



Lead by Nature newsletter 2nd issue

a material carefully crafted by the European Lead by Nature Network (ELNN) team

Long story short

The past 3 months have been a rollercoaster for the European Lead by Nature Network, with a lot of great things happening. Since our last newsletter in September, we travelled both physically and virtually, we met a lot of interesting people, grew our youth community on Discord, and made amazing plans for the year ahead.



We could say that it's the perfect gift to wrap and place under the Christmas Tree. :)



In this issue, you'll read about:

- The Lead by Nature Youth Community on Discord
- Our Cooperation Camp in Amarante
- The EU Project Fair
- European Youth Report
- Plans for 2024



The Lead by Nature Youth Community on Discord

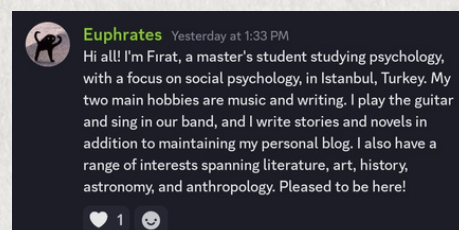
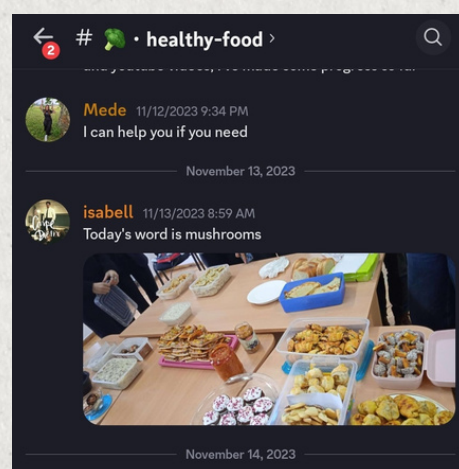
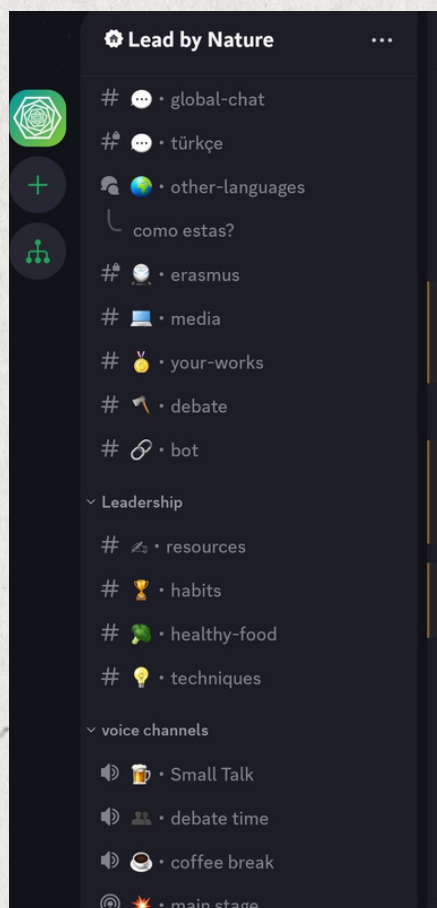
The community was all set and good to go at the end of May. 7 months later, we've got over 650 young people from all around Europe on board, taking on challenges, attending webinars, and sharing their experiences in our live podcasts.



What do you need to know about this community?

It is entirely run by youth. We've got 2 Community Managers that are 1st year University students, working alongside with 19 volunteers, aged between 16 and 21 years old.

We are very proud of their work, and consider them professionals already. They are learning day by day to create better and better events, and also amazing content for the youth following us on Social Media.



We'd say let's start with the overview of the community.

It has been mostly a trial and error process to understand what works out best for us in terms of how to organise everything in the community, and we are happy that we can finally design a profile of the ideal user, based on all the interactions, online and offline events and meetings this year, and especially thanks to the input of our amazing volunteers, which have been an inspiration to us.



So we came down to...



Leadership for Sustainability

Because the community aims to bring over young people from Europe and beyond, and create a space for them to share good sustainability practices in their communities that could serve as an inspiration for the others. We are mesmerised day by day by their power to create magic. If we encourage and empower them to step up and raise their voices, they will show you their amazing power of making this world a better place.

In short,

We empower YOUTH to take the lead in bringing positive, sustainable changes within their communities, and give them a space to share good practice, celebrate together and support each other.

How are we doing it?

First of all, by empowering our volunteers to bring ideas on the table and put them into practice: all webinars, podcasts, and communication are entirely created and managed by them, and here are the advantages:

- 1.They feel heard
- 2.They trust themselves to try new things in a safe space
- 3.They learn continuously
- 4.They develop skills that help them to be ready for their future jobs
- 5.They acknowledge their superpowers
- 6.They can inspire other young people to take the lead and make a difference

Second, thanks to what the volunteers are creating, we support the development of young people in Europe and beyond, through:

»» The ELNN Listen Up Live Podcast, which is hosted by Medeea Drăgan, our volunteer, and split into 2 series:

Driven by Passion

A series that puts the spotlight on young people sharing their most impactful life lessons and experiences.

The Cultural Canvas

Aimed to help youth explore various domains, by listening to and learning from the life stories of other young people around the world, that thanks to their commitment became great specialists and even personalities.

During the past 3 months, Medeea hosted 4 episodes of the Driven by Passion series as well as 4 Cultural Canvases, which featured very interesting and diverse guests, discussing a range of compelling topics:

- Sara Matamoros emphasised the benefits of Erasmus+ projects and travel, highlighting their impact on youth development.
- Catrinel Von Caitanovici went into the world of art, exploring life as a tattoo artist, independent book publishing, and the significance of street art.
- Maria Zancu brought up the importance of the healing process, and how to use art to sustain it.
- Ioana Tatarciuc focused on leadership, volunteering, and the skill-building potential of travel.
- Murtaz Bolkvadze shared gamification insights, offering strategies and tools for event moderation and team leadership.
- María Dolores Burguillos Durán discussed youth mental health, self-discovery through art, and the efficiency of small actions.
- Georgiana Dobre emphasised women's contributions to leadership and the importance of gender equality.
- Nadejda Cojocarú addressed self-care, effective communication, sustainability, and highlighted the crucial aspects of accessibility and diversity in our communities. Each episode offered a unique perspective, fostering a holistic view of personal and societal development.



If you wanna listen to the podcast, you can find all the episodes on Spotify → [Click Here!](#)

»» The Webinars

Timeea Stoica is the volunteer moderating some very interesting webinars for the young people in our community. She's inviting trainers and experts to teach topics such as Emotional Intelligence for Powerful Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion, Sustainable Living, Women in Leadership or Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset.

»» The Challenges

Aimed to raise awareness of the importance of healthy habits, the challenges take the volunteers to a great level of self awareness and personal development. The focus so far has been on healthy food, organisation and planning, time management and other skills that can get youth ready for adult life and its challenges.

Cooperation CAMP in Amarante



The end of October met us in Amarante, where we had the second in person meeting with the Network Partners, for the Cooperation CAMP. The reason why we met was to have a reality check on the advance of the network objectives and the results we managed to accomplish so far, and also to brainstorm on future projects that we'll create together.



We spent a great time there, hosted by Miguel at Casa da Juventude and his colleagues. One of the best parts of our journey was the over 100 trees we planted in the Erasmus+ Forest, which you can learn more about on greendex.world



The EU Project Fair

At the beginning of this newsletter we mentioned that we travelled virtually. It was to the EU Project Fair, an event hosted in a metaverse created on spatial.io specially for this occasion, where the Network Partners were able to showcase their projects and share good practice and results with the guests.



It was something we have never done before, and we are super excited about how it came out. This is only the beginning, because we are planning to turn the space into a permanent gallery, where all the network partners can showcase their projects, and organise all sorts of activities.





European Youth Report

Most of us in the network are working either with youth or youth workers, which in the end will pass what they do and know to, of course, youth. This means that we have a responsibility to create relevant projects for them, based on their needs. And we couldn't do it without thorough research.

Which is why we are collaborating with the amazing research from PUHU in Turkey, in order to run this study, based on which we will create our projects further.

Because we cannot pretend our work is dedicated to youth, unless we ask them what they really need and, by listening carefully and involving them in the process, create projects that are relevant. That they will be very motivated to participate in and talk about.

What does 2024 look like in our plans?

They say go big or go home. So this is pretty much what we want for next year: to go big!

We are planning on organising an International Networking Event and an Experiential Learning Festival in Romania, as well as a Networking CAMP in Lesvos, Greece. The work for each of the events started already, and we'll be coming up with news for each of them when we'll have all set.



2024
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

And since this issue is wrapping up this year, we'd like to wish you a meaningful end of 2023. We hope that you achieved all your goals or at least most of them, and you're ready to say hello to 2024.

We suggest
this order:



Wanna learn more about the
project? Go to our [website](#).

Thank you for reading this!

With appreciation,
The European Lead by Nature Network team

