



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

ANA NICO CLÉMENT

Ana Nico Clément is an emerging leader in international humanitarian action, human rights law, and refugee advocacy. With a strong academic foundation, she holds a BA in Global Challenges (major: International Justice) from Leiden University College and has recently completed an Erasmus+ Master's in International Humanitarian Action across Sweden, France, and Thailand.

Ana's professional experience spans multiple continents, demonstrating her commitment to human rights and humanitarian law. She has worked as a Legal Advocate in Thailand, assisting asylum seekers with Refugee Status Determination. Her legal expertise was further honed at the Aix Global Justice Law Clinic in France, where she contributed to cases presented before the European Court of Human Rights.

Beyond legal advocacy, Ana has engaged in policy research, having consulted for the INCLUDE Platform on evidence-based policy-making strategies. She has also worked in global health policy at Roche in Switzerland and contributed to migration detention research at Leiden University.

Her dedication extends to volunteer work, including supporting child-friendly spaces for displaced communities, coordinating activities for asylum seekers, and serving as a public speaker against human trafficking. Having lived, studied, and worked in eight countries across Central America, North America, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific, Ana brings a global perspective to her work.

In 2024, Ana will participate in the European Leadership Programme (ELP), alongside an internship in Policy and Advocacy at Caritas Europa, further strengthening her expertise in policy and human rights.

BORBÁLA SZÉLES

Borbála is a 23-year-old political scientist from Hungary. She came to Brussels for her Blue Book traineeship at the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy. Since March, she is a policy officer intern at the European Transport Workers Federation, with a focus on inland waterways, women's representation and cooperation with the EU Institutions. Her thesis was based on a feminist political theory through which she showed the current state of reproductive rights for women in Hungary by analysing the political discourse around bodily



autonomy, abortion, as well as obstetric violence in the labor room. Besides that, as a volunteer, she teaches children undergoing long-term medical treatment, during home recovery, as well as after their return to school.

CECILIA NIETO

Cecilia is a young Spanish woman from Madrid, where she studied a double degree in Law and Business Administration. From the very start of her professional journey, she has been driven by the desire to make a positive impact in the fields she works in. Her most recent experience in Madrid was as a project coordinator at an NGO dedicated to supporting young people at risk of social exclusion. To further help them, she co-founded a café with friends to employ these young people as waiters, providing them with job opportunities and a stepping stone into the workforce.

Now, she has decided to take the next step in her career with an internship at the European Parliament in Brussels—an opportunity to continue learning and serving people from this new perspective.

KLÁRA NAGY

Holding degrees in International Relations (BA) and Cultural Heritage Studies (MA) from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary; Klára has been working at the intersection of international cooperation and culture since 2017. She has played a key role in the design and execution of several major international cultural projects, particularly in music and cultural heritage.

She is currently leading the Creative Industries Lab at the Budapest-based HETFA Research Institute. She coordinates research projects and initiatives aimed at building partnerships and fostering innovative projects within the cultural sector, focusing on museums, festivals and municipalities. Klára's mission is to empower cultural stakeholders in Central and Eastern Europe to embrace emerging technologies, adopt innovative practices, and develop meaningful international collaborations in Europe and beyond.

From 2022 to 2024, Klára led the MOST - the Bridge for Balkan Music project, a Europe-wide initiative aimed at promoting and strengthening the Balkan world music scene.

In her personal life, Klára is an avid traveler who loves to immerse herself in new places, always seeking to experience them from the locals' perspective. Her greatest passion is music, which she brings into her life in every form—whether it's listening, playing, or singing. When she's not working, you'll often find her outdoors—hiking, walking, running, or, whenever possible, on the water—embracing nature to recharge.

She joined ELP to gain new insights for both her career and personal growth, connect with inspiring individuals and consider how to bring her creative vision to life in her next project.

KRYŠTOF ČIŽMÁŘ

Krystof graduated in Business and Economics in Vienna. He studied in German, but he comes from Brno, Czech Republic. During and after his studies, he collected diverse experiences: analyst internships at Fund Management Department at Private Bank Gutmann in Vienna or at MEP Luděk Niedermayer's office in Brussels. Lately, he worked



for 6 months as an intern at the Strategy department of Austria's energy company OMV. Throughout the past year, he co-founded the Club Alpbach Czechia & Slovakia, which is a part of the Forum Alpbach. FA is an interdisciplinary forum with a focus on the future of Europe, happening since 1945 in the Austrian Alps, welcoming people from politics, business, or science. Currently, he is a reporter trainee at Euractiv covering economic topics with focus on energy.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Krystof enjoys art and architecture, racing cycling, hiking, and photography, as well as travelling, languages or history.

LISE BRUMENT

Lise is a 25-year-old young professional from the countryside of Normandy, France. She completed a master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po in Paris, France and a Master's degree in EU International Relations and Diplomacy at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She has worked for a year for the Child Friendly Justice European Network before studying in Bruges. Lise just finished her internship for Pax Christi International and is starting as a Blue Book trainee in the Commission. In her free time, Lise enjoys singing, dancing and running. She enjoys reading and is passionate about languages. She speaks French, English and German, but also has some notions of Arabic, Chinese, Thai and Spanish, and is currently learning Italian. Last but not least, she is interested in child protection and would like to pursue a career advocating for children's rights.

LUCA FABBRIS

Luca Fabbris is a recent graduate in International Relations from the Università degli Studi di Milano. His academic background has given him a strong foundation in understanding global systems and the importance of collaboration in addressing societal challenges.

Through his active involvement in local community, Luca has gained practical experience in teamwork, organisation, and building strong connections with others. These activities have helped him develop a keen sense of appreciation for the value of helping those around him.

In his free time, Luca enjoys reading, swimming, and spending time outdoors with his one-year-old Maltese puppy, Nala. Whether diving into a good book or exploring new paths with Nala, he values the balance between work, reflection, and play.

Passionate about promoting dialogue and learning more about inclusive solutions, Luca is ready to contribute his skills and enthusiasm to creating a more equitable and connected society.

LUÍS GUIMARÃES

Luís Guimarães is a violinist, polyglot and a successful Blue Book candidate. He holds two bachelor's degrees and a Master of Arts in music, two of which were completed in the Royal Conservatory in Brussels. During this period, he was awarded for three consecutive years the EDP Bursary prize and got to perform alongside some of the world's most renowned orchestras across the globe.



Later in his life, Luís unveiled a new passion of his: foreign languages! Such change came with his last professional experience where he worked for over two years as a Front Office Agent in a Hotel in Brussels.

Most recently, he has earned a professional Certificate in Project Management by Google and has worked as a volunteer in the Red Cross, while at the same time dedicating himself to his language-learning journey, mostly through Tandem exchanges and individual practice.

From March 2025, Luís will simultaneously participate in the European Leadership Programme and the Blue Book Traineeship at the European Commission. Through these experiences, he seeks not only to further hone his current skills, with a strong focus on Leadership, but also to grow both professionally and personally, while envisaging to contribute meaningfully to the “Common Good”.

In his free time, Luís enjoys reading, dancing, attending concerts, travelling and learning new foreign languages.

MANUELA CICIRELLO

Manuela is a trainee in communication with the Greens at the European Parliament. She previously worked with Oxfam as a media assistant, contributing to press outreach and content creation, and wrote articles for a local newspaper in Italy.

She holds a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Pavia, where her thesis focused on the Italian electoral campaign through the lens of young people. During her studies, she spent a semester in Poland as part of the Erasmus program, an experience that broadened her perspective—especially after witnessing firsthand the arrival of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Passionate about the intersection of politics, media, and civic engagement, Manuela believes in the power of communication to create trust and drive positive change.

Beyond her work, Manuela loves discovering new places, getting lost in a good book, and playing volleyball.

PEDRO AOUN

Despite a Spanish name and a French passport, Pedro was born and raised in Lebanon. Graduated from the Jesuit university of Saint Joseph as a civil and environmental engineer, he continued his studies in Paris with a degree in Transportation and Sustainable Development at ParisTech. Since then, he has been working at a multinational French company specialized in testing, inspection and certification across all sectors. Debuting on the field in industrial air emissions control, he later joined the energy saving certificates team as a project manager.

His world is mostly shaped by two of his traits: belief and eclecticism. His actions need to be driven by higher core values while constantly changing environments draw him excitement. This slowly turned him into a keen traveler avid for multiculturalism and meaning.

By joining the ELP, he would like to push his professional discernment a bit further to find his place in society and in the professional world while enjoying an international community with shared values.



RODOLPHE CARTUYVELS

Rodolphe is a dynamic and enthusiastic fellow born and raised in Belgium. He studied law in French, Dutch, and English, complementing his education with two Erasmus experiences. During his studies, he took a gap year for self-reflection, living and working in Australia for several months, which broadened his perspective and adaptability.

After completing his bar at an international law firm specialising in corporate finance and M&A, he transitioned into a role as an International M&A Manager at a BEL20 company. In this capacity, he gained valuable experience in high-level negotiations and cross-border transactions.

Currently in a career transition, Rodolphe is deeply interested in both business and international relations, particularly diplomacy. He is seeking to align his next steps with his skills and aspirations, leveraging the European Leadership Programme as a platform for growth and direction. Through this experience, he hopes to refine his vision, engage with inspiring professionals, and carve out a meaningful path that blends his expertise with broader impact.

SOFIA ANTONETTI

Sofia is a 25-year-old master's graduate-to-be in International Relations and European Studies at the University of Florence, specialising in European Studies. She has just moved to Brussels for an internship at the European Centre for Electoral Support. Before moving to Florence, Sofia started her academic path, after moving from Uganda, where she lived for 19 years with her family, in Milan pursuing a bachelor's degree in Modern Foreign Languages and International Relations at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart during which her passion for European Affairs blossomed. During this time, she also underwent an Erasmus semester at Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne, France, where she perfected her knowledge of the French language.

With a strong interest in European affairs, Sofia has taken part in various activities such as EU Talks, a team-building event in which various EU-oriented proposals were presented before the City Council of Florence and a Model EU Simulation of the Council at the European University Institute, Florence.

Due to her unique upbringing, as an Italian raised both Italy and Uganda, she has become community-oriented, global citizen with an open and international mindset allowing her to establish an informed and critical perspective on reality. Furthermore, this unique upbringing has given her a profound awareness of social, economic and political differences allowing her to adapt to new, unknown surroundings with ease. Furthermore, in Uganda she volunteered for various organisations such as CARE, Habitat for Humanity and AVSI, in which her sense of belonging to a wider community was amplified.

Sofia is a curious and empathetic individual with an interest in traveling and learning about different cultures, she believes that exploring new places and engaging with diverse communities not only broadens her perspective but also fosters personal growth and understanding.

TOMMASO SACCONI



Tommaso was born in 1997 in Rome. He is currently a PhD candidate in Transnational Governance in Florence, researching the governance of Next Generation EU and its impact on administrative reforms in Italy. His work lies at the intersection of European governance and domestic policymaking.

He studied Political Science and Social Policy in Pisa, Florence, and Oxford, but now finds the purely academic research path somewhat uninspiring and is seeking a more tangible impact. Passionate about politics, good conversations, and a touch of irreverent irony, he is exploring different environments and communities, searching for a place that feels like home—both intellectually and personally.

In his free time (and sometimes even when he should be working on something important), he enjoys good books, average movies, and urban walks.

