



**EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

# **Strategy 2016-2020**

European Youth Parliament the Netherlands



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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Strategy of the European Youth Parliament the Netherlands is created by the board that holds office since 01-04-2016 and is made along the lines of the International Strategy as designed by the Governing Body and agreed upon by the Board of National Committees of the European Youth Parliament. This document is therefore a translation of international strategy into national strategy tailored to the needs, interest, and capabilities of our National Committee.

The European Youth Parliament the Netherlands was founded in 1998 and has experienced immense growth ever since. Over the years it has become a well-established national committee and has organised a rich variety in sessions and other events. Having grown in size and experience, the aims, goals, and ambitions of EYP the Netherlands have changed. Although the organisation is doing well in several areas, there is much room for improvement for the upcoming years. The focus of the national strategy, and therefore the efforts of the board, will be on democratisation, professionalisation, and outreach and inclusion. These are the areas in which EYP the Netherlands' current measures either converge too much from the international strategy or lack measures entirely. That being said, this document must be ambitious as well as realistic, which hopefully reflects in the strategy of EYP the Netherlands for the next five years.



## 2. INCLUSION

The European Youth Parliament the Netherlands is a welcoming environment to all our participants. We provide equal opportunities to all our participants, regardless of their gender, ethnicity and nationality, socio-economic status and ability.

The European Youth Parliament the Netherlands recognises that outreach and inclusion is of utmost importance and is aware that there is much room for improvement for our organisation. We find it crucial to the nature of our organisation that all of our participants and everyone who wants to participate are granted the same opportunities, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion, ability, nationality, or socio-economic background. We try to make an effort to include as many people as possible in our events. However, we do recognise that our pool of participants participant is not as diverse as we want and might therefore also not be good representation of the Dutch youth. Moreover, we acknowledge that the majority of the officials present at our events come from one or two regional groups.

### 2.1 Inclusion

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Not excluding is different than including. Inclusion requires an active stance to include the people that are otherwise held back by an (in)visible barrier. This barrier might either be created by hierarchy, social exclusion, or by something else - often personal and subjective factors. However, we do think that there are certain measures and structures in place in our organisation that hamper our inclusivity. An essential part of improving inclusion is changing the environment that many experience during events of EYP the Netherlands. There was/is a culture of laddishness and nepotism, which benefits those who either are dominant or have friends who hold high(er) positions. EYP the Netherlands disapproves of this behaviour and will try to systematically erase this from our organisation.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Rethinking the dress codes during our events	We feel that dress codes might put people who cannot afford to buy a suit or other formal clothes in an uncomfortable position. We will therefore critically assess the dress codes that we hold at our events.	Reduce Financial Barrier	We currently offer a reduced tariff for schools that could otherwise not afford to take part in our Preliminary Rounds or National Selection Conference.



Adoption of the Participant Welfare Policy	The Participant Welfare Policy acts a safeguard and benchmark for those in a more vulnerable position.	Reduce Academic/Social Barrier	<p>We currently offer free EYP workshops and training events in Dutch and English for every school that has signed up for our preliminary rounds.</p> <p>All these trainings and workshops are given by the Workshop Committee.</p>
		Redefining our Culture	<p>Lead by example as the board.</p> <p>Engage in discussion with people who commit to exclusive behaviour.</p> <p>Limit the consumption of alcohol during our events.</p> <p>Limit “borrels”, and turn to other social events</p> <p>Promote inclusive behaviour</p>

## 2.2 Outreach

Currently, most of the participants in EYP NL events are white, non-immigrant youngsters from a privileged socio-economic background. From the start of this year, EYP the Netherlands has committed itself to extend its range and to make an effort to attract as many different people as possible. However, we do recognise that typical EYP NL events require a certain academic level, which is mostly found in one type of high school (The Netherlands holds a high school system in which there are three different levels/types of high school). Having said that, we strongly believe there are more than enough people that are currently not reached that meet the academic requirements of our typical events. This also implies that we will need to start planning events that have lower or no academic requirements.



Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
External Expertise	<p>We are currently in contact with an outreach officer of Amsterdam University College, and will further consult experts of this kind.</p> <p>Engage with other initiatives that gather youths from diverse backgrounds such as Weekend College.</p>	Workshops	<p>We offer workshop for schools that are currently not in our network to either engage them with EYP are teach them about the EU in English or Dutch.</p> <p>All these trainings and workshops are given by the Workshop Committee.</p>
Active Recruitment	<p>More focus on minority schools when we are recruiting for school for our preliminary rounds.</p> <p>Attract schools in which most children are not granted the same opportunities as in other schools.</p>	Debate Trainings	<p>We offer debate trainings to every kind of high school in the Netherlands in either Dutch or English.</p> <p>These trainings are carried out by the Workshops committee.</p>
Other Events	Brainstorm about events or modifications to our current events to make it more accessible to young people with lesser academic training	Spreading of Events	We currently hold 4 preliminary rounds and 1 national conference each year. Every year, we try to spread out these events as much as possible among different regions.

## 2.3 Mobility

EYP the Netherlands believes that it is for the betterment of our alumni, and therefore implicitly for our organisation, if our alumni have the opportunity to travel and experience EYP events abroad. We promote this by sending delegations abroad and by actively encouraging our alumni to apply to sessions abroad. However, it has come to our attention that the cost of travel and participation fees in some cases hamper our alumni to entertain the experience of going to an EYP event abroad. Therefore, we have decided to annually set financial resources aside to help out those alumni who find themselves in a situation in which going to a session abroad may not be financially feasible. We have already put this in motion by offering financial support for participation fees for International Sessions. The system in place, however, needed to be formalised, which led to the creation of an anonymous application form. From now on, any participant that finds him or herself unable to pay for the costs of attending a session abroad after he or she is selected at the National Selection Conference, can fill out this form and request financial support for the session in question.



Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Include travel reimbursements in our budget	Set up a travel reimbursement scheme.  Actively fundraise for travel reimbursements.	Refund Form	Through this form, an alumnus/alumna who has been offered a place to a session abroad as a delegate can now get a partial or entire refund on their participation fee or travel costs.  We aim to at least help 5 people each year.
		Travel Reimbursement for Committee Members	We offer full travel reimbursements for all our committee members that need to travel to fulfill their committee duties.

## 2.4 Regional Representation

National: We recognise that a diverse regional representation is beneficial not only for our organisation but also essential for a diverse and comprehensive representation of the youth in the Netherlands. However, EYP the Netherlands always has had their largest representation in the Amsterdam region and we therefore also host most of our social events in Amsterdam. Moreover, we acknowledge that the Netherlands is a small country and travel times will therefore not be longer than two hours.

International: EYP the Netherlands has much to improve on regional representation. Most of our alumni attend sessions in either western or northern Europe. Moreover, the majority of the officials teams at our events are from those same regions. We want to mention that due to geographic location it is more appealing to apply to sessions in either western or northern Europe as travel costs are lower. This also has effect on the pool of applicants to our sessions, which consists mainly of applicants from western or northern European countries.

However, we do believe that there rests an unfair stigma when it comes to sessions in central and eastern European countries, and will encourage our alumni to apply to sessions in countries outside our regional group. One thing we want to be careful with are quota. We believe that quota create a sense discomfort with the person in regard as he or she will never know whether he or she was selected based on merit or nationality. Although we will keep regional balance in the back of our minds during selection we do not believe official regulations on the matter are the correct approach. However, we will make an effort to increase the number of applicants from other regions to create a better regional balance in our pool of applicants.



Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Liaise with NCs from other regional groups	<p>We hereby hope to identify what is holding people back from applying to each other's sessions</p> <p>Create a stronger interregional connection.</p>	Spreading of Events	We currently hold 4 preliminary rounds and 1 national conference each year. Every year, we try to spread out these events as much as possible among different regions.
Provide travel reimbursement based on travel costs	This reduces the financial barrier for people that have to travel further to our events.		





### 3. EMPOWERMENT

As an educational platform, EYP the Netherlands provides educational opportunities to all of its participants, and actively facilitates the personal development of all those involved in our organisation.

EYP the Netherlands currently aims to be a key player in informal civic education in the Netherlands. Besides earning this reputation by involving a large number of people, it is equally crucial to uphold and improve the quality of the education experience our participants receive. In this area, EYP the Netherlands' methods have for a long time stayed more or less the same. It is now key to involve more actors, such as our alumni and teachers, into how we can further increase the education value of our sessions.

Next to this, EYP the Netherlands is a great platform for our alumni to gain new skills, knowledge and experience in areas that are highly relevant outside of the EYP context. To further enhance this, EYP the Netherlands needs to focus on involving more alumni into the day-to-day running of the NC, and move away from the situation in which very few people are involved with certain key tasks. This makes the workload for those individuals very high, limits learning opportunities for others, and leads to very complex knowledge transfers later on. EYP the Netherlands also needs to improve itself in the area of training. There are training opportunities offered every year, but both in terms of quality, quantity and focus, there is a lot of room for further development.

#### 3.1 Transversal skills

In EYP The Netherlands we try to create a platform for as many alumni as possible to be structurally involved with EYP The Netherlands. We have three committees for which alumni can apply every year: the Academic committee, in charge of writing the resolutions for the preliminary rounds; the Alumni committee, in charge of organising events and weekends for the alumni of EYP NL; the Workshop committee, responsible for giving workshops on the working of EYP to schools participating in the Preliminary rounds. All members of committees get training in how to present themselves, how to organise events, and on academic writing. Last year we added a Head of Design to the team of alumni closely involved with running the organisation. The Head of Design was taught about creating logos, working with indesign, and working with other design-related programmes. This year, we are adding another position to this pool, the Fundraising Officer. The Fundraising Officers (two in total) support the PR and Fundraising Board Member, and will learn about networking, fundraising and presenting EYP the Netherlands. By adding new positions, we offer more alumni the chance to develop and learn transversal skills.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Academic writing and journalism skills	Involve alumni in writing news pieces for the website and Facebook.	Appointing a Head of Design	An alumni acquires skills on several design programmes.



Policy making	By organising an NC Development Day alumni get insight in decision making.  Open up to alumni on contacting the board on new ideas and involve them in decision making process.	Appointing Fundraising Officers	Giving the Fundraising Officers training on networking and fundraising.  Letting the Fundraising Officers learn by practice.
		Compose an Academic Committee	Giving training in academic writing and research.  The academic quality of the written resolutions.
		Increasing the social skills of the alumni	Organising informal events in EYP NL.  Encouraging teamwork in committees.

### 3.2 Educational Value

EYP The Netherlands offers an abundance of possibilities to gain more valuable experiences outside of its conferences. We, for example, organise an annual training weekend for alumni of EYP The Netherlands, for which an international pool of trainers is selected. Several steps will be taken in order to increase the educational value of EYP The Netherlands for both participants and alumni. We have noticed a demand for a prolonged Preliminary Session, and will be running a trial-round of this Extended Prelim this year. The prolonged Preliminary Session functions as better preparation for the participants in the run-up to the National Selection Conference, while at the same time offering more people a complete experience of EYP. Furthermore, we want to engage teachers and alumni more with the running of EYP the Netherlands. By listening to their opinions and needs, we hope to improve the quality of the learning process for our alumni and delegates.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Offer higher quality trainings	More levels of modules and more in depth training at Alumni weekends.	Provide a plethora of opportunity outside of the conferences to gain EYP skills	The committees: academic, alumni, workshop.  Fundraising officers  Head of design  Alumni training weekends  Understanding Europe training



Get a better understanding of the possible educational shortcomings of EYP NL	Engage with teachers on their opinion on the educational value of EYP and their remarks  Engage with alumni on the NC development day on the topic of educational value	Provide our first-time participants with a bigger EYP experience than just a one day session	The organisation of the Extended Prelim
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### 3.3 Opportunities for personal development

EYP The Netherlands provides several platforms for personal development. Through the training modules we provide at all our sessions and our Alumni training weekends, we try to provide our alumni with the tools to develop themselves further within EYP. Apart from that, we offer alumni the opportunity to partake in several committees. These committees provide the alumni with the possibility to gain more practical knowledge of EYP related skills, such as writing topic overviews and organising events. EYP the Netherlands currently holds three committees: the academic, alumni and workshop committee. Moreover, we will appoint a Head of Design and Fundraising Officers this year. Both these individuals will receive training from more experienced alumni to develop their skills.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
New practical/ in-depth training possibility	Fundraising Officers  Understanding Europe training workshops	Have general training possibilities for alumni	Alumni training Weekend
		Have practical/ in-depth training possibilities	Academic/ alumni/ workshop committee  Head of Design  Training at every EYP NL event



## 4. CONTRIBUTION

EYP the Netherlands has an abundance of committed and able volunteers on all levels of the organisation, and volunteering for EYP the Netherlands is considered an interesting and rewarding opportunity. Active volunteers are closely integrated into the decision-making of EYP the Netherlands.

Current procedure in EYP The Netherlands when it comes to board selection does not involve a democratically chosen board. Not only in this area, but also in the general decision making process, the alumni of EYP NL don't have an official say. Now that EYP the Netherlands has expanded into an organisation that reaches several hundred new participants each year, it is time the organisation becomes more transparent and democratic. The exact format under which this can be optimally done whilst retaining a structured and well-informed dialogue is still up for discussion. Therefore, several measures such as the organisation of an NC development day will be taken to hear the alumni's thoughts on this pressing matter. Luckily, EYP The Netherlands has an active alumni base, of which many are committed to improving the NC. Ultimately, the goal is for EYP the Netherlands to become a democratic organisation, but the way in which this is achieved is yet to be determined.

### 4.1 Volunteering

EYP the Netherlands already has a large number of volunteers running its sessions and partaking in other events of EYP the Netherlands. However we are continuously trying to increase the amount of volunteers who are involved for longer than their own National Selection Conference. This has to do with one of our main goals to be able to reach as many youths as possible and with the way we present ourselves to potential sponsors. In line of this, we have institutionalised several positions for people who will work together closely with the board of EYP the Netherlands, in order to offer more official opportunities and give more ownership to our alumni. Moreover, skills and connections we have in our current alumni base should be kept track of. Our older alumni that have stopped their EYP careers may be of special interest as they might still want to give back to the organisation.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Rewarding our volunteers more	<p>Volunteers receive recommendation letters which are useable for job or other applications</p> <p>Certificates are offered not just to session participants but various kinds of volunteer</p>	Creating more positions in EYP the Netherlands alumni can apply for	<p>The new positions of Head of Design and Fundraising Officers continue to exist and expand.</p> <p>Offering training in Understanding Europe Workshops for alumni to be part of the teaching platform.</p>



Gathering personal stories of past or current volunteers and alumni about what they have learned and gained from EYP	Success stories are published on our website and Facebook page  Starting a database of our active EYP NL Alumni	Gathering personal stories of past or current volunteers and alumni about what they have learned and gained from EYP	Success stories are published on our website and Facebook page
Encouraging older alumni to stay involved in EYP NL and contribute to the organisation	A foundation of older alumni of EYP NL is set up in order for them to keep contributing to EYP NL, even if they are done or too old to stay involved as officials.		

## 4.2 Democracy

Becoming a democratic organisation is a key priority for EYP the Netherlands in the coming years. Our alumni currently have no say in the selection of the board and decisions on NC-policy. The board strongly feels the need to become a more democratic organisation and is therefore organising a day, during which the matter of democratisation will be discussed with as many alumni as possible. The goal of this meeting is to draft a plan and rethink the structure of the organisation and its democratisation, and to give our alumni a larger say in this thus creating legitimacy for the structure of EYP the Netherlands. The board believes transparency is an important factor in becoming more democratic. The board has therefore already taken steps to inform our alumni on the activities of the board and providing them with opportunities to add topics and points of concern to the agenda.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Informing our alumni at events about the structure of EYP the Netherlands and how EYP the Netherlands works.	Organising an NC development Day at which alumni can voice their opinion on Democracy and the framework of the NC	Informing and involving our alumni about EYP the Netherlands' current affairs	The weekly update does not only include calls, but also comprehensive summaries of board meetings  Alumni have the chance to give input on the agenda of board meetings



<p>Organising a 'EYP NL development day' open to all alumni where the democratisation of EYP the Netherlands is discussed</p>	<p>A relevance poll and initial poll will be sent out to our alumni to prepare the board for the 'EYP NL development day'.</p> <p>A comprehensive guide will be created by the board of EYP the Netherlands to inform all participants of the 'EYP NL development day' on all aspects (possibilities, difficulties, legal implications, moral considerations, etc.) of the democratisation of EYP NL.</p>	<p>Informing participants at all events how EYP the Netherlands works and how the participants can participate in the decision-making process</p>	<p>A short presentation is included at every alumni event</p> <p>Introduction emails are sent to all delegates, outlining the possibilities for participation</p> <p>EYP the Netherlands offers information explaining EYP and possibilities at alumni events and on our website</p>
<p>Creating an Audit Committee and a Financial Committee</p>	<p>The Audit Committee publishes a bi-yearly report on the progress of EYP the Netherlands and the influence our alumni have on the organisation's development</p> <p>The Financial Committee publishes a bi-yearly report on EYP the Netherlands' financial situation</p> <p>All reports are shared with EYP the Netherlands' alumni</p>	<p>Informing alumni about the international structure of the EYP and how EYP works</p>	<p>A "How EYP works" presentation is held at every members' event</p> <p>Follow-up trainings are given at alumni weekends</p>
		<p>Preparing for the BNC Meetings</p>	<p>A preparation meeting is held for representatives before each BNC meeting</p> <p>The BNC meeting agenda is discussed by the NC board before each meeting</p> <p>The agenda points of the BNC meeting that are of special relevance to EYP the Netherlands are shared with our alumni</p>



## 5. STABILITY & CONTINUITY

EYP the Netherlands is a stable yet continuously growing National Committee that is seen as an institution for informal education within Dutch civil society. Within the NC, strategic management is the norm and knowledge about organisational and administrative matters is managed and passed on effectively. EYP the Netherlands has several sources of structural funding for its activities.

As any other National Committee, EYP the Netherlands is dealing with challenges related to its stability and continuity in three specific areas: a high turnover of active volunteers, a continuous loss of gained knowledge and lessons learned, and a lack of structural funding. The success of our events and activities depend on the skills and abilities of those directly involved, and knowledge is not passed on as effectively as could be the case, for example during board transitions. In that sense, there is much “reinventing the wheel” that needs to happen every year. Additionally, EYP the Netherlands’ finances are handled in a way that could be more professional and accountable. More importantly, all of the income generated comes from surpluses of events, as there is no structural funding.

### 5.1 Continuity & organisational stability

EYP the Netherlands’ functioning ought to become more thought-through and sustainable. This involves more strategic management from the board, with them being less involved in the day-to-day handling of small tasks. In addition, the knowledge members of the board and other alumni, such as Head-Organisers gather, should no longer largely disappear after their respective terms or projects end. This way, EYP the Netherlands would become less dependent on individuals figuring out things on their own, enhancing our continuity and the stability of our organisation

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Implementing and evaluating the NC Strategy	The Board of EYP the Netherlands reports to their alumni about its progress in implementing the NC Strategy at both Alumni Weekends, and leaves an extensive report for the next Board about progress made regarding the strategy and its implementation.	Involving more alumni into the day-to-day tasks within the NC to transfer skills and knowledge	Several non-board positions have been created and will soon be filled by alumni



<p>Fundraising</p>	<p>EYP the Netherlands has sources of structural funding which can finance its regular annual costs</p> <p>EYP the Netherlands has a wide network of partners and other useful contacts, which might be used as funding opportunities</p>	<p>Fundraising</p>	<p>The Fundraising and PR Coordinator position will be used to coordinate fundraising, manage external relations and fundraise for our structural costs, rather than merely assisting sessions with their efforts</p> <p>A small team of Fundraising Officers will soon join this board member to assist with this</p>
<p>Knowledge management</p>	<p>A comprehensive review of our online archives will be conducted</p> <p>Setting up a new template for a transition document, both for the board as a whole and for each individual position</p> <p>EYP the Netherlands' policies and procedures, currently often spoken of but never recorded on paper, will be formally written down and stored</p>	<p>Increasing knowledge and skills transfers during the board transition, and allowing for each new board to set its</p>	<p>The dates of the next National Selection Conference have been moved forward by a few weeks, giving each new board a bit more time to adjust, get settled and think strategically before being dragged into daily business</p>

## 5.2 Professionalism

EYP the Netherlands' events tend to be well-organised. However, this is largely due to the skills and knowledge of the individuals in charge or a result of successful fundraising, rather than the consequence of structural policy made to uphold and improve our organisational standards. Besides this, EYP the Netherlands can further improve its professionalism in terms of external communications, and intends to take more action when it comes to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants at our events.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators





Head-Organisers of sessions that are part of our annual National Selection Process can benefit from knowledge gained during previous years	Writing an elaborate guide for Head-Organisers for our regular events, including templates for budgets, masterplans and programmes.  This guide is updated by Board members and former Head-Organisers	Head-Organisers of sessions that are part of our annual National Selection Process can benefit from knowledge gained during previous years	Organising an annual training event for Head-Organisers
Setting up clear procedures to protect all participants	There is a Participant Welfare Policy in place at sessions, which aims to prevent and effectively deal with any situations that might make our participants feel uncomfortable or unsafe	Setting up clear procedures to protect all participants	There are two Board Members who serve as confidants for our alumni  All participants at our events sign a consent form
Professionalism is the norm in communication with external partners		Professionalism is the norm in communication with external partners	The Fundraising and PR Coordinator has the ability to oversee all our external communications, and can use this position to streamline and professionalise our external communications.

### 5.3 Administrative capacity and management skills

EYP the Netherlands’ administrative capacity and management skills are currently largely dependent on the individual skills of board members. Currently, expanding our administrative capacity through finding office space or hiring staff is far from feasible as a result of our lack of structural funding. Besides this, it would not nearly be EYP the Netherlands’ first priority if these structural funds were to be generated. Our financial administration, however, needs serious improvement, both in terms of planning and accounting, and should be a priority in this area. Besides this, improving the management skills of those involved in running the NC is something that has barely happened in the past, but could help the NC move forward and improve its functioning.

Planned		Already in place	
Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators	Measure	Sub-measures and success indicators
Board members have received proper training to effectively execute the tasks within their portfolios	Particularly in the area of fundraising, Board members attend a training event at least once every year.	Board members have received proper training to effectively execute the tasks within their portfolios	Board members attend the EYP Summer Academy



<p>EYP the Netherlands' finances are managed in a way that is comprehensible, transparent and accountable</p>	<p>There is a multi-year financial plan in place</p> <p>EYP the Netherlands' finances are managed in an online, professional accounting tool</p>		
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## **6. IMPLEMENTATION AND RENEWAL**

EYP the Netherlands shares its Strategy with its alumni and ensures a common effort to implement the suggested measures. Alumni are provided with the opportunity to question and propose amendments to the Strategy.

In the spirit of democratisation, EYP the Netherlands will strive to coordinate the efforts to implement this strategy with our alumni. During the NC development day, the International and NC Strategies will be presented to our alumni, after which there will be the opportunity to ask questions concerning the content and give feedback on EYP the Netherlands' plans for the future. With the results from the development day, EYP the Netherlands will amend and improve its strategy, in order to create a common direction without imposing anything on our alumni. During this meeting, several key focal points will also be appointed on which the board of EYP the Netherlands will focus its attention the coming year. With this, we hope to create a vision of the future of the organisation that is shaped by as many alumni as possible, thereby creating legitimacy for policies and strategies EYP the Netherlands will be adopting in the near and distant future.

We hope to repeat this process at least once a year, to continue this common approach to improving EYP the Netherlands, and therefore encourage each board after us to study this strategy thoroughly, amend it, and repeatedly ask for input from our alumni. To best facilitate this, it is important to make an assessment of what has been reached and what has not at the end of each term. Ideally, this would be in the shape of a comprehensive report, not just about the facts and figures of each year, but also about the subjective goals and their successfulness.



## **7. CONCLUSION**

EYP the Netherlands, while already on the right track, has to take a critical look at the structure of the organisation in order to become more democratic, inclusive and professional.

Now that EYP the Netherlands has established itself, not only within the EYP community as a solid National Committee, but also in the Netherlands as one of the key players in informal education, it is time for the NC to look inwards. Although many things, such as opportunities for personal development and the quality of the events organised, already on a very high level, there is a lot of room for improvement when it comes to how EYP the Netherlands is run as an organisation. Having critically assessed the state of our National Committee, certain things have come to light that need a lot of attention the coming years. EYP the Netherlands is currently far from being a democratic organisation, a lot can be done to improve the breadth of Dutch youths we reach, and the continuity from year to year should be standardised in order to maintain the high quality of events organised.

This document should be seen as a first attempt at identifying the strengths and weaknesses of our organisation, and is by no means a final and all-encompassing assessment of the state of EYP the Netherlands. With the upcoming NC development day, we hope to improve and expand our view of EYP the Netherlands, by involving our alumni in shaping the future of the NC. Based on this meeting, a general direction and more concrete plans will be made, after which this strategy will be updated to best fit the wide range of opinions and experiences within our base of alumni.