

European Youth Forum's #ChangelsComing Roadshow

Campaign aims to increase youth voice and turnout in European Elections (26 – 26 May, 2019)

The road to the new European Parliament must include Youth!

Our generation will be faced with finding solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems; from an ageing population and a growing social divide, to climate change and the technological revolution; as well as finding the fresh ideas and vision that will transform the European Union into a project that young people want to re-engage with.

However, our generation also needs to find these solutions in a political environment that since the 2008 financial crisis has disenfranchised young people through austerity, social exclusion, and high youth unemployment. Youth turnout in the 2014 European elections was historically low: only 28% of 18 - 24-year-olds cast a vote.

In a political context tainted by low turnout, false news and populism, it is important to take a stand and mobilise young people, to ensure their voices are heard in this critical election for Europe.

What is the #ChangelsComing campaign and Roadshow?

#ChangelsComing is a vibrant social media and poster campaign to help increase youth turnout in the 2019 European elections that the European Youth Forum is supporting with a Roadshow. In March and April 2019, volunteers from the European Youth Forum will take European politics to a local level in a

campaign bus that will visit eight cities, in 26 days. The objective of the Roadshow is to help give young adults in Europe a greater voice in the European elections by:

- Talking directly to political candidates about the issues that matter most to them
- Casting their vote at the next European elections (23 26 May, 2019)

The Roadshow will culminate in the European Youth Forum's youth political festival, YO!Fest (30 April). The night before, young people will gather outside the European Parliament in Brussels for a live screening of the televised Maastricht Debate, an event co-organised by the European Youth Forum with partners Politico and YouTube.

What will happen at #ChangelsComing Roadshow events?

The #ChangelsComing Roadshow bus in will provide a space for young people and the wider general public to engage in the European Elections, offering:

- Opportunities for interviews and exchange with local politicians and candidates.
- Use of the European Youth Forum's political comparison app that will allow you to compare your views and concerns to each political party's programme for the European Elections;
- A video booth so that you can record a 20 second message to candidates for the upcoming European Parliamentary elections.
- An 'activist bootcamp' training session to teach young people how to help political campaigns or start one of their own;
- Information from European Youth Forum volunteers about why your vote matters and how to make sure you can cast it

How can I participate?

The #ChangelsComing Roadshow events are public and free to attend. There is no need to sign-up in advance. However, we are still in discussion with some cities to find out how we can best bring the Roadshow directly to you! So, please follow the European Youth Forum on twitter (@youth_forum) for more information on when and where you can visit the Roadshow.

Date	City	Country	2014 European Elections national youth turnout
19th March	Amiens	France	25%
22nd March	Barcelona	Spain	27%
24th March	Rome	Italy	45%
27th March	Maribor	Slovenia	14%
30th March	Cluj-Napoca	Romania	20%
2nd April	Krakow	Poland	14%
5th April	Berlin	Germany	29%
13th April	Brussels	Belgium	90%

What is the European Youth Forum?

The European Youth Forum is the platform of youth organisations in Europe and is based in Brussels, near the heart of the European Union institutions. We represent over 100 youth organisations, which bring together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe. We work to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by advocating their needs and interest and those of their organisations.

What are its objectives?

The vision of the European Youth Forum is to be the voice of young people in Europe, where young people are equal citizens and are encouraged and supported to achieve their fullest potential as global citizens. To overcome the challenges faced by young people today, we have three main goals:

- Greater youth participation
- Stronger youth organisations
- Increased youth autonomy and inclusion

Does the European Youth Forum represent any political viewpoint?

The European Youth Forum is independent from political parties, but advocates for youth rights, issues of concern for European young people, and for greater youth participation.

Its 'Policy Platform for the European Elections 2019' sets-out 10 ideas to help European political parties and candidates of all persuasions #YouthUp the European elections. These include:

- Prioritise the wellbeing of people, future generations and the planet in all decisions and policies
- 2. Ensure young people have access to our right to quality and secure jobs
- 3. Defend young people's social rights and access to social protection
- 4. Give young people a say in the policies shaping new digital realities
- 5. Implement a **rights-based and human response to migration**, and promote a focus on the benefits of living in open and diverse societies
- 6. Provide opportunities other than elections for young people's interests to he heard in European policy making
- 7. Make it easier for young people to vote in elections, and to run as candidates
- Support and encourage reforms to education systems to help young people become active citizens and ensure we can contribute to societal progress
- 9. Make youth rights and dialogue with young people a priority across all policy fields
- 10. Protect young people's civil society and civil space in Europe