

EUROPE!

▶▶ *A Generation Ahead*

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Networking and co-operation with other youth organisations

Why?

For a relatively small organisation like JEF the creation of networks and co-operation with other youth organisations is one of the key factors of successful campaigning.

Especially co-operation with national and European Youth Political Parties can help us to spread our political ideals beyond our membership. Some of these youth organisations are not only huge but also a typical starting point for future political careers. Co-operation with youth organisations is therefore also an important way of long-term [lobbying](#). Furthermore such co-operation will help you to raise the profile of your JEF section in the world of NGOs and you might even find new members in some of the youth political parties.

How?

Non-partisan Youth organisations such as JEF can easily act as a platform for **Youth Political parties**. Usually youth organisations do not have too much in common, but JEF focuses on one of the very few issues that many youth organisations broadly agree on. Therefore you will find it relatively easy to invite representatives from different organisations for a **joint (public) meeting**.

Usually, such co-operation can only be built up step by step. Personal contacts with a member of a youth political party can be the first step to exchange your views informally. Later on you can try to strengthen this co-operation gradually. A good way is to propose **joint press releases** on certain political issues. Often you will find out that youth political parties are very much willing to speak with one voice about Europe, as long as the initiative comes from outside. At a later stage you can then try to organise **regular public meetings** between representatives of different youth organisations such as on the various aspects of the current Future of Europe debate. Ideally you finally manage to set up a **network** that is united in its view on Europe, despite the completely different political backgrounds.

Next to the local and national branch of European NGOs, important players in the world of youth NGOs are the so-called **National Youth Councils**. They are represented by the [European Youth Forum](#) at the European level. Usually these platforms are not able to take a strong political position to the extremely heterogeneous membership. On the other hand it is absolutely worthwhile to attend their meetings and to become an active member, as they are the biggest and most recognised network of youth NGOs in Europe. To find the contact details of your respective National Youth Council, please have a look at <http://www.youthforum-org.ae.psiweb.com/organisation/members.html>