



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

ANTONELLO PISTRITTO

Antonello Pistritto is a 31-year-old Italian civil servant who works in the domain of European Cohesion Policy at the Brussels representative Office of the Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region. In his work, Antonello deals on a daily basis with European funds management, in particular in connection with the local deployment of cross-border Interreg cooperation funding programmes (such as those between Italy and France and between Italy and Switzerland) and of funding programmes managed directly by the European Commission. Passionate about classical literature, history and philosophy of law, he holds a double degree in Italian and French law at the Université Paris V Descartes and at the University of Turin, where he discussed a thesis on "Law and the Sacred in Dante's Comedy". In his free time, he enjoys playing the acoustic guitar, as well as choral singing and drama performing (with regards to the latter, he currently collaborates with Gabriele Vacis' "Institute of theatrical practices for personal care" in Turin). After living in Aosta, Turin, Paris and Malta, he has now settled in Brussels, although he never misses a chance to travel abroad so as to constantly get out of the comfort zone by exploring new realities. He is a member of several youth associations, such as AIGU (Italian Association of Youth for UNESCO), a rescue volunteer and he believes that when youths are brought together, in the name of a higher purpose, they become enthusiastic and passionate about making contributions in their respective walks of life.

AZUREA ENGELBRECHT

Azurea is a 24-year-old Hungarian currently working as an intern for the Laudato Si' Research Institute through ELP. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in International Relations from Corvinus University of Budapest and in 2022, she also started attending Eötvös Loránd University's Translation and Interpreting master's programme in Budapest. Her working languages are Hungarian, English, and French. Azurea is interested in a wide range of topics related to international relations including city diplomacy, sustainability, cultural diplomacy, as well as European and East Asian politics. She took part in various trainings and programmes related to these topics, like the Budapest City Diplomacy Academy and the MIRAI Programme. She is always working to make the most out of her experiences and to help others. Azurea loves languages and she reads a lot in her free time. She also watches movies, enjoys singing, taking long walks, cooking, and is passionate about gardening. She is happy to share these activities with others and to discuss them.



BENJAMIN JOPPKE

Benjamin Joppke is a French and German graduate student currently studying International Affairs in the Global Security Track at the Geneva Graduate Institute in Switzerland. Raised in a truly international fashion across six countries, he is highly motivated when it comes to his interest for western defence institutions and their importance in the European Union's survival.

He has experience in political and humanitarian institutions, which he gained through his work at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Berlin and Geneva. In addition to his work with IOM, Benjamin also worked as a Communication Contractor for Projet Montreal, where he was part of the communication team for the mayor of Montreal during her mayoral campaign. He also volunteered for the New Democratic Party of Canada, where he served as a Communication Officer during the 2019 federal election and later as a reliable volunteer. His hobbies include photojournalism and videography, as he believes them to be of paramount importance in today's political and social landscape.

Honed by his experiences in the humanitarian and political fields, he will be interning for the Political Affairs and Strategic Communications Advisor to the Military Committee at NATO in Bruxelles. He is eager to apply and perfect his skills in the field of security affairs, seeking to make a positive and necessary impact.

FLAVIA LANERI

I am 24 years old and I have just obtained my Master's Degree in Interpreting and Translation at the University of International Studies of Rome (UNINT). Thanks to this 2-years experience I had the opportunity to develop not only my competences in simultaneous and consecutive interpreting and translation RU>ITA, EN>ITA and EN<>RU but also specific competences in socio-economic, legal and diplomatic fields. My working languages are English and Russian, in both of which I have a good working knowledge, but I also speak and understand French and Spanish at a high proficiency. During my studies at Università degli studi di Udine, where I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in "Cultural mediation" I improved my experience in international and cultural communication. Thanks to my experience at the "Faculty of Philology" of Vilnius University and at the Faculty of Interpreting and Translation of Moscow State Linguistic University (МГЛУ), I had the opportunity to improve my relational and organisational abilities and to do practise in public-speaking, by working on team and individual presentations both in English and Russian. What has always identified me is curiosity and a boundless interest in learning about the history and traditions of other cultures, but, above all, in enabling communication between individuals despite cultural and linguistic differences. I consider myself as a flexible and proactive person, and I am always ready to meet new people, to learn their stories and their way of looking at the world.

GÉZA KOVÁCS-DOBÁK

Géza Kovács-Dobák is a 29-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.

ISABEL CANTERO LÓPEZ

Isabel Cantero López is a Spanish girl raised in Valencia, where she studied Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV). After finishing the subjects of her master's degree in Industrial Organization and Management Engineering, she moved to Brussels to work as an intern at an NGO that aims to promote proactivity among young individuals. She has already lived in the United States and Ghana and is passionate about people and their diverse cultures. Her stay in Ghana was part of a cooperation project by her university, and the main objective was to favor women's empowerment. Right now, her purpose is to learn and develop herself personally. Apart from engineering, she is currently studying psychology. This degree will give her the knowledge and abilities to guide others in improving how they face life and its problems, trying to bring a little light where it seems to be off. Her purpose is to impact her environment positively and everywhere she goes.

IVÁN HÓKA

Iván is from Hungary and he recently finished his Blue Book traineeship at the European Commission working on the employment related country specific recommendations (in DG EMPL). He is now working on the European Year of Skills as a policy assistant. 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.

JESSICA HOLMES

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

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.



KAMILLA BÉRES

Kamilla is a state aid expert who has been working in the area of fundraising, business development and consulting. Apart from her native Hungarian, she speaks English, German, Portuguese, Spanish and French fluently, and being a language learner as a hobby, she has a knowledge of four other languages on an elementary level – lately, she has started to evolve her Dutch. Kamilla has gained her Bachelor's degree as an international relations expert and finished her MSc in public policy and management in the Corvinus University of Budapest. She has been working with state aid and EU funding opportunities in the past four years in the private and public sector as well, developing her skills in leading projects. Currently, she is a business development manager in a private company represented in Brussels before which she worked as a project management office leader in the public sector in Budapest. Previously, she spent two years in the Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency as a state aid consultant, before which she worked for the Big Four in the same area. As an example of her engagement in social matters, she has also worked as a UNHCR staff member for a year. Engaged in lifelong learning, she has started the law school out of personal interest and dedication last year.

MARCELL PETHŐ

Marcell works as a Blue Book Trainee for the European Commission at DG Competition while taking part at the European Leadership Programme organized by the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC). He holds a Bachelor's degree in international public administration from the National University of Public Service and he has an integrated masters degree in law from Peter Pazmany Catholic University. During his studies, he participated in several training courses abroad. He studied as an Erasmus scholar at the University of Ljubljana and the University of Maribor. He participated in summer schools organized by the Hague Academy of International Law and another one by the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. He is employed at the State Secretariat for European Union Affairs at the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and he was an intern at the Hungarian Embassy in Ljubljana. His main interests are the legal system of the European Union and technology law. He published several papers on the topics of Metaverse, bigtech regulation, and AI. His hobbies are hiking, cooking, scuba diving and listening to podcasts.

MARIE LARDINOIT

Marie is a double master's degree student at the Catholic University of Louvain. She studies sociology and management and feels passionate about migratory issues. She interned at Fedasil and is now writing her two theses on social integration factors for migrants in Belgium and on intercultural mediation in the reception of asylum seeker.

NIKOLAJ KORNERUP

Nikolaj, from Denmark, holds a Master of Laws degree from Aarhus University, as well as a Master of Arts degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe. He is currently a Blue Book Trainee at the European Commission in the presidential advisory service I.D.E.A., and a member of the International Committee of European Youth Denmark. Nikolaj is an open-minded, curious and ambitious person, who has studied, travelled, lived and worked around Europe and beyond. He has a special



interest in diplomacy, politics, international relations and law, along with a great passion for Europe and Asia.

PIETRO LAURENT SIGNÓ

Pietro is a master student in European studies at the University of Geneva and comes from a small French-Italian bilingual region in the Italian Alps. He is undertaking an internship in Brussels at the Representation of Luxembourg to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, in order to complete his studies. He is passionate about history, philosophy, art, and literature since his classical high school education. As a young teenager, he spent one year in French Canada for an intercultural exchange which has been a turning point in his path. Since this experience, he has volunteered with the association AFS Intercultura, further deepening his intercultural training.

After a bachelor's degree in economics, he is now specialising in European foreign policy, wishing to become one day a European diplomat. In particular, his interests focus on EU-Asia relations. For this reason, he participated to a Summer School in South Korea last summer, where he was deeply touched by the division of the two Koreas, from which comes his commitment to international security and peace. Furthermore, because he believes that international and local dimensions are connected, he is also engaged in his home region youth parliament, where he cultivates his passion for politics.

RALITSA SHENTOVA

Ralitsa is a sustainability generalist with a holistic background including social and natural sciences, innovation, and entrepreneurship. She holds a BA in Psychology and Politics (University of Stirling, UK) and an MSc in Environmental Sciences (Wageningen University, Netherlands). She is driven to operate at the intersections of different fields. It inspires her to do work that bridges gaps not only between disciplines and individuals, but also between science, policy, and practice. She has experience co-creating and coordinating small projects (including a start-up), as well as conducting research and writing for academic and decision-making contexts. These have covered the areas of climate change, resource management, and mental well-being. Aside from her work and studies, she has enjoyed connecting with people with diverse worldviews, abilities, and life paths through her volunteer work too. Her voluntary activities have covered environmental topics, anti-fascism, cultural heritage, spirituality, and community-building. Ralitsa's experiences, spanning over ten European countries, have nurtured the creative and empathic approach she strives to practise in all her endeavours. She arrived in Brussels as a Schuman Trainee at the European Parliament's EMAS and Sustainability Unit.

TERESA PALLARES RAMOS

Originally from Spain, Teresa Pallarés Ramos has recently completed a Blue Book Traineeship at the Directorate General of Home Affairs and Migration in Brussels, advancing her expertise on EU institutional relations, funding and migration management.

She is a historian by training, with postgraduate degrees in International Relations (IBEI) and International Migration (Pontifical University of Comillas), and additional training in anthropology (SOAS), Middle Eastern Studies (UAM Madrid) and educational sciences (UCL London). Likewise, she followed a teacher



training programme at Brockwood Park School, an independent British boarding school founded by the philosopher J. Krishnamurti. There, she taught history, global studies and human ecology.

In the previous years, she linked her academic background with professional experience in the third sector, working in several countries with different peoples and organisations which shared a common denominator: social justice. Witnessing the hopes and distress of those seeking sanctuary in the EU led her to the field of border studies. In this sense, working at the Commission has offered her a hands-on understanding of some of the key topics that she plans to develop towards a PhD in Migration Studies in the near future. Coming from a very political family, she is politically involved at the municipal level, working towards integration strategies at the local level, focusing on culture, education and sports. She loves languages (learning Arabic is one of her present goals), travelling, hiking, vegan cuisine, modern art, and classical music.

VASYL ROMANYK

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

Veronica is born in Italy. She graduated in International Relations and Development Cooperations at the University for Foreigners of Perugia with a Double Degree Master's in African Studies earned at Dalarna University in Sweden. She has an extensive work experience with the Italian Embassy and NGOs in Ethiopia and with International Organisations in Morocco and Tunisia. She is currently based in Brussels and she is an intern in Ecology Network for the Oxford Laudato Si' Research Institute and Jesuit European Social Center

VOLODYMYR VLADYKA

Volodymyr Vladyka is a second semester fellow of the ELP. He is a young professional in the field of European public affairs and policies, working as a Policy Assistant in an energy related think tank. Prior to that he completed Bluebook 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. For his studies Volodymyr moved to Poland, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy, studying 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 areas of expertise and interest are supporting the EU through energy transition and digital transformation. In his personal life, Volodymyr frequently organises and participates in youth EU-related events, he is a member of BETA Poland, JEF Ukraine and other organizations. He is also involved in public debate and lives as an active citizen.

In his freetime, 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 to others.

