability education in schools:** Mandatory courses that teach children how to reduce, reuse and recycle everyday objects / Mandatory **environmental protection classes** for future generations / **Educating people about how to avoid waste** in the production and consumption phase of the product, including education how to do it yourself and **sharing practices.** / School education should include **compulsory sustainable lifestyle lessons** that teach all children **how to grow, cook, make and mend** / Starting at a young age we should encourage young people to take an active role in recycling and to become environmentally conscious about waste. To change our society we have to **start with our newest generation and create awareness.**

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- The problem I would like to see solved is consumerism. We need to know about reducing the environmental cost of living and change our lifestyle. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **invest in education** and think about this topic. This issue is particularly important because we will always need more energy when we lead this lifestyle.

- **Promote small-scale sustainable development** e.g. reservations or AMAP (Sustainability of local production).

- **Waste awareness:** Stop collecting a household's waste for a month so people understand how much they throw away.

- **Launch a Twitter campaign** with the hashtag #BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) to encourage people to use their own bags and not buy plastic bags.

- **Fund new business models: Cradle-to-cradle,** sharing economy, **repair cafe** / Cradle-to-Cradle - Concept: Concept which works towards a circular economy. For example, C2C could design buildings which are self-sustaining. By 2050 all the products on the market should be designed by cradle-to-cradle. The companies will apply eco-design guidelines and follow eco-fair procurement criteria. Complying with the circular economy implies that no waste will be produced.

- Change consumers' behaviour: **Raising awareness about the repair of old machines.** Consume locally, introduce ecological education, consume less energy, and ensure people have the necessary information.

- We want to introduce **sharing areas in neighbourhoods** in which people can share their tools e.g. lawnmowers. This would be beneficial for the private economy of families and it would be a more environmental-friendly alternative to single-family ownership.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that sustainability issues are not yet a primary priority. We need integrative approaches that solve the ecological social and economic problems of today. These aspects are interconnected and should be considered when naming and confronting global challenges. To tackle this issue, the European Parliament should a) **promote sustainable practices** internally eternally, and **provide the infrastructure** that affords every citizen the opportunity to develop a sustainable lifestyle; and b) **advocate for sustainable practices in trade, agriculture, financing, and education.** This is particularly important because the youth of today are calling for more sustainability because we want to create the world that we have to live in. We want and need a healthy environment and climate as a basis for a good a fulfilling life. We need to help everyone **get access to sufficient natural resources,** which is only possible through a sustainable approach.

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Economy

- The problem I would like to see solved is to **remove the seeds list** which forces farmers to produce conventional seeds and forbids old varieties. This is because we need more **biodiversity** and we need to fight against big companies who want to make decisions in our stead. To tackle this problem the Parliament should put pressure on governments to remove stupid laws which hinder sustainable development and place too much under the control of corporate interests. The most important thing is to **protect all citizens from the power of big companies.** If the government lets citizens decide what is best for them and allows them more freedom, they can manage by themselves. This issue is particularly important because there are so **many great initiatives coming from citizens** that we have to let them interact more. If the population can discover its own capabilities, life would be better and governance would be better. Isn't it a clear vision?

- The problems I would like to see solved are youth unemployment and the economic crisis. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **stop TTIP, CETA and free trade agreements to build a new economy.** This issue is particularly important because I don't want our quality standards or our knowledge of food to be destroyed in favour of more industrial food production.

- The problem I would like to see solved is TTIP! **Stop TTIP!** Let everybody see the secret papers! To tackle this problem the Parliament should stop TTIP! This issue is particularly important because it doesn't make Europe a better place.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that the simple principle, that a more confident Europe once understood, has now been abandoned: rules should exist to serve Europeans, not the other way round. **Currencies should be instruments, not ends-in-themselves.** A single market is consistent with democracy only if it features common defence of the weaker European nations and of the environment. It must be democratically chosen and built. Democracy cannot just be a luxury afforded to Europe's creditors while refused to its debtors.

- Ensure **fair allocation of goods, services, and resources** under the international trade system, leading to an international welfare system.

Agriculture

- The problem I would like to see solved is that European agriculture is not sustainable: 17% of European soils are degraded, 45% have lost their organic components that are essential for its ecological functioning, and degraded soils contribute to climate change and depend on synthesized fertilizer. Europe uses much more land for consumption than it actually has. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **change the agricultural politics of the EU.** The greening rules are not ambitious enough. Only give financial help to sustainable land use that doesn't depend on

pesticides, GMOs and mineral fertilizer. This issue is particularly important because if we continue agriculture as we do currently using the wrong practices, we are contributing to global food ignorance. We need to produce less meat and let people in developing countries farm their own land instead of abusing it for feeding animals.

- We need funding to **genetically engineer animals** (or microorganisms) to be able to digest plastics.

- We need to **promote local and organic production** and consumption without monoculture.

- All citizens have the right to their **own plot of land.** Given that many citizens are concentrated in cities, unused spaces such as rooftops should be used.

- DIY and Share it: The concept is based on "do it yourself" at home including **producing food** (e.g. vegetables in your garden) and share the rest that you don't use.

Food waste

- Give food a chance: we want to **prohibit stores and supermarkets from throwing away food** and we want them to donate the food to homeless people (for example) instead, to NGOs if leftovers are edible, or to farms if leftovers are not edible, for compost.

- Food waste legislation: We need to create more efficient laws to **limit supermarket food waste** and therefore create a more sustainable environment and be able to feed even more people. Creating a tax for food waste will help to limit the food waste.

- The problem I would like to see solved is that in developed countries, food waste in supermarkets is a huge issue. Good quality food is thrown away every day. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **develop policies for FCMG companies and supermarkets** (Carrefour, Tesco, etc.) to be held accountable. This issue is particularly important because eliminating food waste is a necessary and important step towards sustainable living.

Fair Trade

- The problem I would like to see solved is **consumption at the costs of others** e.g. modern slavery, exploitation of workforces, destruction of our planet. To tackle this problem the Parliament should come up with one general piece of legislation about products in the EU (e.g. **fair trade coffee only**). This issue is particularly important because we are destroying our future lives without knowing it.

- The problem I would like to see solved is fair trade. To tackle this problem the Parliament should **foster education** e.g. students (secondary school) could go on a trip and try to grow food and

experience the hard work. The same would be applied to the fashion industry as they should know the true cost of the products they buy. This issue is particularly important because for the moment, people prefer quantity over quality by buying low-quality products, thus investing their money in the exploitation of poor workers.

Meat

- Flexitarians: People should **eat less meat** per week.

- Let us make our food system more sustainable by treating and supporting plant-based products of equivalent taste and nutritional value as equivalent to animal products. People should be fed before farm animals. Developed countries are already consuming more than their share. This has an impact on public health while public awareness is low. The future of food could be delicious, good for the environment, the economy, and our health. The EU is already helping develop a sustainable source of protein, but many plant-based products already exist! Non-animal products can preserve the positive properties of animal products while offering additional benefits. People are slowly cutting down their meat consumption but **need a system support.** Any policy action is difficult while the public awareness of the benefits of plant-based meals is low. The price of animal products does not reflect their true costs (environmental and health). The goal would be to **endorse plant-based products through a public campaign** as a healthy, environmentally friendly alternative to animal products. Plant-based products would benefit from sufficient support from both authorities and doctors in order to be regarded higher by the general public. At the same time, an official campaign should raise awareness of the health and environmental risks of animal products. If these products with equivalent nutritious value were officially recognised as equivalents to animal products, they could be considered public goods, and could be subsidised correspondingly. This subsidy could also take into account the additional benefits of plant-based products in terms of CO2 equivalent emissions and health benefits (lower risk of cancer, lower calories). We should achieve a 20% share of plant-based products in the animal products sector by 2020.

- The problem I would like to see solved is the identity crisis of lectures proposing a plant-based solution on the environment crisis and yet the YO! Village proposing mainly meat dishes and the rest of the Union doing nothing to propose plant-based alternatives. To tackle this problem the Parliament should start supporting animal friendly initiatives and **reducing economical support to animal-based agriculture.** This issue is particularly important because according to overwhelming scientific evidence, ignoring the environmental impact of livestock will mean the destruction of the human race. With vegan love, from Sweden!

- The problem I would like to see solved is that **livestock plants play a large part in pollution** and climate change, and is often underestimated by people. To tackle this problem I would

like to see a broader debate on this not only from the view of food security (as incorporated in Paris) but also from the view of needed changes in the industry in order to make it not so much a case, but a protector against these issues. This issue is particularly important because eating meat is very unsustainable in its current rate of consumption. We therefore need to raise awareness.

- The problem I would like to see solved is **climate change** due to governments neglecting the fact that the **(animal) agriculture business is the largest contributor** to this problem. To tackle this problem the Parliament should stop letting governments cover-up these issues and force them to open up about how powerful and influential the meat/diary industries actually are so everyone, and not a select few, is aware of this so people might think twice before purchasing these products. This issue is particularly important because if we don't change our eating and living habits soon, there will be no planet earth to sustainably live on anymore. **Reducing the intake of animal products** leads to having a lot more food left for third world countries!

- We **need to produce less meat** and let people in developing countries farm their own land instead of abusing it for feeding animals.

- The problem I would like to see solved is hunger in the world. To tackle this problem we should **tell people to eat less meat** so that we could reduce illnesses and get people talking about the world. We could take money and the water of the cultures of animals in our lands to send it to help people from poorer countries. This issue is particularly important because it concerns everybody and it is something everybody should know about and can tackle in their everyday lives.