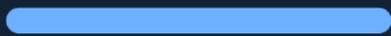




EuropaNova  
Germany



# Young Security Conference

[www.young-security-conference.de](http://www.young-security-conference.de)

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***"The YSC is a great opportunity for students to challenge their academic perspectives and to network with a variety of professionals across the spectrum of the security and development sector."***

Lisa Raffy, CIVIPOL, Ministry of the Interior (France)

***"The Young Security Conference sets the foundation of an original and youthful, professional, and dynamic approach to observing and interpreting security. Having representatives from different countries and with different educational backgrounds helped to enrich the debates during the sessions."***

Denis Cenusă, Researcher at Justus-Liebig-Universität  
(YSC Fellow from Moldova)

***"Simply impressed by the exchanges of young participants; controversial, creative, and intelligent."***

Dr. Asiem El Difraoui, Candid Foundation (Paris/Berlin)

***"It was fascinating to observe young people's passion about the EU and the future of Europe. I felt inspired by both the formal discussions and the informal talks in the breaks. The Young Security Conference was definitely worth attending!"***

Denica Yotova, ECFR (YSC Fellow from Bulgaria)

# 1 - Our story

## Concept and Vision

The Young Security Conference (YSC) is a long-term scientific, policy and intergenerational project. The YSC connects young innovative thinkers with experts from policy and research in a dialogue on the future of European security and defence. It is a unique initiative that stands out for its participatory and inclusive character and combines an annual conference with a fellowship programme.

The future of the European Union depends on public support, particularly in security and defence policies. Europe's diversity, along with its humanistic values, is at the core of its identity. Now more than ever, it is important to include this diversity in the process of shaping the EU's political design.



## The YSC flagship conference

The *Young Security Conference* is the flagship project of *EuropaNova Germany*, a registered association in Germany (e.V.). Since its foundation in November 2020, *EuropaNova Germany* brings together political scientists, as well as other academics, and interested people of all generations to form a collective that addresses present and future challenges to European integration - with a focus on its multidisciplinary security dimensions. *EuropaNova Germany's* ambition is to become a leading Think-and-Do Tank, primarily aimed at younger people on the issue of European politics and Franco-German relations.

The dialogue we seek is open to a truly pan-European perspective, and thus brings a real contribution to the emerging pan-European space of socio-political discussion. While expertise is the undeniable basis for a nuanced and deep debate, what makes the YSC unique is the engagement of experts with younger generations not often heard, but interested in shaping the Europe of tomorrow.

With such an objective in mind, *EuropaNova Germany* acts as a mediator between politics and policy, science, as well as the public. We see ourselves as an inclusive actor, initiating new impulses for thought in a public dialogue.

**Since our foundation in November 2020, it has been our aim to create and foster tight bonds among the next generation of young thinkers in Europe and to meaningfully contribute to the future of European security and defence.**

*[More details under '5 - Our Organisation & partners']*



## The YSC fellowship program

The program organises workshops on a range of topics for our fellows in order to develop a community of practice, with the participation of high-ranking decision-makers and thinkers. In this context, the first YSC publication, *The West in Fragmentations*, was published online in September 2021.

Through the submission of policy papers, workshops, panels, and innovative concepts, the conference provides an ideal forum for the exchange of innovative ideas related to European security policy.

A selected number of our fellows receive stipends from the Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW), one of our Partners.

## Who are we addressing?

The YSC connects young, innovative, and creative thinkers with experts from policy and research in a discussion on the future of European security and defence. We invite master's Students, PhD candidates, post-docs, and young professionals from around the world to present their work and proposals all year long.

By hosting policy sessions, both during the conference and as regular workshops, we connect present and future experts on global issues such as Health Security, Climate Change and Cyber Security; and also more regional concerns such as the Franco-German axis in the context of the EU, or the state of the Transatlantic Alliance.

*[More details under '4 - The YSC Fellowship']*



The success of the YSC is a testament to the capacity of this conference to fill existing gaps in foreign and security policy conferences in Europe. These gap will be filled by the combination of academic demands and an approach to the general public as well as younger audiences. This allows for an effective discussion of proposals, perspectives, and eventually policies to improve the continent and the world we live in.

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## 2 - Methodology

The YSC is based on new intergenerational research methods, both in how we design the program as well as in our audience of experts and younger fellows. We are also characterised by a great willingness to produce, support, and engage with original ideas, which was very successful during the first two editions of this conference.

### **The scientific gap to be addressed**

Our overarching approach seeks to bridge two gaps that are identified in the field of the European security dialogue: a gap between the established experts, often of an older generation, with the younger generation of future leaders. As well as second gap between the different disciplines, which characterise a multidimensional understanding of security.

### **Our scientific objectives**

We want to contribute to the development of the next generation of innovative thinkers and decision-makers to redefine European security and defence policies of the EU. The objective of the program is thus long-term: since this event will take place at regular intervals, the YSC establishes a permanent network between its participants.

### **The scientific quality**

The partnerships and the speakers who cooperate with the YSC bring long-standing expertise in the field of idea exchange, policy proposal and debate in Europe - and globally. Under the YSC umbrella, they bring their expertise closer to civil society and the next generation.

**Scientific relevance:** This YSC program has established a participatory platform that builds a network for a continuous exchange of ideas. This event invites committed young talents to develop concrete political and scientific projects, to discuss and pursue them for two days with experts, plus a workshop program developed for all YSC alumni and which falls under the umbrella of the growing YSC Fellowship community. The continuous exchange of ideas is thus at the heart of the entire YSC program as a whole, both during and after the YSC itself.

**Innovative aspects of our proposal:** Great potential to further develop scientific knowledge, social applications; improvement of structural parameters; overcoming borders between science and society; trans- and international projects.





## **Centrality of the Franco-German dialogue**

The Franco-German reconciliation and bilateral relations have formed the core of the Process of European Integration since 1945. We aim to open this core dialogue towards the rest of Europe: Franco-German leaders have seen as their mission to promote a EU that is truly global, and so does the YSC. We do so with the active participation of Franco-German and also experts from the rest of Europe and the world.



## **Intercultural approach with a focus on younger generations**

The YSC brings together young scientists and participants from France, Germany, and the entire EU as well as the world. The project has intercultural objectives and its pedagogical approach aims to associate international leaders with young experts and give an actual voice for people who are often not heard in debates about foreign policy and security - in all its multidisciplinary dimensions.



## **Policy exchange and proposals**

At each stage of the events, participants and speakers are invited to participate actively in the program and the accompanying discussions. Expected outputs of the conference include the written publication of policy proposals connected to the topics discussed (the YSC Book).

## 3 - Past Conferences

### YSC 2020

The first edition of the *Young Security Conference* took place in Munich from 14-16 February 2020, featuring insightful open and closed sessions on a range of topics. Taking place at the Institut Français and the Technical University of Munich, the YSC 2020 gathered around 35 young professionals from 13 different European countries and the United States. EuropaNova Germany funded the attendance of 18 of these young professionals. Additionally, 22 high-level speakers attended the YSC. A public audience gathered for the open sessions.

Panels were organised on the following topics: “The future of EU’s ‘hard security’ after EU elections”; “European Security & Defense ... and NATO?”; “EEAS and Neighbourhood Policies”; “Hybrid threats, migration and sustainable policies in Europe”; “Do we need a new EU security roadmap?”. For more details, please see the [report](#) of the 2020 edition, available on our website.

### YSC 2021

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the second edition of the YSC in 2021 succeeded in delivering content to a high standard. The main characteristic of the YSC is its capacity to approach topics that are highly relevant to the current state of political affairs.

Panels were organised on the following topics:

“EU’s Open Strategic Autonomy”; “Health Security”; “The EU and its neighbourhood”; “Climate security & the Green Deal”; “Cyber security & Digital policies”. More details can be found [on the website](#).

The 2021 event also anchored its multidisciplinary reflections on key concepts such as the role of the West, the ever-evolving transatlantic relationship, or the role of Franco-German relations at the centre of the European integration process.

The network of YSC Fellows will continue to grow with future editions and contribute effectively to the overall goals of the dialogue we promote, during and after the conference itself. This network remains focused on building a new framework of action for the aforementioned challenges. The new concept of the YSC Fellow workshops, introduced in 2021, will be key to nurture this growing community.

*[More details in the following section]*

## 4 - The YSC Fellowship

In 2021, we decided to offer a new concept to attract all generations of innovative thinkers and doers: a network of YSC alumni and former speakers, composed of scientists, scholars, policymakers, activists as well as engaged Europeans. We are offering a new model of long-term online networking, workshops, and trainings within the field of European security and defence policy. The YSC workshops are thus the key link in maintaining and achieving the full potential of this growing network of YSC Fellows, the future leaders of Europe.



## The workshops

It is our vision to maintain and nurture our network. Starting in 2021, we have proposed a special training program that goes beyond the two days of the conference to incoming Fellows and the entire YSC alumni community. We are organising two workshops that will serve as the culmination of the YSC 2021. During these workshops, which will have four high-level speakers, the Fellows will have the opportunity to present their ideas and proposals, to discuss and exchange with high-ranking panellists and academic advisors.

This YSC Fellowship program focuses on issues related to the future of European strategic autonomy and foreign affairs in general. In the future, these events will be a unique opportunity for fellows from all editions of the YSC to meet and exchange in person. In 2021 these workshops will remain to be held online (with a total duration of 2.5 to 3 hours). The YSC Fellowship is not a financial one, but rather establishes a permanent network and a *community of practice*. The YSC workshop sessions will be open to all YSC alumni and are organized by EuropaNova Germany in close cooperation with the Amerikahaus in Munich.

**The first workshop in early November 2021 will focus on the state of the Transatlantic Alliance.**

**The second workshop in December 2021 spotlights the Franco-German security policy relations.**

## 5 - Our Organisation & Partners

*EuropaNova Germany's* vision is to build on a strong commitment: to develop political innovation in Europe within a strong community of like-minded partners, institutions and individuals. We are not affiliated with any political organization and do not subscribe to any specific political ideology.

The YSC is developed in partnership with BayFrance (Bayerisch-Französisches Hochschulzentrum / Centre de Coopération Universitaire), as well as with the Amerikahaus München, the Universität der Bundeswehr München, l'Université Clermont-Ferrand, MEIA Research, the Franco-German University, the Franco-German Youth Office, the Fabrique de la Défense (French Ministry of the Armed Forces), KFIBS, and the Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom/ Thomas Dehler Foundation among many others. We are delighted to count on the general support of the French public administration as well as other stakeholders and institutions.

All the partners involved in this project are strongly committed to encouraging the European youth to shape the Europe of tomorrow. We hope to count your organisation among our supporters and partners soon.

**For more information, please visit our website:  
[www.young-security-conference.de](http://www.young-security-conference.de)**

