

# You (th) LEAD



Can you  
hear us?

This document has been drafted by participants of the Youth Leadership, Engage, and Advocate for Democracy (Y-LEAD) project implemented by Peace Volunteering Network Norway and funded by the Erasmus Plus Programme. This project have gathered 50 young people from 9 countries: Norway, Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania

The messages and views expressed herein are directed toward European stakeholders and reflect the collective insights, experiences, and recommendations of the young people involved.

The Youth-LEAD project is a youth exchange initiative hosted in Kristiansand, Norway, during Democracy Week 2025. It brings together young individuals – including those with fewer opportunities and special needs – to share, explore, and co-create practices of effective youth engagement.



**No democracy without  
equality – our voices matter!**

Erleta, Kosova

**Fight for those with no power  
to defend themselves!**

Thomas, Norway

**Peace is not given, it's earned  
through understanding!**

Marina, Albania

**Dare to fly, escape the cage!**

Mina, Serbia

**Don't let us be like Sisyphus  
who only pushed the rock to  
the top only to see it roll  
back down again. Let's make  
a visible impact!**

Azra, Bosnia and Herzegovina



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**They are always saying that  
the youth is the future but;  
Youth is not the future, it's  
the resistance of the  
present. And if we don't take  
a seat at the table, we'll stay  
on the menu.**

Tia, Slovenia

**Pay attention to students  
protesting in Serbia, we are  
fighting for justice for 6  
months now! Their hands are  
bloody!**

Luka, Serbia

**Tear the borders, break the  
walls, together as one.**

Burak Turkish-Norwegian

**Be kind to each other.**

Anja, Slovenia



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**Feel free to speak and do  
whatever you want**

Belina, Kosova

**Dreams stay dreams until  
your feet start moving,  
action is the bridge between  
wishing and becoming.**

Kaja, Slovenia

**Don't build a system that  
rewards obedience more  
than curiosity, that's how we  
lose generations who could  
have changed the world.**

Haris, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Everything will be fine in the  
end and if it isn't, it's not the  
end yet.**

Kinga, Hungary



# Be a democrat according to this:

"To be a democrat means, first and foremost, not to fear: not to fear those of different opinions, those of different languages, those of different races, revolution, conspiracies, the unknown evil intentions of the enemy, hostile propaganda, belittlement, and generally all those imaginary dangers which become real dangers precisely because we fear them."  
(István Bibó)

Vince, Hungary

**Try to make understand and listen to each other. Because this is how we can make a change.**

Gabriella, Hungary

**Be kind to yourself and others, nurture and protect those who need it**

Sidorela, Albania



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**Every night, before I go to bed I think about what I could have done better that day.**

**I notice ethical/moral shortcomings, inefficiencies, bad habits. This practice equips me with knowledge to do better in the future, and improve overall.**

**I believe that whenever people take the time for self-reflection, the world becomes a better place.**

Abel, Hungary

