



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Vice-Presidents, Editorial Assistants, Journalists, and Chairpersons

94th International Session of the European Youth
Parliament in Nicosia, Cyprus



#theEdge, the 94th International Session of the EYP will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus between 5th of September to 13th of September 2020. The event will be presided by Saga Eriksson and edited by Jago Lynch and Matthias Masini. The Head-Organisers are Mike Dalmira, Elena Odysseos and Margarita Samouridou. You can read the messages from the President and Editors below. For more information on the session, please, visit the event's page on the [Members' platform](#) and read [#theMessage from the NOC](#). Please note that the mandatory Chairs' Academic Training (CAT) is scheduled to take place on 26th to 28th of June 2020. Naturally, the CAT is subject to current developments and might be adjusted to accommodate for travel restrictions and public health requirements.

We are now looking for **3** Vice-Presidents and **12-15** Chairpersons to join the Chairs' Team and for **3** Editorial Assistants and **12-15** Journalists.¹

#theMessage from the President

Dear future applicant,

I want to thank you in advance for the thought and care put into your application. I look forward to reading it, but before doing so I wanted to share my vision for the session and particularly for the Chairs' Team with you. The key message I want to send is to say there is never only one valid way of doing things, and the atmosphere in the Chairs' Team for Nicosia 2020 will centre around sharing best practice and collaborating, rather than competing on who can innovate the most. What I am looking for in a team is a diverse group of individuals who are willing to learn from each other, and complement each other's work. What you can expect from me in return is support. While I cannot provide all the answers, or tell you specifically how to achieve what you want to achieve, I can help ask the questions that will get you to a place where you can find your own answers. This experience is for you to build and shape, and myself and the rest of the leadership will provide you with an atmosphere where you can feel safe in doing this and push to the edges of what you are capable of.

To me, the idea of personal development for members of the team can be framed through Theodore Roosevelt's concept of daring greatly. Roosevelt argues that it is not the critic who counts, but that the credit in any action belongs to those who are doing the deeds, and striving for greatness, who may err and come short, who may know great achievement and triumph, but if they do fail, at least they do so while daring greatly. I want all of us within the team to push each other to dare greatly, without fear of failure or criticism, but through support and kindness toward each other. This vision of collaboration also extends to the entirety of the Officials' Team. The ethos for the CMO team is for us not to just help each other out where we can, but rather for everything to stem from doing things jointly.

A large aspect of the vision for the team will be the cooperation between the Media Team and the Chairs' Team. Together with Editors Matthias and Jago, we have worked on a concept where chairs and journalists will be working as a duo to produce output both before the session and during it. This will include collaboration on topic overviews. The TOs will be a joint product between the chairperson and journalist, consisting of two parts; an academic section produced by the chair and an opinion/reflective

¹ The exact size of the team is yet to be finalised.



piece produced by the journalist. The two members will be expected to coordinate and cooperate on this, and how you do this specifically we will leave up to you. Pre-session training will also be run as a hub among the entire Officials' Team, where each official can build on their individual skill set and attend modules run by a variety of facilitators within the leadership team and by their peers.

For the academic side of the vision, I want to bring the political process, democratic participation and current issues as close to participants as possible. Politics and political participation should be for everyone. The role of the Chairs' Team in this will be to reinforce the message that EYP is an environment where every participant matters, and their opinion matters. We should strive to make sure participants feel heard, and feel like they can contribute to politics and democracy. For me, this comes from refocusing the academic side of the session on values based discussions instead of technicalities of the topics. What we should always be asking of ourselves and participants is this; what kind of a world do you want to see in the future and how do we achieve this? This is a discussion everyone can contribute to. In a time where many parts of society feel their voice is not being heard in politics, including young people, it is crucial that organisations such as EYP show the value of engaging in political discussions and that we all have a stake and responsibility to engage.

Saga

#theMessage from the Editors

Before introducing our vision, we want to thank you for the interest you are showing right now in, hopefully, applying to **#theEdge**. We do not expect you to master everything, we are not masters either. Instead of you trying to check all the boxes, we invite you to bring your personal expertise to the team. By having a huge diversity in personal interests, EYP experiences, backgrounds, and points of view, we will all have something to share and get with the rest of the team. So now, to the vision itself:

The very beginning of our vision started with the reflection about the part played by media teams and journalists in EYP sessions. It is very easy to perceive media teams as operating outside, or at least on the fringes, of what delegates experience at the session (pre-session preparation, teambuilding, committee work, general assembly, post-session reflections). We quickly came to the conclusion that optimising the impact of the team will ask us to put it at the core of the session elements.

We have thus put together a session vision that serves all four pillars of Nicosia: **#culturalEdge**, **#socialEdge**, **#politicalEdge**, **#PeopleOnTheEdge**. We want to represent the location of the session, far-reaching social and political issues for an audience within and outside our organisation, and ensure a focus on the people that will make Nicosia a success.

Academic role of the Media Team

When thinking about the process of the session, one can not ignore the academic side of the event. Indeed, whether before or at the session, academics still play a huge part in the participants' experiences: especially for delegates.



Therefore, we want to explore the potential journalists can have on this aspect of the session. The role of the journalist will be to **work hand in hand with a chairperson** in order to maximise the academic support for the delegates. We want this role to go beyond what has been done in EYP so far, starting with the academic preparation kit (APK) for the session. For this particular aspect, the classic topic overviews will be divided in two complementary parts. The journalist will be responsible for writing, in **close cooperation** with the chairperson, an article that will complement the academic part. The core idea of the article is not to simplify the topic but rather to address it in a new informative way. It can take multiple forms depending on what the topic will need: a portrait of an asylum seeker, an interview of an expert, an article showing the Cypriot perspective on the topic, etc. The APK will therefore include both the chairperson and the journalist equally, both will coordinate and cooperate throughout the process.

A second main element is the potential replacement of the classic defense speech by a video made throughout the three days of Committee Work. The video would help identify the problems, portray the main debate elements and lastly the reasoning behind the actions chosen. The idea is to inform about the topic and the discussions around it.

Officials' cooperation

Based on past experiences, we believe that segregated Officials' Teams never reach their full potential. Therefore, for **#theEdge**, we want to develop cooperation that goes beyond 'not stepping onto each other's toes.'

The first collaboration in question will be the chairperson-journalist duo. We wish to turn those two individuals into **one solid and efficient workforce**. They will therefore learn how to work together with shared responsibilities before and at the session, moving towards a shared goal.

Not only between the Chairs' Team and the Media Team, we wish to offer the opportunity to all officials to work together. One of our main objectives would be to turn the CMO trainings into **#theHub**. The idea is for each official to be able to pick the modules they need to be best prepared and skilled for the session. **#theHub** will therefore not have modules necessarily specific to the chairs' team or the media team, but instead **cross-platform modules** that teach a skill set that is useful to all officials at the session.

Within **#theHub** we will of course also give our journalists a chance to explore the technical possibilities of their role. However, the main focus of this form of training is to give the whole officials team to learn new skills together, and to foster **a close working bond** between the media team and the chairs' team.

Media output

In two words: impact and information. Journalism has many definitions, forms, mediums, and practices, but one aspect never changes: being informative. At **#theEdge**, we will be focusing on delivering informative content tailored for **a diverse audience**. 'Is it bringing something new and informative to the participants and to people inside and outside the EYP network?' We want the media output to have a far-reaching social and academic effect on the people reading, watching, and listening to it.



One aim of journalism is also about giving a voice to those we don't hear and bringing **new perspectives** that shake commonly accepted ones. With Cyprus being a small isolated island state of the European Union, we want to make sure attention is brought to those we tend to forget. Not only people and perspectives but also ideas and beliefs shown in the productions of the Media Team will have to be diverse. Not only hearing but listening to opinions who diverge from the majority is a key element of the impact we wish to have on the session but also beyond **#theEdge**.

We also want to better use the resources available at an event such as an international session. One notable example is the presence of multiple and diverse experts and guests throughout the days of the event. We want to encourage journalists to use the opportunity of having such experts and speakers in order to increase the quality of their production, both within the aspects of this vision we have outlined, and in their own work at the session.

Finally, we expect our journalists to have a great dedication and reliability before and during the session. We do not expect you to have perfect technical skills; instead we will highly value your cooperation in the session process, commitment to learning, and your devotion to your position in the team. Your overall experience in the network is important to us but so is any relevant experience you may have gained outside of an EYP context. Indeed, your experience in all teams can be valuable for your role at #theEdge, as well as your real-world understanding of journalism and media. When it comes to the Editorial Assistants we may ask you to take on some more technical roles within the team, and we are very interested in hearing about your technical skills; we are also committed to involving our editorial assistants in the leadership and management of the media team, and would therefore love to see evidence of your ability to supervise and manage projects and people.

Thank you for having read our vision, we are looking forward to reading your applications,

Jago and Matthias

Selection criteria

According to EYP policies, the Selection panel is looking for individuals with the following qualities for the **Chairs' Team**:

- i. excellent English language skills;
- ii. good knowledge of and interest in European issues;
- iii. high sense of responsibility, expressed motivation and commitment to further EYP's objectives;
- iv. previous group facilitation and EYP experience;
- v. good planning and organisational skills;
- vi. ability to lead a group and good understanding of group dynamics;
- vii. ability to work as a member of a team and with individuals from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds;
- viii. creativity and personal vision for the role desirable;
- ix. a positive record of pre-session and post-session reliability;
- x. a good understanding of EYP and alignment with the vision of the session;
- xi. international experience as an official
- xii. effective communication skills;
- xiii. demonstrated ability to cooperate across officials' teams;



Additionally for **Vice-Presidents**,

- xiv. excellent knowledge of and interest in European issues;
- xv. substantial facilitation experience at EYP events including a minimum of one International Session attended as a chair;
- xvi. very good planning and organisational skills;
- xvii. high commitment to fostering cooperation across the CMO team;
- xviii. excellent leadership skills and advanced understanding of group dynamics as well as ability to provide feedback;

Criteria xiii. and xvii were added to the standard ones set by policies, according to the vision of the president and as agreed to by the Governing Body for this session only.

According to EYP policies, the Selection panel is looking for individuals with the following qualities for the **Media Team**:

- i. excellent English language skills;
- ii. I a sense of responsibility, expressed motivation and commitment to further the media team's objectives (EYP experience desirable);
- iii. understanding of the vision for the session as well as for the Media Team;
- iv. ability to work as a member of a team and with individuals from various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds;
- v. photography and video skills (technical media production skills desirable);
- vi. good writing and research skills (interest in European issues desirable);
- vii. creativity in all aspects of the pressroom;
- viii. good planning and organisational skills (*desirable*).

Additionally for **Editorial Assistants**,

- ix. leadership skills and a great sense of group dynamics (*desirable*);
- x. effective communication skills (*desirable*).

Criteria iii., viii., ix. and x. were added to the standard ones set by policies, according to the vision of the Editors and as agreed to by the Governing Body for this session only.

The overall teams will also present a cohesive and suitable balance of nationality, gender and levels of experience. Applicants should be aware that failure to be selected is no reflection on their talent or ability to be part of an International Session Chairs' or Media Team. The Selection Panel will consider first the individuals who have applied for the position and thereby thoroughly go over all the applications, following the guidelines given by the Governing Body.

The selection panel for the Chairs' Team will consist of the President of the Session, Saga Eriksson, past Session President Andrea Stagni, one of the Head-Organisers and Governing Body Member Ignacio Argüelles Martínez.



The selection panel for the Media Team will consist of the Editors of the Session, Jago Lynch and Matthias Masini, one of the past Session Editors Sabrina Mellerowic or Tobias Satlow, one of the Head-Organisers and Governing Body Member Dionysis Patriarcheas.

According to [the Policy on the Selection of International Session Officials](#) to be eligible for selection, the applicant needs to have at least one official EYP evaluation.

In case you are unsure if you are eligible to apply, you can contact the Human Resource Assistant of the EYP at hr@eyp.org.

How to apply?

If you are available and interested in attending, you should follow these steps to apply:

1. Log on to the EYP Member Platform (if you do not have access or encounter any other problems with the platform, please, get in touch with support@eyp.org);
2. Update your personal profile on the platform. Please, make sure your full name, country, Home National Committee and contact information are available and updated.
3. Sign up for the [94th International Session in Nicosia](#) as the desired position and fill in the 'additional fields' in the application form (questions are listed below).
4. The deadline for submitting your application on the platform is Tuesday, 7th of April at 23:59 CET.

All officials are also asked to make sure they are aware of the relevant policies of the EYP as listed in the official EYP Info Section on the Member Platform on <https://www.members.eyp.org/structure-and-policies>.

Application questions

#theQuestions for the Chairs' Team

All Applicants:

1. What NC did you start your EYP involvement with or which NC national delegation were you a part of at your first International Session?
2. What particularly attracted you to apply for Nicosia 2020? What does the vision of #theEdge, with all of its dimensions, mean to you? (video max 3 mins)
3. Explain how you fulfil the criteria for the position to which you are applying and support your reasoning with concrete examples. (max 500 words)
4. What skills have you gained from outside of EYP that you feel can contribute to the session? What are some skills you would still like to gain or develop? (max 250 words)
5. What would you say is the most important thing you have learned during your involvement in EYP? What is the key thing you would want participants to take away from the session? (max 250 words)

**Additionally for Chairpersons:**

6. How do you understand the relationship between chairs and journalists given the vision for collaborative output pre-session and during? (max 250 words)

Additionally for Vice-Presidents:

7. How do you see collaboration within the chairsteam and among the Board working? What are your strengths and where would you look for the rest of the Board to complement you? (max 300 words)
8. How do you see collaboration within the wider CMO team working and how would you look to personally contribute to this? (max 300 words)

#theQuestions for the Media Team**All Applicants:**

1. What NC did you start your EYP involvement with or which NC national delegation were you a part of at your first International Session?
2. Please film a 3 minute video of yourself outlining your motivation to apply for this session. It does not need to be well produced or edited.
3. What is your past experience in journalism and media, whether inside EYP, or in the outside world? Feel free to link your work here, we'd love to see anything either from EYP or from work outside of the organisation. (max 300 words)
4. What do you feel you will personally bring to the media team at Nicosia, and what do you think this experience will give you in return? (max 300 words)
5. What does 'journalism' outside of EYP mean to you, and how would you bring this into an EYP session? (max 300 words)

Additionally for Journalists:

6. Suggest some content you would be interested in producing at the session, with consideration of the session vision. (max 300 words)

Additionally for Editorial Assistants:

7. How do you envision your work with the editors with regards to the session vision, and what are you willing to be responsible for (either technically, or in leadership)? (max 400 words)
8. Consider the vision for the media team at Nicosia, and explain how you see yourself supporting the journalists within this vision. (max 300 words)