

**THANK YOU FOR
BRIGHTENING OUR YEAR**

2024

Schwarzkopf 
Foundation
YOUNG EUROPE 

Dear readers,

As the end of 2024 is quickly approaching, we want to look back on a very challenging but also successful and enriching year for our foundation – a year of continuation and new beginnings.

With our first [Youth Congress on the EU elections](#), the first [Connecting Minds festival](#) of our new programme line Young Postmigrant Alliances (YouPA) and the first hosting of the [local European Youth Event](#) by the European Youth Parliament (EYP), we have advanced our work with young Europeans with regards to scope, methods and topics.

At the same time, we have continued our cornerstone activities such as the annual [European Summer School](#) of our educational network Understanding Europe, the [100th \(!\) International Session of EYP](#) and the [JIK Talks](#) of the Young Islam Conference.

Looking ahead, the [Inge Deutschkron Award](#) will take place for the first time in 2025. School classes and other youth groups can still apply with their projects that build on and continue Inge Deutschkron's legacy: preserving the memory of the Holocaust and working against anti-Semitic narratives and the resurgence of extreme-right tendencies.

Lastly, I am thrilled to invite you to the first edition of the [Young European Security Conference](#), our new initiative for security policy education. At a time when international conflicts and security concerns seem to prevail, we want to give young people the opportunity to engage intensively with these issues and make their perspectives heard.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the dedicated young people, to our partners and friends. Let us continue working together for a more peaceful, just and unified Europe in 2025!



Tomáš Sacher

Executive Director of the Schwarzkopf Foundation



Events and Awards

- In May, we hosted our first [European Youth Congress](#): over 200 students, many of them first-time voters, gathered in the foundation to learn and talk about the EU elections. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen joined us with a video message and former President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, for a keynote speech and Q&A session. The young participants attended workshops on various European topics and presented the results during a panel discussion with Berlin's top election candidates. The event was covered by national media such as the Tagesschau.

- On October 15, we honored Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya with the [Schwarzkopf Europe Award](#) at the Max Liebermann House in Berlin. The young Jury – consisting of our Young Europeans of the Year – highlighted her tireless commitment to protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law, and advocating for a pro-European stance in Belarus. The laudatory speech was delivered by State Minister Reem Alabali-Radovan.
- Throughout the year, we had the pleasure to welcome **guests** such as: Development Minister Svenja Schulze, former Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann, First Deputy Spokesperson of the Federal Government Christiane Hoffmann, historian Prof. Dr. Meron Mendel, historical and political educator Furkan Yüksel, economist Dr. Laura von Daniels, political scientist Jacob Ross, Holocaust survivor and contemporary witness Petra Michalski, authors Necati Öziri and Fikri Anıl Altıntaş, Ipsychologist and CEO Melanie Eckart, activists Çetin Gültekin and Carla Hinrichs, and many more. You can find an overview [here](#).

2025

- On February 27 and 28, 2025, the first edition of our Young European Security Conference will gather 200 young people from Germany and Europe in Berlin. It is a new initiative for security policy education that we launched with the non-profit Hertie Foundation. In light of prevailing international conflicts and the growing importance of security policy issues, it aims to provide young people aged 18 to 24 with security policy knowledge and skills. You can apply and find more information [here](#).



Understanding Europe (UE)

- In February 2024, Understanding Europe proudly launched its inaugural [exhibition “Young Perspectives on Social Injustices in Europe”](#) at the Rotes Rathaus Berlin, showcasing the powerful Photovoices created by participants of the 2023 European Summer School. Under the guidance of Nigerian-British photographer Mariochukwu Washington-Ihieme, the event also celebrated the release of a publication. The exhibition will continue its journey, moving to The Royal Society of Arts in London next year.
- From August 21 to 25, Understanding Europe hosted its annual [European Summer School](#), gathering trainers from across Europe to explore new educational materials and innovative teaching strategies. This year's theme, Depolarization, featured a thought-provoking keynote by [Maja Nenadovic](#), who shared practical tools for engaging with polarizing topics in the classroom.
- In October, network members met in Athens for the [Autumn Coordinators Meeting](#) to engage in a dynamic exchange of ideas and further training on managing the network. Co-organized with the Greek team, the event provided an opportunity to reflect on current projects, discuss future initiatives, and shape the future direction of the network.

2025

- We have the pleasure to announce that we will be selecting three young fellows to work on the critical topics of Solidarity and Resilience, Fundamental Rights, and Security. The initiative will kick off in March and run until the end of August. More information will be published shortly.



European Youth Parliament (EYP)

- The [100th International Session](#) was a celebration of the EYP's legacy and a culmination of a 37-year journey to this milestone event. Over 250 participants from 37 countries gathered in Thessaloniki to discuss the most relevant topics in Europe today, such as AI, energy policy, women's rights, sustainable pensions, and more – producing innovative policy proposals. Vibrant cultural programmes like the Eurovillage, Euroconcert, and a gala event added a festive touch, uniting generations of alumni and active EYP members.
- At a pivotal moment, ahead of the European elections, around 1,200 young people met in Berlin for the [Local European Youth Event \(EYE\)](#), proving that youth are not only listening, but they're an active part in decision-making. With over 65 insightful workshops and panels tackling sustainability, democracy, and innovation, participants channeled their ideas into a "Youth Ideas Report" for the European Parliament.
- As Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine continues the [Rebuild Ukraine Ambassadors](#) project is a crucial platform for discussing the sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine. 20 young leaders focused on creating forward-thinking solutions for Ukraine's recovery across education, smart city planning, cyber and energy security. With expert guidance and thorough research, the Ambassadors are publishing a visionary paper for post-war Ukraine that will become available in early 2025.

2025

- Next year promises to be impactful for youth participation. With three International Sessions upcoming in The Hague (The Netherlands), Turku (Finland), and Malaga (Spain), together with hundreds of regional and national EYP events all across Europe, thousands of young people will continue the discussion on climate, equality, peace, democracy, active citizenship, and so much more!



Young Islam Conference (JIK) & Young Postmigrant Alliances

- One highlight in 2024 were the [JIK Talks](#) which took place in September addressing the question: “What can we do now to collectively and proactively counter the rise of far-right movements?” Program director Dr Asmaa Soliman and Fellow Nurgül Kahriman, together with guests Kassem Taher Saleh, Evein Obulor, Arne Semsrott, the audience and network, gathered a variety of Answers and ideas on that. Event recording: [Youtube](#).

- A second highlight was the [CONNECTING MINDS](#) Festival for Power and Cohesion which united for the first time various formats of the newly formed programme line Young Postmigrant Alliances. 50 young participants met in Berlin to discuss, draw strength and make connections. There was a diverse range of training sessions, power spaces and inputs, e.g. on Jewish-Muslim alliances, the connection between algorithms and social cohesion, perspectives on the East German migration society, reading as a political practice, and podcasting. First impressions of the festival can be found [here](#).
- Besides numerous other outreach activities such as panel contributions, events and discussions, we had our first roundtable in Brussels, co-hosted together with the European Policy Centre's Connecting Europe project. The roundtable was our concluding event of the Narrative Change Academy with the aim to share the academy's insights and to hear the perspective of actors from the political sphere and civil society sector. Find impressions from the roundtable [here](#).
- The Young Islam Conference has published several publications this year: the [report on the 2023-24 Narrative Change Academy](#) summarising findings from the academy, English translations of previous publications as well as a paper on the Summer Conference last year, [Old School vs. Dream School](#) focusing on the participants' perspectives on the topic of non-discriminatory school.



Competence Network “Living Together in the Migration Society”

- After five years, the work of the [competency network “Living Together in Migration Society”](#) has come to an end. The Competence Network offered counselling, training and dialogue sessions for educators, volunteers and multipliers from the field of child and youth welfare in the context of pluralism and difference. It aimed to enable these actors to support young people from different backgrounds in making their voices heard as active citizens of a pluralistic, inclusive and democratic migration society. On December 11, the final network meeting was held, you can find a first review [here](#). We are happy to have been part of the project and would like to dearly thank our partners.
- As part of the Instagram channel [Beyond A Single Story](#), we organized three online talks with the following guests: Mendina Scholte-Reh and Dilek Dipçin-Sarioğlu (research assistants in Empirical Educational Research at the FernUniversität in Hagen), Dr. Özgür Özvatan (deputy professor for Diversity & Social Conflict) and Caner Méndez (education officer), Mustafa Cimşit (managing director of Maimonides Bildungswerk, religious scholar, educator, counselor and imam) and Sapir von Abel (curator for education and mediation at the Jewish Museum Munich).



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

- We currently have exciting job offers, covering a variety of positions and topics:
 - [Projektmanager*in Understanding Europe](#)
 - [Projektsteuerung/-koordination Digitale Demokratie](#)
 - [Projektmanager*in Young Postmigrant Alliances](#)
 - [Studentische*r Mitarbeiter*in Outreach Young Postmigrant Alliances](#)
 - [Studentische*r Mitarbeiter*in Kommunikation Young Postmigrant Alliances](#)

In other news

- Dr Asmaa Soliman, lead of our programme “Young Postmigrant Alliances, was interviewed for the [Mixed Migration Review 2024](#) (pp. 126-129). In the extensive interview, Soliman speaks about her evaluation of the current situation with regard to Muslims and migration in Germany, about what the terms postmigrant society and radical diversity mean, but also offers her view on the way in which the Middle East conflict is dealt with in Germany and on the general imbalance in public discourses and expectations.

