

# INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT SESSION:

EFC

## YOUTH RECOMMENDATIONS

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## CLICKING WITH VOTERS

EUROPE FOR  
CITIZENS  
SLAVONSKI  
BROD  
MAY, 2019

Can you care about your future?  
Make the first step! Vote!

Aim of the campaign: encourage young people to vote in the EU elections

Time frame: 6 months (Dec. 2018 - May 2019)

Project coordinator and informer	Marmela: analyst	Victoria: graphic designer	Deyan: social media
organize the team	real life events lectures demonstrations	designer posters and flyers, slogans	blog posts
solve problems	in charge of distribution of funds	interactive games	filters on snapchat
		artistic coordinator	TV and radio

Want to travel and explore the world?  
Vote in the EU?



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

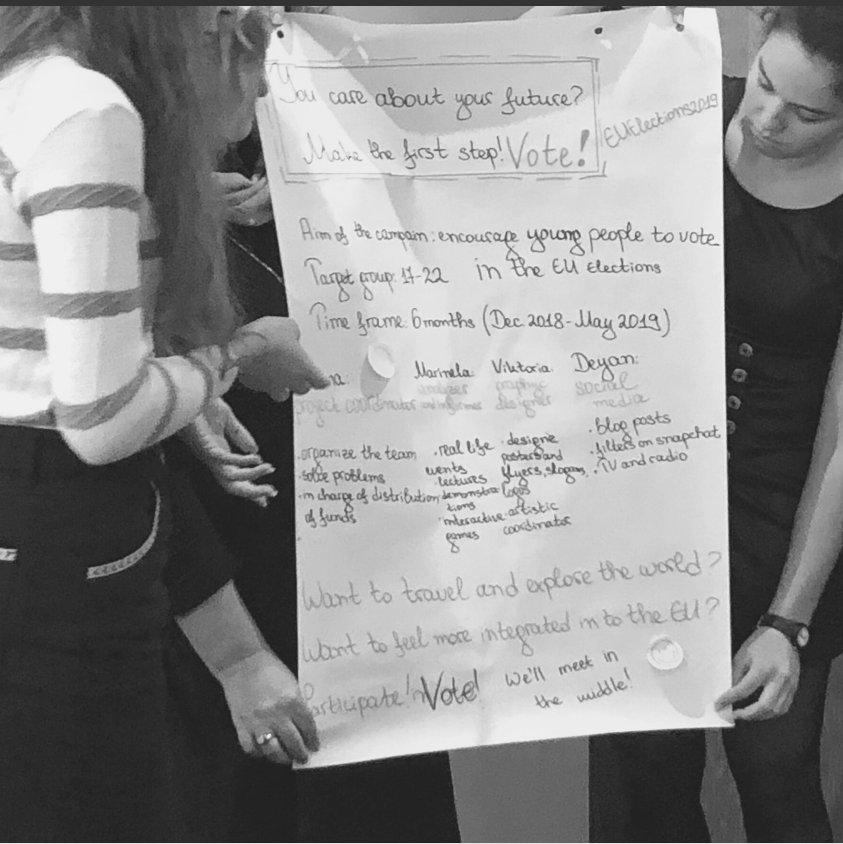
The Clicking with Voters overall objective is to empower European citizenship and to encourage citizens involvement, especially of the young, in the democratic life of Europe, in particular by motivating them to participate in the 2019 EP Elections.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- to encourage EU citizens to make their voice count by voting in the 2019 European elections
- to build the capacity of young people to participate actively in the democratic life of Europe and counter the challenges of Euroscepticism
- to give voice to citizens by involving them in debate on forward-looking initiatives for the future of Europe, on what they perceive to be the urgent issues relevant to the development of Europe post 2019
- to encourage first voters, passive citizens, excluded groups, and low-income families to vote
- to develop integrated voter engagement campaigns and promote opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering by social media influencers and volunteers lobby groups
- to provide the relevant European institutions with a document expressing the considered view of citizens on a range of issues which they feel are important to them
- to build the capacity of civil society organizations to foster European citizenship, though establishment of a flexible international network of of active citizens and constant dialogue with the institutions of the EU

# MAIN CONCLUSIONS

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT SESSION



### With EU elections on the horizon, what do the young people feel is most important?

We want the Sustainable, Democratic and Inclusive Europe. Voting on Election for EP2019 we have an opportunity to take stock of how far Europe has come – and how far we still have to go in order to offer a sustainable and prosperous future to everyone in Europe. While we have seen much progress, the promise given at the beginning of European project has still not been fully achieved and we have entered an era in which the values at the very heart of Europe – democracy and participation, equality and social justice, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law and human rights – are being undermined.

In these challenging, uncertain times, European citizens seek a stronger focus on those core 'European values', not a reduced one. They seek economic, social and environmental well-being. We therefore call on you, leaders of Europe, to move away from an economic model which has widened inequalities and rather to invest in a 'social market economy' that works for the benefit of all people. We call on EU leaders to uphold our core values and invest in employment and education based on critical thinking in order to defend our open, democratic societies and to address the sense of insecurity felt by many. We call on you, leaders of Europe, to ensure that gender equality, human rights, freedom of religion, democracy and the rule of law are fully implemented and upheld, both at EU and national level. Our wish is to see more hospitable Europe where everyone's contribution is welcome and migration is recognized as a benefit to society, not a loss. Europe also needs to play its part in tackling global challenges. Climate change in particular is an existential risk to our world and it must be tackled not only for environmental reasons, but also to prevent the escalation of conflict, hunger, and forced migration.





# WHAT WE CALL FOR:

- A Europe that promotes and protects the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of everyone and supports those beyond its borders to realise their rights;
- The delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by putting the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles that underpin it at the core of EU and national policy-making;
- The full implementation of the Paris Agreement by enhancing energy efficiency and accelerating the just and sustainable transition to clean and affordable renewable energy in order to keep global warming well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to keep it to 1.5°C;
- A strengthening of our representative and participatory democracy, with distinct space for people's participation beyond elections, enabling a diverse civil society to flourish;



- A strengthening of education as a public responsibility that offers lifelong learning for all in order to develop active citizenship, critical thinking, social inclusion and an awareness of sustainable development and human rights;
- A just transition for workers and industrial regions from the current economic model to a modern, vibrant, green and socially just economy in which our human and natural capital is cherished;
- A European Social Model that provides full protection to all workers, all consumers and all people living in the EU; one that reverses the wealth gap and reduces poverty and social exclusion;
- A European Union with a strong social rights pillar, which ensures quality employment and fair pay, and addresses inequalities between women and men, discrimination against children and youth or based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, age, disability, minority or other status. Solidarity brought us together and solidarity is the only way forward. None of the current challenges can be solved by one nation or one group of people alone.
- We expect you, as the leaders of Europe, to do just that: to have the courage and the vision to lead the transition to a just, sustainable, democratic and inclusive Europe. We expect you to listen to the people of Europe in order to make a strong, joint commitment to a better, more sustainable future.







# ADDITIONALLY,

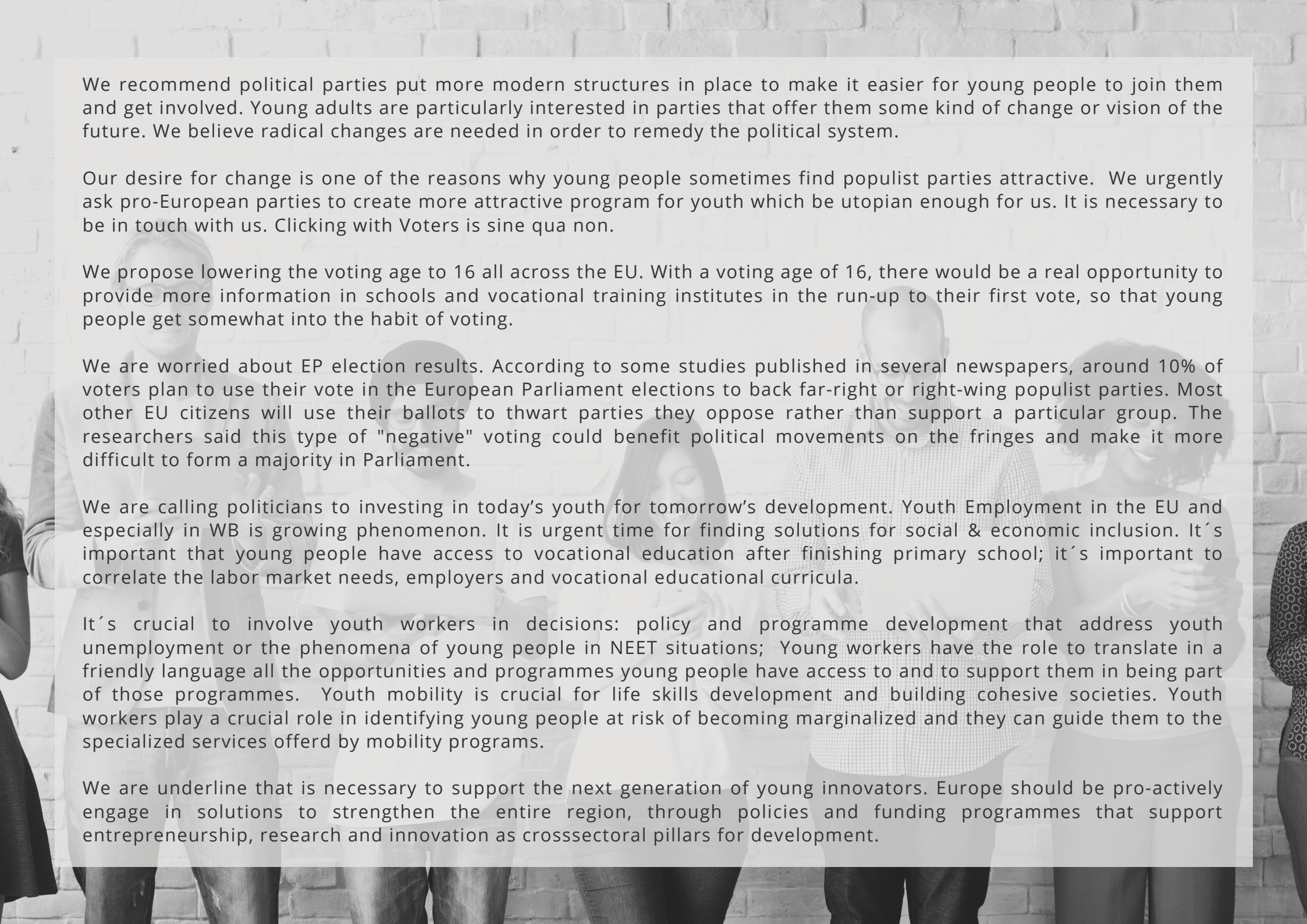
We value the European Union, but we want to have more of a say in how it is run — especially on topics that are particularly important to us. The Europe generation is demanding to be listened to more, and to have more of a voice. That's our message to all those with political responsibility.

Elections for the European Parliament important, but youth is not sure that the EP genuinely represents them. That's hardly surprising; after all, the average age of the members of the European Parliament is 56.

We see "asylum and migration" as the most important issues currently facing the European Union, but that does not mean that we reject nominally open borders within the EU.

Environmental and climate protection are also very important to us - young Europeans. We are so called "the unheard group". They're very visible and mostly young. Our message is: Probably we are a minority, but we want to be heard because we need policies for our future in 30 years, not only in three years. We are demonstrating against the destruction of the environment, much too high energy consumption, and rising carbon dioxide emissions from traffic and factory farming, as well as the pollution of the soil, air, and groundwater. We are calling on politicians to do far more to protect the environment and the climate.





We recommend political parties put more modern structures in place to make it easier for young people to join them and get involved. Young adults are particularly interested in parties that offer them some kind of change or vision of the future. We believe radical changes are needed in order to remedy the political system.

Our desire for change is one of the reasons why young people sometimes find populist parties attractive. We urgently ask pro-European parties to create more attractive program for youth which be utopian enough for us. It is necessary to be in touch with us. Clicking with Voters is sine qua non.

We propose lowering the voting age to 16 all across the EU. With a voting age of 16, there would be a real opportunity to provide more information in schools and vocational training institutes in the run-up to their first vote, so that young people get somewhat into the habit of voting.

We are worried about EP election results. According to some studies published in several newspapers, around 10% of voters plan to use their vote in the European Parliament elections to back far-right or right-wing populist parties. Most other EU citizens will use their ballots to thwart parties they oppose rather than support a particular group. The researchers said this type of "negative" voting could benefit political movements on the fringes and make it more difficult to form a majority in Parliament.

We are calling politicians to investing in today's youth for tomorrow's development. Youth Employment in the EU and especially in WB is growing phenomenon. It is urgent time for finding solutions for social & economic inclusion. It's important that young people have access to vocational education after finishing primary school; it's important to correlate the labor market needs, employers and vocational educational curricula.

It's crucial to involve youth workers in decisions: policy and programme development that address youth unemployment or the phenomena of young people in NEET situations; Young workers have the role to translate in a friendly language all the opportunities and programmes young people have access to and to support them in being part of those programmes. Youth mobility is crucial for life skills development and building cohesive societies. Youth workers play a crucial role in identifying young people at risk of becoming marginalized and they can guide them to the specialized services offered by mobility programs.

We are underline that is necessary to support the next generation of young innovators. Europe should be pro-actively engage in solutions to strengthen the entire region, through policies and funding programmes that support entrepreneurship, research and innovation as crosssectoral pillars for development.



It's clear that young people are actually keen on doing something constructive for the Western Balkan region. There is a need to change narratives in the WB, raising truly important topics in a positive way (unemployment vs employment). Good solutions could be promoting more inter-regional exchange of good practices. A more collaborative relationship with the EU is needed. However, joining the EU is not the end, but just a mean to reaching the end – a better standard of living. In addition, a better dialogue between WB countries with Member States and EU institutions is needed. WB citizens should be able to express their needs and expectations directly to elites from Member States and EU institutions.

We state that is necessary to tackling differences/asymmetries between categories youth in the region - organized and non-organized young people; between urban and rural youth. It's difficult for nonorganized young people, who are not part of any structures, when it comes to education, employment, connectivity etc. Their voice needs also to be heard.

Governments should include schools which need to become part of the change. The governments need to listen to the people at meetings and have meaningful dialogues at events held in the EU and non-EU countries.



Building more trust through education – to change education, we need a change in the mindset (what resources we have, how do we use them).

More focus on promoting citizenship education and critical thinking and this brings change. Education, in particular peace education, can help the region to react differently to certain situations and it offers the chance to overcome burdens through cooperation. That is why we promote new Erasmus as a beneficial program for all EU countries and countries in the WB. Erasmus programme is a tool to advocate change targeted for young people. It should be more inclusive. There is a need to advocate for a more flexible funding scheme for the Erasmus programme in the future, as accession and EU neighboring countries have limited funding.

Peace education should not remain just a topic in the curricula, but a focal process of changing mindsets and promoting 'healthy' values.



We are aware of challenges and opportunities of the online world: cyber resilience, countering hate speech and fake news. But we are deeply involved in online world. That is reason why we should be media literate. Media literacy programs will need to become an inter-generational learning and developing exercise in participatory democracy to help securing freedom of expression, navigating information disorder and countering hate speech.

History education has an important role to play in confronting Europe's current political, cultural and social challenges; in particular, they are possessed by the increasingly diverse nature of young people's individual experiences and divided societies as well as questions regarding the reconciliation and integration of the of war-affected countries, especially - Western Balkans region.





YOURS SINCERELY,

THE PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT SESSION IN SLAVONSKI  
BROD, MAY 2019

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VOTERS



# ABOUT US

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