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## EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

### ANNA TARACZKÖZI

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Anna is a young Hungarian leader from the countryside who wants to dedicate her future career to work for the public goods in his country and at the heart of the European community. Anna works as a Blue Book Trainee for the European Commission for the department for Research and Innovation (RTD) while taking part at the European Leadership Programme organised by the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC).

Anna holds bachelors degrees in international relations from the Corvinus University of Budapest and a master degree in international economy and business from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She previously worked in youth policies and higher education organisations before entering the public sector and working for the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary.

Anna has already conducted research on the transition to renewable energy, innovative competitiveness, and youth unemployment. She wants to deepen her knowledge of these topics by collaborating on research projects with her fellows. In her free time she likes to participate in volunteering for social purposes and engage in advocacy projects. She is a member of several international youth organisations such as the Youth Forum, European Democratic Youth Network, EU&U, Hungarian Youth Association, and the Consultation Forum of Colleges for Advanced Studies in Hungary.

### BARBARA POLIN

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Barbara, from Italy, works in European affairs and communications. She holds an Erasmus Mundus Master's degree in Journalism, Media, and Globalisation from Aarhus University and the University of Amsterdam and obtained a Master's in International Relations from the University of Turin. Passionate about media and politics, in Brussels she worked for the advocacy team of the Africa-Europe Foundation and supported the outreach initiatives of the European External Action Service.



## DIVIN-LUC BIKUBANYA

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Divin-Luc is a Congolese researcher based in Brussels since April 2022 in the European Leadership Programme (ELP) framework. As a fellow, he works at the University of Antwerp, notably within the organizations University Center Saint Ignatius Antwerpen (UCSIA) and University Foundation for Development Cooperation (USOS). Trained in economics at the Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB), where he graduated in 2017, he is interested in general issues related to development economics. He joined the Centre d'Expertise en Gestion Minière (CEGEMI) working at UCB and started researching informality, global supply chains, and the mining sector's profitability in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). His knowledge in this area was further refined by the advanced master's program he followed at the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) of the University of Antwerp, where he graduated in September 2021, as part of the Globalisation and Development program. He is increasingly interested in analyzing and questioning working conditions in informal mining.

## FRANCESCO SCHMIDT

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Francesco, from Italy, is a Legal Officer at the European Commission, working on fundamental rights and equality (in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion). He previously completed a Blue Book traineeship (in DG Justice and Consumers) and three Masters in Law (at the College of Europe, Leiden University and Università degli Studi di Torino). He loves sports, parties, travels, good food and pleasures of life in general.

## GÉZA KOVÁCS-DOBÁK

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Géza Kovács-Dobák is a 28-year-old Hungarian seconded national expert at the European Commission on the field of IPCEI state instruments. For two years he worked for the Hungarian Ministry for Innovation and Technology in the same field. He finished at the University of Groningen and the Corvinus University of Budapest on the field of financial economics and monetary policy. He used to write in economic journals like Portfolio and Makronóm in Hungary, but he also published several publications. He thought at his alma mater macroeconomics and international economics and was a returning lecturer there. He also worked for UNHCR and was the president of the UN Youth Association of Hungary. He is recently wed and his hobbies are lacrosse, saxophone, and video games.

## IVÁN HÓKA

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Iván is from Hungary, currently completing the Blue Book traineeship at the European Commission working on the employment related country specific recommendations (in DG EMPL). He obtained his Bachelor's degree at the Amsterdam University College and finished his Master's this year in European Economic Studies at the College of Europe, Bruges. He is interested in issues related to social inequalities and political ideologies and in the process of community building. In his free time, he likes to walk around the city and to explore new neighborhoods while listening to podcasts. He also enjoys reading (mostly fiction) and hanging out with others. He is a fan of various sports, enjoys both watching and playing badminton, tennis and squash.



## JAMINA VESTA JUGO

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Jamina Vesta Jugo recently got her doctorate in Political Science at the University of Goettingen, and is a Lecturer in European Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University. Deeply interested in issues like migration, diversity, and democratic consolidation, she hopes to help build more bridges between the academe and other parts of civil society, as well as between Europe and Asia.

## JESSICA HOLMES

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Jessica is an English professional musician specialising in the oboe. She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Northern College of Music in the UK. She is passionate about access to music and the arts outside the concert hall. She has run workshops with Ukrainian refugees in Poland, played at hospital bedsides in Manchester and performed with orchestras in the UK, Europe and Australia. During the fellowship she will be exploring what it could look like to be a musician engaged in work for the common good.

## KAMIL JAROŃCZYK

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Kamil Jarończyk is policy and communications assistant at the International Union of Cinemas. He holds an MSc in European Governance from Masaryk and Utrecht University. Previously, he was managing editor at Visegrad Insight where he co-authored a report on the 3 Seas Initiative and was the author of many texts. Born in the USA to Polish parents, he has a unique insight into transatlantic affairs.

## NINA BASOK

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Nina Basok is a young researcher and translator, who had to flee Ukraine in March. She graduated in linguistics, French language and literature from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. She studied European Neighbourhood Policy at the College of Europe in Natolin and wrote a Master thesis on the Normandy format as a turning point in Franco-German relations. She also finished her studies at Harvard University, Universidade da Coruna, and Riga Graduate School of Law focusing on intercultural competence, good governance, anti-corruption, negotiation skills, dispute settlement, Ukrainian history, and social anthropology. Now she is following courses at Stockholm, Umea, Lund, Dalarna, and Gothenburg Universities to get more knowledge on history memory, political violence, political theology, historical perspectives of democracy, Russia and Eastern Europe topics. She also works as a contributor to the activities of Euro Creative, Visegrad Insight, and Fomoso think-tanks covering the topics on Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Central Europe, and Eastern partnership. Her research interests are lying in history memory, France and Germany Foreign policies, Weimar and Lublin Triangles. Lately, she was working on the decentralisation reforms in Ukraine at the German International Cooperation Organisation (GIZ) following the need to help Ukrainian municipalities to develop in energy, digital, dialogue, and creating partnerships with fellow EU municipalities. She was helping to cooperate Ukrainian municipalities with the partner municipalities in Germany, Italy, Slovenia, France, etc.

## STIJN RINGOIR

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Born and raised close to Brussels, Stijn is an organisational psychologist working in strategic HR at the European Parliament. He enjoys bringing together the Flemish and international lifestyle in Brussels by connecting with colleagues, expats, and friends. Stijn is outgoing and people-minded, while also intellectually focused on global and European politics and history.

#### TAMÁS FARBAKY

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Tamás is a Hungarian, multilingual international relations expert with a focus on international humanitarian NGOs. He earned his master's degree in International Relations from Central European University. He holds a bachelor's degree in Theology and another one in Slavonic and French studies. During his master's studies, he did a traineeship in Amman with Caritas Jordan where he supported Caritas' outreach to Syrian and Iraqi refugees. He also completed Bard College's Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program in New York City where he interned at Magnum Foundation which provides grants and training for emerging documentary photographers worldwide. Since 2014, he has been an active member of the NGO I will shine („Világítani fogok”) volunteering for disadvantaged Roma families in a rural region of Hungary. His in-depth and long-term experience stemming from his encounters with extreme poverty and exclusion has led him to seek a career in humanitarian and social development. He worked for Hungary's Ministry of Interior, at the Deputy State Secretary of Social Inclusion. He recently decided to join the European Leadership Program and shifted his career path towards international humanitarian affairs which is a better fit with his experience and skills. He is currently an intern at Caritas Europa working on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. He is fluent in English, German, and French and speaks Russian as well. Besides, he loves photography and has also had a lot of professional experience and took some award-winning pictures. Being an eager traveler and adventurer, he has hitchhiked around 50,000 kilometers overstepping his comfort zone numerous times. He thinks the resilience and courage he has developed through these experiences might also enable him to do humanitarian work in rough environments and conflict zones.

#### TOMÁS MARTINS PAES DE ALMEIDA

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Tomás is a Brazilian human rights advocate. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Government Relations and a Master's degree in Migration and Intercultural Relations. He is a multi-skilled professional with experience in the private sector, in a think-tank and in intergovernmental organizations. Tomás is able to operate flexibly in international contexts and adapt to changing situations due to strong intercultural competence acquired having worked and studied in 10 countries in Europe, North America and Latin America. He is interested in migration, conflict and peace process, humanitarian action and development aid. Finally, Tomás is an avid traveler and he speaks Portuguese, English, Spanish and is currently learning French.

#### VASYL ROMANYK

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Vasyl Romanyk is a 24 years old ELP fellow and European Commission trainee coming from Ukraine. He was born in a beautiful village called Shcheploty, located in the Polish-Ukrainian borderland. When Vasyl



turned six years old, his family moved to the city of Yavoriv, where he started going to school. The same year the family grew bigger as Vasyl's sister, named Veronika came into the world. She played a major role in his personality shaping. Vasyl believes that at this time he understood what it means to be responsible for someone. As a child, he attended music school, participated in different extracurricular activities, played in the local theater and served as an altar server in the local church. After high school, he decided to study Political Science and International relations at Lviv Polytechnic National University. He graduated with Bachelor's and Master's degrees with honours.

Aside from studying at university, he actively contributed to the development of the U-Report project in Ukraine. In 2017 he gained his first international experience in Paris, where he became an official ambassador for the project EXPOFRANCE 2025. In 2018 he got a chance to be one of 40 young international leaders who were invited to France to discuss human rights issues and educational challenges across the globe with high-level officials. Later on, Vasyl became a member of the international jury of the Prix liberté project aimed to select and then reward a person or an organisation engaged in an exemplary fight for freedom. In 2019, thanks to his active engagement in different social projects and proficient knowledge of French, Vasyl got the post of executive assistant at the Honorary Consulate of France in Lviv.

There he spent almost three years working closely with the local authorities of Lviv, l'Ambassade de France en Ukraine and l'Alliance française de Lviv. In 2021 Vasyl has been granted a full scholarship by the government of Poland to pursue his studies at the College of Europe in Natolin. After a year of intense academic and social experience, he successfully graduated from College with a Master's degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies.

#### VERONICA FANI

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Veronica is born in Italy. She graduated in International Relations and Development Cooperations at the University for Foreigners of Perugia with a Master's in African Studies earned at Dalarna University in Sweden. She has an extensive work experience as an intern with the Italian Embassy and Ngo's in Ethiopia and with International Organisations in Morocco and Tunisia. She is currently working in Brussels as Climate Justice and Energy Intern at CIDSE.

#### VOLODYMYR VLADYKA

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Volodymyr Vladyka is a young professional in the field of European public affairs and policies. He has just begun his traineeship in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy. Volodymyr was born in Eastern Ukraine in 2000, spending most of his youth in Donetsk. The war struck his home when he was 14, triggering him to mature, understand and explore his purpose in life. Being from an occupied territory, he finished two high schools in parallel.

For his studies Volodymyr moved to Poland, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy, studying fully in English and finishing with distinction. In a further step to follow his purpose, he has recently completed a Master's degree at the College of Europe in Natolin in European Interdisciplinary Studies, learning from leading scholars and experts in the fields of EU affairs, law and economics. Volodymyr's main interest and area of expertise is European energy and climate



policy. Understanding the importance of rising global issues and the necessity of common action from all areas of society, including governments, private sector as well as the general public; he believes in the potential of sustainable life through renewable energy, energy-efficiency solutions and the circular economy. In personal life, Volodymyr frequently takes part as an organiser and participant in events connected with the EU, including Model European Union and Erasmus exchanges. He is also involved in public debate and lives as an active citizen.

As hobbies, he likes to read non-fiction, stay fit, attend cultural events and art exhibitions. What are his purpose and vision? Despite frequent crises, wars, and disasters, which Volodymyr saw first-hand, he is still amazed at everything that can be achieved when people work together for a common good, like here in the European Union. Volodymyr has an unwavering belief in the virtues of humanity, feeling a strong determination to contribute to the well-being of humankind. At the same time, Volodymyr is acutely aware of the importance of the current moment, driving him to work to improve himself every day and involve himself where he can be of the utmost benefit.

