



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

RACHID ADAM

Rachid Adam is a Moroccan researcher specializing in transnational migration, international relations, and human rights. He was awarded an Erasmus Mundus scholarship to pursue the International Master's in Transnational Migration, studying across Belgium, Poland, and Spain. As part of his MITRA-funded research, he conducted a one-month field study in Bangkok, Thailand, exploring the intersections of migration and sexuality with a focus on migrant sex workers. He also received funding to participate in the Anthropology Methods Summer Workshop at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In addition, he holds a Master's in Governance and International Intelligence and a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations from the International University of Rabat in partnership with Sciences Po Grenoble. Professionally, Rachid has collaborated with institutions such as BIRMM-VUB, Myria Belgian Federal Migration Center in Belgium, ARCO IRIS Federación Andaluza LGBTI+ in Spain, and the University of Applied Sciences (KIAF) in Germany, contributing to research, policy analysis, event organization, and human rights advocacy.

Beyond academia, Rachid is dedicated to advancing diversity, inclusion, and youth empowerment. He has represented migration and human rights perspectives at international conferences in Brazil, Uganda, Germany, and Egypt, while volunteering as an Ambassador for Peace with Global Peace Chain and supporting at-risk youth with SOS Children's Village International. Fluent in Arabic, French, and English, with working knowledge of Spanish, he combines cross-cultural communication and public speaking skills with expertise in research and project management. His work reflects a strong commitment to human rights advocacy, evidence-based policymaking, and fostering intercultural understanding in the fields of migration and governance.

ADÉL KIS

Adél is a young professional currently working as an interim Communications Assistant at the European Commission, following her Blue Book traineeship. She holds a BA in International Relations and a French-taught MA in European Studies from the University of Szeged, her hometown in Hungary. As part of her master's studies, she spent a formative year at Sciences Po Lille thanks to an agreement between her alma mater's Centre Universitaire Francophone and the French university: an experience that shaped her interest in conflict resolution, public diplomacy, and strategic communications. This opportunity also inspired her MA thesis on Track II diplomacy and the participation of NGOs in peace mediation and conflict resolution. During and after her studies, she completed internships at the Ministry of Defense, Europe Direct, and the Embassy of Hungary in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games and the Hungarian Presidency of the EU.



Adél joined ELP to gain fresh perspectives and grow within a community of inspiring fellows. She regularly returns to Lille, a city that deeply shaped her life and served as a catalyst for both personal and professional development. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga, learning about art history and discovering new music.

ALBA ESTÉVEZ OTERO

Alba Estévez Otero is a Spanish young professional devoted to the European project and to advancing structural change through public policy and institutional engagement. She is currently based in Brussels, where she is undertaking a full-time traineeship at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union.

She holds a double degree in International Relations, Sociology, and Development Expert, and is currently pursuing a Master's in European Union Law, where she serves as class representative. Her academic trajectory is complemented by significant international experience, having lived and studied in several countries, including Sweden through the Erasmus+ programme, and Russia, where she was awarded a competitive scholarship. The outbreak of the war in Ukraine shortly after her arrival in Moscow became a defining moment, prompting her return and marking a turning point in her personal and professional path. What began as an intellectual interest in European affairs evolved into a firm, values-driven commitment to safeguarding democracy and contributing to the strengthening of the European project.

Throughout her journey, Alba has held leadership roles in youth-led initiatives focused on human rights, the rule of law, and institutional development. Her leadership style is rooted in empathy, ethical conviction, and strategic thinking. With a long-term vision anchored in service and impact, she is determined to pursue a career within the European institutions or in the broader field of public policy—contributing meaningfully to inclusive governance, democratic resilience, and the common good.

ANTONIO CANO

Coming all the way from Andalusia, Antonio's path has been shaped by curiosity and a drive to learn from others. Thanks to the Erasmus+ programme, he gained experiences in Poland, Finland, Germany and many other countries. After completing his Blue Book traineeship at the European Commission, he is now ready to settle in Brussels and continue building his career in the two fields he is most passionate about: international affairs and education, in which he holds master's degrees.

With a background in sociology and political science, Antonio combines analytical skills with an openness to new perspectives. His journey has taken him through six different universities and into academic research on Europe, democracy and education. More recently, he has worked on both sides of European projects, as a grantee and as part of the granting process, giving him insight into how opportunities are created and shared.

Although he values time on his own, often running or reading, Antonio thrives most when connecting with others. He enjoys group settings where rich exchanges spark new ideas, create meaningful connections and inspire growth.



ELENA SANABRIA FERNÁNDEZ

As a recent graduate with a Double Degree in French and Spanish Law, followed by a Master's Degree in European and International Economic Affairs Law, Elena is passionate about contributing to the EU as a way to pursue personal fulfilment through the common good.

Driven by values like social commitment and public service, this 22-year-old Spaniard is determined to make a meaningful impact on society. While completing her studies at Sorbonne University, Elena volunteered with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Paris. Now, during her semester at the ELP in Brussels, she is working on JRS Europe projects to explore advocacy in defence of migrants within the European network.

Her passion for European affairs has brought Elena to engage as an active member of Equipo Europa. Within this Spanish-speaking pro-EU youth organization, she has conducted research and attended webinars and summer schools. This experience demonstrates her eagerness to pursue learning wherever it happens, not just within classroom walls.

Elena also loves bringing people together over homemade food and deep conversations. Inspired by this, she organized an Alpha Course—a weekly gathering of meals and reflections on topics such as faith and freedom—to create a welcoming space for young people to explore the Christian faith.

A long-time admirer of Jesuit wisdom, she joined the ELP to receive valuable coaching as she begins her professional journey. She also hopes to gain leadership skills rooted in empathy and purpose—tools she intends to carry into her future career in European policymaking.

ESTHER ABELLAN

Esther Abellán is a young Spanish woman from Madrid, where she studied Journalism and International Relations. Her passion for communication led her to specialize further in that field by completing a Master's degree in Communication Management, her most recent academic pursuit.

Driven by a strong desire to learn and explore different fields, Esther began her professional journey early on during her university years, gaining diverse experience through a variety of traineeships. She delved into the world of fashion journalism through internships at major media outlets such as ¡Hola! (Hello! Magazine) and ELLE Magazine. She also worked in Public Relations at the multinational agency Ogilvy, where she contributed to brand communications.

Esther also gained valuable experience at the Vice-Dean's Office for Internationalization at her university, where she worked in the framework of the Erasmus+ programmes, promoting international mobility among students. This traineeship, combined with her academic background in international affairs and her own experience as an Erasmus+ student in The Hague, significantly deepened her interest in European institutions and values, and inspired her to pursue professional experiences abroad. For this reason, Esther will undertake a traineeship at the European University College Association (EUCA), an NGO dedicated to promoting international experiences among students to help them shape their own professional paths.

Esther loves traveling and meeting new people and cultures. She is a calm person who enjoys reading a good book or having meaningful conversations over a nice coffee, but she also loves exploring new cities, attending social



gatherings, and practicing sports. That's why her goals are to challenge herself, learn as much as possible from this program and from the other fellows, and, ultimately, make the most of this experience while continuing to discover her own path.

EVA MARIA CASTELLETTI

Eva Maria Castelletti (Italy, 2000) graduated in European and International Politics from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, with a thesis on cooperation between Italy and Libya in the Mediterranean and the resulting violations of migrants' human rights. She is currently transforming her thesis into a book as an advocacy writer for *Refugees in Libya*. Her main field of interest is migration, with a particular focus on the MENA region. She spent one year in Montréal during high school, one Erasmus semester in Zaragoza and another in Paris, and she completed a four-month internship at the Italian Embassy in Prague.

Throughout her life, she has gained extensive work and volunteer experience focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, such as in reception centres for migrants and unaccompanied minors, as an educator for Save the Children and in a project on severe adult marginalisation run by Caritas Ambrosiana.

She loves visiting museums, reading, and going for a walk while having a good conversation. Thanks to the ELP, she is starting an internship within the Policy & Advocacy Unit of Caritas Europa.

GEREON MEWES

Gereon is a young professional from the rural center of Germany. Having studied in seven different countries, he became an ambitious global citizen focused on contributing to the common good.

Foundational to Gereon's path were his two years at the United World College (UWC) in Costa Rica, where he completed his highschool degree, living in a community of 200 students from over 70 countries. UWC's focus on personal challenge, respect for the environment, idealism, and service nurtured the seeds that would make him join the ELP nine years later.

Gereon pursued his university studies at two institutions that impart global leadership and responsibility. Minerva University in San Francisco equipped Gereon with hands-on skills and critical wisdom to address the major challenges of our time, and the College of Europe in Bruges immersed him in the ongoing project of European peace and integration.

In his first years of professional life, Gereon worked for the European Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on environmental policy, trade, and innovation.

JESC's mission to achieve social and environmental justice in the European political structures and their values of human rights, freedom, and solidarity are core to Gereon's motivation to join the ELP. Beyond his ambition to contribute to the European project, he is excited to learn about the wide range of languages, cultures, and social realities the programme exposes him to.

GLORIA MVEMBA



Gloria Mvemba is a young professional with a passion for diplomacy, intercultural cooperation, and values-driven public service. She holds a dual Master's degree in International Business and Management, earned through studies in France and Canada, and is set to begin a Cicero traineeship at the European Committee of the Regions.

Of Portuguese nationality and Angolan heritage, and having lived in France for over a decade, Gloria brings a deeply multicultural lens to everything she does. She has engaged in several European youth and civic initiatives, including EU*Connect, the Jacques Delors Agora, and the European Youth Event. Her professional and volunteering experience spans Erasmus+ project coordination in Romania, support to the Brazilian delegation at the ChangeNOW Summit, and leadership in communication strategy at the NGO Association Maseka, that promotes girls' education in the Central African Republic.

Passionate about travelling, visiting museums, and learning new languages, Gloria is always seeking new ways to explore and connect across cultures. She is especially drawn to spaces where dialogue, intercultural understanding, and shared purpose come together. Her experiences have led her to actively pursue a professional future centred on international cooperation, diplomacy, and building bridges between people, institutions, and ideas.

JOSÉ (PEPE) CASTAÑO LEMUS

Pepe is a Spanish young man, the eldest of three siblings and of all his cousins, who has just completed a Double Degree in Business Administration and International Relations at Comillas-ICADE (Madrid). Before that, he studied at the Jesuit School San José in Villafranca de los Barros (Badajoz). In other words, he has been educated within the Jesuit tradition for 17 years and has always remained closely connected with it.

Extroverted, committed, truthful and attentive to detail, he is known for his pastoral involvement and social commitment, particularly with the elderly and migrants through the Spanish MAGIS network. He concluded his university years with a thesis on the work of the Jesuit Migrant Service and the integration of migrants and refugees in Spain.

Pepe has also been deeply attached to his family, who have accompanied him both in his faith and in daily life. It is through them that he has best experienced Ignatian spirituality: loving and serving in all things and valuing deeds over words.

He now feels very grateful and motivated after being selected for the ELP in Brussels, where he is discerning his vocation of service to others, where he has experienced true happiness, and where he is seeking to clarify how to best put it into practice.

At the same time, he nurtures a strong interest in supporting the survival, growth and internationalization of family businesses, especially those that sustain the economy of depopulated areas in southern Spain. Witnessing the sacrifices of his own relatives to bring value and dignity to these regions, he dreams of contributing to the development of Spain's most forgotten and vulnerable territories; placing his talents at the service of a real purpose, rather than pursuing narrow personal interests, embodied in a true vocation for public service-

KLÁRA NAGY



Holding degrees in International Relations and Cultural Heritage Studies 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 currently serves as Project Coordinator of the Most Endangered programme at Europa Nostra — a leading civil society network championing Europe's cultural and natural heritage. In this role, she works to safeguard endangered heritage sites and traditions across Europe by coordinating expert assessments, mobilising advocacy efforts, and building local and international partnerships for their sustainable future.

This is her second time participating in the ELP, where she is exploring how community-rooted experiences can continue to play a meaningful role in our lives today. She is especially interested in how cultural traditions—both old and new, spiritual or everyday—foster connection, shared understanding, and a sense of purpose in contemporary society.

In her personal life, Klára is an avid traveller 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.

LUCIA ANNA DEMÉNY

Lucia's work is guided by a deep commitment to justice and equality. She serves as Policy and Campaigns Officer at the European Women's Lobby, where her portfolio covers sexual and reproductive health and rights and the far-right backlash against women's rights and civil society. Alongside this, she is the Membership and Engagement Officer at Women in International Security Netherlands, where she leads the mentoring initiative that connects women working in peace and security.

Her professional expertise is grounded in extensive academic training. She holds a BA in Aesthetic Philosophy and two MAs, one in Human Rights from Central European University, and another in International Relations from Leiden University, where she was awarded the Praesidium Libertatis Scholarship.

Lucia's work builds on years of grassroots activism and volunteering service, including leading intercultural women's circles, supporting refugee and migrant women, researching women's political participation and Indigenous women's peacebuilding practices. Across all her roles, she draws on these experiences to inform her feminist and decolonial approach to policy, advocacy, and leadership.

Having lived in Hungary, Finland, Spain, Austria, the Netherlands, and now Belgium, Lucia brings an intercultural perspective to her work. Moreover, she views gender inequality as a systemic form of oppression that harms both women and men and is embedded within the structures of patriarchal society. Confronting this oppression is not merely a moral imperative but the indispensable foundation of a just and equitable world, a conviction that drives her lifelong dedication to advancing gender equality.

Rooted in the principles of non-violent communication and psychological self-awareness, Lucia follows the tradition of compassionate leadership, and lives by the guiding principle of "Make your life a prayer."



MADSEN HARBOE

Madsen Harboe (Brory) grew up in the United States but has spent several years living in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he also holds Danish citizenship. Before beginning his Schuman Traineeship at the European Parliament, Brory earned a Master of Science from the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC.

Prior to Georgetown, he worked at the intersection of faith, religion, and international economic development, both with Danish development agencies funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with a partner organization in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Last summer, Brory interned with the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bangkok, Thailand, focusing on projects related to Rohingya refugees. He has a strong interest in conflict resolution and security issues within the EU, particularly where religious or cultural differences are involved.

Brory has also spent significant time living in Nicosia, Cyprus, and hopes to one day contribute to a lasting resolution to the region's division. In his free time, he enjoys playing badminton and chess.

MARIIA HORODYLOVSKA

Mariia is a Ukrainian-qualified lawyer with expertise in EU and international law, as well as a legal translator. She began her academic journey at Lviv National Ivan Franko University (Ukraine), where she obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in linguistics and law. She holds an LL.M. in International Business and European Law from KU Leuven (Belgium), where she graduated in 2025 with a thesis on foreign investment protection in the renewable energy sector. She also earned a Ph.D. in Translation and the English Language, which supports her expertise in legal terminology and cross-jurisdictional interpretation.

Since 2022, Mariia has been working as an Associate Lawyer in Lviv (EU law, international law, due diligence, and compliance). Alongside practice, she is an Assistant Professor at her alma mater in Ukraine, teaching legal terminology (EU and International law). She also contributes as an external expert for NAQA (Ukraine), evaluating education programs in law, linguistics, and translation.

Her international background includes the Erasmus+ studies at the University of Bamberg (Germany), an academic stay at the University of Oxford (UK), a research fellowship at Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich (Germany), and the single-handed Ukrainian translation of Cassese's International Criminal Law (3rd ed.). In October 2025, she is starting an internship at the Mission of Ukraine to the EU and joining ELP to strengthen her leadership and contribute actively to Europe's legal, democratic, and strategic resilience.

Beyond her professional career, Mariia volunteers with civic initiatives supporting displaced persons and youth education, reflecting her commitment to justice beyond the courtroom.

Mariia is passionate about European integration, the rule of law, sustainability, security, and defending Europe's democratic values. In her free time, she enjoys travelling, reading books, baking, playing tennis, and chess.

PAULINE BRAATZ



Pauline works as a Financial Assistant at the European Parliament, where she is part of a team advising Members on their financial and social rights.

She is German and Swiss and grew up in a small town in northern Germany. During a one-year stay in Bolivia, where she volunteered in a child and youth centre, she developed a strong awareness of global inequalities and the social and environmental challenges they create.

Pauline holds a Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration and a Master's degree in Public Management. Her studies strengthened her interest in environmental issues and led her to write her master's thesis on sustainable water governance.

Outside her professional work in Brussels, Pauline volunteers with Poverello Brussels, a project providing meals and accommodation to socially disadvantaged people.

Through the ELP programme, Pauline hopes to gain a clearer vision of how she can use her career to contribute to global justice and sustainable development.

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 is a second semester fellow and is currently working 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. Furthermore, in Uganda she volunteered for various organisations such as CARE, Habitat for Humanity and AVSI.#.

ZOÉ GÁSPÁR

With an academic background in international law and a passion for foreign affairs, Zoé has been working at the intersection of law, policy, and diplomacy.

Following an LLM degree in Public International Law, she began her career teaching international law and human rights, later transitioning into multilateral and parliamentary diplomacy through roles at the EU Delegation to the United Nations and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Her work has focused on sanctions, international criminal justice, and conflict and security issues, particularly in Eastern Europe. Driven by a strong interest in international security and humanitarian law, she aspires to build a career advising on legal and diplomatic approaches to conflict resolution.

As someone from Central-Eastern Europe, she values opportunities that bring diverse perspectives into EU policymaking. With a strong belief in staying grounded through volunteering, she is excited to connect with Brussels communities and help shape more inclusive international institutions.

