



**EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SWITZERLAND**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018**







The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a unique educational programme which brings young people from all over Europe together to discuss current topics in a parliamentary setting. Its mission is to support the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding.

The EYP is a non-partisan and independent programme. Its methods are based on non-formal education and peer-to-peer learning. Thereby the programme facilitates the learn-

ing of crucial social and professional skills, and encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative.

The EYP is a pan-European organisation which does not limit itself to the current political borders of the European Union. As a network of independent associations, EYP is currently present in 39 European countries, enabling contacts across borders and beyond frontiers. The EYP thus offers a platform for intercultural meetings, fosters mutual understanding and makes a vital contribution towards the uniting of Europe.

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## OVERVIEW

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- 4 Foreword by the President
- 8 Report on the different portfolios
- 20 Our events
- 30 Our members





**Patricia Azevedo**  
President of EYP Switzerland

## Foreword

Dear members of EYP Switzerland,

With this report we look back at our accomplishments over the year of 2018. It was a year full of challenges, great opportunities and with a few changes within our National Committee. I am happy to look back on such a fruitful and amazing year for EYP Switzerland, but also to learn from its lessons for the next year of our organisation. In this report you will find a detailed summary of the different activities of EYP Switzerland throughout this passed year.

We kicked the year off with a round of four Regional Sessions, taking place in Meyrin, Fribourg, Bulle and Romanshorn. The two-day concept was this year, once again, a huge success for our National Committee. We are happy to conclude that we got a record number of delegates attending our sessions, including multiple new schools that we were able to reach out to thanks to a new outreach strategy. Following this guideline, we are trying for 2019 to reach out to new areas of Switzerland as well, including students from different economical and social backgrounds, in order to become more inclusive during our events. I can definitely say that this goal is measurable and feasible, knowing that we started implementing a new strategy focused on inclusion.

This year's National Selection Conference was held in Luzern and exceeded all our expectations. The session received a high amount of applications from Swiss students, and we were also pleased to welcome multiple delegates from abroad.



The Organising Team managed to include the theme of the session - Building bridges through Culture, Education and Arts - in every aspect of the event. They also managed to gather support from highly respectable individuals and institutions, always with a specific connection to the theme of the session.

The NSC is the ideal setting to also get in touch with some of our teachers. We held an intensive workshop, gathered feedbacks and relevant inputs from all of them, in order to improve our sessions and to understand better the needs of schools and teachers. During the event, we also held a new concept, a Sponsor Event, where we welcomed some of our partners, in order to present them not only the session, but also how EYP Switzerland is working in general. I am happy to note as well that we managed to offer a record number of spots to sessions' abroad for around 80% of our delegates in Luzern. From the venues, to the programme and the catering, we can definitely say that this 23rd National Selection Conference Luzern 2018 was an event of a high quality and will remain unforgettable to all its participants.

Looking back on our sessions in 2018, we cannot forget the International Forum Basel 2018 which was the first International Forum hosted in Switzerland. The event gathered around 250 participants, from all over Europe, and was a huge success in terms of programme, venues and academics.

The Organising Team managed to offer the participants memorable moments, hosting them in picturesque venues, sharing the best of each talent present at the Euroconcert, challenging them with innovative events such as insect-made food testing and peaking with an academically excellent General Assembly. We must say the event was a huge success and can't thank enough all its participants for making it such a fantastic memory for EYP Switzerland and, more generally, all the people that took part in it.

Besides our annual sessions, we organised several events throughout the year of both social and academic quality. We restructured some of those events, in order to answer most of the needs of our members. Indeed, we gathered input and feedback on multiple topics during our Summer Barbecue event, which allowed us to understand better the vision of the members.

We were especially pleased to welcome such a high number of our members, both old and new, at the Members Weekend. Over the weekend, we held various workshops ranging from how to perform as a chairperson and journalist at a session, to how to go abroad as an official. Moreover,



we also held the HO Summit over the same weekend, where we could gather all Head Organisers of 2019, in order to give them all the necessary tools in order for them to successfully lead their teams and organise their sessions.

The year 2018 was mainly a year during which we got the chance to work on many restructurations among the Board and the National Committee. We improved our strategies, collaboration and communication with our members, alongside our work procedures with Head Organisers. Indeed, we worked a lot in order to achieve an internal development among EYP Switzerland. As a Board, we reviewed our vision and goals for the term and the NC, keeping in mind long term aims. We focused on policy discussions, the new General Data Protection Regulation and how to enforce it within the NC, but also on the structure of our events and strengthening our cooperation with Head Organisers. It was important for us to manage clear accountings of the National Committee, develop a communication strategy, along with developing our outreach strategy. For this term, I wanted transparency with our members, but also to include them and their input in our decisions and events.

Looking into the year 2019, I can say it will be a year during which we will keep working on our internal structure, but we will also be focusing on external development. Our goals will vary from the implementation of a travel fund for delegates, to developing new policies, focusing on inclusion and long term partnerships, but also strengthening our participation into various projects in cooperation with other organisations.

I am confident that 2019 will bring many great things for EYP Switzerland. I am convinced that our organisation and its member hold an endless potential and I cannot wait to discover what will come out from hundreds of our members along this year.

**Patricia Azevedo,**  
*President of EYP Switzerland*





*The picture was taken in April 2018*

### The Board of EYP Switzerland of 2018

**Patricia Azevedo** President  
**Eléonore Bleeker** Vice-President & Regional Coordination  
**Jan Ruflin** Communication  
**Mallorie Ashton-Lomax** Finance and Membership  
**Aurel Gautschi** External Affairs  
**Mahaut Estier** International Coordination  
**Jana Bühler** National Coordination  
**Camille Bertholet** National Events & Member Coordination

**Gioia Bomatter** Auditor  
**Lucius Miller** Auditor







A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph. In the foreground, a blue-lined notebook is open, showing handwritten notes in cursive. The word 'Security' is clearly visible on the right page. In the background, a person's hand, adorned with a ring, is typing on a laptop keyboard. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage.

## **REPORTS ON THE DIFFERENT PORTFOLIOS**





**Mahaut Estier**  
Board Member on  
International Coordination

## International Coordination

This portfolio is mainly aimed at administering the relations with the rest of the EYP Network, representing our National Committee when it comes to international governance and international policy, as well as facilitating delegates going abroad or foreign participants coming to Switzerland.

This year, at our National Selection Conference in Luzern, we were very happy to welcome participants from Belarus, Spain and Italy to spice up the committee talks and add geographical diversity to our flagship event. Furthermore, we were able to offer up to 77 spots abroad to our Swiss delegates, which is a record and thus a big achievement in the portfolio. On the officials side, many of our very enthusiastic Swiss members attended sessions abroad in a variety of roles, from chairs and journalists to editors and presidents.

Regarding the international side of the portfolio, there were some very significant discussions taking place this year in EYP. Two meetings were held in Berlin in 2019 with representatives of all the National Committees, to discuss the state of the Network and implement new policies. Although it is impossible to relate all the important points discussed during those two meetings, it is important to mention one: the new international policy on welfare and safety in EYP. With the importance of the movement #metoo, it is time for our organisation to question our own practices and face the uncomfortable truth: bullying, sexual harassment and assaults are strong taboos in EYP. By opening up the discussion in May and adopting a new policy in November, the international network made a step in the right direction. The policy sets the guidelines each National Committee is required to follow to make sure we have a clear procedure for cases of abuse. Now, the Network, and EYP Switzerland in particular, is working on making this policy a reality and making sure every single one of our participants feel safe and comfortable during our events.

All in all, this was a very successful year for EYP Switzerland on an international level, and it seems great things are coming in the future with many more fruitful collaborations with other National Committees and for the general improvement of our international network.





**Mallorie Ashton-Lomax**  
Board Member on  
Finance and Membership

## Finance and Membership

During this mandate, we have tried and partially succeeded in improving our legal proceedings with Head Organisers of our sessions, keeping dutily filed and signed legally binding loan documents. We also managed in being more transparent regarding our receipts database and bank documents.

Keeping in mind the new regulations for private data collection and use within the European continent (GDPR), we started making our members aware about the collection of their personal information and data. However, we are still discussing about more concrete measures for a long term solution, as this is something that takes time to implement.

Regarding the most important task of this department, the bookkeepings, they have been held all year long and numerous updates have been shared with the other Board Members, every two months. This measure was implemented in order to keep a clear overview of the financial situation of EYP Switzerland. Even though I am quite satisfied with the outcome of our accountings for 2018, I would like to suggest mandating a professional accountant for a few hours in 2019, in order to be in line with the swiss law requirements as well as to give some guidance into our accounting process.

No policies were implemented during this mandate. Discussions over old policies, especially over reimbursements have started. Adapting those policies will be done in beginning of 2019 for the new term and will be a good step taken for the next mandate as Head of Finance & Membership.





**Jana Bühler**  
Board Member on  
National Coordination

## National Coordination

This portfolio entails the tasks of delegates administration, as well as maintaining school relations and recruiting delegates for the upcoming Regional Sessions.

Given the broad variety of tasks of this portfolio, the department was joined by four Department Members (Nicolas Boivin, Nina Steffen, Tomas Turner and Nicolas Zazali). Three of them were in charge of delegates recruitment, as well as supporting the organisation of two In-School Sessions. The fourth member was in charge of supporting delegates' administration.

### *Delegates administration/NSC Luzern 2018*

Even though the Regional Sessions 2018 could register a record number of delegates, the NSC did not receive as many applications as expected. In the end, Luzern 2018 hosted more than 20 different delegations, including several from abroad.

With the NSC Luzern 2018, the process of administration and communication with the delegates was improved using a standardised method that can be applied to future Sessions. Furthermore it was made sure that the new GDPR law was respected. However there is still some work that needs to be done in order to fully guarantee that all data is stored accordingly.

The NSC is also the most important event to maintain the teacher's network. For the very first time, the teachers were granted a budget to organise their own program including the annual workshop and feedback session with the Board, as well as a rich cultural program.



### *Outreach and Inclusion*

This year we took a different approach in promoting our four Regional Sessions. The main emphasis was put on school presentations, organised by members of the board department and the Head Organisers of the Regionals. With over 300 delegates registered, this method was proven successful. Furthermore, we were able to reach students from new areas, such as Wallis, which were rarely represented at our Sessions so far. However, the goal of reaching more vocational schools was not entirely reached. The entire promotion process still needs some improvement and better planning for the next term. Lastly, in order to become more inclusive, we are planning to create a travel-fund for delegates that are not able to cover the travel expenses to attend a Session. This project is yet to be implemented, as it requires a long term planification.

### *In-School Sessions*

During the call for delegates for the 2019 Regional Sessions, two In-School Sessions took place in Basel and Bern. In cooperation with the teachers, the concept was further developed based on feedback from the last In-School Session, which happened back in September 2017. During one day, students got to experience teambuilding, committee work and the general assembly. The feedback from students and teachers was positive and we would like to further implement this type of session in the upcoming year.





**Aurel Gautschi**  
Board Member on  
External Affairs

## External Affairs

During this term as head of the department on External Affairs, we for the first time planned and executed a Sponsoring Event at the National Selection Conference in Luzern 2018. The aim of the event was to open up to our partners and sponsors, giving them an insight on our activities and a platform for personal contact to build up trust into our organisation, as it was one of my aims when I've entered the department in April. As this pilot project was deeply appreciated by those who attended the event, we are planning on carrying this type of event for the next National Selection Conference 2019, in Zürich. However, a few changes in the organisational structure will be implemented, in order to have a smoother planning.

Furthermore, we were able to strengthen our partnership with the Campus Demokratie which is a great asset to our department when it comes to networking with other organisations and coordinating with new potential partnerships. We also attended one of their networking events in Olten, presenting EYP Switzerland and what we do as an international organisation to people working in education and volunteers from other NGOs.

Moreover, EYP Switzerland is also being present at other types of events, such as the TedxYouthEvent, which allows us to keep in touch with more potential and future members, but also to strengthen our network with other professionals and NGOs.

The main points on the agenda of External Affairs in 2019 will be our relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein as well as reaching a long term partnership with the foundations Richterich and Mercator.





**Jan Ruflin**  
Board Member on  
Communication

## Communication

2017 was a innovative year in the Communication Department of EYP Switzerland.

We managed to finally release the new website and we hope that the modern look it has now is one of the many things that will get people interested in our organisation.

Additionally we designed and ordered new EYP Switzerland hoodies for our members. Also, EYP Switzerland has an Instagram account now!

All the Regional Sessions, the NSC Luzern 2018 and the largest event last year, the International Forum Basel, brought even more attention to our organisation and therefore also our Communication channels.

Next years' challenge is to make use of all these new opportunities and obtain the standards set in the past years. It is important to ensure a good internal and external Communication of our National Committee and therefore also a good representation of EYP Switzerland.

Our Sessions are well promoted and receive a high number of applications. We are now visible on even more different channels and reach more than 900 people with our newsletters. Almost 4'000 people have liked our Facebook page.





**Eléonore Bleeker**  
Board Member on Regional  
Coordination and Vice-President

## Regional Coordination

For the fifth time in a row, EYP Switzerland was able to hold its round of Regional Sessions. With the years passing by and strong networks established in cities such as Geneva, Basel or Bern, the year 2018 saw the organisation shift its Regional Sessions to much smaller cities. Fribourg hosted EYP again, 4 years after a National Selection Conference, while Bulle, Meyrin and Romanshorn welcomed the three other Regional Sessions for the first time. This « outreach year » was a challenge that took place only thanks to the determination and willingness of the Head Organisers; Camille Bertholet, Tanguy Ciccone, Laura Balta, Nicolas Zazzali, Alison Cabarles, Xavier Gonzales, Andrina Grimm and Paulina Pralle. Each duo together led a team of 6-8 organisers, mostly fresh delegates from the NSC Lausanne 2017. Their mentorship and leadership experience contributed in shaping a new generation of active members and passed them on the EYP spirit. The RS Bulle also welcomed two organisers from EYP Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to strengthen our links with the National Committee and allow members of both NCs to benefit from skills and cultural exchange. The sessions together gathered a total number of 230 delegates, which is less than the delegates hosted by the Regional Sessions 2017. Many delegates however came from schools new to our organisation. This outreach in the hosting of our Regional Sessions allowed the organisation to be discovered and more established in areas where it was so far not present.



The academic side of the sessions was led by Presidents Robin Pedrazzoli from Italy, Ilija Jerkovic from Serbia, Daniels Grinevics from Latvia and Mariam Kunchuliya from Ukraine. Their experience allowed the sessions to produce academically excellent resolutions as well as enriching debates. Every session also counted 2 vice-presidents and 6-8 chairpersons with a variety in terms of experience and nationality. Half of the vice-presidents and chairpersons were members of EYP Switzerland. The Regional Sessions thus gave our members the possibility to strengthen, share and further develop their personal skills.

Last but not least, Media Teams were for the first time introduced to Swiss Regional Sessions. Each Media Team was composed of four journalists, of which more than the half were members of EYP Switzerland. The Editors, Patricia Azevedo, Florence Hull and Efthimios-Enias Gojka, Catarina Bustorff and Jan de Peuter, as well as Sofie de Jong, led mostly first time journalists in producing lasting memories for all participants of the session as well as bringing high-quality and varied media supports to the session.

We can say 2018 was a very fruitful year for EYP Switzerland, and we only hope in developing our network even wider for the year 2019, with a focus this time on inclusion.





**Camille Bertholet**  
Board Member on National  
Events and Member Coordination

## National Events and Member Coordination

### National events

This year we organised four national events. The National Events & Member Coordination portfolio handles all organisational aspects of these events.

Firstly, our AGM took place in Basel during the International Forum Basel, and gathered approximately 50 members to elect a new board. It was an intense and successful gathering and the board 2018 was elected.

Secondly, we held a Summer Barbecue on the 14th of July in Romont, and after enjoying a nice meal, the participants got together for a “shape your NC” workshop, where every member was invited to give suggestions and ideas that they would like to see implemented in the network. We are happy to say that it was a success and that many ideas were full of potential, such as an extended Members Weekend, which actually took place a few months later.

This Members Weekend, our third event, took place at the beginning of November and lasted from Friday to Sunday. Members from all over Switzerland gathered in Bern to attend various trainings given both by national and international trainers. The Head Organisers of our Regional Sessions and National Session were attending a special program, designed especially for them to be prepared for head-organising their sessions in the best conditions.



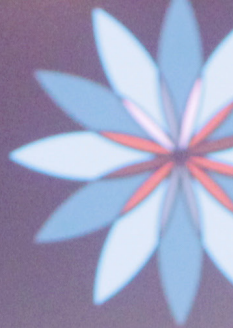
Finally, the Christmas Party took place in Fribourg, where we all enjoyed the traditional fondue together and played team building games in the afternoon. It was the occasion for our members to reconnect with friends from different parts of Switzerland and bond with new friends.

#### *Member Coordination*

The Member Coordination was mostly organised right after the National Selection Conference Luzern, where more than seventy delegates were selected to participate in various sessions abroad. Coordinating them and making sure that every participant got enough information is a task that falls in this portfolio. Eventually, most of the selected members were able to go abroad and enjoy an incredible experience.

This portfolio also handles any new request to become a member of EYP Switzerland, and we had approximately ten new requests this year that did not come from participants of our Regional Sessions.





**BASEL**  
1st International Forum







## OUR EVENTS





- {1} In School Session Basel 2018
- {2} Some of our Members at the IS Vilnius 2018
- {3} Teambuilding at the Regional Session Bulle
- {4} Our famous EYP Switzerland cow
- {5} GA at the Regional Session Meyrin
- {6} EYP Switzerland represented at the BNC Meeting in Berlin
- {7} Summer Barbecue Event 2018
- {8} EYP Switzerland represented at the UN Aarhus Convention Conference
- {9} Members Weekend











## **REGIONAL SESSIONS 2018**

**FRIBOURG, BULLE, ROMANSHORN, MEYRIN**

### **Exploring new regions!**



300 young people  
at 4 Sessions  
in 4 cities:

Fribourg, Bulle, Romanshorn,  
Meyrin

I am happy to say that EYP Switzerland is each year becoming more known and visible in many schools and organisations. After many years during which we managed to establish a strong network in main areas of Switzerland, we shifted our strategy towards other regions. Indeed, the year 2018 was a year of first times for the Regional Sessions, as all the cities hosted this kind of small scale event for the first time. Fribourg, Bulle, Romanshorn and Meyrin were all challenges, not only for their Head Organisers, but also for the Board of EYP Switzerland.

I am proud to say that all Regional Sessions were a huge success, and brought together many schools and students. I cannot thank enough all the officials' teams for contributing in shaping our next generation of active members and pass them on the EYP spirit.

We can say 2018 was a very fruitful year for our National Committee, and I only hope that we will manage to develop our network even wider for the year 2019.

Eléonore Bleeker  
Board Member on Regional Coordination

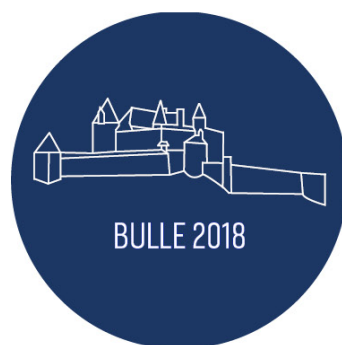




## Regional Sessions 2018 of EYP Switzerland



3-4 March



10-11 March



17-18 March



24-25 March



## Our NSC in the heart of Switzerland

Under the theme “Building bridges through culture, education and arts”, Luzern 2018 was an event that fostered dialogue, exchange and reflection, bringing 200 people together in the heart of Switzerland for the first time. In a world that keeps going forward every day, it was important for us to go back to what we believe to be the core values of EYP: meeting new people, exchanging ideas and working together. Through the metaphor of building bridges, we wanted the participants of Luzern to put their guards down and let themselves experience and discover the unknown. Culture, education and arts are elements that are often looked over, but that can be the building blocks for any bridge, which is why we wanted to highlight their importance through the implementation of our theme.

Looking back, we are very proud to say that we have achieved our main goal - creating an environment for self-development for every individual at the session. At our event, we saw creativity, curiosity and open-mindedness from the people who have made the decision to contribute to the event. While setting the general vision for the project, we left room for ideas and suggestions from everyone involved and we are therefore very thankful to the people who have helped us shape Luzern 2018 into what it was, making it a success.

While sticking to a traditional template of an EYP National Conference, we were able to spice it up by adding uniqueness to every aspect of it, from the unconventional venues to the different guests that were present. We believe that the choice of setting strongly affects the atmosphere of any event and we were delighted to be able to let our creativity speak through the implementation of the theme.

We are also very happy to see the impact that Luzern has left on people, and we hope to have inspired some to take what they have learned at the event further in our outside of EYP. We are strongly convinced that we were able to build bridges in Luzern and we now hope that the participants of this 22nd National Selection Conference will take the leap and cross them, to let themselves continue to learn and grow, setting new goals and challenges for the future.

**Aijan Muktar and Sophie Ratcliff**  
*Head-Organisers of Luzern 2018*


**LUZERN 2018**
**NATIONAL SELECTION CONFERENCE**

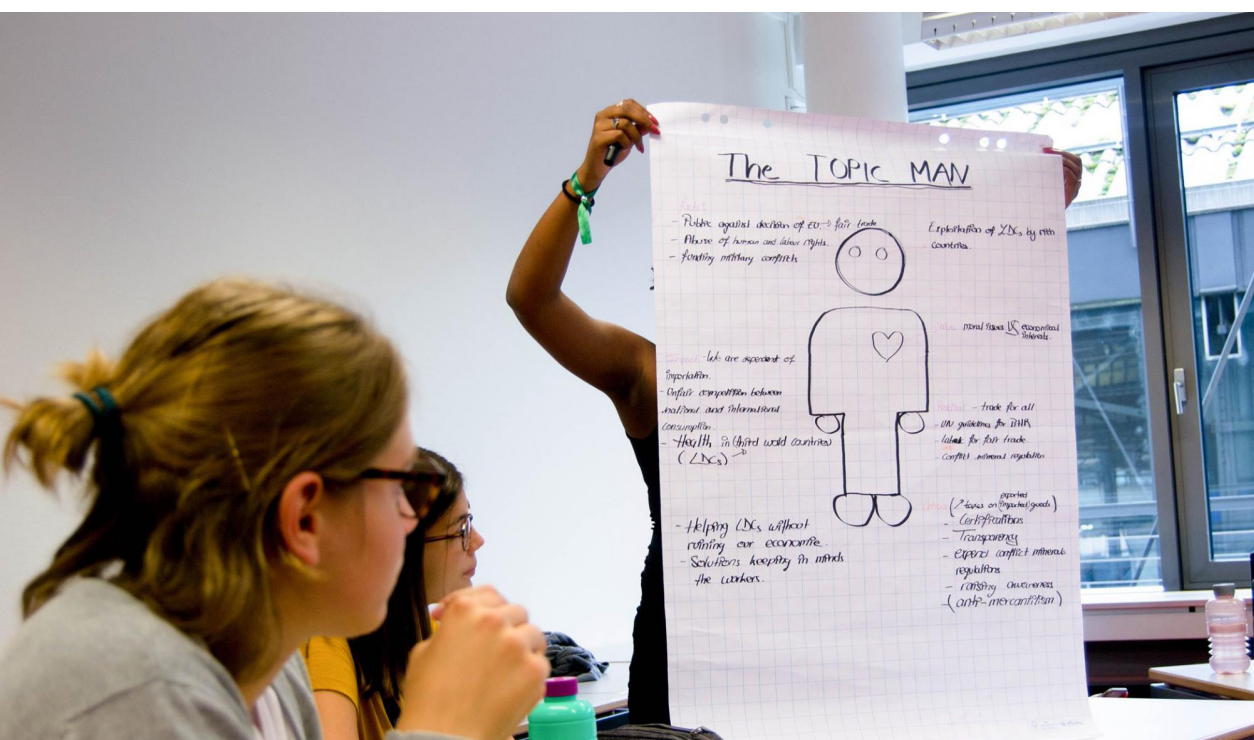

### Luzern 2018

22nd NSC of EYP Switzerland

31st August - 4th September 2018

200 participants





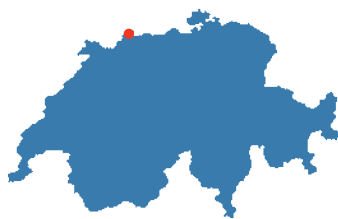




**BASEL 2018**

**1ST INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF EYP SWITZERLAND**

"Innovation Building the framework for Tomorrow."



**220**  
young people

**30+**  
countries

**9**  
days





From the 7th to the 12th of April 2018, Basel hosted 220 young people from all around Europe to participate in the first International Forum of EYP Switzerland. After two years, the Organising Team which was composed of more than twenty motivated Alumni from all over Europe was extremely happy to finally see the session become alive. With the theme «Innovation Building the Framework for Tomorrow», the Organising Team together with the Board of the Session (Hugo Dürr (SE) as President, Laure Steinville (FR) and David Corish (IE) as Editors, Kate Gurevich (CH) and Allegra Margelisch (CH) as Head Organisers) wanted to create a link to the spirit of innovation that surrounds us on a daily basis. Of course, the theme fit very well into the city of Basel, also considered to be a hub for progress and Switzerland being one of the most innovative countries in the world.

All members of the Official Team came together for the training event ICBT (Innovative Capacity Building Training) in Stein am Rhein two months prior to the actual session. This weekend allowed everyone to get to know each other, to benefit from additional preparation and training time as well as getting a general introduction into the vision from

the President, the Editors and the Head Organisers.

During the seven days of the session, it was one of the main goals of the Organising Team to show all participants as much from the city of Basel as possible - a fact which is often neglected. With the selection of very unique locations such as the Theater Basel for Euro Concert, the Naturhistorisches Museum for Opening Ceremony and the Volkshaus for the Ted-Talk like event called NovaLab we achieve this goal. A city tour as well as a boat dinner on the river Rhine enriched the regular programme as special highlights and very much appreciated by the participants.

We were very proud to see the fruitful outcome of all discussions and how passionate debates got during General Assembly. It is very rewarding to see that many participants decided to continue their EYP journey as Officials after Basel 2018. It would be an absolute honour to see that we created a tradition and that many more International Fora will follow this first one for EYP Switzerland.

**Allegra Margelisch and Kate Gurevich**  
*Head-Organisers of Basel 2018*







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## ***OUR MEMBERS***

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## ***WHERE WOULD EYP BE WITHOUT ITS MEMBERS?***

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This question highlights how much EYP in general, but also EYP Switzerland depends on the people who run this organisation, by participating as a delegate at a session, by travelling accross the continent to contribute to a session or by organising a session at their own school - everything voluntarily without any monetary expectation.

EYP Switzerland can look back on a history of success and constant growth: Our sessions have a good image internationally, are reaching out to more students than ever through the Regional Sessions and we are setting new standards on an international level.

It is now that EYP Switzerland would like to express its gratitude to everybody who helps making this success story continue. It is evident that this would not be possible without teachers sending delegates, organisers, national and international officials, sponsors, patrons, and members actively working for EYP Switzerland.

Thank you!



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## ***MY YEAR IN EYP***

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Hey there! My name is Nina, I am 20 years old and I study Political Science and Political Economy at the University of Zurich.

My year in EYP was really exciting and extraordinary. I had the opportunity to be part of many great projects and to explore new roles and countries thanks to EYP. At the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Selection Conference of EYP Switzerland, for instance, I was an organiser for the first time and the PR Officer of the session. This session was an exciting, but also very challenging experience, but in cooperation with our board member of communication, Jan Ruffin, I learned a lot about working with the press, as well as promoting and representing EYP. In Summer, I was selected for the position of Inclusion and Outreach Officer of EYP Switzerland, which allowed me to continue working in this field, as I was doing a lot of promotion for our Regional Session in St. Gallen, including presentations and assisting in the creation of a new EYPCH flyer. I am especially looking forward to this session as I

am also getting to gain further experiences in leadership and academics by being one of the Vice-Presidents of the event. 2018 was also the year I decided, that my time as a delegate in EYP was over, however, I had the once-in-a-lifetime chance to attend the 87<sup>th</sup> International Session of EYP in Vilnius. I had always wanted to go to an International Session because I had heard so many great things about them, but it was a truly phenomenal adventure. I got to explore Vilnius, I learned a lot about universal basic income, I got to defend our resolution in front of over 200 people and I made friendships for a lifetime.

"Since my journey in EYP started in March 2016, I have grown so much as a person, I have learned various many new skills, and, most importantly, I have made friends all over Europe to share these experiences with".





**Nina Steffen, from Switzerland**

*Organiser at the NSC Luzern 2018,  
Inclusion and Outreach Officer of EYP Switzerland  
Member of EYP Switzerland since 2016*





**Nicola Spoletini, from Switzerland**

*Head-Organiser of the RS Neuchâtel 2019*

*Communication Department Member of EYP Switzerland*

*Member of EYP Switzerland since 2016*



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## ***MY YEAR IN EYP***

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I am very grateful for what EYP has given me in 2018. I got to attend several sessions switching from official to delegate. My EYP year started off as an organizer of the RS Bulle here in Switzerland, and I can assure you that there is definitely no better place than the Gruyere region to welcome such an event! Soon after came a session for which I had been longing for ages, that is the IF Basel. When I look back on that session, I see it as a breath of fresh air for me as I was struggling with personal issues at that time. I am extremely grateful for the impact that my chair as well as my committee had on me.

"When looking back on this experience, I realise how great EYP can be and what it is really about."

In the summer, I really wanted to travel alone for a few days, so I looked up for a session to attend and stumbled on the IF Augsburg in Germany. This

was the perfect opportunity to visit a close friend of mine studying in Munich as well as visiting the city itself before setting off to Augsburg. This session was particularly special since it was an academic forum. The session format was slightly changed so as to focus more on the academics. Interesting concepts were introduced, and thus we had the lobby event to propose amendments to other resolutions or also the press conference to interview the committees before their resolution were completed.

What came next was actually pretty hard to handle as I took part in 2 sessions in a row, both of them as a chair. I first flew to Finland for the RS Tampere 2018. My Irish co-chair and I had such an interesting topic about gender equality and we were so proud of our delegates, especially when they overcame their fear and spoke out during GA. Two weeks after, my EYP year came to an end with the closing ceremony of the RS Stockholm 2018.



“

"When I attend an event of the European Youth Parliament Switzerland, I am always impressed and inspired of the motivation and knowledge of these young and skilled people.

That's exactly what we need to build up a European integration from the bottom and across the countries.

Thanks to all engaged delegates of the EYP!"

**Christa Markwalder**

*Member of the Swiss Parliament  
former President of the National Council*

“

"Dear young people, I encourage you to participate in the European Youth Parliament. It will give you the opportunity to shape the world of tomorrow.

You will debate, listen, work on compromises and create shared values: give life to democracy.

I am glad that the EYP enables you to take your responsibility for the next generations."

**Didier Burkhalter**

*former Federal Councillor, former Head of  
the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*



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**Layout**

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