“Initiatives such as European Horizons are so important these days because they operate on the assumption that we are individually stronger when we are collectively united, not just in Europe, but across the Atlantic.”

Leonardo Quattrucci, Policy Adviser to the Director-General of the European Political Strategy Centre
At European Horizons, we empower the youth to foster a stronger transatlantic bond and a more united Europe — which we believe are the cornerstones of a future underpinned by democracy, equality, and freedom.

To do so, we deal in ideas. Our leadership opportunities build the knowledge, experience, and confidence our members need to voice their ideas; our workshops, projects, and conferences incubate these ideas; our growing network of chapters, partners, and policy-makers enhance them; and our publications provide a critical outlet for them to be heard.
OUR VALUES

FOR THE YOUTH: From geopolitical fragmentation to climate change and rapid technological development, we face an unprecedented series of long-term challenges, impacting young people around the world. We aim to equip those young people with the skills, platform, and network to shape policy decisions on these challenges, contributing to a more equitable future for all.

BY THE YOUTH: We are unshakably dedicated to youth leadership. All of our activities, from one-off publications to our flagship conferences, are driven by a passionate group of aspiring young leaders who are confident in carrying out complex projects, comfortable with the intricacies of policy, and ambitious in their vision for a better world.

ATLANTICIST IN SPIRIT: We are driven by the belief that today’s critical challenges must be confronted cooperatively and their resolution must be underpinned by the values of democracy, equality and freedom. Because of this, we advocate for stronger transatlantic relationships and a more effective European Union.

LOCAL TO GLOBAL APPROACH: We champion the belief that change begins at the grassroots level. Our university chapters around the globe foster a diverse intelligence community and vibrant transatlantic discussions which are the backbones of our global impact.
On December 3rd 2013, Melina Sánchez (Yale College ’15), Igor Mitschka (Yale College ’15), Olga Karnas (Yale College ’15), and Paul Linden-Retek (Yale Law School ’14) gathered in Saybrook College to discuss boosting interest in European affairs in the United States. After a long brainstorming session, they birthed an ambitious project: the European Student Conference (ESC). This initiative aimed to foster broader and deeper discussions about Europe among students, scholars, professors, and young professionals in the United States. The first ESC in 2015 received a staggering 350 applications for just 80 seats, establishing a tradition of the brightest minds brainstorming ideas for the European Union’s future at ESC. Over the years, European Horizons has successfully hosted eight ESC editions, attracting over 1,000 participants and featuring notable speakers like José Barroso, Josep Borrell, Pascal Lamy, and Kristalina Georgieva.

In addition to the ESC, the organisation expanded its reach through DC Summits in 2016 and 2017, bringing together leaders to discuss transatlantic security, and initiated the Digital Economy Youth Summit (DEYS) in 2016 to advance the transatlantic digital agenda. In response to the challenges posed by the global pandemic, European Horizons launched the Fall Policy Workshop in 2020, offering a dynamic platform for more than 300 students to engage with policy making through keynote speeches, discussion panels, and technical workshops. Finally, 2021 witnessed the inception of the European Horizons Policy Competition (EuHPC), which, in its first edition, delivered environmental policy proposals that were implemented by the city of New Orleans.

Simultaneously, European Horizons bolstered its publication capabilities. In 2016, it unveiled the Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs (RETA), a peer-reviewed academic journal which now features 11 editions and over 100 policy papers addressing European and transatlantic policy challenges. In 2019, the organisation collaborated with ASKO Europa Stiftung and Nomos to publish its inaugural book, "How Can Digital Technologies Build a More Integrated Europe: Exploring Digital Progress." Finally, in 2021, the Transatlantic Perspective was launched, providing students with an outlet to share their thoughts on transatlantic policy with a wider audience in a concise and timely format.

2022-2023 HAS BEEN OUR MOST EXCITING YEAR YET. READ THROUGH TO DISCOVER OUR IMPACT.
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Our policy work is guided by a set of priorities that reflect what we see as the most pressing challenges in transatlantic affairs. These priorities play a major role in orienting our work—from our publications and one-off events to our flagship conferences. In 2022-2023 we have focused on the following challenges.

**Transatlantic Security**

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and the international community’s response to it, has reaffirmed the transatlantic security architecture’s importance, but presents it with new challenges that it will have to adapt to. This means working and evolving together to counter new threats, build new capabilities, and make the way we think about collective security more holistic, to reflect the realities of a geopolitically uncertain 21st century.

**Energy & Environment**

The grave threat climate change poses to humanity, and the limited time we have to combat it, will lead to the most significant shifts to our lives, and livelihoods, since the 19th century’s Industrial Revolution. This shift’s impact will be felt far and wide, making it important that the world’s democracies cooperate to ensure that the transition is both swift and just. Fighting climate change means solving the biggest collective action problem we have ever encountered, but it is essential if we want to protect the planet which we all share and call home.

**Democratic Technology**

Technology has profoundly impacted the relationship between citizen and state in liberal democracies, and will continue to do so in new and unpredictable ways. It presents new opportunities for a rich, transparent, and more engaged form of civic life. But it also poses risks, as disruption, election-tampering, and spreading misinformation become easier than ever before too. Our shared existence in cyberspace can unite us or divide us, making it imperative that we try to shape this new frontier for the better.
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Our range of conferences incubates our members’ ideas for a stronger transatlantic relationship, a more effective European Union, and a better future.

This year, we have successfully organised our first post-Covid in-person European Student Conference at Yale University, the second edition of the European Horizons Policy Competition in collaboration with the city of Ghent Administration and a 2-day long online Fall Policy Workshop focusing on Energy Policy. Our 3 flagship conferences have reached more than 300 students from 3 continents and have incubated more than 50 policy papers, ranging from the role of the transatlantic alliance in the semiconductor sector to growing youth political awareness in light of the 2024 European elections.

EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE (ESC)

From 14-16 April 2023, more than 100 exceptional undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States, Europe, and the world, gathered at Yale University for the 7th edition of the European Student Conference. With the goal of rethinking transatlantic cooperation to find new approaches to today’s critical challenges, the conference connected these young leaders with more than 20 decision-makers from politics, business, and academia, including José Manuel Barroso, former president of the European Commission, Dita Dharanzová, Vice-president of the European Parliament and Mary Burce Warlick, Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency. Over the three days participants produced 20 creative policy proposals, the best of which were published in our peer-reviewed academic journal, The Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs (RETA), and amplified through our network of partners.
EUROPEAN HORIZONS POLICY COMPETITION (EUHPC)

In September of 2022, European Horizons celebrated its second edition of the European Horizons Policy Competition conducted in partnership with the City of Gent Administration. In striving to contribute to Ghent’s term as the European Capital of Youth in 2024 the policy objective of the competition was “Championing youth inclusion and political engagement”. Over the course of the weekend, more than 80 passionate young leaders from 30+ universities across Europe gathered in Ghent and crafted innovative policy solutions to boost youth political engagement, ranging from secondary schools programmes to institutional reforms. On Sunday they presented their policy ideas to our external Board of Judges, which included Marc Hooghe, full-time professor of Political Science at KU Leuven, and Stefan Borst, EMEA Head of Energy and Industrials at Edelman. The winning team’s policy proposal was taken into consideration by the Ghent administration for implementation as well as being awarded a monetary prize of $600.

FALL POLICY WORKSHOP (FPW)

On the weekend of the 3rd & 4th of December 2022, more than 120 students across three continents – Asia, Europe, and North America – virtually gathered to attend the third edition of the Fall Policy Workshop. In line with our Policy Priorities, the theme of the event was Environmental and Energy Policy and saw as main guest Tom Howes, head of the Energy and Environment Division at the International Energy Agency. Participants had the opportunity to explore this topic in detail over the course of the weekend by attending both a foundational and advanced track. The former allowed participants to learn the fundamentals of energy policy making by including a guided memo judging exercise. The latter explored how decision making on energy policy is conducted within the European Commission by simulating an evaluation of promoting renewable energy at the EU level.
Our range of publications serve as a critical outlet for our members' ideas to be heard in the transatlantic space.

The Transatlantic Perspectives (TP), our short-form outlet, has seen significant engagement this year, featuring over 60 submissions of Current Affairs and Policy Priorities op-eds, garnering over 10,000 total reads.

Meanwhile, our annual academic journal, the Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs (RETA), has evolved into an annual peer-reviewed journal, with Volume VI (Fall 2022) and Volume VII (Spring 2023) showcasing a total of 15 journal articles addressing today's critical challenges as reflected by our policy priorities.

Furthermore, in partnership with ASKO Europa Stiftung, we have published the second book in the Mindset Europe Series, Cornerstones for an Evolving Europe: New Policy Approaches to Economic Development, Environmental Policy, and Human Rights.
Our network of chapters, partners and alumni are key in enhancing our reach and influence on a global scale.

Chapters

Located at over 60 universities across 3 continents, European Horizons university chapters form the backbone of our network of passionate students, prospective policymakers, and aspiring leaders. This year, chapters pooled their resources to organise 20+ riveting keynote events, conduct 30+ in-depth research projects, and produce 10+ high-calibre op-eds and policy memos — ensuring that the heart of our intelligence community and the transatlantic discussion it fosters remained as vibrant as ever.
Partners are a driving force of our policy impact. This year we secured 5 new strategic partnerships, which played a pivotal role in the success of European Horizons’ flagship projects as well as facilitating one-off and regional events. We also secured an unprecedented amount of 15 new community partners, which enhanced our presence and reach in the transatlantic policy space.

Centre for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)
Bertelsmann Foundation North America
Centre for Advanced Defense Studies
Hertie School
All Tech is Human
Debating Europe / Friends of Europe
Edelman
European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington D.C. (EPLO D.C.)
Delegation of the EU to the US
UCL European Institute
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
Young European Leadership
Transatlantic Future Leaders Forum
The European Union Studies Association
TEPSA - Trans European Policy Studies Association
European Youth Press
International Association for Political Science Students
NATO Association of Canada
Youth Express Network
Eyes on Europe
The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria
US Embassy in the Netherlands
John Adams Institute
Amsterdam Policy Prize (APP)

The Amsterdam Policy Prize (APP) is Amsterdam’s chapter’s annual policy competition and flagship event. First organised in 2021, the APP aims to bring together students to form policy proposals about a specific public issue. During this year’s APP, 40 participants from different Dutch Universities were asked to draft a policy paper on the topic of Defending Democracy with an emphasis on protecting democracy against authoritarian and illiberal tendencies in North America and Europe. This topic and focus were meant to emphasise the democratic values and concerns over authoritarianism that the Euro-Atlantic community shares. During the competition, we had the honour to have such guests as the Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam, Kate Nanavatty, sharing her insights on disinformation of U.S. foreign policy, Phillip Hackel, Policy Assistant at the European Commission and co-founder of the Amsterdam Chapter, Dr. Hilla Dayan giving a workshop on the global democratic decline, and David Ryan Polgar, pioneering tech ethicist, responsible Tech advocate, and the founder of All Tech Is Human.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CHAPTERS & PARTNERS

“Future of Europe Conference” at University College London

On 22nd March 2023, the University College London (UCL) chapter of European Horizons organised its ‘Future of Europe Conference’ in partnership with the UCL European Institute (EI). The event featured presentations and Q&A sessions from leading specialists in the fields of diplomacy and policy making including H.E. Markus Leitner, Swiss Ambassador to the UK, Dr. Heather Grabbe, Senior Advisor to the Open Society Foundations, and Dr. Melanie Garson, Cyber Policy Lead in the Internet Policy Unit at the Tony Blair Institute. The talks gave students food for thought regarding the great challenges Europe currently faces, and how they can shape the continent’s future through effective policy and international cooperation.

CEPA x European Horizons Policy Pitching Contest

As part of the Centre for European Policy Analysis “CEPA Forum 2023”, we have co-hosted a competition to find unique and imaginative policy ideas from next-generation leaders to help the transatlantic alliance “Win the War. Win the Peace.” The winning entrant joined former National Security Advisor Stephen J. Hadley for a conversation on how different generations on both sides of the Atlantic can work together to ensure a more secure future. Further, two members of our Leadership Team featured on the judging panel: Samuel Dempsey, Director of the Policy Portfolio and Rachele Moscardo, Deputy Executive Director.

D.C. Summit

With financial support from the global organization, the Yale Chapter of European Horizons organized a 2-day trip to Washington D.C. in November 2023. The trip was a phenomenal success with over 20 members in attendance, from first years through to graduate students. Over the course of the trip, Yale EuH was honored to be hosted at a private reception by the EU Delegation to the US during which they discussed predominant transatlantic issues with Senior Policy Advisors. Topics included cybersecurity and democratic technology as well as the clean energy transition. The chapter were subsequently invited to a tailored Admissions Event from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), right in the heart of the US’s most politically impactful square mile. With an afternoon in the IMF Boardroom to close the day, students had the chance to debate global economic challenges due to the war in Ukraine with Executive Directors of the organization. The chapter returned to Yale with a renewed ambition on the key goals for transatlanticism today, and the foundation to later bring such learning to fruit through the European Student Conference.
Executive Board Briefings

The Executive Board (EB) Briefings Project is a recent initiative that aims to provide the Executive Board of the organisation concise and insightful briefings on critical developments and issues in the world, surrounding the outlined policy priorities for the year. Over the past few months, we have successfully launched this project, collaborating closely with key stakeholders, including the European Commission, European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., and All Tech is Human. In the course of this project's launch, we conducted a series of 5 EB Briefings, each a platform for leading experts from our esteemed partners to delve into recent developments that directly intersect with our Policy Priorities. These briefings provided invaluable insights into subjects ranging from the ever-evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence and the digital sphere to the complexities of energy dynamics within the European Union.

Our Executive Board members were privileged to gain exclusive insights from subject matter experts, who provided a comprehensive analysis of recent developments within our Policy Priorities and their interconnectedness with our overarching goals of forging a Closer Transatlantic Relationship and fostering a More United Europe. By engaging with these experts, members were not only able to stay informed about the latest developments within our Policy Priorities but also had a chance to contemplate how these developments have a profound impact on our work at EuH. As we move forward, the EB Briefings Project stands as a critical tool for ensuring that our organisation remains at the forefront of developments in the world, while also fostering a heightened understanding of how these changes affect our pursuit of a Closer Transatlantic Relationship and a More United Europe.
OUR 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

“Being on the Leadership Team has been the single most valuable opportunity I have had. At this early stage of my career, the responsibility, growth, and impact I have experienced at European Horizons would have been possible nowhere else.”

Laurent Bélanger-Lowe, Executive Director (2022-2023)
OUR 2022-2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

EXECUTIVE TEAM:
Laurent Bélanger-Lowe - Executive Director
Irakli Bezhuashvili - Deputy Executive Director

POLICY PORTFOLIO:
Amelia Hacon - Co-Director
Lorenzo Donatelli - Co-Director
Madison Romo - Deputy Director
Bianca Volmich - Deputy Director

PUBLICATIONS PORTFOLIO:
Domonkos Kovacs - Director
Annalisa Scaletta - Deputy Director
Dyuti Pandya - Deputy Director

NA CONFERENCES PORTFOLIO:
Anne-Amélie Campant - Co-Director
Nick St Sauveur - Co-Director

E&A CONFERENCES PORTFOLIO:
Teodora Strugaru - Director
Zsofi Szelpal - Deputy Director

GLOBAL CHAPTERS PORTFOLIO:
Leah Rei - Deputy Director
Ryan Lam - Deputy Director
Margret A Morris - Deputy Director

COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO:
Dominik Benjamin Gulyas - Director
Karolína Kučerová - Deputy Director
Victoria Alejandra Cuesta Calleja - Deputy Director

PEOPLE & CULTURE PORTFOLIO:
Eliot Smith - Deputy Director

PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO:
Goda Skiotyte - Director
Sean Cotter-Lem - Deputy Director

SPONSORSHIPS PORTFOLIO:
Mathilde Flamant - Director
Astrid Elena Euwe Wyss - Deputy Director

TREASURY PORTFOLIO:
Davis Ma - Senior Treasurer
Vato Choladze - Junior Treasurer
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