

## Composition of the Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group



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2. Andreea BARBU, 23, Romania
3. Yusuf Kerem ÇALIKOGLU, 20, Turkey
4. Mia CASS, 19, Austria
5. Luke CAVANAUGH, 20, United Kingdom
6. Elisa HAXHILLAZI, 19, Albania
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## 1. Eljona AVDO, 24, Albania



Eljona Avdo was born in Tirana, Albania on September 4, 1996. She has lived in Vora, Tirana where she graduated from “Isa Boletini” high school in 2014. In 2014 she started Information and communication technology in Faculty of Natural Sciences which was a degree she was passionate about and learned everything with commitment. All this passion and commitment ended up with the opportunity of starting the master of science degree for Information Technology at Faculty of Natural Sciences where she managed to lead and complete projects successfully.

During her bachelor degree she had two internships on Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Protik, and Front end developer at Fabric. At the same time, together with some other students, Eljona competed at Start up Weekend Tirana 7 and this experience ended up with the first prize, for creating a prototype device for blind people.

Moreover, her purpose to discover more about telecommunication and put her database knowledge into action directed her to start the part-time job as business intelligence analyst at ALBtelecom. All this time she has demonstrated her cooperative and positive attitude, professionalism and creative problem-solving skills.

Eljona is now a business intelligence specialist at ALBtelecom Albania with almost 3 years of experience in the same company.

## 2. Andreea BARBU, 23, Romania



Currently, I am employed at a company FintechOS (this year’s hottest FinTech Startup, according to the Europas Awards) that produces technology for banking and insurance to accelerate digital transformation and build end-to-end digital products. I am their community moderator and technical writer. Additionally, I am writing travel articles and interviews for the magazines Ararat and Observator Cultural for the last six years. The ultimate goal I wish to achieve by attending this programme is to become better at my job by gaining knowledge about marketing and corporate governance. My two jobs allow me to explore two very different fields, and network with all types of professionals and entrepreneurs. Formerly, I have worked for the Embassy of India in Romania in 2019.

I am a Master’s student at the Faculty of International Business and Economics, at the programme International Economics and European Affairs. I graduated in summer 2019 from the Faculty of Foreign Languages, English major- French minor, University of Bucharest.

### 3. Yusuf Kerem ÇALIKOGLU, 20, Turkey



I'm Yusuf Kerem Çalikoğlu. I'm from Turkey, Ankara. I'm a 3rd year Computer Science student in Kırıkkale University. I'm the co-founder of a game development startup named Pixelized. For over a year I have been the president of a university tech club called YMTEK. I know Turkish (native), English (proficiency), German (Beginner).

### 4. Mia CASS, 19, Austria



My name is Mia Cass and I recently graduated from Aalborg Katedralskole, a Danish secondary school. My parents are from New Zealand and Austria, I was born and raised in New Zealand, moved to Denmark when I was 10 and graduated with success in a language foreign to my native tongue. As somebody who has experienced how different cultural and social backgrounds can create adversities in the lives of the youth, I hold strong values about the right to equal opportunity. I believe that through technology, this can be achieved but also challenged. My mother is a professor for education and digital transformation, and from a very young age, I grew up in a household where we talked about the value of digital technology in young people's lives. Through this focused interest, I have been involved in a number of projects, to explore some of the facets of digitalisation. I have also moderated a number of online formats, where I learned how people, especially young people, interact with each other. I am experienced in using a number of digital platforms but have also been involved in contributing to studies that have explored the competencies needed to safely navigate social media.

### 5. Luke CAVANAUGH, 20, United Kingdom



I am currently a final-year undergraduate at the University of Cambridge, where I study English. Outside my course, I have sat on the board of three thinktanks, including my current position as Editor-in-Chief of the European Student Thinktank, leading a team of fifty policy writers and editors across Europe. Elsewhere, I have worked across four continents as the Global Development Lead at Polygeia Health Thinktank and Head of Conference at the UK's Oldest Student Thinktank, the Wilberforce Society.

My interests in technology are manifold, from writing a now-published peer-reviewed policy paper on Digital Governance in a multipolar world to completing an internship at a European AgeTech Business Accelerator. Having founded my own Consulting firm in December 2019 to support social ventures with project management and market entry, I was selected to take part

in the competitive Commonwealth Youth Entrepreneurial Support Initiative in Summer 2020, which included open-forum discussions and workshops surrounding the challenges and opportunities of moving businesses online.

Utilising my wide-ranging interests in technology and my experience working with teams across Europe, I would be delighted to engage with what are some of the most pertinent and pressing issues of our time at Generation Connect.

## 6. Elisa HAXHILLAZI, 19, Albania



My name is Elisa Haxhillazi and I am a first year student, studying computer engineering. I graduated from high school in 2020, top of my class with an average of 9.88. While in high school, I participated in many projects and was distinguished from my academic performance and teamwork skills. I hope to become a software developer, focusing on medical programming.

## 7. Stefan HOLZHEUSER, 24, Germany



After finishing high school in 2014, I studied Economics and Business Administration at the University of Frankfurt. Afterwards, I moved to Spain for a master's in European Integration with a focus on Economics at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Between 2018 and 2020, I gained practical experience during traineeships at the European Parliament and Bosch. Until summer 2020, I worked in an entry position for the External Affairs Office of ZF Friedrichshafen. Currently, I am enrolled in the master's program Public Policy and Human Development at Maastricht University and United Nations

University.

## 8. Daniel KALEMI, 22, Albania



Hi there, I'm Daniel Kalem, a youth advocate and a Software Engineer, pursuing my B.Sc. in Computer Science here in Greece. I'm the co-organizer of the UN-recognized Albanian Youth Internet Governance Forum, a tech mentor and organizing member at SEEDIG Youth School, and a Co-Author in the MIT Science Policy Review journal. My interests lay at the intersection of technology, policy and entrepreneurship, mainly in digital equity, capacity building, decarbonized economy, AI, big data, cybersecurity, and social entrepreneurship.

## 9. Ron KREMER, 20, Lithuania



From a young age, I have been sociable and outgoing. In secondary school, the social confidence I got from acting in primary school proved to be fundamental to my political journey. Relatively quickly, I became president of the student union, and then the school representative. With the help of Vilnius City municipality, I formed the Vilnius student union, in which the representatives of different schools could work together on inter-school projects like workshops and field trips. When I was 17, I was assigned to work with the Ministry of Education as representative of the students of Lithuania, as well as Moderator of the International Conference for Ministers of Education of Scandinavia and the Baltic States. After that was over, I left politics and focused on my exams. It was during this time that I discovered my hidden passion for cybersecurity. I became fascinated with the subject, and before I knew it, I was studying Computer Science at Newcastle University. Because of the pandemic, studies ended early. I managed to land a summer internship in NRD Cyber Security, which later became my full-time job, hopefully starting a long and interesting career in a field that I am convinced is the future.

## 10. Anna KRUPNIK, 19, Ukraine



Today, Anna is a youth activist at Youth IGF, where she works on youth engagement in Internet Governance and the promotion of digital skills for the young. Her areas of interest and research in digital include digital education, cybersecurity skills for young people, protection of children and young people online, fake products and counterfeit medicines online. She is a student of the 3d year of bachelor's studies at the department of international relations, political and social sciences in Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University.

## 11. Abigail LUKE, 23, United Kingdom



I am a current Master student studying corporate communications and business at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Prior to this, I worked in Marketing for almost two years and, in 2018, graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford. During my undergraduate studies, I undertook various marketing and communications roles including work as marketing officer for a student society, as a consultant for a charitable organisation, and internships at an investment bank and an events company in Brussels.

Through the combination of my work experiences and study background, I have long had an interest in the role of communications in global society and politics and the implications for policy. Recently, I wrote a paper on digital inclusion in emerging markets which allowed me to appreciate the crucial but often overlooked issue of equal access and participation in the international media sphere. This

highlighted the need for policymakers and program planners to identify and advocate the ICT uses that will most effectively address the digital divide. I have since deepened my interest in exploring how institutional actors can ensure that the benefits of the ongoing “digital transformation” are enjoyed by all, and am keen to develop this understanding further.

## 12. João Pedro MARTINS, 23, Portugal



João Pedro Martins is currently Artificial Intelligence Ethics Researcher in Centre for Informatics and Systems of the University of Coimbra. He has just finished his Master’s in Informatics Engineering from the same university, with a specialisation in Intelligent Systems.

João has taken an active role in online safety and digital literacy discussions and best practices since an early age, being a Youth Ambassador for the Better Internet for Kids Project for the last 9 years, within the European Insafe Network.

More recently, he has also become member of several youth initiatives in the Internet Governance field, with relevant positions in the Youth IGF Movement and as Coordinator of the EURid Youth Committee. João is member of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance, Youth Observatory within Internet Society and participates on youth programs of Council of Europe and ICANN.

Throughout his already long journey, João has reached out to more than 16000 students in direct awareness sessions, contributed to several resources and international campaigns and initiatives, being an active youth voice in more than 20 high-level worldwide meetings, as both speaker and member of organizing teams.

## 13. Flavia MOCAN, 24, Romania



I’ve studied Communication Sciences at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania and Journalism abroad, at Carlos The Third University of Madrid, Spain. I started working in Marketing at the age of 20. Working in this field and especially in a Marketing Agency, later on, showed me an even deeper side of the infinite power that communication has. It also showed me how easily it can be used for unholy objectives, therefore, I wanted to make a change in my life and chose a more innocent way of communicating in which, in no way possible, I could harm anyone. Therefore, I chose a local entrepreneur that I will start working for very soon, in a matter of days. Please find more about my time in UN Youth, GEYC, part of the social, creative agency La Resistance and work for the Forest without Frontiers project in the following answers.

As a major in Communication studies, I’ve learned that communication is indeed the key and motivation to all action. A means we all learn from a fragile age, to communicate non-verbally or verbally, use for all our lives and take for granted constantly, but few understand its power, importance, and direction. As many other things that surround us quietly without us realizing, speech and communication generally, can become powerful tools used to create panic,

misinformation, fear, disbelief and so many more that are used against us as a society repeatedly. As I've always wished to use speech and other forms of communication to create social change for the greater good, I've been involved in different movements my entire life. From a young age, I've used my theatre skills and non-verbal communication to bring laughter and joy to children living in placement centers, in Arad Romania, my hometown. Later, I got involved in all kinds of movements in my hometown - to protect the green spaces, to collect the trash in known to be forgotten spaces, and many more. I always look back at those days and consider them the time of "whatever I can do, whenever I can do it". After I moved to Cluj-Napoca, Romania for my studies, I instantly became a member of the UN Youth Association of Romania, Cluj Branch. Together with this team of youngsters tried our best to rightfully communicate the importance of the UN's SDG's, what they are, why they matter and how they can help and get involved. As a Communication and Advertising student, I found I was the best fit in the Marketing Department and soon enough, in less than a year, became the Head of this department. I found that my skills and persuasive methods can be strong and sometimes intimidating when I talk about what drives me - social change, but yet mastered these skills created so many events in which students of Cluj got involved, many for the first time in their life in the issues that really matter. When I've decided that events with 100 participants are not enough anymore, I created the first-ever NGO fair in Cluj-Napoca, C.I.V.I. Fair an acronym that stands for Cluj Initiative for Volunteer and Involvement. For 2 days straight a total of 4,000 students participated in the fair and around 800 signed up for different activities that involved ecologization, equal rights, inclusion, peace action, and so on. For me, a milestone was GEYC, an organization that offered me a few chances - so to say, the first one being EFYL - their European Fellowship on Youth Leadership. I joined as a fellow in 2018 and instantly start participating in debates on communication issues in Romania and all kinds of human rights that are sadly, not respected. As my affinity for communication was obvious, I was offered a role in their one of a kind project YDL - Young Digital Leaders, a program organized by GEYC together with Google Bruxelles and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue of London. The main scope of the project is to teach the professors in Romanian schools, the ones that mold the minds of the next generations, about their rights on the internet and the communication issues of the virtual space that can become so dangerous to them and possibly life-threatening. A lot of debating together with the professors went around the issues of the filter bubbles and echo chambers that are so real in our lives and even more palpable in Social Media. In my spare time, I choose to work, this time for other local entrepreneurs that have a positive message to tell society, but no means, platform, or knowledge of how to do that. Also, together with a partner, we're managing a social, creative agency that uses communication, business development, and marketing growth hack to create change. One of our biggest realizations is being a key part in the ZERO WASTE program at a major music festival in Cluj-Napoca and together with their inside eco team, we created a music scene that worked entirely on kinetic and solar energy. And another great achievement is transforming a local hair salon space into a creative space of art in which not only the art of cutting and changing hair is visible but music plays a key role, local painters expose their crafts and local fashion designers get the platform and visibility that they deserve. I am also an ambassador for Forest Without Frontiers - an amazing project that aims to stop the deforestation of the virgin forests in Romania, educate the people about the issues that are going on at a political level, and help raise the necessary amount of money to plant the thousands of trees that were taken away, back. Hopefully, you will find my passion for communication, debating, education, and social change fit for your project.

## 14. Dajana MULAJ, 24, Albania



Dajana Mulaj is an Internet Governance professional and the Coordinator of the Albanian Youth Internet Governance Forum which aims to provide an open platform for Albanian Youth to engage in Internet-related discussions.

Dajana started her involvement in Internet Governance in 2017 when she was selected as a Youth School Fellow at South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance. Afterward, Dajana became a YouthDIG Fellow at EuroDIG (2017), Internet Society Youth@IGF Fellow (2017), SEEDIG Fellow (2018), RIPE77 Fellow (2018), Internet Society IGF Ambassador (2018), Open Leader at Mozilla Open Leaders 6 (2018), ICANN64 Fellow (2019) and EuroSSIG Fellow (2019).

Dajana is one of the Co-Founders of Digital Grassroots, a global youth network working on engaging young people in addressing Internet-related challenges at a grassroots level. During her time there, she served as a researcher and trainer.

Dajana is the author of several papers and publications related to Business Continuity, Cybersecurity, and Internet Governance.

She holds a BSc. In Business Informatics and has studied Cybersecurity, Internet Technology, and Policy at DiploFoundation. In 2019 she was also selected as a Fellow to be part of the 13th European Summer School on Internet Governance in Germany.

## 15. Marta MUSIDLOWSKA, 23, Poland



Growing up in the city in Central Poland - Bydgoszcz, after finishing high school I decided to study law as a continuation of my education at the University of Warsaw. Despite writing the final thesis in the field of European Union law, my main interests focus both on Intellectual Property Law and new technologies, in particular - within creative sectors, especially in computer games and fashion. As I dream about becoming a "digital nomad" lawyer, since the very beginning of my studies I am involved in many international organizations such as the Youth IGF Poland, European Horizons, and recently in the Women in AI, which brings together

enthusiasts of artificial intelligence. Despite my legal interests, I wish to become an anthropological journalist, writing what feels right.

## 16. Marko PALOSKI, 24, North Macedonia





I am Marko Paloski, last year in my studies for Computer Science at UKIM - FCSE Skopje and currently working as Network/System Engineer at Netcetera. Two years ago, I got interested in Internet Governance world at the Youth School at SEEDIG, from then till today I always try to learn and engage in this policy process. I was part of Youth ISOC, NextGen, SEEDIG Ambassadors and still involved in some SEEDIG activities, part of the national IGF. Working on Youth IGF initiative to be done in my country.

I come from technical background, so I have strong technical knowledge especially in the Networks and the internet which is my favorite thing.

I can say for me that I am very enthusiastic person who wants to volunteer and make some better changes to the world, even if they are small changes.

## 17. Auke PALS, 24, Netherlands



My name is Auke Pals, IT entrepreneur, Project Manager, politician and Youth representative from the Dutch Ministry of Economic affairs at ICANN and Internet Governance Forum for the past 6 years.

At the age of 13 I started my own company advising elderly how to work with computers, tablets and social media. When the time flew by that expended quite rapid with serving the whole region. After a few years I met a IT consultant and young entrepreneur he took me with him into the world of Internet advising. After a few years we served the half of the top 50

companies in the Netherlands, meanwhile I established the Dutch Youth Digital advisory board having youngsters from the age of 13 until 25 advice governments and companies. I did this all besides my study Information Studies from which I recently graduated from my masters. When Corona hit I decided to join GÉANT association as project manager serving the pan-european research and education institutions with our own network.

## 18. Elena SCHMIDER, 24, Netherlands



I am a recent graduate of MSc Public Policy and Human Development at UNU-MERIT and Maastricht University, specializing in the Governance of Innovation. Having specialized in Innovation for Sustainability and Managing the 4th Industrial Revolution, I am incredibly interested in the role of technology in facilitating green transitions and human development globally. I also wrote my thesis on quantitatively measuring the scope of digital financial inclusion within countries using the World Bank's Global Findex Database, as financial inclusion is an imperative prerequisite for improving human wellbeing across the globe, which can be enhanced through digital mediums.

I would be very excited to join the Generation Connect - Youth Group initiative from the ITU to engage in the discussion about the role of digital mediums and technology in facilitating global human development. I believe I can contribute a policy perspective, having studied international

development and public policy. I can also contribute a global perspective, as I have lived in many countries and understand many cultures and markets regarding digital technologies.

## 19. Lennart SCHULZE, 21, Germany



Based in Berlin, Lennart Schulze is active in the field of technology development, business, and governance as well as international cooperation. While pursuing his Bachelor of Science in International Management for Business and IT in Stuttgart and Seoul, he works with IBM as part of an integrated degree program. Positions he held include Artificial Intelligence Consulting, Cloud Computing R&D and Technical Sales, Quantum Computing Ecosystem Development, and Government and Regulatory Affairs.

Lennart Schulze started his activities in the area of Internet Governance through a fellowship by the German Informatics Society to the German and the international Internet Governance Forum 2019. Ever since, he has been a member of the German Youth IGF steering committee. In 2020, he received the Internet Society Youth Ambassador Fellowship. His interests revolve around the use of digitalization for sustainability and global development cooperation as well as Net Neutrality and Openness, E-Government, AI and Quantum Computing Governance.

Prior to joining IBM, he was responsible for the digital transformation of an NGO in Guadalajara, Mexico and was involved in the Berlin startup scene. Lennart Schulze is a member of the German Commission for UNESCO, where he contributed to establishing a meaningful youth participation structure on the national level.

## 20. Mariam SÈNE, 21, Belgium



My name is Mariam Sène and I am 21 years old. I was born and raised in the French-speaking part of Belgium, and I come from a mixed background: my mother is Italian and my Father is Senegalese. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Economics from Maastricht University and I am currently pursuing my master's degree in Public Policy and Human Development at the UNU-Merit (Maastricht Economic and social Research Institute on innovation and technology). Next semester, I will specialize in Social Protection Policy. After that, my plan is to get some working experience, probably through an internship, and then pursue a second master's in economics or potentially a

PhD program.

## 21. Sara SKORUPA, 23, Germany



My name is Sara I have finished my Bachelor's degree in Economics and currently working as a research associate at the State Parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate. I have lived most of my time in Germany, however, my family is coming from Poland, where I have spent my kindergarten time and pre-school lifetime there. Throughout my educational career, I have discovered my passion for technological development and data science. My personal philosophy is trying to combine and connect logical knowledge and objective education with loving God and others. That's my goal in life, to use my creativity and positivism to better the lives of those around me and inspire others through quiet and inner strength. These values have me brought to experience and create an impact in Indonesia, where I conducted an internship learning about how technology can contribute to sustainability and the improvement of lives of people in the natural resource sector.

## 22. Daphne STEVENS, 22, Netherlands



Daphne Stevens is a 22-year old student from the Netherlands who is currently pursuing her LLM in International Law and Global Governance at Tilburg University. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Dutch law from the Erasmus University Rotterdam and a LLM in Law and Technology from Tilburg University. During her studies for the Law and Technology LLM she mostly focused on cybercrime and data protection, which she is very interested in. Her other areas of interest are accessibility, digital literacy, digital freedoms and disinformation. She wants to conduct further research regarding these subjects in the future. Daphne is active in the field of Internet governance and is one of this year's Internet Society IGF Youth Ambassadors. In her free time she enjoys reading books and visiting museums. She speaks fluent Dutch and English, and has good command of the German language as well.

## 23. Franka WECKNER, 22, Germany



Franka (22) studies law with a focus on international human rights law at Heidelberg University (Germany) and Cairo University (Egypt). In 2020, she was chosen as a Young Expert for the United Nations Internet Governance Forum and developed comprehensive policy guidelines for social cohesion online, thereby building upon her experience as a research assistant for the International Justice Mission. Franka was also selected as a delegate to the 5th AU EU Youth Forum focusing on digitalization and contributed to developing detailed policy recommendations for the Council of the European Union and the African Union. She currently serves as delegate to the Board of Directors for the Youth Task Force of the Global Campaign for Education, an international coalition of NGOs including UNICEF and OXFAM.

## 24. Emilia ZALEWSKA, 23, Poland



I am the final year law student at the University of Warsaw. My journey with the Internet Governance started in 2017 with a project #copyfighters which main goal was to engage youth into the debate on controversies around the copyright reform in the EU. Together with 25 other young people from different European countries we have had a few days of debates and workshops, after which we created a list of our postulates on what should be changed in the copyright reform, that has been discussed by the European Parliament at that time. As a project member I also had an opportunity to take part in the Eurodig conference in Tallinn and in the Internet Governance Forum in Geneva. Last year, I decided to participate in

the Youth IGF Summit in Berlin, where with over 100 hundred youth from all over the world we drafted 11 messages on how young people see the Internet Governance key topics.

That inspired me to found, together with two colleagues and in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Affairs in Poland and the National Research Institute NASK an organisation Youth IGF Poland. Our main goal is to facilitate youth IG community in Poland and to support the host country of the next year's Internet Governance Forum, Poland, in organising youth activities and the Youth Summit 2021.

My main fields of academia interest are criminal law and human rights, especially in the digital environment. Currently I'm writing my master thesis on the topic of digital access and inclusion as basic human rights. In the meantime, I study Applied Animal Psychology.