



AJ INTER JOURNAL

JULY 2024

VOL.49

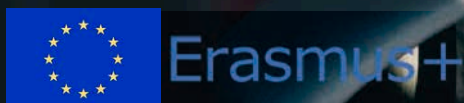
RISING OF POPULIST
MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE

EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS

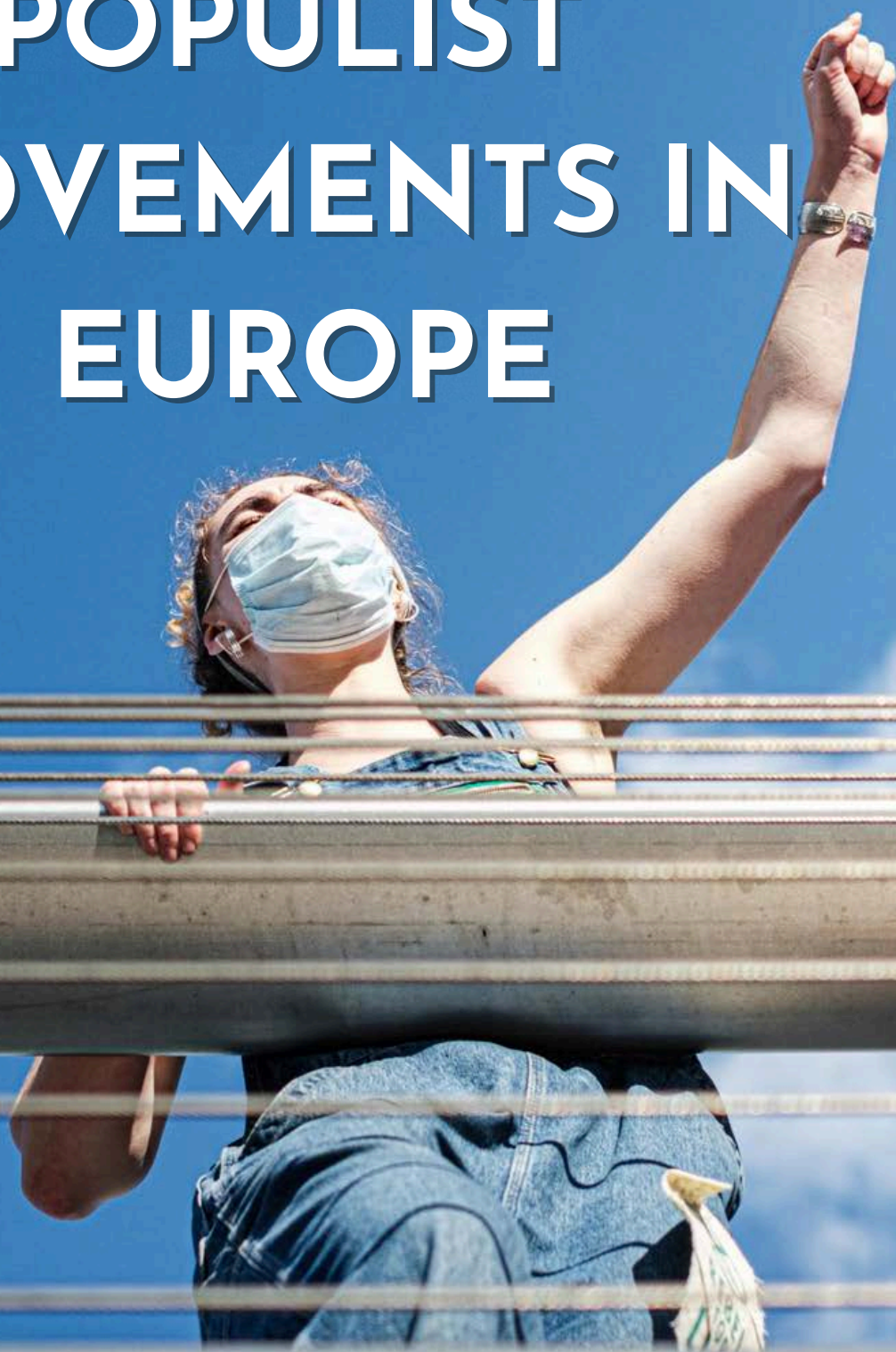
CITIZENS,
EQUALITY, RIGHTS
AND VALUES
PROGRAMME

WELCOMING
OUR NEW
VOLUNTEER

SAYING GOODBYE
TO OUR INTERNS



RISING OF POPULIST MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

What do Le Pen, Trump, Naser and Silva have in common?

They are all considered populists despite the fact that they have governed in different parts of the world at different periods of time. But what is actually populism? Populism is a political approach that seeks to represent the interests of ordinary people, often in opposition to established elites. According to the political science book “Populism: A Very Short Introduction”, it is characterized by the notion that society is divided into two groups: "the pure people" and "the corrupt elite." It is associated to a range of political stances that emphasize “people” and is opposed to “elite”.



The political campaigns of Donald Trump in the United States and Marine Le Pen in France have been described as populist because they both emphasized the need to restore power to the people and reduce the influence of the elite. The term is actually used as a political insult but according to Benjamin Moffitt it is widely misused in the European context, since it's true meaning has to do with the “will of the people”. This meaning identifies with the Cambridge dictionary, which describes the term as a political idea and activity that aims to be supported by ordinary people by providing them what they want.

Firstly, the term came on the surface and developed in the 19th century as an ideology affiliated with corruption and self - serving. Since then the term has been applied to refer to many politicians, parties, movements e. tc.. Within social and political sciences, researchers have proposed several different definitions. Nowadays, it is considered that populists are charismatic and dominant figures who represent themselves as the voice of the people, representing the silent majority. Populism has generated two different, opposing, categories: left wing populism and right wing populism. Moreover, it is combined with other related ideologies such as liberalism, nationalism and/or socialism.



The expansion and the causes
Nowadays populism is on the rise on both far left and far right parties. Populists left, center and right tend to blame societal problems on corrupted or broken institutions led by out of touch elites. For instance, “America first” and the Scottish Nationalist party are both considered populist despite having divergent philosophies.

Left - wing populism

Left-wing populism is a type of populism that combines leftist ideology with populist rhetoric. It emphasizes social equality, social welfare programs, the redistribution of wealth, public ownership, greater economic equality, environmental and social justice. Left-wing populists often advocate for policies that benefit the working class and criticize the economic elite and large corporations. They frame their policies in a way to empower ordinary people and challenge the status quo. In the United States Sanders is considered a left- wing populist. His campaign focused on economic inequality, universal healthcare, and free college education. At the same time, Podemos in Spain is a left - wing political party that emerged during the financial crisis, advocating for stronger social safety nets and measures against austerity. Left - wing populism can vary significantly by region and by context, but there are some common themes that indicate a general commitment to social and economic justice, advocating for more justice in society.



Right - wing populism

In contrast, right-wing populism combines right-wing policies with populist rhetoric. It often emphasizes nationalism, anti-immigration stances, skepticism of globalization and the preservation of traditional cultural values. It is understandable because of Brexit and Donald Trump, whose campaign focused on building a border wall, emphasizing immigration restrictions, negotiating trade deals, deregulation, putting “America first” and targeting political elites. Right-wing populists frequently criticize liberal elites and globalist policies. Viktor Orbán’s party promotes national sovereignty, conservative social policies, anti - immigration measures, clashing with the European Union over issues of human rights and democracy. Le Pen's National Rally party emphasizes strict immigration control, French nationalism, and skepticism towards the European Union. Georgia Meloni’s opposition to abortions, euthanasia, LGBTQIA+ marriage are threatening liberal democracy.

Polarized rhetoric and populists win voters more and more in the Western world. This is significant in many EU member states, such as France, Poland, Malta, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden. But why is populism on the rise the last few years? We assume that its roots were established because of the economic problems, cultural causes, globalization, digitalization and the tremendous changes it has produced. Moreover, we could also consider the failure of policy to provide higher welfare, locally and globally.



1.Social issues: Abortions & Refugees

Two of the most important social issues that the significant rise of far-right populism in Europe has arisen are abortions and refugees. Abortion laws in the European Union vary significantly across the member states, indicating diverse cultural, religious and political contexts. It is estimated that 90 million of women of reproductive age live in countries or states where abortion is prohibited.

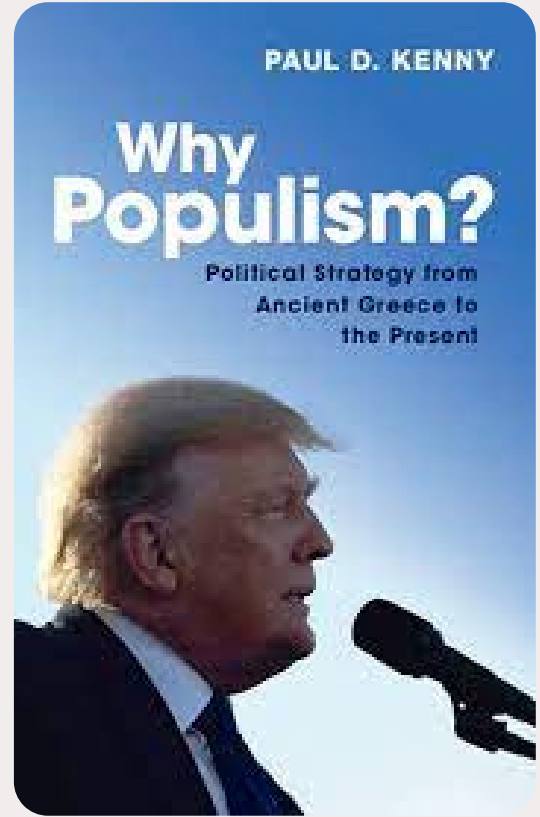
According to the Center for Reproductive Rights there are 24 countries from all around the world where abortion is completely prohibited. Some of them are Egypt, Honduras and the Philippines. When it comes to the European countries, Andorra, Northern Ireland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Malta, Poland and San Marino are on the list. Some of them approve of abortion under very specific circumstances such as sexual assault, prenatal risks e.t.c., but at the same time many women die because of sepsis and other causes since they are denied abortion from the doctors. One case that drew significant public and international attention of a polish woman dying of sepsis occurred in 2021 after being denied an abortion.



At the same time, “us” and “the others” is usually a discrimination between the natives and the (im)migrants of a country. This ideological separation can be easily found in the far-right populism discourse, where the natives are considered “pure” and the foreigners are excluded from society due to their cultural and religious differences, such as Jews and Muslims. This is often an outcome of far-right populism, being framed as a major concern for cultural identity, national security and economic stability. It is considered a political approach that advocates for stricter immigration controls and policies that favor only the native-born population. Restricting asylum policies and tightening border controls such as the closing of the Texas borders to Mexican people is a very complex situation that has arised humanitarian, security, legal and economic dimensions.

Danger of the future or not?

It is considered that populism is not the prime problem of nowadays democracy, but it is a sign that liberal democracy is not functioning well. What needs to be done is to inform ourselves everyday about the social and political changes not only in Europe but also all around the world. Most of all, know our human rights so that we can protest and fight for them. The results of the elections of France in July 2024 have brought a tremendous change in today's European political scene and maybe there is hope for liberal democracy after all. Or maybe there isn't? Time will show us as well.



EUROPEAN ELECTIONS



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

VENDE
3482718330
3482718330



European elections 2024

From the 6th to the 9th of June, we elected our 720 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) for the next five years. Maybe you went to the polls with us.. or maybe not? In fact, a lot of European citizens do not see the point of these elections or, even, do not know about them at all. This feeling probably comes from the fact that it is not impacting directly the local, the regional, nor the national levels, but the continental one, which appears far from us. However, it is easy to understand that whatever is voted on a continental scale will be implemented

everywhere up to your own house. **For instance, the deputies voted for the chargers' tips to all be the same for phones, earbuds, tablets, etc (Radio Equipment Directive of the 23rd of November 2022); which means that the feature of the phone you have in your pocket depends on these deputies!**

In this article, we want you to learn more about the European Parliament deputies' elections so that 1) you feel involved in the changes that happen on the whole continent and 2) you can vote thoughtfully.

**USE YOUR VOTE
OR OTHERS WILL
DECIDE FOR YOU**

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS
6-9 JUNE 2024



Source : https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/european-elections-2024_en

What are the deputies' duties?

The MEPs constitute the European Parliament. It works most of the time in a bicameral system with the European Council. In this last one you can find the heads of the 27 countries (Pedro Sánchez represents Spain for instance).

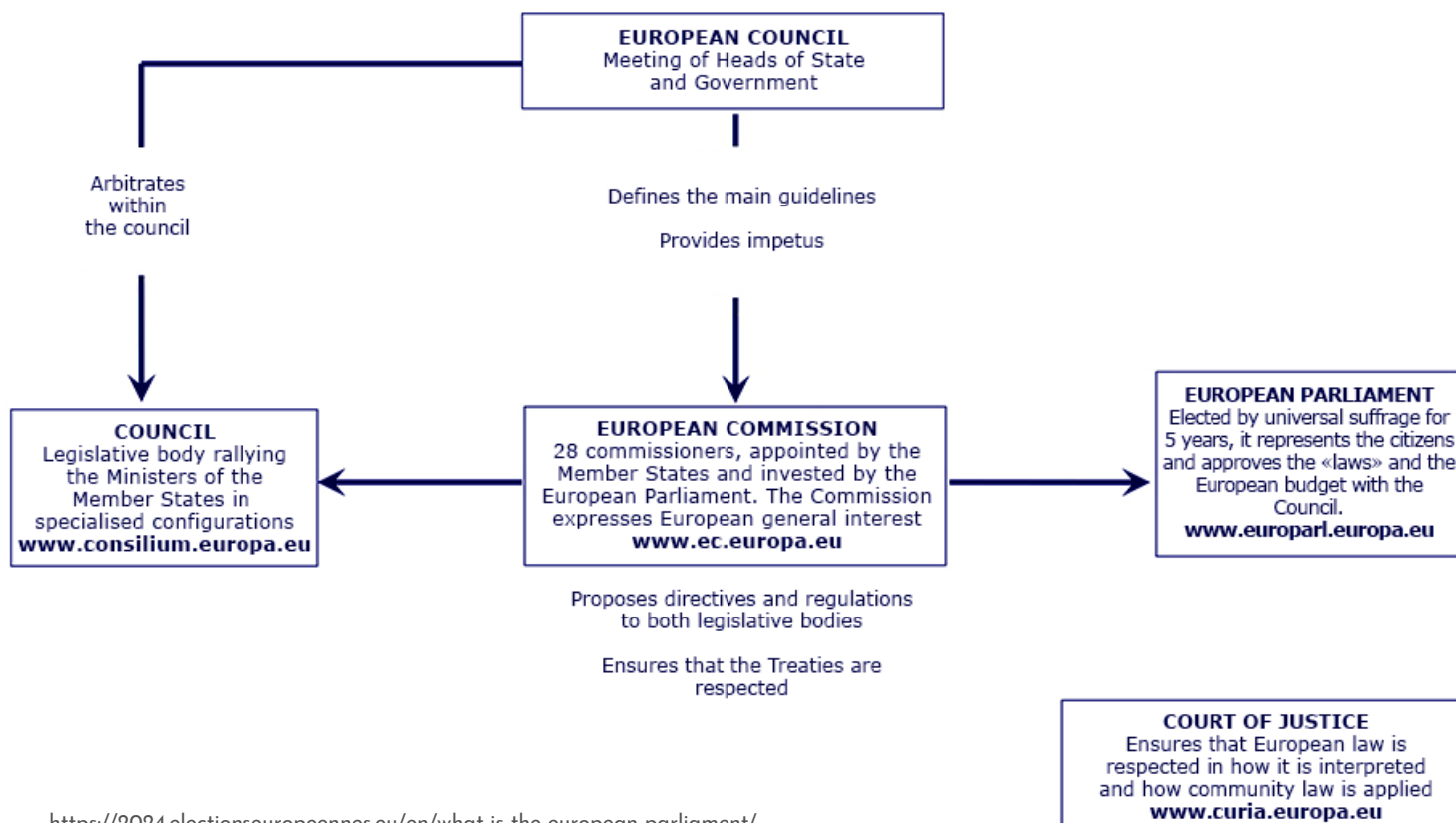
The Parliament has three main powers :

- **Legislative** : with the Council, they vote the laws which are proposed by the European Commission. The European Commission has the legislative initiative monopoly and is made of one "specialist" from each country.
- **Budgetary** : with the Council, they accept -or not- the budget plan.

This includes what the countries are to give to the EU. If the two facing chambers do not agree, then the last word belongs to the Parliament.

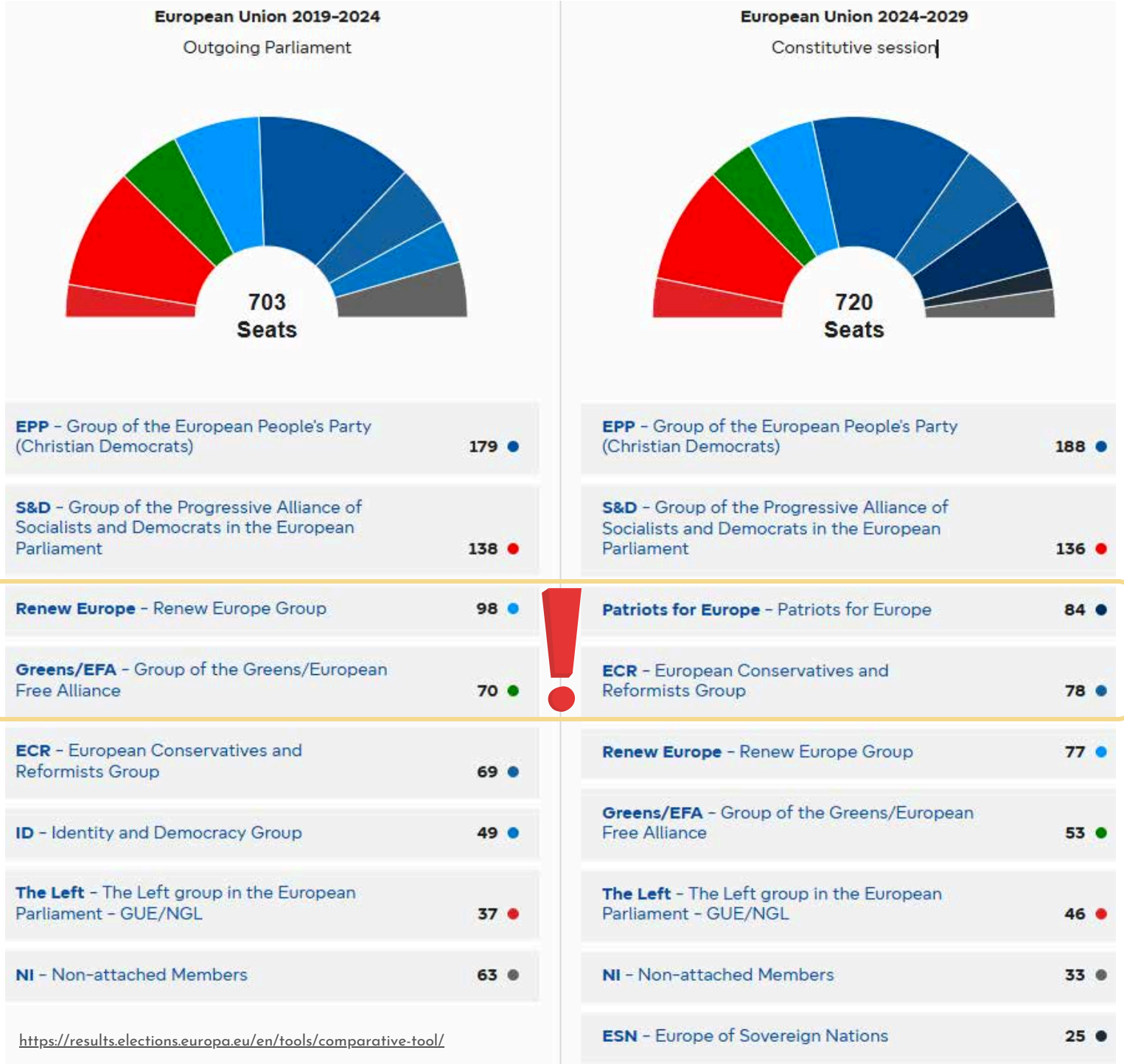
- **Supervisory** : the Parliament oversees the work of the European institutions, especially the European Commission.

The MEPs have other tasks such as considering legislative proposals in their specialized standing committees (eg. Transport & Tourism, Public Health or Fisheries); and receiving the petitions sent by anyone living in the UE, organization or business.



What are the results of June 2024?

Once the deputies are elected, they split into **European political groups** (8 at the moment), they usually work altogether and vote the same. (They are not grouped by country!) These are the results of the 2024 June elections, compared to the last ones in 2019 :



Two new groups were created : Patriots for Europe and Europe of Sovereign Nations, instead of the Identity and Democracy Group one. They are put on the right side of the hemicycle which commonly means that they are right parties and, in this case, the further-right ones.

Finally, let's make a few statistics to clearly see the changes in the political repartition, considering that the number of seats increased :

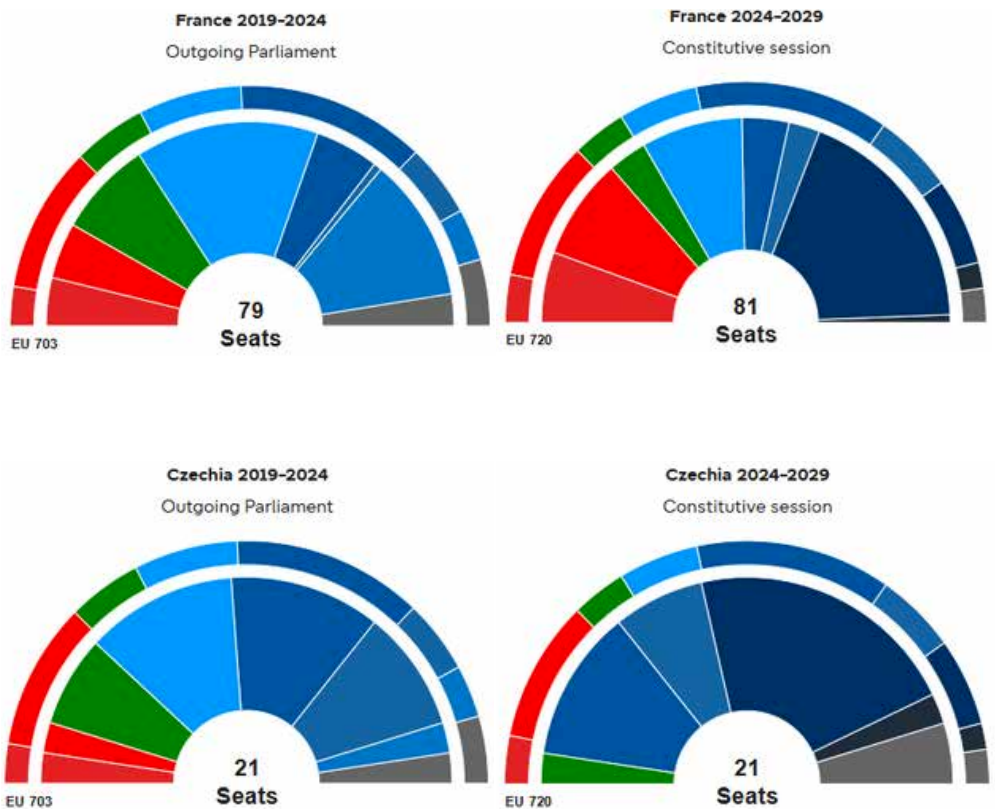
The Left/ S&D/ Greens-EFA
 2019 : 34,85%
 2024 : 32,64%

EPP/Renew Europe
 2019 : 39,4%
 2024 : 36,81%

**ECR/ ID then
 Patriots for Europe /ECR /ESN**
 2019 : 16,79%
 2024 : 25,97%

Basically, we can say that **far-right groups gained almost 10 points of percentage** while the left and traditional liberal groups lost 5 points between the elections (non-attached members are fewer, passing from 8,96% to 4,58%). The **Greens/EFA has been downgraded** to the 6th place to give room to the conservatives, and there were **sharp changes on the national scale**.

In some countries, the **surge of far-right groups over the classic ones** is very visible. Such as France, where their number of seats almost doubled, from 19 to 35; or in Czechia, the diagram being quite self-explanatory. In others, it is less visible but most European countries have new further-right members, especially in the two new European political groups.



In comparison, the **left hemicycle groups** only **gained** one or two seats in Romania, Sweden, France, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands but **seventeen (!) seats in Italy where the Conservatives are already in power**.

Now that you know more about the European Parliament, maybe, next time, apart from voting, you'll think about running for office?





CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME





Co-funded by
the European Union

Citizens voices, united for Europe

We are at the end of our CERV project , during the past 2 years we have made a lot of interesting activities to complete our project aims in Spain, Estonia, Romania and on Zoom. This project focused on addressing the dangers of civic rights loss through the rise of radicalism, drawing lessons from historical events. We aim to engage citizens, particularly women and minorities, in a participatory process to foster a deeper understanding and commitment to democratic values and civic responsibilities.



During our project we center on design thinking, a methodology that focuses on human-centric thinking through creativity, teamwork, and emotional learning. This approach helps to identify the needs and aims of the project effectively.



This project aims to show people about the dangers of losing their civic rights because of radicalism. It uses different methods to help people understand and care about these issues.

MAIN GOALS:

1. **Share Information:** Give participants access to expert opinions, surveys, documents, films, and articles.
2. **Encourage Discussion:** Hold debates and discussions to come up with ideas and solutions.
3. **Create Outputs:** Make materials based on these discussions and ideas.

The project fostered active participation and high involvement through various strategies.

They were:

Non-formal education; utilising educational methods outside the formal classroom setting to engage participants,

Digital approach; engaging young people through ZOOM and Instagram lives later measuring their participation,

Emotional and artistic approach, using emotional connections and artistic expressions to resonate with participants,

Inclusion Strategy; ensuring the inclusion and relevance of women and minorities.



Testimony of Rosa



Participants were involved in every stage of the project through a participatory methodology. Each participant expresses their interests and is assigned specific tasks, fostering motivation and eagerness to contribute. Activities include:



Testimony of Bogdan



- Surveys:** Conducting google-form surveys to gather data on citizens' knowledge of the EU and democracy.
- Workshops and Debates:** Hosting workshops and debates, primarily targeting students and decision-makers, to discuss and analyze the issues at hand.
- Collaborative Platforms:** Using Zoom meetings, painting, photo contests and social media to share opinions and documents generated by coordinators and participants.

By looking at our project evaluations we can say that the project is expected to achieve the following results:

- Enhanced public awareness of civic rights and responsibilities.
- Increased levels of civic engagement and participation.
- Improved emotional intelligence and empathy among participants.
- Strengthened community bonds and collaboration.
- Development of innovative approaches to address social issues.
- Positive, lasting impact on the participants and their communities.
- Reduction in radicalism and extremist behaviors through inclusive strategies.

This project aimed to tackle civic rights and radicalism by focusing on emotional learning, active participation, and inclusive strategies. By involving a diverse group of participants and using creative methods, the project seeks to improve public awareness and encourage greater civic engagement.

Summary of Project Activities in project countries

Spain

1

- Event Setup: Initial organization and preparation of the project, including event distribution, communication strategy, and agreements with partners.
- Activities: Diverse participation with students and young people, humor videos on radicalism dangers, arts for empathy, surveys, testimonies, and museum visits. Workshops and round tables to discuss the rise of totalitarianism and empathy through human libraries and video forums .

Estonia

2

- Objective: Raise awareness and discuss EU citizens' rights and the dangers of losing them.
- Activities: Participatory, artistic, and emotional methods to analyze the rise of radical movements in the past and present. Includes workshops, debates, and exhibitions .

Romania

3

- Objective: Analyze historical and current radicalism and promote EU values.
- Activities: Discussions on fascism and Ceaușescu regime, round tables with political parties, film forums, workshops on populism dangers, and remembrance site visits. Arts workshops leading to exhibitions on EU contributions to civil rights .

Online Event

4

- Objective: Conclude and consolidate project findings and proposals.
- Activities: quizzes, debates, digital storytelling, and film forums. Workshops on information manipulation, and proposals for a green, digital, and inclusive Europe. Photo exhibition of contest and workshop pictures .

Exhibition in youth house

5

- Objective: Showcase project outcomes and engage the public.
- Activities: Exhibitions of photos from contests and arts workshops, highlighting EU contributions to civil rights and democracy. Includes both physical and online displays .

Project Summary



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens Voices, United for Europe] — [CVUE]
Participant:	[Asociación juvenil Inter] ([AJ Inter])
PIC number:	949592171

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[1]		
Event name:	[Event in Spain]		
Type:	[seminar]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Spain)], [Jerez de la Frontera (Jimena de la Frontera)]		
Date(s):	[5th – 10th June 2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ajinter.org (journal July24)		
Participants			
Female:	45		
Male:	45		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Spain]:	85		
From country 2 [Estonia]:	3		
From country 3 [Romania]:	3		
Total number of participants:	91	From total number of countries:	3
Description: <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>We aim to learn a lesson from the past, looking firstly the characteristic of the XX century totalitarianism and how did they raise to the power and the populist and radical movements in the present. As well as to debate the EU we want for the future.</p> <p>This is the 1st of 4 events, it took place in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. AJ Inter coordinates the project and this event in cooperation with Hair Redivivus (RO), EEarenduskeskus (ES).</p> <p>We had many different activities methods to discover the processes of radicalization and identify them in the present.</p> <p>We created a relaxed and cooperative atmosphere with techniques as energizers, culture exchanges and getting use of the pauses and breaks to meet each others and exchange opinions about the project.</p> <p>We started with analyses of a survey of the citizens in Spain about Democracy, EU rights and populism/radicalization, team groups about news and posters of the past and present and we watched the serial Patria to comment how a radical movement can “kidnap” a society.</p> <p>We launched and promoted the Photo contest for young people to show their vision of future of the EU, make round table with political parties of different spectrum (PP, PSOE, Ganemos) about populism.</p> <p>We visited the memorial in Jimena de la Frontera about the victims of Spanish civil war and the dictatorship. Connecting to we recorded several testimonies of grandchildren of victims of the dictatorship (Miguel García Román, María Silva Cruz, Pascual Collado) and made a human library to comment their testimonies, what it was quite impacting.</p> <p>We have also the testimony of Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia (A father of the Spanish constitutions) about the Spanish transition to democracy and the Roma people contribution to it.</p> <p>We promoted the event and results with an IG live video and ending with the evaluation of the event with participants and organizations, designing the deliverables and their follow up.</p>			

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Citicenz Voices, United for Europe] — [CVUE]
Participant:	[Mittetulundusühing Edela Eesti Arenduskeskus] ([EEArenduskeskus])
PIC number:	943628514

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[2]		
Event name:	[Event in Estonia]		
Type:	[seminar]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Estonia], [Pärnu (Tallin)]		
Date(s):	[8th - 12th August 2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ajinter.org (journal July24)		
Participants			
Female:	24		
Male:	14		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Spain]:	2		
From country 2 [Estonia]:	26		
From country 3 [Romania]:	2		
Total number of participants:	30	From total number of countries:	3
Description: <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The second event was in Pärnu, Estonia, coordinated by EEArenduskeskus with the assistance of AJ Inter (SP) and the participation of Hair Redivivus (RO).</p> <p>As well, we counted many different non-formal methods.</p> <p>We created a relaxed and cooperative atmosphere with techniques as energizers, culture gastronomy and the use of the pauses and breaks to meet each others and exchange opinions about the project.</p> <p>We started with analyses of a survey of the citizens in Estonia about Democracy, EU rights and populism/radicalization. We visited a quite interesting memorials in Tallinn (on same spot), about the soviet victims (Estonians and Russians) under Nazis and the Estonian victims of the Soviet regime.</p> <p>We introduced to the participants the results of the Spanish event and record a testimony from (Raivo Hellerma) of the live under communist dictatorship and made a round table with people who were living that period.</p> <p>We played the bard game “Europe matters” by the council of Europe to discover the EU values.</p> <p>We continued promoting the young people photo contest, extending the period and adding more complete set of rules (from the legal perspective).</p> <p>The vice mayoress of Pärnu gave us testimony of the contribution of the women to the Estonian democracy. We had a round table with Estonian political parties (left, centre, right and far right) with who we debated about populism in the present in Estonia. Afterwards watched the film: He is back, where we discovered the mechanism of how to raise the political radicalism. Then a member of the Estonian parliament (Kristo Enn Vag) commented with us values and civil rights guaranteed by EU.</p> <p>We promoted the event and results with an IG live video and ending with the evaluation of the event with participants and organizations, designing the deliverables and their follow up.</p>			

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens Voices, United for Europe] — [CVUE]
Participant:	[Asociatia Hair Redivivus Buzău] ([HAIR R. BUZAU])
PIC number:	949010268

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[3]		
Event name:	[Event in Romania]		
Type:	[seminar]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Romania], [Buzău (Bucharest)]		
Date(s):	[5th - 9th September 2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ajinter.org (journal July24)		
Participants			
Female:	24		
Male:	14		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Spain]:	2		
From country 2 [Estonia]:	35		
From country 3 [Romania]:	2		
Total number of participants:	39	From total number of countries:	3
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The third event was in Buzău, Romania, coordinated by Hair Redivivus, with the assistance of AJ Inter (SP) and the participation of EEarenduskeskus (ES). As well, we counted many different non-formal methods</p> <p>We created a relaxed and cooperative atmosphere with techniques as energizers, culture exchanges and getting use of the pauses and breaks to meet each others and exchange opinions about the project.</p> <p>We started with analyses of a survey of the citizens in Romania about Democracy, EU rights and populism/radicalization. We visited memorials in Bucharest about the victims (mainly Jews) under the fascist regime in Rumania and the memorial of the people who raised to eliminate the communist dictatorship.</p> <p>We introduced to the participants the results of the Estonian event and record a testimony from (Bogdan Chiriacescu) of the live under communist dictatorship. We had a round table with Estonian political parties (left, centre, right and Roma minority) with who we debated about populism in the present in Romania. Afterwards watched the film: The wave, where we debated the mechanism of how to raise the political radicalism turning to totalitarianism.</p> <p>We made a very interesting workshop with History teacher (a good practice we will share with AJ Inter youth work network) about the parallelism of populism/radicalism on the past and present. Afterwards we made a round table about the 2017-2019 Romanian resilience movement against corruption.</p> <p>We took the young people opinions with an art workshop, through the music and painting they showed the positive contribution of EU to civil rights, Democracy and dangers of totalitarianism.</p> <p>We continuing promoting the photo contest to see the future of EU young people wish. We promoted the event and results with an IG live video and ending with the evaluation of the event with participants and organizations, designing the deliverables and their follow up.</p>			

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens Voices, United for Europe] — [CVUE]
Participant:	[Asociación juvenil Inter] ([AJ Inter])
PIC number:	949592171

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[4]		
Event name:	[Event online]		
Type:	[seminar]		
In situ/online:	[online]		
Location:	[Spain)], [Jerez de la Frontera (Pärnu/Estonia, Buzău/Romania)]		
Date(s):	[6th – 8th November 2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	www.ajinter.org (journal July24)		
Participants			
Female:	73		
Male:	53		
Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [Spain]:	22		
From country 2 [Estonia]:	45		
From country 3 [Romania]:	55		
From country Other [France]:	2		
From country Other [Czech R.]:	1		
From country Other [Turkey]:	5		
Total number of participants:	128	From total number of countries:	3 (6)
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The 4th and last event was online coordinated by AJ Inter (SP) and the participation of Hair Redivivus (RO) and EEarenduskeskus (ES), but counting with participants from other countries as France or Turkey. As well, we counted many different non-formal (online) methods.</p> <p>We created a relaxed and cooperative atmosphere with techniques as virtual energizers, and getting use of the pauses to meet each others and exchange opinions about the project.</p> <p>We introduced the project and showed the survey of the citizens in Spain, Estonia and Romania about Democracy, EU rights and populism/radicalization and the presented the other 3 previous events (Spain Estonia and Romania). Afterwards we did a Kahoot contest and debate about the project.</p> <p>We presented digital stories telling about totalitarian regimes in Spain, Romania and Estonia and debate them. We watched the film the great dictator (the Dictator's speech) then shared opinions about the mechanism of radicalism raising.</p> <p>We made a virtual workshop about the manipulation of the Information (how it was, how it is). It continued a virtual world café about the How to Defend civic rights and end the second day showing the photo exhibition: pictures of the arts workshops done and the photos of the contest about the future of EU young people propose.</p> <p>We worked on proposals, by team groups we debated about the Green Europe, Digitalisation, Inclusion, what we would like to see in the future. We promoted the event and results with an IG live video and ending with the evaluation of the event with participants and organizations, designing the deliverables and their follow up.</p>			



SAYING GOODBYE TO SPANISH INTERNSHIP STUDENTS



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



Laura y Jose

Laura

I am grateful to AJ Inter because thanks to this association I have been able to live unforgettable experiences through Erasmus+ projects: travelling, getting to know the world, learning different cultures through their gastronomy, dances, music, customs without the need to travel to each country of origin. They have given me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and create new friendships with people from different countries. I can also say that I am proud to understand a little more English than before. It has been an unforgettable experience!!! 🎁❤️



Jose

My experience in AJ Inter has been amazing. Regarding my studies I have learnt a lot, especially how important Youth Information is. I have loved meeting new people from all over the continent and getting to know different cultures. In fact, it has encouraged me to travel and apply for projects from Erasmus+. I am really thankful for this experience and all the good moments it has let me live ❤️❤️❤️



Ana

Hi! My name is Ana and I'm going to tell you my experience with AJ INTER.

During my internship in this association, I have participated in a lot of activities with other organisations like Oxfam and several schools in Jerez de la Frontera. This experience taught me a lot of things about my own skills and showed me what kind of things I can manage in the right way. I feel that I have personally grown and my confidence has increased as well. I want to thank all the people that I have met during this time together and wish them success in every project that they will make. Thanks for everything AJ INTER!





SAYING GOODBYE TO INTERNSHIP STUDENT FROM FRANCE

Martin's Goodbye Article

My first experience in Andalucia



← (I'm this wonderful guy)

27 April - 22 June

My first steps in Jerez

The 27th of June I left France to fly to Spain. It was my first experience, completely alone in a foreign country and I was pretty scared. I arrived in Sevilla the same day and took the bus to Jerez. The first thing I experienced when I arrived in Jerez was the constant sound of motos because, in fact, I arrived the week end of the moto GP of Jerez. Motos seem to be one crazy thing in Jerez, I saw a lot of people meeting in a square to watch the GP on a giant screen. It was honestly really cool.

The first week in Jerez was a bit difficult for me. I discovered a totally different culture and totally different persons. The thing I struggled the most with was to understand the Andalusian accent, people do not speak spanish in Jerez, they speak Andalusian. But I improved myself with time and speaking with others has become a lot easier now!



During the second week of my trip I discovered what was the Feria del Caballo. It is a big event which takes place every year in the Feria del Caballo's park. I had the chance to visit with other volunteers the different casetas, to see the enlightenment of the aisles and to taste spanish food.



My role in AJ Inter

In AJ Inter my job was to promote our projects, to create forms, new social media posts... I went for example to a highschool to present Erasmus+ projects destined to young people (Discover EU, Youth Exchange,...). It was my first real interactions in spanish with people, and moreover with spanish students. I learnt a lot about Erasmus+ projects and my spanish level started to improve because of it. It was great!

During my time working in the association, I had the chance to participate in my first Erasmus+ project, a Youth Exchange. It was a wonderful experience, I learnt a lot about foreign cultures and made a lot of new friends. We went to Cadiz during tthe week-end to visit the city and we also did a gymkhana in the streets of Jerez. It allowed me to see a lot of monuments and swim in the Atlantic Ocean.



I can easily say that this Youth Exchange was the best thing I've experienced since I'm in Jerez. I loved it!



Some days I had for task to help an association called Oxfam. My goal there was to help to sell second-handed books, games and puzzles by checking their state, taking photos of them and selling them.



My final steps in Jerez

On Tuesday 18th, I organized a French Movie Night to conclude my internship. I chose to show to our members a movie named "OSS 117". I've picked this one because I wanted to show them a funny movie, not a typical French movie about war which, for sure, are interesting but most of the time really sad.

Halfway through the movie, we did a small break during which I presented some Norman products like wine, cidre paté, teurgoule and French biscuits.



I learnt a lot during my internship in Spain. I discovered so many people and places. It was my first serious trip alone in a foreign country and I think I've grown up more here and now than ever before. My perspectives on my future are totally different now, I learnt so much about the world around me, that now, I want to try new things, be part of new projects and help people in needs.

Finally, I think I can say that I would clearly recommend anybody to do this kind of internship or even a volunteering. It was a life changer for me and I hope it will be for you...

Thank you for this amazing experience!



WELCOMING OUR NEW VOLUNTEER



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

ANAÏS - FRANCE



First week and already a photographer for the youth exchange "intercultural Europe"!

Coucou! I am 25 years old and I finished my master's degree in social policies, sociology and project management last year. I started my ESC on the 14th of June and I will be staying 'till the end of November.

The main reason why I wanted to come to Spain was to **(re)connect with my origins**. My grand-parents were Spanish and most of my uncles and my aunt are too. But Spanish families are Spanish families and, although everyone was living in my hometown, the relationships were not good and I didn't have the chance to live the Spanish culture and hear Spanish language for very long (I remember having some paellas on a Sunday lunch in front of a garage in the middle of the mountains...).

Thus, I hope this project will help me find this part of me that has been fading everyday since! I need **Spanish warmth**, both social and physical (I've missed the sun).



Grenoble

I come from Grenoble which is a city surrounded by mountains (Alps). I was born, raised and I went to university there. If you like **mountain sports** like hiking, skiing, wingsuit flying, canyoning, climbing, etc. this is the best place to be! It was elected European green capital 2022 and is probably the **best city to bike** in France (the flattest one actually!)



If you pass by, you **HAVE TO** go to le **Château de Vizille**, the cradle of French Revolution. This is a must. A great castle that you can briefly visit via its museum. But the best for me is the big park with its rivers, geese, ducks, fishes, flowers, birds and forest animal reserve where you can find deers.



In Grenoble we also have many great places to eat and most of them have **vegetarian and vegan-friendly food**. These are the ones I prefer :

- La Cafteuse : everything is homemade and vegetarian, at least. Also, it is a second-hand shop!
- Fit & gourmande : homemade vegetarian dishes and crazy good pastries !! The tastes are very intense; 100% recommend the chocolate moelleux filled with peanut.
- Gustavo : vegan kebab !!! Nothing else to say.



I would highly recommend Grenoble if you are attracted to **human values, activism, ecology and mountain sports...** It is also one of the best technologic, scientific and university pole of the country (we host the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility for instance).

However we don't have the beach there, and I can't wait to enjoy the warm weather for these 6 upcoming month in Jerezzz!

See you xxx



@LACAFTEUSE.GRENOBLE



@FITETGOURMANDE



@GUSTAVOVEGANFOOD



FOLLOW US



ajinter



aj_inter



ajinter



Asociación Juvenil Inter

Ask your questions!



info.ajinter@gmail.com



visit our website