

Directorate-General for Communication
Directorate for Liaison Offices
Strategic Support Unit for Liaison Offices



European Parliament Ambassador Schools

2022/2023 REPORT

STRATEGIC SUPPORT UNIT FOR LIAISON OFFICES

INDEX

European Parliament Ambassador Schools	0
2022/2023 REPORT	0
STRATEGIC SUPPORT UNIT FOR LIAISON OFFICES	0
INDEX.....	1
1. SUMMARY	3
2. THE PROGRAMME	5
3. THE NETWORK	12
4. PROGRAMME COMMUNICATION	13
4.1. The EPAS programme on social media	13
4.2. The EPAS programme in the media	13
4.3. Web communication	13
5. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	14
6. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
ANNEX I: Compilation of highlighted activities	16
AUSTRIA	16
BELGIUM	19
BULGARIA	21
CROATIA	23
CYPRUS	24
CZECHIA	26
DENMARK.....	28
ESTONIA.....	29
FINLAND	31
GERMANY	34
HUNGARY.....	38
IRELAND.....	39
ITALY	41
LATVIA	43
LUXEMBOURG.....	45
MALTA.....	47
THE NETHERLANDS.....	48
POLAND	51
PORTUGAL.....	53
ROMANIA.....	56

SLOVAKIA	58
SLOVENIA	60
SPAIN	63
SWEDEN	65
UNITED KINGDOM	67
ANNEX II: ACHIEVEMENTS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIAISON OFFICES IN THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR	69

NOTE: The data included in this report were supplied by the European Parliament Liaison Offices (EPLOs) via the 2022/2023 European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) reporting and the hours of attention.

1. SUMMARY

Background

The European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) programme targets students with diverse educational, social and geographical backgrounds and is aimed at increasing their awareness of European parliamentary democracy, the role of the European Parliament and European values. It also encourages students to actively participate in EU democratic processes.

The programme was first introduced as a pilot project during the 2015/2016 school year in six countries (Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Poland and Spain). As the pilot project was a success, the programme was launched EU-wide during the 2016/2017 school year. The programme's initial mandate ended in 2019 when the Bureau endorsed its continuation until the next mandate in 2024. In 2021 the programme was extended to the UK¹ and the Bureau also introduced the possibility of financing regional transnational EPAS events – known as 'EPAS Together' events.

During the 2022/2023 school year, a series of activities were organised to enhance the EPAS programme and boost engagement with teachers and students:

- close cooperation within the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) made it possible to organise EPAS gatherings (of teachers and students) in Strasbourg for the Sakharov Prize ceremony and the European Youth Event and in Brussels for the LUX Award ceremony;
- EPAS teachers were invited to the annual seminar in Brussels;
- the European Parliament Liaison Offices (EPLOs) were able to finance regional in-person EPAS transnational events involving schools from different countries;
- the local interinstitutional dimension was reinforced through agreements made last year at headquarters level to foster cooperation with Commission representations and Europe Direct centres on educational matters;
- the EPAS eTwinning group, which has been running since April 2021, was promoted to boost cross-country collaboration;
- a new EPAS communication toolkit was designed in line with the new Parliament youth offer visual identity guidelines and the European Parliament brand book.

Main figures

The EPAS programme is implemented by the EPLOs in all Member States plus the United Kingdom. At the end of the 2022/2023 school year, **the network** included 5 044 senior ambassadors (teachers) and 34 662 junior ambassadors (students) from

¹ Following a successful pilot project launched in the 2020/2021 school year, the EPLO in London launched the EPAS programme in 2021/2022.

1 991 certified schools. These figures represent a significant increase compared to the past: in 2016/2017, 700 schools participated in the programme.

In the 2022/2023 school year², ambassador schools organised 12 882 EPAS events and activities (online and/or offline), with a total number of 454 990 participants. A total of 442 **MEPs** were involved in the schools' activities.

EPLOs organised **353** EPAS-related events between September 2022 and June 2023. The **variety of activities** organised by the EPLOs with EPAS schools is shown in Annex I and includes exchanges with MEPs, role-play games, discussions on human rights and sustainability, participation in media programmes, creative projects and more. It is worth noting that interactions between EPAS schools and together.eu volunteers are becoming more and more regular. In addition, EPLOs financed five regional in-person EPAS transnational events with schools from 18 Member States and the UK.

Alongside their official accounts, half of the EPLOs manage a public **EPAS social media** account totalling around 10 000 followers. Moreover, approximately 730 ambassador schools have created a specific EPAS social media account with a total of around 300 000 followers.

Challenges and recommendations

Several hurdles were encountered when implementing the EPAS programme during the 2022-2023 school year, including time constraints, innovative idea generation and limited funding. Despite these challenges, the programme's impact was evident through the participation and dedication of students and teachers, which made it a successful initiative overall.

EPLOs recommended increasing opportunities for schools to learn from good practices and exchanges between peers through national seminars, workshops, training, regional events, as well as seminars and training in Brussels and Strasbourg. Enhanced cooperation with Europe Direct centres is also suggested in order to reinforce local cooperation under the programme.

The challenges will continue to be addressed in the future in order to make the programme even more effective, sustainable and visible.

² From September 2022 to July 2023.

2. THE PROGRAMME

The programme has been implemented **EU-wide since 2016**. It aims to raise awareness of European parliamentary democracy, European citizenship and European values among students and it has been building up a network of schools, teachers and students engaged with Parliament, its Members and the EPLOs.

To be part of the network, participating schools organise activities that raise awareness of European parliamentary democracy and European citizenship by using the educational material³ provided by Parliament. Among other initiatives, they appoint teachers and students as senior and junior ambassadors respectively, organise activities for Europe Day and set up a Parliament/EU information point in their schools.

Activities take place throughout the school year. The programme therefore provides **an ongoing** exercise for young people. As a result, the EPAS network was essential in the 'This time I'm voting' campaign in the run-up to the 2019 European elections. It is also a crucial entry point to the together.eu community⁴ and will play a key role in voter engagement ahead of the 2024 European elections. In fact, EPAS schools are expected to support the European elections campaign during the school year when the elections take place (2023/2024) and their extended network will provide crucial support to the campaign.

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In 2022/2023, the following **actions were implemented** to enhance the EPAS programme and boost engagement with teachers and students:

a) Enabling EPLOs to sponsor regional in-person EPAS transnational events

Following the Bureau's endorsement in 2021⁶, EPLOs can sponsor teacher and student gatherings for in-person transnational events organised in a Member State by at least three EPLOs, as well as additional national seminars. The main

³ [Youth Hub: Learning resources](#).

⁴ The together.eu platform hosts a pan-European community and encourages everybody to participate in democracy. The website is available at <https://together.eu/>.

⁵ From September 2022 to July 2023.

⁶ Enhancements of the European Parliament Ambassador School programme include recent developments and the forthcoming introduction of EPAS transnational events (D(2021)9849).

objectives of the initiative are to enhance the pan-European perspective of the programme, create additional incentives to boost engagement ahead of the European elections in 2024 and enhance the potential of the Europa Experience spaces⁷.

To implement this kind of activities, several EPLOs cooperate in organising events, designing programmes and establishing transparent selection criteria to ensure equal access for all participants, whether they are teachers or students. Many of these gatherings also offer EPAS ambassadors the opportunity to engage with MEPs, local politicians, together.eu change-makers and content creators.

The number of events increased in comparison to the previous school year, reaching a total of five events during the 2022/2023 school year: in Cyprus with the participation of schools from Ireland, Malta and UK; in Belgium with schools from Germany and Luxembourg; in Greece with schools from Bulgaria and Romania; in Hungary with schools from Austria, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia; and in Estonia (Tallinn's Europa Experience centre) with schools from Lithuania, Latvia and Finland.

- An event in **Limassol and Nicosia** took place from 31 March 2023 until 1 April 2023 with 17 schools from Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and the UK. This two-day event in Cyprus started in Limassol with ice-breaking games for Cypriot, Irish, Maltese and British school pupils to get to know each other. It was followed by interesting career-oriented presentations from their teachers in the morning and interactive sessions such as workshops and a democratic engagement session with a Q&A session in the afternoon. The second day, in Nicosia, included a guided tour along the green line, interventions from a Cypriot MEP and the CEO of the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute and presentations on together.eu and internship opportunities at EU level.
- On the same day, another transnational event was held in **Thessaloniki** with schools from Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. This event brought together six schools from different parts of Greece, two schools from Romania, two schools from Bulgaria and around a dozen together.eu volunteers. The event began with welcome addresses from EPLO Heads of Office followed by sessions on the 2024 European elections. Students were then able to choose between four parallel workshops while their teachers attended a networking



⁷ The Europa Experience spaces are part of a wider chain of visitors' facilities, with the Parliamentarium at the centre of subsequent projects and acting as a repository for the content that is adapted in the Member States. Europa Experience spaces are currently operational in Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Ljubljana, Tallinn, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Stockholm and Warsaw.

session to exchange experiences and best practices from the programme. The afternoon included a session on youth engagement, a Q&A session with three MEPs from the three participating countries and a content-creation task where students worked in mixed groups.



- On 21 April 2023 a third EPAS transnational event in **Eupen, Belgium** was organised for participants from Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. The event, held in the German-speaking region of Belgium, brought together 98 participants – 87 students and 11 teachers – from 12 schools. It started with a plenary session for the

participants to get to know each other, followed by parallel workshops for junior and for senior ambassadors. In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to have a discussion with MEPs, moderated by a team of junior ambassadors. The day finished with some feedback and questions and a picture was taken of all the participants.

- The next transnational event of the school year took place from 1-3 June in **Veszprém, Hungary**, with 245 participants from 33 schools from Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Slovakia and Slovenia. The three days included networking events, workshops and presentations. MEPs joined a round table and talks in smaller groups. On the last day, all of the participants visited the city of Veszprém, which is the 2023 European Capital of Culture. During the visit they took part in outdoor activities.



- The last transnational event of the school year took place in **Tallinn on 24 and 25 August 2023** with 16 participating schools. The event brought together 130 secondary school pupils and teachers from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland. Participants took part in workshops held at the Estonian National Library, the Vabamu Museum and the Europa Experience, where they discussed the essence of parliamentary democracy, learned to distinguish between facts and disinformation, practiced collaboration and the ability to compromise and gained new insights into how the European Parliament works.



b) Close cooperation within DG COMM

In 2022 and 2023, close cooperation within DG COMM enabled synergies and increased incentives for the EPAS network. The Strategic Support Unit for EPLOs, together with the Financial Support Unit, organised the following events with support from other directorates within DG COMM:

- **Sakharov Youth Seminar with ambassador schools**



In December 2022, more than 80 teachers and students from across the EU, as well as the UK, came to Strasbourg for the Sakharov Youth Seminar. During the seminar, participants met with Vice-President Heidi Hautala, who is

responsible for the Sakharov Network, and Stephen Clark, the Director for Liaison Offices. They also gained valuable insights into the European Parliament through a workshop organised by the Visits and Seminars Unit (VISSEM) with representatives of the Ukrainian civil society organisations that were awarded the prize. Throughout the event, attendees actively engaged in separate workshops designed specifically for teachers and students, enabling them to further enhance their knowledge and skills. Additionally, they also met the EPLO Heads of Office. Finally, the participants attended the Sakharov Prize award ceremony and the plenary session.

- **Seminar for senior ambassadors**

On 27 and 28 April 2023, an EPAS seminar for 77 teachers from all the Member States (as well as from the UK) was held at the European Parliament in Brussels. The purpose of the event was to give teachers tools to better teach about Europe in their classrooms, as well as to allow them to



network with other senior ambassadors. The event programme included workshops, visits and information sessions. The First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Othmar Karas, also took part.



- **EPAS at the EYE**

On 9 June 2023 in Strasbourg, 130 EPAS teachers and students came together for the European Youth Event (EYE). Participants were welcomed by Jaume Duch Guillot, the Director General of the European Parliament's

Directorate General for Communication, and Stephen Clark, the Director for Liaison Offices. They took part in a workshop focused on the European elections facilitated by together.eu volunteers (change-makers). They also attended the opening plenary session of the EYE in the hemicycle and then took part in the various activities organised as part of the EYE.

- **LUX Award Youth Seminar for EPAS**



Almost 100 teachers and students gathered in Brussels in June 2023 for the LUX Audience Award Ceremony. This EPAS event was co-organised with VISSEM and the Civil Society Outreach Unit. Students and teachers from 25 Member States had the opportunity to listen to Evelyn Regner, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Carla Simon Pipo, who directed the film *Alcarras*, Matthijs Wouunter Knol, CEO and Director of the European Film Academy and 27 Times Cinema LUX Ambassadors. They also attended the award ceremony in the hemicycle.

c) Increased visibility of the programme through the EPAS website

The existing EPAS website was integrated into the Youth Hub⁸ and contributes to promoting the pan-European perspective of the programme and supporting the communication actions accompanying what the EPAS and Parliament offer to young people as a whole.

d) The EPAS eTwinning group

Following the assessment of needs raised by many senior ambassadors and together with the Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), an EPAS eTwinning⁹ group was launched in April 2021. More than **415** senior EPAS ambassadors have already joined the group.

In addition, teachers have involved students in some eTwinning projects. More than 100 junior ambassadors participated in the 'Europe Our DNA' eTwinning project. According to the group's moderator, an EPAS teacher, around 5 000 junior ambassadors are also involved indirectly.

e) Synergies with Euroscola

The EPAS programme and the Euroscola programme operate in tandem for imparting democratic values and European cohesion. The best-performing

⁸ <https://youth.europarl.europa.eu/more-information/ambassador-school.html>.

⁹ eTwinning offers a platform for staff working in a school in any of the European countries involved to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and feel part of an important learning community in Europe.

EPAS students and teachers are invited by the EPLOs to participate in Euroscola sessions where they have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the workings of the European institutions and to discuss democracy, fundamental rights and European values. In the past school year, **two** Euroscola sessions were exclusively dedicated to EPAS groups, while EPAS schools can also attend regular Euroscola sessions.

e) Cooperation with Europe Direct centres

The support given to the EPAS programme by Europe Direct centres (EDCs) was agreed at headquarters level within a set of guidelines related to general collaboration at local level. What EPAS and Parliament offer to young people is always presented during Europe Direct's managers' assemblies. Collaboration between EPLOs and EDCs takes place via workshops, projects, and discussions. At the beginning of each school year, information about EDCs is provided to all schools, most of which proactively contact their nearest one for planning events or obtaining promotional materials. The EDCs also actively promote the EPAS programme in their respective regions to encourage schools to participate and involve them in their activities. Events organised include celebrations for Europe Day, workshops on sustainability and the State of the Union, and other European-themed activities.

For instance, in Cyprus, some participating schools invited representatives of EDCs to visit their schools in order to learn about their mission. They also cooperated on Europe Day celebrations in various cities. In addition, in France, 15 schools actively engaged in activities organised by or in collaboration with EDCs, including visits to the European Parliament, participation in seminars and training, exhibitions, and workshops related to the EU and mobility. In addition, in the Netherlands, approximately 10 schools worked closely with the EDCs by inviting speakers to speak to their students.

Overall, the trend indicates a strong connection between EPAS schools and EDCs in various Member States, leading to increased interaction and support. EDCs actively involve EPAS schools in their annual programmes and invite them to their events, which fosters collaboration throughout the school year.

f) New Ambassador School communication toolkit

The EPAS communication toolkit has been updated and expanded to help EPLOs convey information about the programme in a way that is consistent with Parliament's new youth visual identity and the new Parliament brand book.

3. THE NETWORK

At the end of the 2022/2023 school year, **the network** included 5 044 senior ambassadors (teachers) and 34 662 junior ambassadors (students) from 1 991 certified schools. These figures represent a significant increase compared to the past: in 2016/2017, 700 schools participated in the programme.

Alongside their official accounts, half of the EPOs manage a public **EPAS social media** account totalling around 10 000 followers. Moreover, approximately 730 ambassador schools have created a specific EPAS social media account with a total of around 300 000 followers.

The graphs below show how the network has evolved over the years. Note that the figures only include teachers and students nominated as senior and junior ambassadors. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate data, indirect outreach (e.g. the number of other teachers and students involved in EPAS activities and the number of students and parents attending EPAS events organised by schools) is not included in this report.

It should be noted that several EPOs do not have the resources to continue expanding the number of schools they work with. The fact that some offices managed to increase the number of schools in 2021/2022 does not mean that they will be able to sustain this trend. Therefore, the objective is to consolidate and strengthen the current network, possibly by expanding the schools' outreach (in terms of numbers of teachers and students), but not necessarily to increase the number of participating schools.

School year	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Growth in the past year	% Growth since 2016/17
Senior ambassadors	2 676	2 691	3 431	3 682	3 897	4 671	5 044	+ 373	+ 88.5
Junior ambassadors	9 375	13 239	21 800	21 979	24 566	30 781	34 662	+ 3 881	+ 269.7
Certified schools	700	1 100	1 455	1 520	1 572	1 756	1 991	+ 235	+184.4

4. PROGRAMME COMMUNICATION

EPLOs use closed platforms to communicate and engage with educators taking part in the programme. Additionally, EPLOs promote the various programme activities through public social media accounts, a set of communication assets and by working with the mainstream media to extend the programme's reach and increase its impact.

4.1. The EPAS programme on social media

a) The offices

Thirteen offices¹⁰ manage a public EPAS social media account in addition to their primary EPLO social media accounts. Together, all these accounts have more than **9 713 followers**. Moreover, the EPLO in Ireland has a social media account targeting the wider educational community with 2 177 followers.

b) The schools

More than 732 European Parliament Ambassador Schools have created a specific EPAS social media account. Together these social media accounts have more than **288 479 followers**.

c) The central Facebook page

The EPAS programme's Facebook page managed by the Strategic Support Unit, mainly aimed at educators, has enjoyed 6.9 % growth and now has **6 415 followers**. More than 30 posts were published during the 2022/2023 school year.

4.2. The EPAS programme in the media

In the 2021/2022 school year, the Strategic Support Unit for EPLOs and the Media Intelligence Unit started tracking the number of pieces concerning EPAS reported through the platform used by DG COMM.

During the 2022/2023 school year, 77 mentions were registered in the press. The majority were reported in Ireland (23, including 7 on the internet and 16 in the press), in Slovenia (11, including 5 in the press, 4 on the internet and 2 on the radio) and in Cyprus (5 on the internet, 1 on the radio and 2 on TV).

Relevant mentions of the EPAS programme on the web totalled 77, of which 27 were from Greece and 27 from Italy.

4.3. Web communication

The EPAS programme is accessible through the [Youth Hub website](#) providing educators and students with plenty of information about EPAS and the network and

¹⁰ Czechia, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Finland and the United Kingdom.

a variety of learning resources. Within the 'resources' section, the European Parliament offers different learning resources to help teachers bring Europe closer to their students in an interactive way. In this section, they can find active lessons, thematic modules, pedagogical toolkits and audiovisual materials to discuss relevant European topics, generate debate and work with pupils in a playful way.

During the 2022/2023 school year, the EPAS page received 1 144 unique visitors, averaging approximately 164 visitors per month. These visits resulted in a total of 836 learning resource downloads, with an average of around 40 downloads per resource (out of a total of 21 resources available).

The relatively low traffic on the main website could be due to the fact that webpages on the EPAS programme are available on EPLOs' websites, where specific information on the national/local implementation of the programme is available.

5. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools and EPLOs recorded some challenges in implementing the EPAS programme. One major obstacle was the **difficulty in finding time** for EPAS as an extra activity amidst the various school priorities. Additionally, schools faced challenges in **generating fresh and innovative ideas for project implementation** and ensuring that participants, including mentors and students, were fully committed, completed all activity projects and organised engaging events on European topics.

There was a need for **more recognition** for both students and teachers participating in the programme. Some schools faced **financial constraints**, making it difficult to attend events and seminars. Parliament staff working on the EPAS programme are constantly looking for ways to enhance the programme, with additional improvements around these issues scheduled to take place as soon as the 2024/2025 school year.

Despite these challenges, the EPAS programme received consistently **positive feedback** from teachers and students.

The EPAS network offers a large number of opportunities. Not only are schools provided with a structured framework to **engage students on EU topics**, promoting **civic awareness** and active participation, they also help junior and senior ambassadors gain a better understanding of the EU institutions and legislative processes. Schools participating in the EPAS programme are also part of a wide network of interested educational institutions, which is extremely enriching during school exchanges via online and in-person activities. In addition, the programme enables schools to be involved in numerous EU engagement activities organised by the EPLOs or other parties, including Europe Direct centres, and to have direct contact with people, including MEPs, who are otherwise difficult to meet.

The EPLOs are challenged by limited resources in the face of an **ever-growing network**, a resource-intensive programme and the **uneven recognition** of the

programme by educational institutions and governments in the various Member States. Opportunities include **collaboration** between Parliament offices, such as during 'EPAS together' events, and with Commission representations, such as during multiplier visits to the institutions in Brussels to which EPAS teachers can be invited.

In summary, while the implementation of the EPAS programme during the 2022–2023 school year encountered several hurdles, including time constraints, innovative idea generation, funding, and engaging students and teachers effectively, the programme's impact was evident through the participation and dedication of students and teachers, making it a **successful initiative overall**.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from EPLOs underline the significance of fostering a successful and interconnected EPAS programme for the upcoming school year and beyond. Here are some of the most frequent suggestions:

1. Provide opportunities for schools to learn from good practices and interact with peers through EPAS seminars and regional events.
2. Collect and use good practices and educational materials produced by EPAS schools in a more systematic way for promotional and educational purposes.
3. Encourage more communication and collaboration between EPAS schools and Europe Direct centres to foster mutual support and encourage joint events.
4. Increase the number of junior and senior ambassadors in each school to enhance engagement and involvement.
5. Increase the budget to enable more activities for senior and junior ambassadors, such as workshops, training, visits to the European Parliament and participation in Euroscola.
6. Strengthen exchanges and networking between EPAS schools through ambassador conferences and joint activities. At the same time, maintain and enhance communication and support between EPLOs and schools to ensure that the EPAS programme is successfully implemented.
7. Increase the visibility and professional recognition of the EPAS programme by seeking formal recognition from national and regional administrations.
8. Support schools with diverse characteristics, such as schools for adults, people with disabilities and minors in care, to join the EPAS programme.

These recommendations highlight the importance of continued support, collaboration, and recognition in order to ensure the success and growth of the EPAS programme in the upcoming school year.

ANNEX I: Compilation of highlighted activities

AUSTRIA



EPAS Seminar Day for junior and senior ambassadors

On Friday, 11 November 2022, the doors of the House of the European Union were opened to more than 80 junior and senior ambassadors.

Within the framework of an EU democracy rally, the junior ambassadors were able to demonstrate and further develop their skills in the areas of democracy and active participation. The students also had the opportunity to exchange views with the MEPs Monika Vana and Hannes Heide.

The students' acquired knowledge will allow them to better understand news in the future, link information and feel that they can actively participate themselves. The event also focused on teamwork, public speaking, organisational skills, critical thinking, e-skills and social media, as well as emotional support and motivation.

The senior ambassadors acquired information about initiatives and organisations in the field of European citizenship education.

Afterwards, Othmar Karas, the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, was available to answer questions from the senior ambassadors. He emphasised how important it was to show young people perspectives, as the world was facing an epochal change and only globally and with a strong Europe could solutions for the many crises be found.

The afternoon was dedicated to Erasmus+. In addition to the different funding streams for school education, the participants also learned about the opportunities that the eTwinning network offers for teachers.

[Video from the Junior Seminar](#)



Europe's first EU pedestrian crossing in Weiz (Styria)

On the occasion of the Erasmus Days, which took place across Europe from 13-15 October 2022, the EU ambassadors from HAK/HAS Weiz were looking for ideas to make the days special for their Erasmus+ oriented school.

The result is a pedestrian crossing in the colours of the European Union in front of the 'Bundesschulzentrum'. The inauguration of the first EU pedestrian crossing in Europe became a highlight for the school.

As members of a European Parliament ambassador school, students released balloons spreading important messages. The event took place successfully with the support of the entire teaching team and the municipality of Weiz. [Local media reported the event.](#)



Europe at HLW FW Kufstein

The Friday after Easter at HLW FW Kufstein was all about the European Union. All classes were involved in this day of celebration. The Kufstein EPAS vocational school, some forms from the 'Mittelschule' and the Kufstein senior citizens' association were invited as external guests.

Some searched for their European path in small groups with a specially created scavenger hunt through the city. Others listened to the Austrian National Bank's presentation on currency. In the quiz that followed, interesting knowledge was imparted in a playful way.

Students presented the EU institutions in specially decorated classes. Speakers from a local company presented the tasks of and opportunities for interpreters and translators – also in the context of the European Parliament. The hymns of the individual Member States were matched to the respective member country through games in groups of two.

In the main hall, European councillors answered the guests' questions. The junior ambassadors moderated the session themselves. [In addition, the guests could dance to European folk music.](#)



Europe Day at HLW and HAK Kirchdorf an der Krems

Participants opened the programme with a colourful review of their EU-funded trips to Brussels and Strasbourg. This was followed by a Jew's Harp performance. Invited as a keynote speaker, MEP Hannes Heide emphasised the importance of the European institutions and then answered questions from the students. To conclude the ceremony, the guests could enjoy homemade EU-themed muffins. [Local media reported the event.](#)

BELGIUM



Football Cup and Basketball League EPAS – Athénée Royal Crommelynck

In order to encourage students to participate, the EPAS team decided to create two sports clubs for football and basketball. They engaged with around 120 students.

Charity music concert – Institut Notre-Dame, Arlon

For Europe Day, the EPAS team decided to organise a concert by 'Musique Royale des Guides' in St Martin Church, Arlon. The programme's theme was a music tour of Europe. All benefits went to two charities.



Political orientation run – Robert Schuman Institute

For the first year, the EPAS team organised a political orientation run for students within the school with seven stands run by junior ambassadors where students had to answer questions on the EU.

Information points spread around the school for Europe Day – GO! Atheneum Koekelberg

All students from the last three year groups received a list of 12 information points spread around the campus. Each information point dealt with a specific theme related to the EU. They had 20 minutes to find each point, read the information presented and get back to their classroom to answer a quiz on that specific theme.



BULGARIA

Regional meetings of EPAS schools

EPLO Sofia organised a series of six regional meetings around Bulgaria inviting all the EPAS schools to join the nearest one with a maximum of two senior and 10 junior ambassadors. The aim of the meetings was to provide a forum for young people to meet and discuss EU topics and stimulate



cooperation between schools. The participating schools co-developed the half-day programme and each meeting included interactive activities, where participants were split into groups and could choose the topics they were interested in. Junior ambassadors moderated many of the interactive activities. Common topics for all the regional meetings were Bulgaria's efforts to join the euro area and disinformation. Most meetings included Q&A sessions with an MEP and external speakers. There were screenings, role-play games, discussions, plays, debates and many other events.

National competition for events with non-EPAS schools



EPLO Sofia organised a national competition for EPAS schools where they had to organise an activity with non-EPAS schools from Bulgaria or abroad, with the intention of increasing their knowledge and interest in EU affairs. A total of 14 schools took part in the competition, whose activities were assessed by a jury. The winners won the chance to participate in a Euroscola session for EPAS students and promotional materials. The two best entries

included:

- 1) a 'Win Europa' competition with two other schools from the same town. The competition was organised by junior ambassadors in three rounds with four questions linked to the EU in four categories. The local press reported the event.
- 2) two face-to-face meetings with schools with a high concentration of Roma and Turkish students and three online meetings with non-EPAS schools from Italy, Spain and Turkey, in which the EPAS programme was presented. Junior ambassadors

acquainted their peers with basic facts about the EU, its Member States and its institutions in accessible language. Presentations were made by junior ambassadors, who also made pencil holders from recycled boxes, decorated them with the flags of the EU countries and gave them as presents to the pupils they visited in person.

Joint celebration of the Day of European Authors

A number of EPAS schools took part in a new initiative of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel called the Day of European Authors by organising stands and visits to libraries, donating books, reading extracts from popular books, organising reading marathons, creating posters with quotes and arranging meetings with writers. More than 15 Bulgarian EPAS schools came up with a joint campaign for this day and recorded over 100 videos of people reading extracts from their favourite European authors. Bulgaria was the country with the second highest number of events organised on that day. The photographs show a meeting in Targovishte with a popular musician and author who presented his book and discussed it with junior ambassadors.



Simulation of European elections

Some schools simulated European elections. Some organised them as a way to elect junior ambassadors with a weeklong election campaign, ballots, preferential votes and an electoral committee. Others conducted a referendum and voting through QR codes in the school and carried out an awareness-raising campaign among the people of their town of Sandanski about the European elections in 2024.

CROATIA

Learning about the EU with the Faculty of Political Sciences

The new generation of junior ambassadors worked on modules with former ambassadors. The young ambassadors started the process of working on EU modules, assisted by political science students, former junior ambassadors Nikica and Karlo, who shared with the students their experiences and examples of good practices during their involvement in the EPAS programme and highlighted the advantages of the entire programme.

Educational workshops in nursery schools and primary schools in Koprivnica-Krizevci County



The younger ambassadors conducted educational workshops with children in nursery schools and primary schools about EU values, with the aim of making young people aware of the importance of participation in democratic and political processes. The workshops were for pupils in the third and seventh grades (Lj. Gaj Krapina Primary School and Donja Šemnica Regional Primary School).

Students enjoyed working with small children in the nursery schools and focused not only on basic EU values, but also on human values.

The Future of Europe project: European Year of Youth

Junior ambassadors from 10 Croatian schools (in Vukovar, Krk, Petrinja, Pula, Split, Vela Luka, Velika Gorica, Slavonski Brod, Čakovec and Konjščina) participated in this three-day workshop (23–25 September 2022) within the project in cooperation with senior ambassadors and the team of MEP Predrag Fred Matić.

Through a series of panels and group workshops, the students presented their research papers and conceptual solutions to problem situations that they had been working on for months within their school teams.

The students proposed solutions for 10 key problems that are important to them.





Participation in a simulated session of the Croatian Parliament

Several schools participated in the 10th simulated session of the Croatian Parliament. This is a year-long project involving students and their teacher-mentors from a total of 41 secondary schools across Croatia. The topics of discussion were the 'Law on Environmental Protection' and the 'Declaration on Environmental Protection in the Republic of Croatia'. In this direct way, students could learn a lot about the Croatian Parliament as the legislative and representative body of the Republic of Croatia, as well as better understand the role of politics in the lives of all citizens.

CYPRUS

'HOPE' – Forum Private School

The junior ambassadors of Forum Private School, together with students of the school, wanted to send a variety of messages by recreating the word HOPE, replacing the letter 'O' with the anti-cancer emblem with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the message that together we can support life's little fighters. Through this action, the students collected money which they then gave to the Little Heroes' Foundation.



'Boat' (Info Point) – Laniteio Lyceum

Both junior and senior ambassadors created a boat as part of their info point. The boat was then placed in a prominent position in the school.

The students used T-shirts they had made themselves to create a sail, which they attached to the boat. This sail depicts students' ideas on the subject of refugees and immigrants.



All-Inclusive Charity Fashion Show – Idalion Lyceum



In order to break down stereotypes, promote volunteerism and at the same time raise money for their school, an all-inclusive charity fashion show and concert were organised at Idalion Lyceum, in which the models and musicians were students and teachers regardless of their height, weight, etc. Their goal was to involve people with different kinds of beauty, as well as students from the special

needs unit and from the School of the Deaf. The junior ambassadors contacted various shops that provided them with clothes for the event. They also contacted a college that has a hair and beauty department and arranged for it to offer its services for the event. The event was presented to the public by all possible means, including the mass media. The senior ambassador of Idalion School informed all EPAS schools about the event during the final ceremony of the programme.

'Europe Day – Europe's digital future and us' – Acropolis Lyceum



The junior and senior ambassadors of Acropolis Lyceum organised a Europe learning day on Friday, 28 April 2023 at their school entitled 'Europe's digital future and us'. They investigated matters concerning the objectives which the EU has set for improving the knowledge and skills of its citizens of all ages, which will make them digitally literate in an advancing Europe. They also investigated issues related to the validity and objectivity of information in various online environments and the safe utilisation of social networks.

The students themselves contributed to the organisation of experiential workshops, in which they, students from five other schools participating in the EPAS programme, parents, as well as some elderly people participated, in order to raise awareness and educate them. MEP Loukas Foulras,

rapporteur of the proposal of the European Year of Skills 2023, the Head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus Myrto Zambarta, as well as other stakeholders took part and shared their views and knowledge at this event, which welcomed 200 participants.

CZECHIA

Label design of European wines

Students from the Secondary Vocational School of Design and Fashion in Prostějov linked their field of study with the EPAS programme. They came up with an interesting brief in February – to design labels for wine bottles. They focused on well-known European wine regions and planned to submit the labels to the international competition Model Young Package.

Student presidential elections

Junior ambassadors from several schools (e.g. in Benešov and Litomyšl) organised student presidential elections in January 2023 for other students at their school. They emphasised the importance of the right to vote, democracy and taking an interest in national politics



DENMARK

Skype with Danish Members of the European Parliament

The Danish EPAS schools are all connected with one or more Danish MEPs in order to talk about the European Parliament, the legislation process and what MEPs are working on.

EU role-plays

Many of the Danish EPAS schools use EU role-playing to gain an understanding of the many different viewpoints and political interests in the EU Member States. Most of the role-plays take a full day to complete.



EU debates

Many EPAS schools host an EU debate for all students and external guests.

Experience EU in Denmark



Students took part in a two-day excursion to a conventional Danish farm. They also visited a school for ecological farming, the local EU office and met with a professor.

ESTONIA



EPAS award ceremony

On 12 May 2023, EPLO Tallinn organised this event at the Europe Experience centre, inviting the 16 schools that have attained the status of a European Parliament partner school, as well as those which have recently joined the EPAS programme or are interested in joining in the future.



Collecting ideas to celebrate Europe Day

EPLO Tallinn, together with the national EPAS contractor, the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Mondo, invited all Estonian high schools and vocational institutions to submit ideas for celebrating Europe Day in schools. Participating schools were asked to submit their proposals for activities related to Europe Day that would support students' creative and educational approach to the day. The aim was to present the European Parliament, the European Union, its countries and cultures in a diverse, unique and engaging way that would be of interest to young people.



EPAS seminar on the 2023 European Year of Skills

2023 is the European Year of Skills to highlight the challenges and opportunities offered by the digital and green transitions that our societies are dealing with. A rapidly changing society requires a transformation of existing skills and people must be prepared for career changes and continuous learning. Inspired by this initiative, this EPAS seminar focused on the topic of future competencies from the perspective of the digital and technological sectors, as well as 'soft skills'.



EPAS seminar on students' mobility in Europe

Another EPAS seminar took place in April 2023 in cooperation with the youth information portal Teeviit.ee, highlighting learning and educational opportunities for young people. During the seminar discussions were held on learning through mobility and the impact of studying abroad on individuals and communities. The seminar addressed questions about opportunities for learning-related mobility within the European Union, factors to consider when choosing a programme and the potential for EU programmes to create change at local level. The seminar included a keynote speech given by a representative of the Education and Youth Board of Estonia and three practical workshops.

FINLAND

EPAS Together in Tallinn, August 2022



A transnational two-day EPAS Together event took place in Tallinn in August 2022, bringing together some 120 students from Finland and the three Baltic States to discuss and learn about issues such as democracy, freedom, values and how to detect and counter disinformation.



Smarter than your student? EU quizzes

An EPAS school organised the second edition of an EU-related quiz with EPAS students and MEPs competing on their knowledge on topical EU issues such as climate, energy etc. Two quizzes were organised in September 2022.

FRANCE

Olympiads



The Lycée Professionnel Alexandre Denis organised the European Olympiads of atypical sports as part of the Week of European Languages. To celebrate the Week of European Languages, teachers of modern languages and sports education at the Alexandre Denis multipurpose high school decided to organise an olympiad for different, or more or less atypical, sports, from all over Europe. One of the main objectives was to enable students enrolled in vocational studies and mainstream studies to get to know each other.



European Day

Following 'Europe Day' and the 'Joli mois de l'Europe' organised by the Ministry of Education, school students of the Lycée Professionnel Auguste Perdonnet (vocational school) came together within the framework of the 'Ambassador School' and Erasmus+ programmes.

Students following different academic curricula celebrated Europe Day on 12 May in the presence of MEP Leïla Chaïbi.

The students were able to discuss European issues with the MEP and, for the occasion, we were able to visit the exhibition on Simone Veil.

This event was part of the Ambassador School programme and aimed to raise students' awareness of citizenship and enlighten them as EU citizens.



Protandem

Ten pupils from different final-year classes from the Lycée des métiers Claude Garamont took part in the Protandem initiative set up in collaboration with Walter Gropius in Bochum (15-day stay/internship for German students in Garamont). This initiative has been running for two years.

GERMANY



Are there only challenges or is there hope for the future?

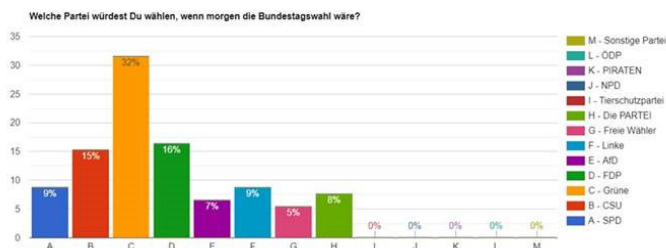
On Europe Day at BBS Wildeshausen students organised a diverse programme for their school community. They discussed current issues in the European Union with MEP Tiemo Wölken, organised an audio tour, installed information booths and recorded podcasts about EU topics, focusing on the question 'Are there only challenges or is there hope for the future?'

Simulation of the EU election process



Technik will eine Dreier-Koalition (Jamaika 63%, Ampel 57%, Grün-Rot-Rot 50%, Grün-Schwarz-Rot 56%, ...)

Technik wählt grün.



Europawahl2023 | 25.04.2023 | Page 3 | FOSBOS 12/13
FOSBOS Regensburg | Rebecca Müller, Maxim Fnk (beide F13W1), Sascha Schneider, SIR



The Berufliche Oberschule in Regensburg organised an anonymous election, simulating the EU election process. More than 500 students participated via an online voting tool. The results were presented at the school on Europe Day and at the EU information point.

Europe-parcours

A 'Europe-parcours' (or 'Europe-route') was organised by the junior ambassadors of the Maria-Wächtler-Gymnasium Essen on 4 May 2023 to celebrate Europe Day with their school community. Several stands, such as a memory game about European flags and quizzes about the EU institutions, were set up for group participation.



Europe and Me

Pupils at the Anton-Bruckner-Gymnasium in Straubing researched the impacts of the EU on their personal life and collected the results on a board where 12 stars provide information about positive aspects such as free exchange of people and goods, peace, Erasmus+ programmes, the Schengen agreement and many more.

GREECE

Campaign on EU values event



The Zosimaia School's activities introduced students to the European Citizenship Award and helped them understand the terms 'human rights', 'vulnerable social groups' and 'volunteering' conceptually. This involved an onsite and online forum entitled 'Volunteerism and the European Citizen's Prize', with a talk by MEP A. M. Asimakopoulou and experiential workshops. A forum entitled 'What are my rights?' was also co-organised by two additional EPAS candidate schools (the General Lyceum of Anatoli and a Polish school), with presentations by MEP E. Kountoura, talks by experts and experiential workshops led by the candidate countries' junior ambassadors. Thirdly, it comprised a cooperation meeting with the adult department of ELEPAP, Ioannina, artistic

workshops with the ELEPAP adult group and Zosimaia School students and an 'eastern workshop', in which the students created 100 Easter candles and sold them to raise funds for ELEPAP.

Political priority event entitled 'I am here too'

The Special and Vocational High School-Lyceum of Agrinio hosted an event entitled 'I am here too' on Disability Day to stress the necessity to include people with disabilities. MEPs Alexis Georgoulis, Fotis Zisimopoulos and Christos Zois were invited to talk about diversity and inclusion. Pupils welcomed the guests and after the talks they took part in sports (football, bocce, shot put and basketball), as well as in artistic activities such as making Christmas ornaments and cards. They spent the whole day together, chatting, singing and laughing, to the extent that all 'differences' were put aside.

Europe Day event entitled 'Talk to the MEP'

For Europe Day, the First Daily and Vocational Lyceum of Nafpaktos held an event entitled 'Talk to the MEP' in collaboration with MEP Asimakopoulou, who sent a video message to the ambassadors. Students watched the video message together, created a European album and participated in an online quiz about Europe. The event's reach was limited to the school premises. Nevertheless, participants uploaded the MEP's message to social media.



Conference entitled 'Young People and Europe' – First Model General Lyceum of Athens 'Gennadeio'

This conference was organised under the aegis of the municipality of Athens, with the support of EPLO Athens, Europe Direct ELIAMEP in Attica, the State Scholarship Foundation, the Department of International and European Studies, the University of Piraeus, the Economic University of Athens, and the Department of History and Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

The conference was hosted in the Serafeio Cultural Centre of Athens. The main topic of the conference was active citizenship through the enrichment of young people's knowledge on the European Parliament and democratic values. The students who participated in the conference had the chance to exchange opinions and to make suggestions concerning the challenges and expectations linked with our country's participation in the European Union.

The Vice Chair of the European Commission Mr Margaritis Schinas, the Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs Mr Aggelos Syrigos and Mrs Elena Kountoura from the European Parliament addressed the conference. In total, 264 stakeholders, 44 teachers and 220 students attended the conference in person.

HUNGARY



Cross-border EPAS event in Veszprém Ambassador Schools – Together

A regional cross-border EPAS programme youth event was held in Veszprém on 1-3 June 2023. The EPLOs in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Zagreb and Ljubljana co-organised this three-day event. A total of 250 participants came from the five organising countries to Veszprém, the European Capital of Culture. The Regional Development Minister Tibor Navracscics, Mayor of Veszprém Gyula Porga, Swedish Deputy Head of Mission Johan Sigroth, Director of the European Parliament's Directorate for Liaison Offices Stephen Clark and the Head of EPLO Budapest Andrea Lővei opened the event. MEP Katalin Cseh, Márton Gyöngyösi and Ivan Štefanec also took part in the event. On Friday afternoon, the participants could take part in a round-table discussion with the three MEPs Katalin Cseh, Márton Gyöngyös and Ivan Štefanec. Stephen Clark moderated the discussion.

Regional Europe Day event and competition organised by Szent István High School in Jászberény

High schools from the Jászberény region were invited for a day-long competition focusing on the EU. MEP Tamás Deutsch gave an opening speech and a together.eu volunteers round-table discussion was also on the agenda. More than 100 participants came to the event.

EPAS award ceremony

EPLO Budapest organises an EPAS award ceremony at the end of each school year, at which the new EPAS schools are awarded with plaques and certificates. Five new schools successfully joined the programme in 2022/2023. This year some other EPAS schools were also invited to the ceremony. Each participating school has to give a presentation about its EPAS school year. The junior ambassadors always give the presentations. In total, 60 junior and senior ambassadors were at the event, often accompanied by the school's head teacher.

EU history in Central Europe – competition organised by Vajda János High School in Bicske

Vajda János High School faces many challenges, but it managed to organise an international high school competition focused on Central Europe and the European Union. Many other Hungarian EPAS high schools joined the competition and it is a best example for cooperation among EPAS schools. The competition final was held in Poland.

IRELAND

EPAS committees raising money for charity

Mercy Secondary School, Mounthawk created different EU committees as part of their 2022/2023 EPAS programme. The mental health committee organised a bake sale where they raised over EUR 1 000 for Jigsaw Kerry, a mental health support service for young people.



Meeting President Metsola

Dunshaughlin Community College attended a unique event in Dublin this year with special guest Parliament President Roberta Metsola. The event was a brilliant success with students being able to engage with President Metsola and even have a photo opportunity!



Broadening the EPAS community across Europe



Junior and senior ambassadors from Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom, St Joseph's Secondary School, Rush and St Columba's College, Stranolar, travelled to Cyprus in April 2023 for the EPAS Transnational event. This was a great opportunity for students to learn more from their counterparts in Europe and get an opportunity to visit a new country. There were also schools present from Malta, England and Cyprus.

#EU50 Prize winners off to Strasbourg

Coláiste Chill Mhantain were awarded first place in the South constituency for their entry in the #EU50 video competition. Students were delighted to receive a trip to Strasbourg as their prize and visited Parliament on 23 and 24 May 2023.



ITALY

Istituto Istruzione Superiore Luigi Einaudi, Rome: virtual tour of European museums and sites



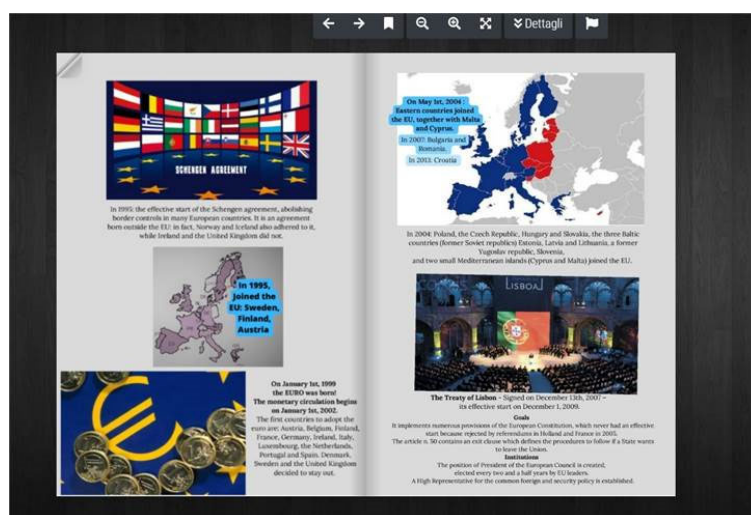
Junior ambassadors presented their project entitled 'metaVERSO L'EUROPA', which offers the possibility, through a visor and controllers, to take a virtual tour of certain European museums and sites. MEP Massimiliano Smeriglio attended the event and saw the excellent work done by the pupils by testing the virtual reality system

himself. In his speech, Smeriglio explained the various internship opportunities.

Istituto Tecnico Industriale Statale 'Evangelista Torricelli' di S. Agata di Militello: three flip booklets for raising awareness about the EU

Through an interdisciplinary approach, the students explored issues related to migration policy and the history of the European Union. In their research they used modern methodologies, producing three simple flip booklets, in order to better disseminate the project's objectives.

They also created a Facebook page dedicated to the EPAS project.



Liceo Antonio Rosmini of Rovereto: panel discussion and musical events

Esperienza Europa: a string quartet made up of students opened the event playing the European and the Italian anthems. After the performance, there was a panel discussion and a debate on European issues moderated by journalists Rocco



Cerone and Patrik Rina. MEP Matteo Gazzini, the European Commission official Alessandro Giordani and the Antonio Megalizzi Foundation delegate Andrea Malena attended the event. One of the junior ambassadors presented a personal insight of the 'Ventotene Manifesto'. The event continued with a concert performed by a musical group of students.

Liceo Scientifico Statale 'Giovanni Keplero', Roma: theatre and choir performance

The students worked on the goals of the 2030 Agenda through different activities: by organising a theatre and choir performance for the deconstruction of gender stereotypes (Antigone of Sofocle), promoting activities related to the Green School Project and visiting Europa Experience – David Sassoli in Rome.

The event on 18 May 2023 included speeches given by officials from the local public authority and MEP Massimiliano Smeriglio.



LATVIA

Opening event of 2022-2023

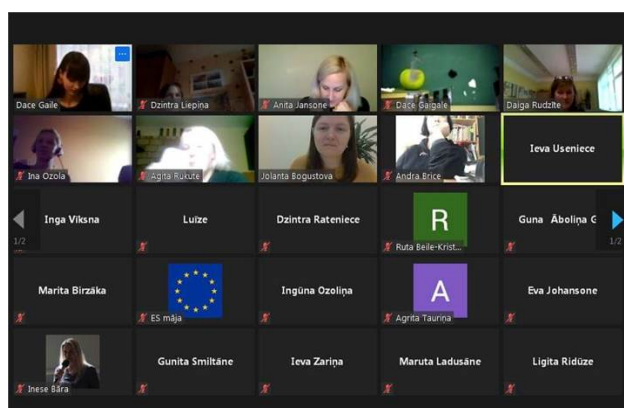
The opening event brought together senior and junior ambassadors from all over the country. The event was organised in two sections: informative – providing knowledge on the elections; and masterclasses – engaging students in interactive learning.

Simulation games – ‘Try on an MEP’s shoes’

Online simulation games were organised for junior ambassadors from three regions, which achieved two aims: (1) learning how to reach consensus among different political parties and (2) building networks among regional schools and pupils.

Open lectures

EPAS schools organised 51 open lectures with the participation of seven Latvian MEPs. A broad audience was invited, including community members and local politicians. The topics and methods selected were innovative, which generated great interest among the participants.



Research projects



EPAS teams conceived projects on increasing electoral turnout. The projects submitted contained diverse and relevant recommendations to be shared with politicians. Teams created very detailed and innovative materials, such as games, slogans, posters, videos and podcasts.

LITHUANIA

Debate with MEP on Parliament's role and decisions

EPAS junior ambassadors organised a debate with an MEP at their school to discuss Parliament's role and decisions.



Support for Ukraine

Jurbarko Antano Giedraicio Giedriaus gimnasium organised a joint event on European values together with Jurbarko Rotary Club and the Riflemen's Union. Monday collected during the event was donated to Ukrainian soldiers.

Communicating about Europe on Instagram

Vilniaus Abraomo Kulviecio klasikine gimnasium playfully communicated about Europe on [its Instagram account](#):

International cooperation – Go Europe Green with EPAS



Alytaus Jotvingiu gimnasium, with partners from Greece and Croatia, participated in the Erasmus + project 'Go Europe Green with EPAS'.

LUXEMBOURG



EPAS city rally

On 12 May 2023 around 200 junior ambassadors from 14 EPAS schools participated in an EPAS rally. The event featured the following activities:

- quizzes on the EU, the EU institutions in Luxembourg, the euro and the European banking system;
- memory games and guessing games;
- guided tour through the exhibition on 'Bodies of Identities';
- workshop on diversity;
- presentation and workshop led by a platform of Luxembourgish NGOs active in international solidarity.



Shaping Europe

On 24 April 2023, around 50 students from around 15 EPAS schools in Austria, Denmark and Luxembourg participated in the 'Shaping Europe' event, which first gave junior ambassadors the chance to hold discussions with each other and then to debate their questions and ideas with two MEPS on the following topics:

- Is atomic energy a green energy? (MEP Thomas Waitz)
- Are genetically modified organisms a solution for sustainable agriculture? (MEP Thomas Waitz)
- How can we achieve a socially just green transition? (MEP Tilly Metz)



EPAS teacher training

The 2022 EPAS teacher training gave senior ambassadors the chance to discuss current EU affairs with two MEPs. Ambassadors further had the opportunity to learn about [resources](#) prepared through the 'Case4EU' project, which was presented by Kris Grimonprez.

Finally, senior ambassadors took part in group workshops and focused on particular themes which are particularly relevant to their activities as EPAS ambassadors: 'debating and negotiation activities', 'exploring the cultures of the EU', 'joint events during the year', 'EPAS @ Democracy Week', 'online and video journalism' and 'virtual Europe space'.

The photograph shows the second edition with a smaller group. Around 20 senior ambassadors participated in the first session.



EPAS transnational event in Eupen

This event was organised in partnership with EPOs in Germany and Belgium. This German-speaking event took place on 21 April 2022 with around 120 participants (junior and senior ambassadors). Three schools from Luxembourg participated (Athénée de Luxembourg, Lycée privé Emile Metz, Lënster Lycée International School) with 24 junior ambassadors and four senior ambassadors. The agenda included networking, project development in the context of the European Parliament elections and a discussion with MEPs (Isabel Wiseler-Lima, Pascal Arimont and Karsten Lucke) which was moderated by junior ambassadors themselves.

MALTA

Recruitment of eight schools from Malta and Gozo to participate in the 2022 – 2023 EPAS programme



Eight schools from Malta and/or Gozo were recruited to participate in the EPAS programme for the 2022/2023 school year. This involved contacting many schools, which were explained the project and the necessary steps to be taken.

Production of quiz events held in individual schools including design, research, communication and implementation

The EPLO Valletta team scheduled quiz sessions that were held in each of the individual schools. It was necessary to design quizzes that consisted of various sections and question types, including simple true and false type questions, compound questions where the answer consisted of two or more clauses and direct elimination fast response questions.

Design, production and implementation of final match quiz session

The final event was held on Europe Day in Valletta. This consisted of a final quiz, which included various heats. The winning teams from participating schools competed against each other in an atmosphere of healthy fair play and good fun on questions based on EU material taught in schools.

Various school visits, evaluation and formulation of report

Visits were made to various schools where we met with the principal and senior ambassadors, as well as with the student body, ensuring that the material was being covered in the curriculum.

THE NETHERLANDS



Visit of European Parliament President Roberta Metsola on 30 March 2023

At the University of Leiden, The Hague Campus, the Parliament President held an open discussion and set the tone by telling the participants they could ask her anything.

She answered questions about the European response to the war in Ukraine, the corruption scandal and the efforts made by Parliament to close the gap between citizens and the Brussels bubble. In total, 530 people, mostly students, participated in the open discussion, including junior ambassadors from EPAS schools.

It was clear that Europe is alive and well among students: dozens of hands went up in each new round of questions. Afterwards, it was time for the final and most fun part of the evening: the photo opportunity. Roberta Metsola took the first selfie with the moderator, Professor André Gerrits, showing hundreds of smiling audience faces in the background. After that, she disappeared among the crowd of students, who had the opportunity to take a selfie with the president.



EPAS Junior Day, 21 April 2023

On 21 April 2023, Koning Willem I College hosted the EPAS Junior Day for Dutch EPAS schools in Den Bosch. A total of 170 students and 30 teachers from 24 schools visited Den Bosch.

After the opening, Dutch MEP Toine Manders (CDA, EPP) took the stage for a Q&A session with the students. All students came well-prepared with interesting questions about Europe, sustainability and his professional life. After the Q&A session, the three best schools that took part in the Dutch EPAS sustainability contest pitched their proposals about making their schools more sustainable. All three schools won a trip to Euroscola.

Various partners provided workshops regarding sustainability, migration and European democracy. Kiki Boreel, a fashion model and climate ambassador, provided the students with practical tips for a more sustainable wardrobe. Maher Adaam told



the students about his experiences as a Syrian refugee. Participants played the 'immigration game', designed and presented by Leiden University. Vlogs were shown in which EPAS vocational students played major roles.

The EPAS Junior Day was interactive, educational and fun, thanks to the help of a passionate group of students and teachers from Koning Willem I College and our EPAS team!

Cross-border workshop on 'European citizenship in education' in Sittard, 23 March 2023



EPLO in The Hague organised a cross-border workshop for teachers on 'European citizenship in education' on Thursday, 23 March 2023. The workshop was on the importance of European citizenship in education and took place at the 'De Domijnen' Heritage Centre in Sittard in the province of Limburg (in the very south-eastern part of the Netherlands). The objective of the workshop was to bring together cross-border educators from the Limburg region, in Belgium, from the Netherlands and Germany, to generate awareness on the importance of educating students about the EU

in their classes and the programmes and projects that the European Parliament offers, as well as the tools available for that purpose. Around 50 participants took part in the workshop, who were mainly secondary school teachers who teach history and sociology.

The EPLO's Head of Office, Danny de Paepe, made some opening remarks, which were followed by a video message from MEP Jeroen Lenaers. The EPLO received extremely positive feedback from the teachers at the end of the event, who would be very interested in joining the EPAS programme and participating in Euroscola in particular.

E-Twinning project

In this e-Twinning project, EPAS junior ambassadors researched and discussed democracy and (social) media. What is the role of the media in relation to democracy? How is disinformation undermining well-functioning democracies? In the past decade, maybe even longer, democracy has been in decline worldwide. Well-respected organisations recorded more autocratic states than democracies around the world last year. In Europe, we also see examples of countries thwarting EU democracy. Why are democracies in decline?

More than 100 junior ambassadors from 50 different EPAS schools collaborated in international teams to search for answers to these questions. They started with a survey about the media, which gave interesting insights. The junior ambassadors then carried out research, studies and interviews and prepared presentations related to the topic. They shared their presentations in joint online meetings and were offered feedback by experts such as Mrs Arizza Ann Nocum ('Extremely Together', Kofi Annan Foundation), Mr A. Koetsenruijter (formerly at the European External Action Service) and Mr Ricardo Castellini da Silva (European Digital Media Observatory, Ireland). The project started in November 2022 and ended in May 2023. Everyone involved enjoyed the project.

POLAND



Junior Ambassadors' Festival

The EPAS Junior Ambassadors' Festival was a two-day online event. Young people actively participated in workshops on social media, the fight against disinformation and the art of debating with people representing different views from our own. They

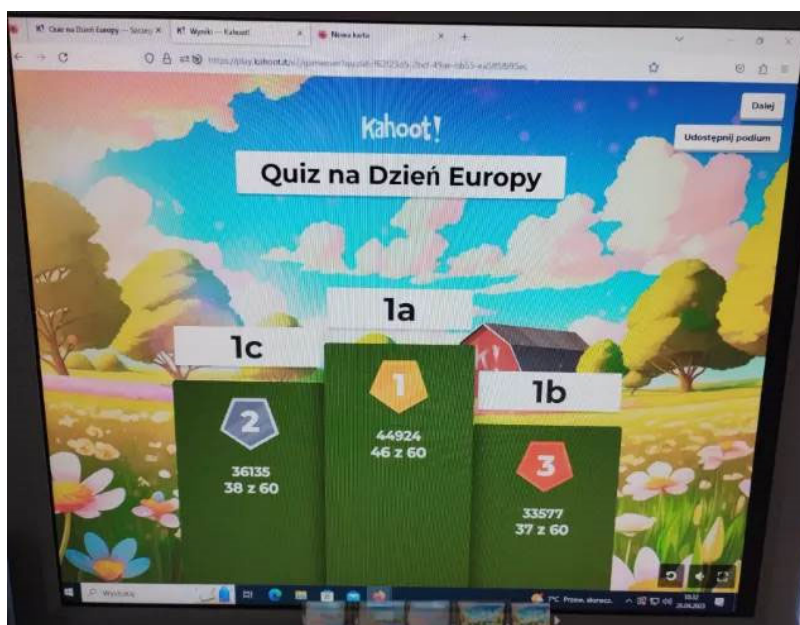
also shared experiences from projects implemented by their schools and ideas for further activities to promote the ideas of the programme. The participants had an opportunity to meet MEP Łukasz Kohut, who spoke about his work in the European Parliament, the current European challenges and his efforts to preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of Upper Silesia. The young people were also able to discuss student rights and school statutes with an expert. More than 70 students took part in the festival.

European Week

Junior ambassadors at Lajos Kossuth High School in Warsaw organised a series of events for European Week, featuring a different activity every day: a tour of European capitals; a meeting with MEP Danuta Huebner's assistant; workshops on European legislation, social media and European diversity; European volunteering; and an online exchange with students from the European School in Brussels.

When traditional meets non-formal education

Two senior ambassadors from Mikołaj Kopernik High School in Jarosław and Juliusz Słowacki High School in Warsaw participated in the European Educators Event in Brussels where they discussed ways of strengthening cooperation among EPAS schools across Europe, as well as the idea of 'EPASing Eastern Partnership schools'. They further shared the results with other senior ambassadors during our EPAS regional seminars.



Europe Day

Junior ambassadors at the High School in Sieradz organised a Europe Day event for their colleagues featuring various quizzes on European integration, European Parliament and Commission activities, as well as the youth programmes.

PORTUGAL

European Spring – Scarecrow Parade



Under the theme 'United in Biodiversity', as part of the School Cultural Project and in collaboration with the National Arts Plan, the AEA School shone a light on rural life, planting and agricultural traditions specific to its region. Throughout the months of March and April, the project celebrated the 'European Spring' by engaging the entire school and local community. One of the highlights was organising workshops with senior ambassadors from the Municipality of Arouca's Senior Space, who visited the school to teach students how to create scarecrows, traditionally used to protect crops from birds. Under the project, students crafted 27 scarecrows, each representing one of the 27 countries in the European Union. In May, during the European

Week, the 'United in Biodiversity Scarecrow Parade' took place, captivating the streets and transforming the Municipal Park into a vibrant display of colour, displaying the community's pride in its cultural heritage and European values.

'Celebrating Democracy – cross-border meeting of Ambassador Schools' Theatre at the European Parliament'

The main objective of the project 'Celebrating Democracy – cross-border meeting of Ambassador Schools' Theatre at the European Parliament' is to provide young people with a space between theatre and reality for reflection and dialogue about democracy in their countries. It used the school theatre clubs to share and disseminate young people's values, principles, concerns and fears about the future of democracy in Europe.



Since its first meeting at the founding school, Escola Secundária de Serpa, in September 2022, two more meetings have already taken place: in March, at Escola Secundária Leal da Câmara in Sintra and in May at the IES Sáenz de Buruaga, Mérida, Spain. These meetings have a special impact on communities because the groups of students establish strong ties with the public, sowing messages that lead to personal and collective reflection that reach beyond local people through media and social networks.



Move for values!

This project, entitled 'Move for values', provided quality education, guided by ethical values of equity, empathy, solidarity and respect for others, promoting school success and assuming a commitment to the comprehensive training of students, in order to guarantee them the conditions to pursue their studies and fully embrace an active life and the experience of responsible and active citizenship.

In line with these values, EPLO Lisbon recently organised an event where they invited various individuals to share their experiences with the students. The attendees included the President of the PNED (National Plan for Ethics in Sports) and members of the educational community, ranging from the vice-mayor to local authorities.

Nearly 80 students gathered in the auditorium to listen to the guests who spoke about the importance of ethics and European values of citizenship. They emphasised how these values are fundamental to maintaining integrity in sports and how the practice of sport can have a positive impact on the world, contributing to peace in Europe and beyond.



'Star Dust'

'Star Dust' is an educational initiative conceptualised by Isabel Baltazar, the coordinator of the school ambassador pedagogical project of the European Parliament and developed by the European School of Professional Education in Braga, Portugal.

This project, created by the school's students, took the form of a captivating and interactive tale for children and young people. It served as a valuable educational tool while also providing an enjoyable experience.

Through this tale, children and young people embarked on an exciting journey spanning across continents, all while gaining knowledge about the European Union and its significance.

The primary objective of the tale was to convey the essence of the EU and the values it represents in an engaging and easily understandable manner.

ROMANIA



EPAS network meetings

For three days (12-14 May 2023), over 20 schools in the network and 400 participants celebrated Europe Day through conferences, workshops and debates, as well as a meeting with three MEPs from Romania that focused on how the European institutions work, as well as European values. It was a success as could be seen by the high number of schools in the network involved, as well as by the high number of MEPs who attended the event.

Simulation of European Parliament elections



For a period of three months, 'Miron Costin' High School in Pascani carried out an extended simulation of European Parliament elections. Candidates were chosen from the 9th – 11th grades who presented their programme and platform over several days to the students of eligible voting age (mainly 12th grade). The campaign entitled 'Your voice in Europe' was organised

during April and May 2023. On Europe Day, the 280 students invited voted after watching presentations by junior ambassadors on the history of the EU, the European institutions and the election process.



EPAS Together Transnational

Ten EPAS schools from Romania (two), Greece and Bulgaria participated in a two-day meeting where junior ambassadors and students debated important European issues such as: the world in a climate crisis, it's all in the mind, equal rights, and democracy versus fake news. Young people from various cultural and geographical backgrounds, who were part of the same programme, had the opportunity to express themselves and debate on currently important issues for the European framework. It was also an opportunity for them to exchange good practices in the implementation of the programme in their own countries.

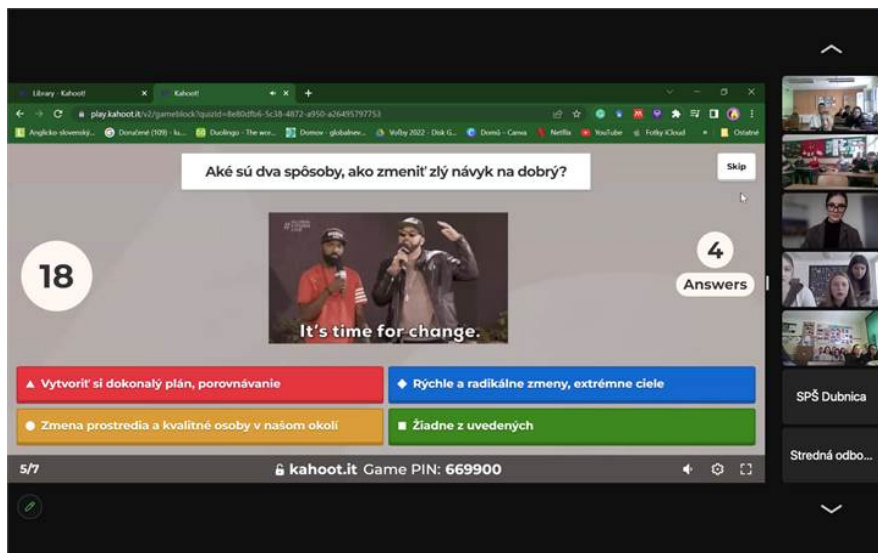
An out-of-the-box info point



One of the candidate schools this year from Darabani implemented an extended plan for an information point for the programme. They created informative materials on the EPAS programme and the EU in the three buildings of the school, as well as through a partnership in the main lobby of the City Library (also housing the North Museum). They also installed two TVs with video and photographic materials

presenting relevant European issues, as well as material from the YouTube channel of the Parliament Office. All the information points also have a QR code that leads to the candidate school's Facebook page. Photos from the EPAS activities were projected onto the screens on a rolling basis.

SLOVAKIA



Workshop on goal-setting and values

This two-hour event centred on smart goals and values. It focused on finding and building the identity of young high school students through setting appropriate goals and creating the right habits. We received very positive feedback from senior and junior ambassadors.



Run for the EU

One school organised a European mini-marathon in their city on 9 May 2023 for the public. They invited all other EPAS schools to organise a similar run in their cities simultaneously. This was a very good opportunity for several schools to interact. Hundreds of people ran for the EU that day.

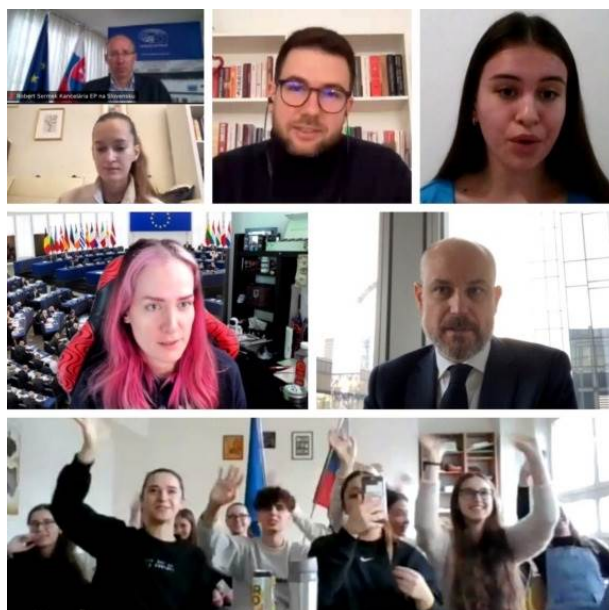
FakeScape – workshops on media literacy

EPLO Bratislava offers their new ambassador schools workshops on disinformation and media literacy, which they organise in cooperation with the NGO FakeScape directly in schools. Around 20–30 students attended the workshops. They took the form of an escape room where students become journalists and have to save the elections by uncovering the candidate who is lying before it is too late. This practical part is followed by a presentation giving tips on how to check facts and be able to uncover fake news and hoaxes.

Czech-Slovak online discussion on human rights and the Sakharov Prize

For the third year in a row, EPLO Bratislava co-organised this two-hour online event with colleagues from EPLO Prague. It focused on the topic of Ukraine and included:

- the testimonial of a volunteer who helped Ukrainian refugees at the Slovak-Ukrainian border;
- a Ukrainian student who fled Ukraine after the invasion and is now living in Slovakia;
- a presentation on the Sakharov Prize;
- a discussion with two MEPs and a journalist covering the conflict;
- and a Kahoot quiz.



Nearly 300 ambassadors participated from 31 Czech and Slovak EPAS schools. Some of them then followed the ceremony in Strasbourg online during the December plenary.

SLOVENIA



'If I were in charge' – four regional events in Slovenia

For the third year in a row, EPLO Ljubljana enriched the EPAS programme with the organisation of four discussions between junior European Parliament ambassadors, MEPs and experts on some of the most pressing issues for the future of the EU. This year marked the first year that discussions were held live in four different Slovenian cities – Maribor, Novo Mesto, Nova Gorica and Ljubljana.



Europe Day event: 'Europe in the palm of your hand'

Three EPAS schools and the eMCE youth centre joined forces and co-organised a Europe Day event entitled 'Europe in the palm of your hand'. Their slogan for the event was 'united in diversity'. During the whole-day event, their goal was to deepen students' knowledge about the EU, its Member States, the cultural and economic characteristics of the Member States and the EPAS programme.

The event opened with a cultural programme, followed by an in-depth presentation of 11 Member States and the EPAS programme on stands. The students chose the countries to present as part of their project assignment. On the stands, they presented their economic characteristics, tourist attractions and typical desserts, which they made themselves. In addition, there were many other activities available that made the event more interesting. For example, they prepared a fashion show from used clothes, organised a treasure hunt, and created a quiz about the music of the EU countries and an EU photo corner.

Altogether more than 350 students, teachers and visitors participated in the event. The local media, a representative of the municipality of Velenje, and the director of the school were also present at the event.



Europe Day event: Experience Europe with Prešernova School

Ekonomška šola Ljubljana organised a Europe week that took place in the week from 8 to 12 May 2023. On these days, they organised a school competition entitled 'Experience Europe with Prešernova', in which they included students from the 1st to the 3rd grades. Each class chose three students as representatives who participated in the competition and other students from the class participated as viewers. Before the competition, junior ambassadors prepared materials for participants which they could study.

The competition consisted of four modules:

- Questions or statements about the EU;
- Anniversaries of important events from the history of the EU;
- Puzzles including the flags of the Member States and their leaders;
- Lip reading – one of the contestants listened to music on headphones while another spoke EU-related words to him, which he had to decipher by reading his lips.

At the end of each round, the class with the lowest number of points was eliminated. After the last round, they announced the winner. The first two teams of that day qualified for the finals. They also created a short film about the event and posted it on social media. They managed to include the whole school.



Peers to (younger) peers – Activities of European Parliament ambassadors to transfer knowledge to younger generations

This year, junior ambassadors transferred their knowledge about the EU to younger generations: students in primary schools and nursery children. Through these activities, students acquired a vast set of communication and presentation skills and at the same time deepened their knowledge about the EU.

At least 16 EPAS schools organised these sorts of activities. The three best practices were:

- For Europe Day II, gimnazija Maribor organised a competition about EU knowledge among primary schools in their local environment called Evropejček. A total of 17 primary schools participated, with three students per school, totalling 51 primary students. In addition to the competition, they prepared different activities for the students on this day.
- Junior ambassadors from Prva gimnazija Maribor first prepared didactic material for their peers who were not participating in the project. Then they carried out their

interactive presentation in the classrooms. Students also performed similar interactive workshops in six primary schools from their region.

- Prva gimnazija also prepared a didactic book entitled *Get to Know the EU with Eurok* for nursery children. Junior ambassadors helped with the preparation of the content of the book and illustrations. Slovenian MEP Irena Joveva co-financed the publishing of the book, which was then sent to all Slovenian nursery schools.

SPAIN

EPAS meeting of the province of Alicante entitled 'A green and sustainable Europe'

This was a joint activity of the EPAS schools in the province of Alicante. Various activities based on environmental issues were organised. All the schools travelled to the city of Alicante and at the plenary session of the Alicante Provincial Council the junior ambassadors had the opportunity to give speeches requesting a 'Greener Europe'. Subsequently, they visited the Casa de las Brujas, the birthplace of Europe Direct Comunidad Valenciana and, finally, they held a joint work session at the Fundación Mediterráneo based on the 'design thinking' methodology.

EPAS meeting in Orihuela, 'Huerta de Europa'



The Mediterranean axis EPAS meeting was held through the joint initiative of the Orihuela City Council and the San Miguel Diocesan Oratorio Festivo College. Its aim was to create synergies between the young European Parliament ambassadors and local farmers. The conferences promoted the exchange of good practices, where Orihuela schools took part together with the ambassador schools. In particular, schools took part which were integrated into the 2030 Network of Schools and generated debates around sustainable eating, healthy lifestyle habits and respect for traditional agriculture.

Collage of 10 000 activities by the Andalusian EPAS

The school IES Severo Ochoa proposed as a collaborative activity the creation of a mosaic displaying 10 000 activities of Ambassador Schools. The school formed the Eureka team, made up of schools with great enthusiasm for working on EU issues.



The EPAS coordinator of IES Severo Ochoa made a collage with images of the EPAS activities developed by her school over the two years during which it was part of the programme. After

testing various programmes and experimenting with various configurations, she created the collage in her school with 10 000 images that formed the Ambassadors Schools logo.

Practical workshop and simulation of European elections

The simulation was used to explain the electoral process to young people who are going to vote in the European elections in June 2024 in order to reassure them and encourage them to vote.

Five EPAS ambassadors from Severo Ochoa are part of a Euro activism team called 'Objetivo 2024' and took part in a contest called Youth Ambassadors, organised by the InGalicia Cultural Association. The junior ambassadors' objective was to encourage young people to vote in the 2024 European elections.

The junior ambassadors taught a practical class to 4th grade and Baccalaureate students, briefly explaining the parties that were in the European Parliament and the representation of each one, the process to verify their data before voting, how postal voting works and what to do on entering the polling station.

[A video](#) on how the most practical part of the workshop was developed.

SWEDEN



Visit to Stockholm with Europa Experience and a debate with an EU minister

This activity involved a trip to Stockholm, where the junior ambassadors had the opportunity to attend both the 'Upplöv Europa' exhibition and a debate with the Swedish EU Minister. This experience allowed the students to witness first-hand how the EU influences Sweden in various ways. It became clear and real, as described by one of the students, and the activity was documented and disseminated in the municipality of Mölndal in western Sweden.

The junior ambassadors took the lead in organising the activity, which they carried out using simple means. The activity attracted attention from local media and engaged the local community.

Regional EPAS conference at Europe House

During the spring, 12 schools from eastern Sweden gathered at Europe House in Stockholm. They had the opportunity to



meet each other and interact with MEPs and EPLO staff, which the junior ambassadors found exciting and enjoyable. It was also a great experience to explore the new Europa Experience premises and immerse themselves in the topic of Europe.

This was a great example of the power of regional meetings and cooperation between schools.

This activity contributed to the development of democratic skills such as critical thinking, opinion formation, effective argumentation and the ability to compromise. The activity reached a wide audience including students, teachers, parents and other target groups.

EPAS school EU simulation (role-play)

EPAS junior ambassadors took part in a simulation called 'The Green Pact', which the students worked on for five weeks. The students shared their knowledge and learnt more about the EU on a deeper level, culminating in a role-play session. Five classes participated in this simulation, making it a good example of an activity that also includes more students at the school.

The junior ambassadors played a leading role in creating and implementing the activity. Through the activity, knowledge and information was also disseminated beyond the school environment. Furthermore, it engaged local media and the local community.



Junior ambassadors as floor staff at inauguration of Europa Experience Stockholm



During spring 2023, EPLO Stockholm inaugurated the Experience Europe facility. The inauguration made it possible for schools to visit the exhibition and participate in activities such as guided tours and role-playing on site. Several schools have already visited Experience Europe, and two EPAS schools participated in the inauguration, where 20 junior ambassadors acted as guides for participants and visitors (floor staff). The exhibition and role-play game are highly beneficial for the junior ambassadors and participating schools.

UNITED KINGDOM

Europe Day Festival



Junior ambassadors at Loreto High School in Chorlton organised a whole host of events to celebrate Europe Day, including a special formation quiz, a Spanish film festival, European biscuits in exchange for European greetings and all of Year 7 learning 'Ode to Joy'.

Introducing EPAS

Junior ambassadors at Queen Elizabeth's School, Crediton, created a whole school assembly and quiz to introduce EPAS to the school: what it is, why they are doing it, and how to get involved.

Transnational EPAS

Students from Ambassador Schools in Cyprus, Ireland, Malta, and the UK met in Cyprus to learn about employment skills for the future.



Active Instagram

Junior ambassadors from USP College (Palmer's Campus) have an active Instagram channel. They post about what they are doing and interact with other accounts, and raise awareness of all kinds of issues and special days.

ANNEX II: ACHIEVEMENTS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIAISON OFFICES IN THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The table below compiles a selection of achievements mentioned by the EPLOs that have not been included in the activities of the 2022/2023 school year.

Country	Highlighted achievements
Austria	EPLO Vienna was considerably supported in the implementation of the EPAS programme and greatly appreciated the possibility to take part in the #EPAStogether 2023 events.
Belgium	EPLO Brussels had 12 new EPAS schools joining for the 2022/2023 school year, with very motivated junior and senior ambassadors and many original activities.
Bulgaria	<p>EPLO Sofia reported that the programme continued to be very successful with very high motivation shown by the majority of the schools in organising a wide range of events and activities under the programme. Very few schools decided to drop out of the programme this year. The EPLO organised six regional meetings that managed to bring together both senior and junior ambassadors in each region, boosting the motivation of participants and cooperation between schools and producing the first transnational event in Thessaloniki with Romanian and Greek participants. Finally, the EPLO reported increased cooperation with Europe Direct centres, which often participated in the regional meetings, as well as schools linked with foreign exchange students through cooperation with Erasmus Student Network Bulgaria, and with university students through cooperation with the European Studies Club of Sofia University. Representatives of both organisations visited the EPAS schools to talk about Erasmus and other EU programmes for young people.</p> <p>EPAS schools reported high motivation and enthusiasm among junior ambassadors, as well as improved teamwork, communication and presentation skills among students. Students and teachers participated in Erasmus+ and eTwinning projects and in events linked with Europe Day. They also reported increased cooperation with institutions and NGOs and an increased feeling of 'togetherness' in the school community because of the EPAS programme.</p>
Croatia	EPLO Zagreb reported that more schools became involved in the 2022/2023 school year. There was better outreach beyond the EPAS programme and the general feeling and cooperation were outstanding.
Cyprus	The work and effort put in by all 25 schools during the programme were exceptional. They implemented various EPAS and many extra activities. Senior and junior ambassadors completed the activities efficiently in an innovative way. The programme has helped

	<p>students learn about the structure of the EU, its importance, institutions and values. It has helped citizens realise the importance of becoming active citizens and helping to improve our standard of living. Through the programme, the students carried out research on topics such as the environment, digital transformation, immigration, human rights, the LGBTQI+ community and gender equality. The students learned to love and care for their community and country in general, and through the various activities they collaborated not only with the local authorities, but also with other schools participating in the programme. They worked very hard, they were active, and they learned to accept different opinions and beliefs and help those in need.</p> <p>Specifically, the schools cooperated with each other during activities such as Europe Day and the junior ambassadors had the opportunity to meet new people and form relationships based on solidarity and mutual respect with many students from other schools in Cyprus. All schools involved MEPs, the public and a big number of stakeholders in their activities. The final ceremony of the EPAS programme took place successfully on 23 June 2023 and junior and senior ambassadors were thrilled to participate and be rewarded for their hard work.</p>
Czechia	<p>In 2022/2023, EPLO Prague was able to send all successful schools from the previous two years to Euroscola, including schools from the 2020/2021 programme when the schools were unable to travel to Strasbourg due to COVID-19. The online Euroscola is also very popular among schools, but it is considered more of a useful enrichment of the learning experience than a real reward.</p>
Denmark	<p>EPLO Copenhagen reported that seeing the students' interest in EU topics and European culture and languages has been an eye-opener for many teachers. The best part for many EPAS schools has been the many class exchanges with young Europeans of the same age to experience how young people understand each other and take interest in each other. Many schools find that the EU focus and the many activities have increased the interest of the students, as well as many colleagues.</p> <p>EU topics have become part of everyday life in the teaching and the daily life at the EPAS schools because of the many new ways offered by EPAS Copenhagen to teach about the EU and European languages and culture. The study trips to Brussels and Strasbourg where the students met young Europeans and politicians and visited the European institutions have been a great eye-opener for many students. It also made the webinars easier to use in the classroom since their knowledge and understanding of the EU and European institutions had improved.</p> <p>Several schools can see a much higher interest in the EU today than a few years back, and students have more knowledge and understanding of the EU than before. Several schools find the EU</p>

	<p>role-plays a great way to teach EU topics. The EU webinars offered by Efterskolerne in Denmark have been a great way to qualify knowledge and introduce specific topics in the teaching, because teachers do not have the same knowledge which professors, politicians and think-thanks can offer.</p> <p>Two EPAS schools found that the cooperation with each other has been a great way to work with the EU. Other schools find that excursions in Denmark are a great way to work with the EU and to show students that the EU is right here where they live. Finally, the EPAS senior ambassadors have learned to pinpoint specific EU activities to colleagues in order for them to work more on EU-related topics.</p>
<p>Estonia</p>	<p>The EPAS programme proved to be valuable, offering opportunities for students to meet and connect with peers from different schools, fostering a sense of community and collaboration.</p> <p>Through various activities and interactions, students were able to develop their social and interpersonal skills, as well as broaden their perspectives. The programme encourages active participation, empowering students to take on leadership roles, express their opinions and engage in meaningful discussions about the EU and the European Parliament.</p> <p>The programme is also especially important in the context of transitioning to teaching in Estonian across the country, as the seminars created opportunities for Russian-speaking students to broaden their horizons and interact with students from other schools in Estonian.</p> <p>In May 2023, the first 16 schools in Estonia received the EPAS plaque, marking an important development in the implementation of the EPAS programme in Estonia. EPLO Tallinn still aims to encourage the involvement of less active schools in the network and reach out to schools that have participated in the Euroscola programme or celebrated Europe Day as a school tradition, but are not yet part of the EPAS network. A reasonable aim would be to expand the network of schools with the official Parliament partner school status by five to 10 schools each year.</p> <p>More importantly, the international seminars and events in Brussels or Strasbourg, offered by the EPAS programme, continue to be a very motivating aspect for the participants. As these seminars are an opportunity for teachers or students from different schools to travel to the event together, they also get to know each other on the journey and come up with valuable ideas to implement as a collaboration.</p> <p>For example, teachers from Jõhvi Gümnaasium, Tamsalu Gümnaasium and Tartu Annelinna Gümnaasium attended the EPAS seminar in April together and have already formed an 'EPAS Working Group'. They have met several times online or in person</p>

	<p>and plan to submit a joint project for extra funding in September. They also established meaningful connections with EPAS teachers from France, Czechia and Finland and plan to involve them in the project as well.</p> <p>Overall, the high engagement and enthusiasm of EPAS schools to participate in national and international activities demonstrates their commitment to providing students with opportunities to explore EU-related topics in a meaningful and impactful way. By actively seeking out and implementing good practices, EPAS schools foster a dynamic educational environment that promotes a deeper understanding of the European Union among students and educators alike.</p>
Finland	The EPAS materials, training and events received varied and positive feedback from students and teachers.
France	EPLO Paris' achievements during the 2022/2023 school year consist of the various events and activities that the EPLO carried out and engaged in during the year. This includes visits to the European Parliament, the Euroscola sessions, the LUX Audience Award Ceremony in Brussels, the European Youth Event in Strasbourg and visits to the Europa Experience in Paris. Teachers from the schools greatly appreciated the training seminar for educators in April, the e-Twinning partnerships and European projects with European partners. Students particularly appreciated the debates with MEPs, the timeline game about Europe, the theatre workshops, the Erasmus Days, the contests about European Union and so on.
Germany	The EPLOs implemented the EU Academy and organised 12 different online workshops to develop the skills of the junior ambassadors. Moreover, eight new EPAS schools joined the programme. The EPLOs noted the successful organisation of a cross-border event in Eupen, Belgium, in cooperation with the EPLOs in Brussels and Luxembourg and the organisation of five regional EPAS conferences. Junior ambassadors participated in the EU Summer Academy in Berlin (July and August 2023). Finally, the EPLO developed a close link between the EPAS network and together.eu in the EU Academy.
Greece	The EPAS Greece 2022-23 network consisted of 107 schools. They achieved the target of addressing both the geographical and functional differences between schools. The total number of students and stakeholders outside the EPAS programme who participated in the EPAS activities increased dramatically (45 403), which proves the high impact of the programme.
Hungary	EPLO Budapest reported that despite the challenges schools face in the Hungarian education system, there has not been a drop in the number of schools and EPAS schools have carried out plenty of successful events and projects. The biggest success was certainly the cross-border EPAS Together event in Veszprém in June.
Ireland	EPLO Dublin counts in its achievements the senior ambassador training sessions, MEP webinars and awards ceremonies. It created

	<p>and maintained a new online networking platform for teachers, providing engaging content and updates on events and activities. Separately, the contractor met with the EPLO six times throughout the programme to discuss any issues or queries, events and content of interest to the EPAS schools. The contractor used their pre-existing social media channels to tweet about the EPAS events, sharing with an audience of 16 200 followers.</p>
Italy	<p>All the schools involved organised and participated in a huge number of events and dissemination activities and created a network with other schools and local stakeholders. All these dissemination and communication actions had a huge impact on the students, raising awareness about the fundamental role of the European Union institutions and about the importance of being a European citizen. As a result, compared to the last edition, the number of people reached increased considerably.</p> <p>Among the activities, many schools organised info points with the aim of keeping in touch with other students by sharing communication materials, event information, photos and videos on their social media account mentioning the EPLO institutions. All the senior ambassadors had been encouraged to support the European Parliament communication action through social channels, to sign in to the Insieme.Per Platform and to organise a school trip to the Europa Experience centre in Rome.</p> <p>Schools received information on how to get in touch with MEPs, so we helped with the considerable involvement of MEPs with more than 50 MEPS participating at the Europe Day events organised by the Ambassador Schools.</p> <p>Many EPAS schools (47) participated in a video contest with short videos, made by the students, on topics concerning European challenges (Euroscola contest).</p> <p>Due to the deep interest generated during seminars, professors asked to receive the in-depth materials used.</p>
Latvia	<p>The main achievements of the programme relate to the implementation of different activities, which stimulated the active participation of junior ambassadors in the programme, such as simulation games, the organisation of exhibitions and drawing up of practical recommendations to improve voter turnout.</p>
Lithuania	<p>Many senior ambassadors reported becoming increasingly comfortable using the EPAS teaching materials, integrating them in different lessons and applying them during events. Schools are very happy to have the possibility to participate in live Euroscola events as this greatly increases their motivation to participate in the EPAS programme. Schools collaborated more actively with other schools locally and in Europe this year. This was an experience that they found interesting and enriching. In such events, EPAS teachers become ambassadors of the project and invite their partners to participate. More schools involved partners in their events and especially appreciated collaborating with Europe Direct centres.</p>

	<p>More schools successfully engaged with media partners, thereby promoting EPAS on local media. More schools communicated about their EPAS activities in their social media accounts.</p> <p>EPLO Vilnius manages a public website and EPAS blog at https://mepalietuva.eu/ where schools post information about their EPAS activities. Schools are very happy with this blog and are actively using it, as they can share information about themselves, as well as find information about other schools' activities.</p>
Luxembourg	Participating schools generally increased their activities this school year, compared to the two previous years, which were heavily marked by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Malta	This year, EPLO Valletta managed to increase the number of schools involved. Events like the EPAS Transnational event and invitations for EPAS teachers and students to attend seminars in Brussels and Strasbourg are making the EPAS programme more attractive.
Netherlands	EPLO The Hague organised a sustainability contest called 'Youth in Charge'. For this, they created a special teaching module and sent it to headquarters. About 65 schools worked with the teaching module and 25 schools participated in the challenge. On 21 April 2023, on EPAS junior day, three EPAS centres with the best sustainability projects gave a presentation about their projects.
Poland	EPLO Warsaw counts among its achievements the organisation of an 'award' ceremony following the certification process of the schools. A dedicated event for junior ambassadors was also organised as a two-day online workshop featuring discussions with experts in human and students' rights, social media and the art of debate. The participants of this event had the opportunity to meet MEP Łukasz Kohut to discuss current European challenges and initiatives coordinated by the MEP.
Portugal	EPLO Lisbon noticed the increased interest of youngsters in reflecting on the future of Europe, with their active engagement in activities promoting the European project throughout the year and during the various events which the EPLO hosted.
Romania	EPLO Bucharest reported new competences in EPAS schools, the personal development of the students, a wide reach and impact of the activities at local community level, meetings with MEPs registered by various schools, visits to Brussels and Strasbourg, a meeting with Mrs Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, improved communication and student-teacher relationships, information on the EU and how European institutions work, better awareness of the importance of being actively involved at European level, and the role-play simulating a Parliament decision-making process organised by EPLO. The EPAS programme managed to change mentalities and bring young people closer to European policies. Students were open and decided to apply for internships at European institutions, to join Discover EU or to participate in Erasmus mobility programmes. Students became

	more confident; they now know how to approach authorities and engage in dialogue with our representatives in Parliament.
Slovakia	EPLO Bratislava organised a very well-received workshop for junior ambassadors on goal-setting and values. They performed an Instagram take-over with schools to give them a chance to introduce themselves to others; these posts were among the most liked. They also introduced the possibility of receiving extra points for activities beyond the usual scope (e.g. the creation of a poem about the EU and a 'letter to my future self'). They were able to travel to other schools and take part in their activities by making a presentation about Parliament and together.eu. The ambassadors highly appreciated it when EPLO staff visited them in their schools.
Slovenia	This school year, 80 schools, which represents half of all the schools in Slovenia, participated in the programme. This is the highest number of participating schools in Slovenia since the project started.
Spain	The EPLOs, together with the schools, carried out a great number of activities this year.
Sweden	EPLO Stockholm reported increased cooperation between EPAS schools, both in Sweden and Europe. Junior ambassadors played an integral part in the inauguration of Europa Experience Stockholm. They organised junior ambassador events (four digital) with MEPs and Parliament officials. Participating in the programme and the accompanying activities not only broadened students' understanding of the EU and its relevance but also fostered a sense of community and engagement among them. The activities heighten awareness of the EU, provide a platform for international dialogue and provide opportunities for collaboration with other schools and students. The benefits of participation extend beyond the classroom and enhance students' awareness of their EU citizenship, its potential and the democratic processes inherent in the EU's structure.
United Kingdom	The types of schools involved have widened. Numerous schools have been able to run and participate in events in person, between schools and in other countries. EPLO London helped schools to link up and collaborate.