



**CIVIL**  
**YEARBOOK OF**  
EU macro-regions  
**2023**





BALTIC SEA MACRO-REGION

ALPINE MACRO-REGION

DANUBE MACRO-REGION

ADRIATIC AND IONIAN MACRO-REGION



Countries and regions in Europe are facing challenges that know no borders. In this context, EU macro-regional strategies are more relevant than ever. These strategies enable better cooperation across borders, sectors and governance levels in territories with common needs. They stand for cooperation, and mutual benefit with the aim to improve the life of the people in the regions they cover.

The active participation of civil society and citizens in macro-regional strategies is essential, because good policymaking involves those affected by the decisions. Civil society organisations have the potential to contribute significantly to shaping and implementing macro-regional strategies. They can play a key role in providing thematic expertise, representing the views of minorities and marginalised groups, and in mobilising and raising awareness of such communities and citizens in general. Civil society organisations are also important actors in demanding and ensuring transparency and accountability.

I welcome the efforts of the European House Budapest to work together with other civil society organisations and promote a more systematic involvement and participation of citizens and local communities in EU macro-regional strategies. And I encourage policy- and decision-makers to take concrete steps in the direction of making their macro-regions stronger, more inclusive, more participatory and more attractive to live in.

**Elisa Ferreira**  
Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

**GREETINGS**

**2023**



The EU macro-regional strategy is a relatively new policy-making framework covering the Baltic Sea, the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine regions. It serves as an interface between EU and local level policy developments.

An EU macro-regional strategy is a policy framework which allows countries located in the same region to jointly tackle and find solutions to problems or to better use the potential they have in common. By doing so, they benefit from strengthened cooperation, with the aim of making their policies more efficient than if they had addressed the issues in isolation. As of today we have four macro-regional strategies: the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009); the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (2010); the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (2014); and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (2015).

Although the macro-regional strategies are government-led initiatives, all stakeholders agree that they can only be successful with the involvement of local actors, including civil society.

**"No united, prosperous and forward-looking Europe is possible without the active participation of citizens and their organisations in shaping their local environment and regions."**

Vision Statement  
from the Proposal for an EU macro-regional civil strategy



# An EU macro-regional civil strategy in the making

Civil society organisations of the four macro-regions closed a successful year in 2023 – they adopted a proposal for an EU macro-regional civil strategy at the First Macro-Regional Citizen Agora hosted by European House Budapest in December. What changes can we expect in 2024?

The main objective during 2023 was to develop a proposal for a macro-regional civil strategy, uniting efforts from civil society organisations (CSOs) and stakeholders from all the macro-regions. CSOs have already proved to play an essential role in developing EU policies and safeguarding basic European values. In addition, such a civil strategy will strengthen the ownership feeling in every participating Member State.

Four macro-regional strategies have been adopted by the European Union: the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009), the Danube Region (2010), the Adriatic and Ionian Region (2014) and the Alpine Region (2015). These EU macro-regions include 27 countries with more than 340 million people. As countries and regions face challenges that know no borders (pollution, climate change, unemployment, lack of connectivity etc.), macro-regional strategies were established to identify cooperation potentials and to look for common answers.

A valuable precedent has already been set for a macro-regional civil strategy. In 2020, European House Budapest, together with 8 other CSOs, reflected on the European Commission's 3rd Report on the implementation of macro-regional strategies. Its result, the "Shadow Report – An alternative positive voice" was born in 2022, after broad consultations. It was the first time that CSOs from the four macro-regions combined their efforts and worked together for a commonly defined objective.

The positive reception of the Shadow Report (which was even referred to in the European Commission's Report on macro-regional strategies), as well as the Commission's 4th implementation Report (emphasising the need to involve local and regional communities) encouraged European House Budapest to take another significant initiative – elaborating a proposal for an EU macro-regional strategy.

This civil strategy is a great example of the bottom-up approach, demonstrating the benefits of citizens' involvement in shaping European policies and practicing participatory democracy. Following a series of preparatory meetings in Vienna, Rome, Lyon and Stockholm in 2023, the First Macro-Regional Citizen Agora in Budapest adopted a proposal for a strategy in December.

The Agora also approved a forward-looking workplan for 2024, including – in addition to the development of an EU macro-regional civil strategy – the establishment of a macro-regional civil network. It is an open and inclusive pro-European collaborative arrangement, with the participation of CSOs, local and regional communities and other interested stakeholders, aiming to assist the implementation of the EU macro-regional idea.

The primary intention is to bring together CSOs and like-minded groups across the four macro-regions and even beyond to tackle common challenges like climate change, the energy crisis, digital transformation, or social transition. This can be done through common actions, study trips, seminars, volunteer exchanges, or trainings. An additional test during the first half of 2024 is to increase citizens' turnout with special attention to first-time voters at the forthcoming European Parliamentary elections. The macro-regional idea carries a definite pro-European message in this context as well.

Last but not least, a macro-regional civil strategy, promoting the European project on the local and regional level, will also build a bridge between civil society organisations and EU institutions. Plenty of meaningful goals to work for in 2024. Because we are #StrongerTogether



Miklos Barabas  
Director  
European House Budapest



# Highlights of our MRS involvement in 2023

**30 January**

First issue  
of the Connect monthly  
newsletter is out

**Vienna,  
28 March**

EUSDR PA10  
Local Actors Platform

**Vienna,  
13-14 April**

An EU macro-regional  
civil strategy  
in the making  
A preparatory meeting  
for the EUSDR

**Brussels,  
24-28 April**

EU Macro-Regional  
Strategies Week  
and High Level Group  
Meeting

**Budapest,  
7 May**

Meeting the citizen:  
Europe Day public event

**15 February**

Consultation starts  
on a proposal for  
an EU macro-regional  
civil strategy

**Budapest,  
22 March**

EUSDR National  
Hearing

**Sarajevo,  
23-25 May**

EUSAIR Annual  
Forum and meeting  
local civil society

**Brussels,  
1-3 March**

EESC Civil  
Society Days

**Stockholm,  
14-15 March**

Europe, let's cooperate!  
Interreg event with  
a networking table on  
a macro-regional civil  
strategy

**Brussels,  
30 May**

Preparatory meeting  
of the EESC opinion  
on the implementation  
of EU macro-regional  
strategies



**28 September**

Local information session on EUSAIR issues in Strumica, North Macedonia (online)

**Riga,  
4-5 October**

Networking Village during the EUSBSR Annual Forum

**Budapest,  
7-8 December**

First Macro-Regional Citizen Agora

**Munich,  
11-12 July**

Preparations for the EUSALP civil society event

**Brussels,  
9-11 October**

European Week of Regions and Cities

**15 November**

Public consultation on EU cross-border policy issues (online)

**Rome,  
22-23 June**

An EU macro-regional civil strategy in the making  
A preparatory meeting for the EUSAIR

**13 October**

Public consultation on a proposal for an EU macro-regional civil strategy (online)

**Stockholm,  
8-9 November**

An EU macro-regional civil strategy in the making  
A preparatory meeting for the EUSBSR

**Visby,  
4-6 June**

Closing event of the Swedish EUSBSR Presidency

**Lyon,  
19-20 October**

An EU macro-regional civil strategy in the making  
A preparatory meeting for the EUSALP

**Brdo pri Kranju,  
24-25 October**

EUSDR Annual Forum and meeting with Slovenian civil society

The role of civil society organisations has been growing over time. However, it is still necessary to increase the involvement of these organisations in the MRS and more broadly to mobilise local stakeholders around common goals.

From the Report of the European Commission on the implementation  
of EU macro-regional strategies, COM(2022) 705 final





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stronger.together group



## Preparing a civil society report came with valuable lessons



Only a few things in the world went smoothly in 2023. Most probably, last year will be remembered as the year of many conflicts and crises causing insecurity, uncertainty and a general feeling of frustration, social, political and economic volatility. Moreover, we often witnessed insufficient responses from the democratic institutions and slow reactions from the international community.

On a positive side, 2023 brought some important and memorable takeaways for me personally as an NGO practitioner with long-standing experience of working in local democracy development. I had the opportunity to participate in the process of making a civil society report on EU macro-regional strategies. Being passionate about social development and education for active citizenship, this European House Budapest initiative allowed me to delve deeper into the subject matter. It was a great opportunity to work with experts in the field and learn from their vast knowledge and experience.

The project was not without challenges, though. I was working with a diverse group of individuals, each with their unique perspectives on the subject matter. As a multi-generational team composed of people from different walks of life, we had to navigate our viewpoints and come up with a coherent report that would provide valuable insights to policymakers and other stakeholders engaged in all four EU MRS.

One of the most significant lessons I learned during this project was the importance of communication and collaboration. In a project of this scale, nobody can have all the answers, it takes a team effort to achieve a successful outcome. It was a humbling experience to see how much we could achieve when we came together, learned to listen to each other and worked towards a common goal.

The experience also taught me the value of networking. During this exciting journey, I had the privilege to meet and interact with experts from different regions of the EU.

Overall, working on the civil society report on EU macro-regional strategies was a unique learning experience for me, and a clear evidence of how important civil dialogue is in informed policy making. It allowed me to deepen my knowledge of social development, learn valuable lessons about collaboration and networking.

I look forward to continuing this endeavour with the CSO enthusiasts gathered around the European House Budapest to help making such a transformative project sustain in the future.

**Stanka Parac Damjanovic**  
Local Democracy Agency  
Serbia



**"...HIGHLIGHTS the importance to facilitate for civil society organisations, youth, academia and businesses to engage in the implementation of the Strategies."**

**From the Council conclusions on the Report of the European Commission on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies, 27 June 2023**



**Dying world by Anja Tomanič. Winning photo of the 'Frames of Inspiration - EUSAIR Through the Lens of Youth' competition**



## Folktales educate children and bring back old values

I have wonderful experiences in working with young people. For me, being a teacher is the best profession in the world. When I got retired in 1987, I started exploring Slovenian folk traditions, folktales, songs...and I started visiting kindergartens, elementary and high schools and various associations.

First of all I enjoy telling folktales to children. Folktales are not only stories – they report morals and warnings from generation to generation. This is the best way of education. We must be aware that children and young people have what we have given them, and they don't have what we haven't given them.

The present time does not respect old wisdom and old morals, that's why it is our duty to bring these values back to our young generation. It is necessary to start with little children. We should tell them tales and fairytales. Children should know what is right and justful, they should have the right measures.

At present I am involved in the Erasmus project focused on telling folktales to children in Slovenian and Austrian kindergartens and schools. In this project, my colleges and me receive wonderful results of our activities. Children and pupils who listen to our folktales, they draw pictures, perform dramatisations, make puppets and shadow puppets, they perform plays, they enact folktales, they stage their own creations... Their teachers send us videos about children's creations. It is quite astonishing!

We all should know that children are always children, no matter in what period of time they live. They need tales and fairytales in their childhood to create their future intellect and their personality.

Civil societies offer freedom to everybody to express wishes, interests and first of all to express proposals how to make things better, more human, more acceptable. That's why civil society activities are precious activities in our time.

**Dušica Kunaver**  
freelance cultural journalist, retired professor  
Slovenia



## When & how did you first hear about the idea of EU macro-regions?

It all came very suddenly and slightly atypically. “European Union Macro Regional Strategy” sounds like a mouthful to anyone at first, but it truly did seem humorously close to rocket science. I got the gist of it in a demandingly quick and slightly taxing manner.

At the time of my discoveries, post-Gymnasium I was about to start my medical studies in Riga. In school, I was interested in STEM subjects. But politics and philosophy were always close to my heart as well. I dreamed of finding ways in which I would not lose this other part of myself. Therefore grabbing onto as much knowledge as I could before leaping into quite a straightforward field of work.

During this quest, I found the Baltic Sea Youth Forum, which connected me to the world of Youth involvement in shaping the future of my region in various matters. I took part in various Youth events organised by the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat. I entered a world which I had heard only a few sentences of in History class. Cooperation between countries of similar political, economic, environmental, and societal interests. And, perhaps, most importantly, a unifying geographical aspect - the Baltic Sea. To me, such a connection seemed very necessary and marvellous in its logic. Very quickly I realised that I had scratched only the surface of what is already in place for such dealings.

On my path of learning, a particular event called the Baltic Sea Youth Camp took place in late summer in Lappeenranta, Finland. A long week with young experts and enthusiasts of the Baltic Sea - writing concrete Youth recommendations for all 14 Policy Areas of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). These recommendations were set to be presented at the Annual Forum set to take place a month later. Granted, I was the youngest one at the camp and still knew very little about what was going on. With wide eyes and slight frustration, I tried to understand what everyone was talking about and tried to stand back to let the young experts speak, rather than giving the floor too much to myself - a newbie right out of a secondary education institution.



Seems as though the plan of being not as upfront about my ideas didn't work out, as I was noticed by the organisers and the participants fairly well throughout the event. While finalising and compiling our recommendations into a policy paper called "Baltic Sea Youth Declaration 2022", I was offered to present it at the EUSBSR Annual Forum.

I found myself back in Lappeenranta a month later, representing Baltic Sea Youth at the opening panel of the forum, equipped with our declaration and a primitive understanding of what a macro-region is and its operation. Suddenly I was talking to ministers (some of whom I had googled the night before), trying to convince them of the legitimacy, meaning and power of our recommendations.

During it all, I came to understand the simplicity of what I was representing. In making policies for a region, especially on an international scale, it is crucial to listen to those for whom these policies are forged. And that perhaps, given the percentage of young people in our societies who are given little to no say in what changes are made, yet have to abide by said changes, are the ones we should urge to become a part of these dialogues. And given the flexibility, relative newness and resources that a macro-regional strategy offers - it might just be the place to start implementing the world of inter-generational dialogue in policy making.

In short - a baptism by fire took place to ensure my introduction to the world of macro-regions. I have been fascinated ever since.



**Silva Laure**  
university student, Latvia  
Member of the Baltic Sea  
Youth Forum

**"Much has been accomplished and important steps taken towards a coherent Europe where civil society and youth is integrated in the implementation of macro-regional strategies."**

**Anders Bergström, Norden Association, Sweden**

## Safe cross-border transport improves quality of life in the Danube region

When you say Giurgiu, the most relevant international approach for describing it is the Danube. The river brings unity in every region, since it rises until the Danube Delta, but also unites all the communities it crosses in its journey of 2850 km.

Culture and history of the cities on the two banks of Danube, Ruse and Giurgiu, also twin cities, are very similar. The Euroregion Ruse-Giurgiu plays a crucial part in the development of both municipalities, which is the most important modality of creating awareness among the inhabitants of both cities.

Ruse municipality and Giurgiu municipality, in partnership, implemented a project supported by the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme to focus on the establishment of measures for well-connected cross-border regions with safe transport on waterways. The implementation is of great importance for the creation of safe common cross-border transport infrastructure and to enhance the cooperation between Ruse and Giurgiu, as well as to improve the quality of life in the region.

At micro level, the improved inland waterways are basic conditions for a safe transport in the CBC area. The project contributed to this through the rehabilitation of piers in the port of Ruse, Bulgaria. The other main measure is the arrangement of a sector of the St. George Channel (RO) in order to improve connectivity in the Euroregion Ruse-Giurgiu, which will improve the access of the port of Giurgiu.

Besides, there were economic reasons (tourism and commerce). These two market segments have very high potential for development in the area Ruse-Giurgiu. The activities from Bulgaria and Romania ensure better accessibility of the region.

Speaking about horizontal principles and sustainable development, this project contributed to a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It promoted non-discrimination and addressed vulnerable groups, as well as the inclusion and integration of the broader segments of the population.

**Ana-Maria Mirzac**  
councillor Giurgiu Municipality,  
Cooperation and Promotion Department  
Romania



**A macro-regional civil strategy will reduce the distance between the EU institutions and people living hundreds kilometers away from the "Brussels bubble".**

From the recommendations of the EUSALP preparatory meeting,  
Lyon, 20 October 2023

**A macro-regional civil network is established. It is an open and inclusive pro-European collaborative and legitimate arrangement with an advocacy function for civil society organisations [...] ready to assist the implementation of the EU macro-regional idea.**



**From the concluding document  
adopted at the First Macro-Regional Citizen Agora,  
Budapest, 7-8 December 2023**



With the financial assistance of the EU, the Vidin Synagogue in Bulgaria has been restored in its authentic and original style and transformed into Jules Paskin Cultural Centre. It opened in September 2023.

The Synagogue in Vidin was built in 1894 and ranked as the second largest in Bulgaria after the Sofia Synagogue. Its architectural style resembles that of Budapest. The interior was impressive with its colour and use of ancient Jewish symbols. The four towers located above the roof in the four corners give the building an impressiveness and monumentality. It is not by chance that the Synagogue has been considered one of the most beautiful in Bulgaria, a source of pride for the Jews of Vidin, and was declared a cultural monument of national importance.

In the building's hall, there is an exhibition that tells the fascinating history of the monument and the Jewish community. The second part of the exhibition showplaces the life and work of the famous painter born in Vidin, Julius Pinkas, known by his stage name Jules Paskin. He established himself in the world of fine art as a major French painter known worldwide as one of the celebrities from the Paris School.

The hall of the cultural centre has 180 seats, which makes it suitable for various events: concerts, exhibitions, conferences, festivals, creative workshops, etc. The cultural centre offers a pleasant atmosphere in the art cafe, as does the surrounding space, where outdoor events can also be held. With the restoration of the building and its transformation into a tourist site, it becomes part of the modern image of Vidin with the potential of attracting many visitors.

**Beneficiary:** Vidin Municipality

**Financing program:** "Regions in growth" (2014-2020), priority axis 6 "Regional Tourism", procedure BG16RFOP001-6.002 "Development of tourist attractions"

**Managing Authority:** Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

**Start and finish date:** 12/29/2020 – 10/27/2023

**Financial information:** A grant financing of BGN 8,571,374.54, and a financial instrument of BGN 1 500 000

**Useful link:** [www.cc-pascin-vidin.eu](http://www.cc-pascin-vidin.eu)

## Restored Vidin Synagogue becomes major tourist attraction



**Mariela Savkova**  
Manager, District Information Point (DIP)  
Vidin, Bulgaria



**"The EESC welcomes the initiatives to set up an institutional citizens' dialogue between the macro-regions and considers that it could be useful in this regard."**

From the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies, 14 June 2023



## Ukrainian library in Gdansk broadens horizons in exile

The library is a space where culture and literature come together with a passion for reading. The place abounds in Ukrainian culture and allows you to spend your time in a valuable way and broaden your horizons. The initiative “Ukrainian Library in Gdansk”, operating at the RC Foundation (23 Wita Stwosza St. Gdansk, Poland), was established in May 2022, several weeks after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

From the outbreak of the war, refugees came to the headquarters of the RC Foundation, mainly for the necessities of life. The founder of the library was Daria Balabai who asked Ukrainian people what they lacked in their daily lives in exile. When she heard the answer “books”, it motivated her to quickly fill the foundation’s shelves with books obtained from various Ukrainian institutions as well as her own friends. The books arrived in Gdansk from Lviv, Dnipro, Lutsk etc.

“Every day we are visited by adults and children. Everyone finds something for themselves. I am happy when I see that Ukrainian culture has a chance to develop in Poland. We are often visited by schoolchildren, as well as students during study visits,” says Daria Balabai, coordinator.

At the beginning, the library’s resources numbered 300 copies for a few dozen of readers. Over the course of one and a half years, donors from Ukraine and Poland, publishers and libraries have significantly expanded the resources with more books. Today the collection is more than 10 times larger.

612 readers already benefit from our collection. More than 4,500 books in Ukrainian are available in the library.

These include:

- historical novels
- encyclopaedias
- primers
- ABCs
- adventure novels for children and teenagers
- fantasy and criminal novels
- books about Ukrainian history, language, culture and art
- fairy tales and poems for the youngest
- poetry

The library responds to the needs of Ukrainians, and they can visit it from Monday to Friday. It hosts competitions and meetings with book authors, diplomats, as well as concerts, workshops and various cultural events. The library is a long-term project with promising perspectives.

# Breaking boundaries and setting an example with the ENGAGE! project



Embarked on a transformative journey, the ENGAGE! project, a trailblazing initiative by the Baltic Institute for Regional Affairs (BISER), has successfully concluded after 2.5 years of impactful endeavours. Leveraging two decades of international cooperation experience and insights from the Umbrella project, ENGAGE! revolutionized Baltic cross-border collaboration among NGOs and civil society organisations in Poland and Norway.

At the core of ENGAGE! was a commitment to innovation, aiming to pioneer positive changes in Baltic cross-border NGO cooperation. The mission was to include inexperienced associations, transferring best practices, techniques, and tools to build a robust local community. The project's durability was guaranteed by identifying local leaders through the "train-the-trainers" method, enhancing their competencies for international cooperation and embedding them within the Baltic NGO Network structure.

## Project partners:

- Baltic Institute for Regional Affairs BISER [www.biser.org.pl](http://www.biser.org.pl) (Leader)
- Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic – Polish Partner
- Agder County Council (until Dec 2021 – South Norway European Office) – Norwegian Partner

Project timeline: April 2021 to July 2023

Project financed thanks to EEA Grants, Active Citizens Fund in Poland

## How We Made a Difference:

1. **Empowering Local NGOs:** Increased the innovativeness of small and medium-sized NGOs from Northern Poland through internationalization, integrating them into the Baltic Region's transnational cooperation ecosystem.
2. **Building Capacity:** Strengthened the capacity of third sector entities for transnational cooperation, co-creation, and partnerships with organizations from donor countries, particularly Norway.
3. **Setting an Example:** Demonstrated that transnational activities are feasible even with voluntary efforts and limited finances, inspiring others to engage in cross-border collaboration.
4. **Tangible Outcomes:** At least 50 local NGOs enhanced their cooperation capacity through partici-



pation in international networks, creating 10 project partnerships, and fostering collaborations with public entities in Poland and/or Norway.

5. **Elevated Knowledge and Innovation:** Enriched the knowledge and innovation of at least 50 local third sector actors through clear internationalization of their activities. Our Handbook in English is available here: <https://biser-en.org.pl/download-the-engage-project-playbook-and-start-transnational-cooperation-in-your-ngo/>

6. **Catalysed Intercultural Dialogue:** Facilitated hackathon projects with partners from Norway, Russia, and Iceland to encourage intercultural dialogue among NGOs, fostering community involvement in Baltic cooperation networks.

7. **Long-Term Impact:** Instigated a positive change process in Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian NGOs, fostering internationalization, and creating a conducive environment for broad cooperation.

8. **Capacity Building:** Our unique “train-the-trainers” concept identified local leaders, broadening the project’s impact to new groups and other NGOs. Materials are available here: <https://biser.org.pl/materialy-z-konferencji-finalnej-engage/>

The heartening highlight of this remarkable endeavour is the empowerment of over 50 Polish NGOs who received invaluable support in kickstarting their international collaborations with other NGOs. Through engaging in international meetings, immersive study visits, and participating in their first international projects with BISER’s guidance, these NGOs have not only grown, but have also inspired change on a global scale.

What makes this achievement even more special is the approval of several project applications stemming from these collaborations. These projects, now in full swing, stand as tangible evidence of the incredible impact BISER has had on fostering international partnerships and initiatives.

A significant milestone of the ENGAGE! project was the heightened awareness it brought to the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region among civil society organizations in Poland and Norway. By nurturing a deep understanding of this strategy, we have laid the foundation for stronger collaborations, shared goals, and a united approach to regional challenges.

Let’s not forget the incredible boost in the capacities of civil society organizations in Northern Poland. BISER has not only facilitated connections but has also acted as a catalyst for growth, enabling organizations to amplify their impact and contribute meaningfully to societal development.



**Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło,**  
Director, BISER  
Gdansk, Poland

First of all, let me start with my own example of why the idea of voting has been on my mind for years.

I believe that because we are the future we must unite so that we can vote with a decisive majority on issues that affect us and shall not let our elders decide for us.

I know from my own experience that my elderly family members – who are still active voters - have radically different ideas and thoughts on topics that will major impact on the lives of young people. Such as education and employment – which I hear many people struggle with after high school or university.

What encourages me is that with the right cooperation, our will can be represented.

Talking to my schoolmates, I have concluded that the common goal is to make voting a habit and it's never too early to start, but they suffer from the lack of access to the knowledge they need to form an opinion. Mainly because there is no such site that is straightforward and covers everything.

There is a need for more speeches and activities in school such as the one given by the European House Budapest in our school, to broaden our knowledge and perspective.

I would like to highlight the importance of involving social media in said argument and the reason is being our young generation's strong dependence on it.

Overall since many policy decisions have long-term consequences our voices should influence the direction of policy making.

**Vivien Szabó**  
first-time voter at the 2024 EP elections  
Dual Language School of Balatonalmádi  
Hungary



## WHY WILL I VOTE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS IN 2024?



@European House Budapest, December 2023

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<https://europeanhouse.hu/stronger-together/>



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