



Dear readers,

As the new Executive Director of the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe, I am delighted to welcome you to the last edition of our newsletter in 2025.

Having stepped into this role at a time of fast-paced and profound societal transformation, I see it as a great responsibility to further develop the work of the foundation. When talking to people in civil society, in education, but also more broadly in politics, academia and in everyday life, one quickly realises, how vital our mission is: to empower young people to actively shape a democratic, inclusive and future-oriented Europe is, to me, the only way forward.

I am deeply impressed by the breadth and depth of the foundation's networks and the inspiring young people at their heart. My own work over the past years – at the intersection of democratic citizenship education, digitalisation and social justice – has shown me how urgently we need strong, youth-led spaces of exchange and empowerment. Being able to continue this work here, together with such a dedicated team and committed partners, is both a privilege and a responsibility I take to heart.

The past weeks have been marked by exciting activities across the foundation: from advancing our work on democracy in the digital sphere through [Zukunft D](#), and amplifying young postmigrant voices in the [exhibition of the MuJu-project](#) in Chemnitz, one of this year's European Capitals of Culture, to the meeting of [the Rebuild Ukraine Ambassadors](#) in Lviv and the latest [Transnational Training](#) in Istanbul.

I invite you to look back with us on the past year – and throw a first glance at what's next in 2026. Looking forward to shaping the future of Young Europe together!



Dr. Seyran Bostanci

Excutive Director of the Schwarzkopf Foundation

Highlights



Inge Deutschkron Award

Apply for the Inge Deutschkron Award until January 15!

School classes and other young people from Berlin are invited to apply with projects that keep alive the remembrance of the Holocaust and continue Inge Deutschkron's fight against antisemitism and far-right extremism. Applications are possible until January 15, 2026, with up to €3,500 in funding and professional support available. Find more information, also on this year's awardees, [here](#).

Events and Awards

In 2025, we organized more than **30 events, reaching out to almost 5.000 primarily young people**. Among those were:

- Movie screening in remembrance of Holocaust survivor [Margot Friedländer](#); discussion with [Swedish Europe Minister Rosencrantz and German Minister of State Krichbaum](#); reading and discussion with former constitutional judge [Susanne Baer](#); and talk with journalist [Heba al Kadri](#).
- The first edition of the [Young European Security Conference \(YESC\)](#), gathering 200 young Europeans to talk about topics related to security policy. We also launched the YESC-Talks format: discussion events on security topics happening throughout the year. And right now, preparations for the 2nd conference in February 2026 are in full swing.
- At the [European Courtyard Festival 2025](#), around 250 people joined us for a programme of music, workshops, a panel discussion on postmigrant alliances and the award ceremony for the [Young European of the Year](#).

[Upcoming events](#) in the beginning of 2026 are:

- Reading with **Götz Aly** of his new book “Wie konnte das geschehen – Deutschland 1933 bis 1945”
 - Discussion with **Adis Ahmetovic**, Member of the German Bundestag (SPD), on the current situation in Ukraine
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Understanding Europe (UE)

- In 2025, the Understanding Europe Network came together for two [Transnational Trainings for Trainers](#) (TT4Ts)! The 7th **Transnational Training for Trainers** in April took us to Vienna, Austria, to discuss how to “Strengthen Resilience and Media Competence in Europe”. And the 8th Transnational Training for Trainers brought everyone together in Istanbul, Türkiye under the topic of Fundamental Rights: “Bridging Rights and Realities”.
- As part of the [2025 Fellowship](#) we developed new course materials on “**Fundamental Rights**”, “**Solidarity & Resilience**”, and “**Security**”. These materials were introduced to the network at our flagship qualifying event, the [European Summer School](#), and are now ready to be taken to classrooms across Europe!
- **The National Coordinators of Understanding Europe** travelled to Berlin and Viana do Castelo, where they discussed their role in civil society, youth governance and the future of the Network.
- Coming up: Finkelstein **publication on “Media and Resilience”**, featuring inputs from UE Network members involved in our 7th Transnational Training for Trainers in Vienna, Austria. Follow our [Instagram](#) account for updates.

European Youth Parliament (EYP)

- The EYP organised its 2025 edition of the annual [Rebuild Ukraine Ambassadors Programme](#), a project dedicated to empowering young Europeans to shape a resilient and sustainable path for Ukraine’s reconstruction. In October, 30 Ambassadors gathered in Braşov, Romania, to exchange ideas on Ukraine’s recovery, reconstruction, and EU accession. For the first time in the project’s history, the lab was followed up by a study visit to **Lviv, Ukraine**.
- This year, the EYP hosted **three International Sessions**: in [The Hague, Netherlands](#) in [Turku, Finland](#), and in [Málaga, Spain](#). Outside of debating and drafting proposals, on these events young people stepped out of their committee

rooms and into embassies, international organisations, NGOs, and governmental institutions.

- Next year, young Europeans will once again come together at several of our international events. We would like to highlight two events in particular:
 - The **International Session in Pordenone, Italy**, will take place from 19 to 29 March 2026 under the theme “Urbs ad mensuram hominis: redesigning cities to fit human needs.” The session aims to encourage participants to step outside their comfort zones and reflect on how to design the city of the future. Updates on the [EYP Italy Instagram channel](#).
 - In summer, an event **titled “Fusion” will take place in Niš–Novi Sad, Serbia**. You can find out more about the International Forum and its organisers from EYP Serbia [here](#).

Young Islam Conference (JIK) & Young Postmigrant Alliances

- Among the highlights of 2025 was the launch this year's **JIK Media Academy podcast ‘Sprechstoff’**. Over the past few months, our eight participants, accompanied by mentors Azadê Peşmen and Olivia Samnick, have developed their own podcast episodes. In the podcast, you can hear young post-migrant perspectives on cohesion and the future of our society in Germany, on community, identity, courage, grief and self-determination. [Listen in!](#)
 - Very recently, the participants of our **academy on Muslim-Jewish Alliances and remembrance culture** presented their artworks which shed light on shared histories of Muslims and Jews as well as different perspectives of remembrance. The opening took place on 4th December 5pm, the exhibition is view until December 31st. More information can be found here: [“Untold Stories of Togetherness”!](#)
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Zukunft D

- The flagship event of 2025, the “**Digital Democracy Day**”, took place in Berlin on November 6. More than 100 participants joined our interactive conference on topics related to democracy in a digitalized and interconnected society. German Minister of Education and Family, Karin Prien, held the keynote speech, and experts from academia, civil society, politics and other fields gave inputs or joined our panel discussion. Different workshops allowed for deeper exchange and brainstorming, as well as for networking with relevant actors from the field. You can find more information and rewatch parts of the event [here](#).
- Throughout the year, the **external visibility** of Zukunft D was extended gradually: after launching the [website](#) in late summer, we have now also become active on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and published content on the Digital Democracy Days and other latest activities.
- Content-wise, the foundation focused on **media and democratic citizenship education**, and on **diversity-related issues in digital spaces**. On these topics, we co-organized a [workshop on algorithms](#) and a lecture series on intersectionality, [accessibility](#) and [marginalized knowledge](#) in digital spaces.



In other news

- We have just awarded **Rokhaya Diallo** with the [Schwarzkopf Europe Award!](#) At the award ceremony last Friday, the French author, journalist and activist was honored for her unwavering work against racism in France and beyond.
- At our [2025 Advent Concert](#), more than **1000 Berliners**, old and young, came together for a programme of communal singing, musical performances, and spoken contributions.



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