



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT THE NETHERLANDS

Public Report Informal Poll

2023

The Democracy Committee

9th of November 2023



OVERVIEW

In 2023, the fourth Informal Poll for EYP the Netherlands was held. After a successful poll with 7 candidates and 43 votes, the Supervisory Council appointed a new board for EYP the Netherlands.

This is the public report on the Informal Poll 2023, written by the Democracy Committee. The Committee of 2023 consists of Mariëtte Peutz (chair), Aniek Wiegand and Saskia van Berloo. The Poll was carried out by the Democracy Committee under supervision of the Supervisory Council. This report is divided into several parts, reflecting the periods of the Informal Poll Procedure and serves to inform the Alumni of EYP NL on the Polling Procedure.

Selection Democracy Committee

The Democracy Committee was chosen by the Supervisory Council. The applications for the Committee were opened from 4-14 May 2023, 2 applications were received in this time frame. Consequently, one extra member was asked to join the committee by the Supervisory Council. All members accepted by 23rd of January 2022. A chair was appointed and the Democracy Committee got together to plan the opening of the Poll Participant Registration Period on 21 May 2023. The kick-off commenced with defining the time-line and discussing feedback points that earlier Democracy Committees had reported.

Poll Participant Registration Period

The Poll Participant Registration Period was opened on 23 May 2023, one day after the established time-line. The Poll Participant Registration Period was initially open until 18 June 2023, and thus was open for the mandatory minimum of 4 weeks, as established in the Democracy Policy and Informal Poll Procedure. In total, 62 poll participants, who were all eligible, registered. There was a decrease of 13 eligible poll participants, compared to last year. The registration was carried out through a Google form.

The Democracy Committee determined the eligibility of voters, adhering to the eligibility outlined in the Democracy Policy. The criteria as they were laid down in May 2023 were followed which included a) participation in a session in the two years before the 1st of January 2023, **or** holding a formal role in EYP NL in the four years before the 1st of January 2023. **And** b) being born in the Netherlands or; holding Dutch nationality or; hold a residence permit for the Netherlands or; have lived in the Netherlands for six months (at the time of registration) or; be enrolled in a Dutch education institution.

The Poll Participant Registration was promoted through the EYP NL Alumni Facebook group, Instagram, Whatsapp, and the Weekly Updates by the HR Coordinator, as well as a separate email to all email addresses in EYP NL's email base.

Application Period

The application period was opened on 23 May 2023, one day after the established time-line. The application was initially intended to close on 4 June 2023. The call got extended on 6 June 2023, as there were less than 6 applications for the board, the call was opened for 6 positions. The deadline to apply was extended with one week until 11 June 2023. After this initial extension, there were still not enough applicants to fill the positions. The call for board members was extended again on 12 June 2023 to allow these possible candidates to apply. The deadline to apply was extended with another week, until 16 June 2023. The final applications were received on 18 June 2023. After this last extension, we received applications from 7 candidates that covered all



positions with most candidates applying for several positions. The extensions in the application period had consequences for the time-line, resulting in starting and ending the further parts of the process a few weeks later. The deadline for the registration for poll participants was moved to 2 July 2023 from the original 18 June, to allow as many people as possible to still register. It should be noted that due to the new board timeline which includes a longer transition period, there was room for the aforementioned extensions.

The application for Board Members was carried out through a Google form and the further required documents were emailed to the Democracy Committee. All together, the candidates had to upload a resumé, manifesto, video and profile picture. Based on the active alumni criteria in the Democracy Policy and the documents that were handed in, the Supervisory Council checked the eligibility of all candidates. The Supervisory Council confirmed on 21 June 2023 that all candidates were eligible.

The promotion of the Application Period was done through the EYP NL Alumni Facebook group, instagram, WhatsApp and the Weekly updates by the HR Coordinator.

Campaign Period

After the Poll Participant Registration and acceptance of candidates by the Supervisory Council, all candidates received a notice that they could start their campaign. The dates of the campaigning period were moved to 24 June - 2 July, from the original 10 June - 18 June. It was chosen to shorten the campaigning period as the entire timeline was delayed and this provided enough time for every candidate to have a day for campaigning, and one day for briefing all candidates of the procedure of campaigning.

The Democracy Committee announced the candidates on the EYP NL Alumni Facebook Group, the Weekly Updates email and Whatsapp, and posted their manifesto's and campaign videos. The candidates campaigned themselves on the EYP NL Alumni Facebook group and @eyp_nl_alumni instagram page. The campaigning period went by in a respectful manner. There were no situations where the Democracy Committee had to intervene.

Polling Period

The Polling period opened on 3 July 2023, compared to the original 19 June 2023. The Polling Period lasted until 10 July 2023. At the end of the polling period, 43 alumni voted, which is 69% of all registered poll participants. Both the number of voters and the participation rate among registered poll participants were lower than last year. All voters handed in a complete ballot, meaning that every role got 43 votes.

The polling was done through a program called Election Runner, accessible by the Democracy Committee and the Supervisory Council. Registered voters were given a personalised link to enter their votes, and no new voters were added after the poll participant registration period closed. Voters had to rank the candidates in order of preference for each position (1 highest preference, 3 lowest preference). Candidates were also allowed to abstain. The order in which the candidates were displayed to the voters was random per poll participant. Registered poll participants were frequently reminded through Facebook, the Weekly Updates email and WhatsApp to vote. The Democracy Committee also sent out reminders through the platform of Election Runner. The Committee was not able to see who each individual voter had voted for.



Polling Results

The results of the informal poll were as follows:

President	Minke van der Heide (51.2%), Sophie Gatsonides (39.5%), with 9.3% abstaining.
International Coordinator & Secretary	Mara van Hermon (65.1%), Raphael Gross-Chartuni (30.2%), with 4.7% abstaining.
Treasurer	Lara Odabaş (76.7%), Storm Kamerbeek (11.6%), with 11.6% abstaining.
Human Resources Coordinator	Lucas de Graaf (51.2%), Storm Kamerbeek (41.9%), with 7% abstaining.
National Conference Coordinator	Lucas de Graaf (37.2%), Minke van der Heide (30.2%), Raphael Gross-Chartuni (23.3%), with 9.3% abstaining.
Regional Conference Coordinator	Minke van der Heide (65.1%), Mara van Hermon (27.9%), with 7% abstaining.



Selection and Confirmation Period

The results were sent to the Supervisory Council on 11 July 2023, who then interpreted the results of the poll and consequently contacted the candidates with the results. The Supervisory Council was able to install and appoint a new Board based on the outcome of the fourth Informal Poll of EYP the Netherlands. The Council followed article 21.11 of the Democracy Policy to determine the Board, as it was the case that one participant received the majority of the votes for multiple positions.

The following candidates were selected for the board of 2023-2024:

Sophie Gatsonides (President)

Mara van Hermon (International Coordinator & Secretary)

Lara Odabaş (Treasurer)

Lucas de Graaf (Human Resources Coordinator)

Raphael Gross-Chartuni (National Conference Coordinator)

Minke van der Heide (Regional Conference Coordinator)

Conclusion

As the Democracy Committee, we are very happy and proud to conclude that the fourth informal poll of EYP the Netherlands for selection of the Board for the mandate 2023-2024 was successful. The democracy committee encouraged candidates to apply for several positions to ensure all 6 positions were filled and to increase the democratic character of the informal poll. In addition, the election ended up having more candidates per position than before, proving that this encouragement helped.

The effect of this on potential candidates and on the democratic effect on the informal poll is being evaluated by the Democracy Committee with the relevant stakeholders. Based on the evaluations of this specific process but also the elections overall, we will provide points of improvement for upcoming elections, which will be shared with the Supervisory Council.

If there are any questions or suggestions based on the procedure or the current report, please forward them to democracy@eyp.nl