



UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1
PANTHÉON SORBONNE

**L'Europe au local : Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs
d'Europe, le cas des jeunes dans les associations
européennes.**

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TABLE DES SIGLES ET ABREVIATIONS

COM : Commission européenne

CESE : Conseil économique, social et environnemental

DG EAC : Direction Générale Education and Culture

ESAA : Erasmus + Students and Alumni Alliance

ESN : Erasmus Student Network

EMA : Erasmus Mundus Association

ERASMUS : Erasmus est un programme européen entre établissements d'enseignement supérieur permettant aux étudiants et aux enseignants de bénéficier d'une mobilité en

EECA : European Education and Culture Executive Agency. L'Agence exécutive européenne pour l'éducation et la culture (EACEA) gère le financement de l'éducation, de la culture, de l'audiovisuel, du sport, de la citoyenneté et du volontariat.

GE : GaragErasmus

Programme Erasmus + : est un programme de l'Union européenne qui vise à soutenir des actions dans les domaines de l'enseignement, de la formation, de la jeunesse et du sport pour la période 2021-2027.

UE : Union européenne

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Introduction

« C'est d'ailleurs pour répondre à ces critiques et corriger les éventuelles défaillances de son modèle communicationnel que la Commission a lancé, en 2005, le « Plan D comme démocratie, dialogue et débat » puis quelques mois plus tard, un « Livre blanc sur la politique de communication européenne » (février 2006) proposant une « transition radicale d'une communication à sens unique vers un dialogue renforcé. ».¹

Les instruments de l'Union européenne commencent à se diversifier à partir des années 1970s. Elle élargit au fur et à mesure ses outils d'évaluation de l'opinion (euro baromètre) et commence à utiliser les médias afin de diffuser ses idées. L'ère 1990 marque le début du numérique et offre de nouvelles formes d'expression telle que le début des manifestations publiques. L'Union européenne a ainsi subi une transformation de son appareil communautaire de communication. C'est pour pallier les défaillances de son modèle communicationnel que la Commission souhaite développer ses échanges avec le local et les citoyens.²

Les livres blancs de 2001 sur la « gouvernance européenne » (Commission, 2001)³ et de 2006 sur la « communication de l'UE » (Commission, 2006) ont édifié ce tournant dans la politique publique de l'UE. Ils détaillent le tournant pris par la Commission européenne de décentrer sa politique européenne en communiquant avec les gens et de diffuser l'idée européenne dans les Etats membres.

La commissaire Margot Wallström (2004-2009) dans la Commission Barroso manifeste son désir de réduire la distance avec les citoyens et de cultiver le dialogue avec l'UE : « *Go local* », « écoute, dialogue, débat », « Participation » (Commission européenne, 2006).

Dès 2001, la Commission européenne donne le ton en mettant l'accent sur la consultation et l'inclusion des acteurs appartenant à tous les niveaux de la société.

Les associations européennes sont intrinsèquement liées à la fondation et au développement de l'UE. Les associations sont essentielles et participent à la communication politique. Elles permettent de porter les idées des gens "ordinaires". La naissance des associations européennes l'illustre parfaitement. En effet, c'est grâce à un rassemblement d'associations européennes à la Haye en 1948 que le Conseil de l'Europe est né.⁴

¹ Commission européenne (2006), *Livre blanc sur une politique de communication européenne*, Bruxelles, 1^{er} février 2006, COM (2006) 35 final.

² ALDRIN Philippe, DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages », *Politique européenne*, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 7-35.

³ Commission européenne (2001), *Gouvernance européenne: un livre blanc*, Bruxelles, 25 juillet 2001, COM(2001) 428 final.

⁴ DACHEUX Eric, « Les associations dans l'espace public européen », Jean-Louis Laville éd., *Association, démocratie et société civile*, La Découverte, 2001, pp. 165-181.

Dans le rapport de la CESE de 2021, une discussion s'est portée sur la création d'un statut participatif pour les associations et les ONG européennes afin que ces associations puissent profiter du principe de libre circulation des personnes, des services et des capitaux.

Mais comment ces associations européennes se sont développées ? D'où partent-elles ?

S'appuyant sur les réseaux existants, la création des organisations européennes a été rendu possible par la fin des deux conflits mondiaux. En effet, elle est marquée par la création d'unions internationales, tandis que la fin de la guerre froide a permis de fédérer la plupart des organisations étudiantes du continent européen. Les fondations grandissent dans un premier temps rapidement dans les années 70-80s. La plupart ne sont pas fédérées en unions nationales, à l'exception de la France avec la création de l'UNEF (l'Union nationale des étudiants de France) à Lille en 1907. C'est avec la création de La fondation de la Confédération internationale des étudiants (CIE) en 1919 qui permet d'inciter les regroupements nationaux.⁵ L'apolitisme est revendiqué par la plupart des organisations étudiantes européennes, ce qui ne signifie pas un désintérêt pour les questions politiques. En effet, le lien entre engagement politique et étudiants est ancien. Elles étaient d'ailleurs très surveillées par les pouvoirs politiques qui craignaient leur potentiel révolutionnaire. L'associationnisme étudiantin se révélera plus librement dès la fin des poursuites contre-révolutionnaires des années 1850.⁶

L'influence entre les associations nationales et européennes remonte et débute avec le changement vers un syndicalisme étudiant dans les années 1940. En outre, la charte de l'UNEF définit l'étudiant comme un travailleur intellectuel devient une référence pour les organisations étudiantes européennes telles que le Mouvement des étudiants universitaires belges d'expression française (MUBEF, fondé en 1961) et le Studenten Vakbeweging (SVB) créé en 1963 aux Pays-Bas.⁷

Ces organisations européennes se retrouvent dans la gestion de trois principales activités qui servent différents objectifs. Elles peuvent d'une part développer la sociabilité et cohésion de groupe (soirée, sport), ou se mobiliser dans la défense de leurs intérêts (conditions de vie) et enfin améliorer leur formation intellectuelle (conférences, groupe de travail).

La structuration des associations étudiantes suit de près les élargissements successifs de l'Union européenne. Elles s'organisent à une nouvelle échelle, l'échelle continentale, et continue la défense des droits des étudiants. On retrouve alors en 1982, la création en 1982 du Western European Student Information Bureau (WESIB) par sept syndicats nationaux, dont la NUS, l'UNEF-ID, le Danske Studerendes Fællesråd (DSF, Danemark), les Sveriges Förenade

⁵ Julien CAHON , « Les organisations étudiantes en Europe au xx^e siècle », Encyclopédie d'histoire numérique de l'Europe [en ligne], ISSN 2677-6588, mis en ligne le 23/06/20. Permalien : <https://ehne.fr/fr/node/14158>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Antonin DUBOIS , « Les organisations étudiantes en Europe au xix^e siècle », Encyclopédie d'histoire numérique de l'Europe [en ligne], ISSN 2677-6588, mis en ligne le 22/06/20. Permalien : <https://ehne.fr/fr/node/12414>

Studentkårer (SFS, Suède) et l'Österreichische HochschülerInnenschaft (Öh, Autriche). Le WESIB deviendra par la suite l'European Student Information Bureau (ESIB) à la chute du bloc soviétique. Puis, il prendra le nom d'European Students Union (ESU), et fédère, en 2019, 47 organisations issues de 39 pays (y compris hors Union européenne donc), dont l'Union des étudiants de Suisse (UNES) et l'Ukrainian Association of Students Self-Governments (UASS, Ukraine) par exemple.⁸

Les étudiants sont néanmoins en lien les uns avec les autres par-delà les frontières. Des congrès internationaux se tiennent à partir de la deuxième moitié du siècle (Liège en 1865, Bruxelles 1867 et Gand 1868). De plus, La Corda fratres ou Fédération internationale des étudiants à Turin créée par des étudiants italiens en 1898, est la première organisation transnationale. Elle tiendra plusieurs congrès en Europe et aux États-Unis, mais ne perdura pas longtemps en raison d'une mauvaise organisation.⁹

Après avoir replacé les associations européennes dans leur contexte socio-historique, nous pouvons mettre en parallèle l'étude des associations européennes en lien avec une politique publique européenne. La stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la jeunesse guidera le cadre de la coopération européenne en matière de politique de la jeunesse pour la période 2019-2027.¹⁰ La stratégie a pour objectif d'améliorer la participation des jeunes dans le débat démocratique. L'UE se donne ainsi 11 objectifs faisant écho à trois mots-clefs mobilisés, connecter et autonomiser. Ces 11 objectifs sont le fruit d'un dialogue auquel ont participé des jeunes de toute l'Europe entre 2017 et 2018. Ces questions invitent à s'interroger sur ces jeunes derrière ces associations européennes. Effectivement, la jeunesse et son engagement sont au cœur des préoccupations de l'UE. Le programme Erasmus ne fait que grandir et instruit de nombreux jeunes européens. En effet, depuis 1987, 12,5 millions de personnes ont pu profiter du programme Erasmus. Un chiffre qui a augmenté ces dernières années et donc prouve de plus en plus son attractivité.¹¹

L'agence européenne qui gère le programme Erasmus ainsi que les objectifs d'horizon 2019-2027 est l'agence exécutive de la Commission européenne, l'Agence exécutive européenne pour l'éducation et la culture, ou EACEA. L'EACEA est supervisée par six directions générales de la Commission européenne et dans le cadre du budget à long terme de l'UE pour 2021-2027, l'EACEA gère des parties des programmes de financement suivants: Erasmus+ [archive] , Europe créative [archive] , Corps européen de solidarité [archive] , Citoyens, égalité, droits et valeurs (CERV)¹². Elle possède d'ailleurs ses propres objectifs.¹³

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ sur la base de la [résolution du Conseil du 26 novembre 2018](#).

¹¹ Chiffre provenant du site internet Toute l'Europe <https://www.touteleurope.eu/economie-et-social/erasmus-en-dix-chiffres/>

¹²<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/priorities-of-the-erasmus-programme/implements#:~:text=The%20European%20Commission%20is%20ultimately,on%20an%20on%20goin%20basis>

¹³ OBJECTIFS EDUCATION ET FORMATION
D'ici à 2025

Au vu de ces éléments, ce travail vise à mieux comprendre les liens entre institutions européennes dans le développement de la jeunesse européenne et si sa présence est fortement marquée dans le parcours d'un jeune européen.

De nombreuses questions autour de la jeunesse européenne m'interpellent. Que signifie faire parler la jeunesse ? De quoi parle-t-on quand on parle de la jeunesse européenne ? Catégoriser et employer des ressources spécifiques qui ciblent une jeunesse européenne permettrait d'unifier cette jeunesse ? Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ?

En regard des deux points d'intérêts de ce travail qui sont d'une part les associations européennes comme une nouvelle forme de société civile et d'autre part leur engagement par rapport à l'UE en tant que militant européen, j'adresse l'hypothèse que les associations européennes permettent par leur réseau transnational et leur lien étroit avec les institutions européennes de forger une société civile européenne et ainsi de permettre le développement d'un militantisme européen.

Cette hypothèse permet de poser la problématique suivante : comment la jeunesse européenne, organisée sous forme associative, favorise l'émergence d'une société civile européenne et développe un militantisme européen ?

État de l'Art

Afin d'établir le cadre théorique de mon mémoire, la partie suivante passera en revue la littérature existante à propos de deux notions-clef qui ont permis la construction de mon objet de recherche : la société civile européenne qui comprend mes lectures sur les groupes d'intérêts, la production de symboles. Puis à travers des lectures sur la jeunesse ainsi que le militantisme européen et la politisation.

-
- Au moins 60 % des jeunes diplômés de l'enseignement et de la formation professionnels devraient bénéficier d'un apprentissage en milieu professionnel au cours de leurs études
 - Au moins 47 % des adultes âgés de 25 à 64 ans devraient avoir participé à une activité d'apprentissage au cours des 12 derniers mois

D'ici à 2030

- La proportion de jeunes de 15 ans ayant une maîtrise insuffisante de la lecture, des mathématiques et des sciences devrait être inférieure à 15 %
- La proportion d'élèves en huitième année de scolarité ayant une maîtrise insuffisante de l'informatique devrait être inférieure à 15 %
- La proportion d'enfants ayant entre trois ans et l'âge de la scolarité obligatoire qui participent aux systèmes d'éducation et d'accueil de la petite enfance devrait être supérieure ou égale à 96 %
- La proportion d'élèves quittant prématurément l'éducation et la formation devrait être inférieure à 9 %
- La proportion des 25-34 ans possédant un diplôme de l'enseignement supérieur devrait être supérieure ou égale à 45 %

Pour plus d'informations, voir le site : https://commission.europa.eu/topics/education-and-training_fr

Tout d'abord, les associations étudiantes ont joué le rôle d'un lobby si l'on suit la définition du livre vert.¹⁴ Le Livre vert définit les lobbyistes comme « les personnes se livrant à ce type d'activités et qui travaillent dans toute une série d'organisations telles que les cabinets de consultants spécialisés dans les affaires publiques, les cabinets d'avocats, les ONG, les groupes de réflexion, les groupes de pression au sein des entreprises (« représentants internes ») ou les groupements professionnels. » La Commission joue par ailleurs un rôle central dans la dénomination de ces termes. Depuis, le Traité de Rome, les groupes d'intérêt sont considérés comme des acteurs de l'intégration européenne et redonne une place aux citoyens en leur donnant l'opportunité de participer à des processus d'élaboration de politiques publiques, cela permet de (re) légitimer les institutions de l'UE. De plus, la Commission exprime elle-même cette idée avec le concept de "participation de la société civile". La Commission européenne acquiert des bénéfices à ces échanges avec les organisations, c'est pourquoi elle les soutient symboliquement et financièrement. Elle lui délègue une partie de son travail. De l'autre côté, les petites associations retirent une forme de représentativité à l'échelle européenne et récoltent des données sur leur domaine.

Ensuite, on se concentrait sur la perception symbolique de l'UE. Le programme Erasmus est devenu un symbole de l'UE et donc ces réseaux étudiants (société civile) entretiennent cette symbolique est une hypothèse à poser. Cependant, le lien entre les institutions et les associations n'est pas nouveau. L'appel de La Sorbonne de Claude Allègre, est un cas empirique du lien entre associations étudiantes et institutions européennes et des enjeux derrière cette alliance. En en présentant une, on leur donne l'occasion d'exposer leur conception de l'enseignement supérieur. Ces associations peuvent alors influencer ces politiques, ce qui signifie que leur voix compte fortement. En effet, comme le dit François Foret¹⁵, « le symbolique constitue une donnée essentielle de la construction européenne, qu'il s'agisse des sommets des chefs de gouvernement ou de l'Europe plus quotidienne de Bruxelles. » (Foret, 2008, p. 290).

Que signifie s'organiser autour de l'Europe ? Comme le dit Philippe Aldrin et Dorota Dakowska, « L'Union européenne constitue donc un modèle inédit de production symbolique, modèle qui demeure cependant incertain. » (Aldrin, et Dakowska, 2011)¹⁶, ce qui m'amène à m'intéresser à ce sujet. En effet, le phénomène d'intégration de l'UE est en lui-même inédit. L'UE souhaite reproduire ce sentiment d'appartenance en utilisant les mêmes outils utilisés pour la fabrication d'un sentiment national, mais cette fois-ci le transposer vers un sentiment

¹⁴ MICHEL Hélène, « La "société civile" dans la "gouvernance européenne". Éléments pour la sociologie d'une catégorie politique », *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales*, 2007, n° 166-167, pp. 30-37.

¹⁵ FORET François, *Légitimer l'Europe, Pouvoir et symbolique à l'ère de la gouvernance*, Paris : Presses de Sciences Po, 2008, p. 290.

¹⁶ ALDRIN Philippe, et DOROTA DAKOWSKA, *Promouvoir l'Europe en actes : Une analyse des petits entrepreneurs de la cause européenne*, *Politique européenne*, 34 (2), 2011.

européen. Afin de répondre à ce besoin, l'UE va participer au développement de la société civile sur la scène politique européenne.

Dans un second temps, cette étude s'appuie sur les travaux d'Aldrin, P., & Dakowska, D. Ils posent cette question : légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? En effet, ils se focalisent sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe.¹⁷

Mon mémoire quant à lui se focalise sur les jeunes étudiants européens qui, à leur manière, légitiment et promeuvent Bruxelles et ses politiques. Ils participent à la diffusion des valeurs de l'UE par leur action, comme par l'organisation d'événements en lien avec les thèmes imposés par la COM (Sustainability, social, youth). En effet, les thèmes de l'environnement et du social reviennent en majorité et ainsi guident la réalisation des événements de ces associations.

Cependant, certains éléments sont à prendre en compte. Tout d'abord, les actions entreprises par les jeunes au sein de ces associations sont de leur propre initiative, et même si certaines de leurs actions peuvent rentrer dans les thèmes définis par la Commission européenne, ils ne reçoivent pas toutes les subventions du programme Erasmus pour réaliser leur projet. Cependant, ces actions participent et entretiennent une proximité et la diffusion des valeurs de l'Europe. En effet, ils suivent tout de même les directives de la Commission. Par exemple, ils doivent favoriser l'intérêt des jeunes pour le programme Erasmus. On peut ainsi supposer qu'elles favorisent à sa manière, l'émergence d'une société civile, "d'un espace et d'une opinion publics aux dimensions de la scène politique européenne." (Aldrin, P., & Dakowska, D. (2011)).

Enfin, mon mémoire questionne le militantisme européen. L'analyse du terme « politisation » par Yves Déloye et Florence Haegel, m'a permis de mieux intégrer cette partie sur le militantisme européen. En effet, il discute les différents sens et interprétations donnés. Leur étude intègre un nouveau sens au terme et a fait évoluer mon hypothèse sur la politisation des jeunes européens dans les associations européennes. Par ailleurs, ces jeunes, engagés dans ces associations, se définissent comme pro-européen et prennent part à une forme de militantisme européen. L'étude de cas de Weisbein était très intéressante à relier avec mon hypothèse. En effet, il étudie la trajectoire de militants européens et s'intéresse à leur fluctuation selon des dynamiques internes et interactions externes.¹⁸ Ils exposent que « la configuration des pouvoirs qui se tissent autour de Bruxelles correspond à l'abandon d'une attitude militante politisée autour du schème fédéraliste au profit d'un alignement sur une lecture neutre du processus d'intégration communautaire. »

¹⁷ALDRIN Philippe, DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages », *Politique européenne*, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 7-35.

¹⁸WEISBEIN Julien, « La Fédération française des maisons de l'Europe (1960-2000). La trajectoire d'un militantisme européen de terrain », *Politique européenne*, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 37-62.

Par ailleurs, l'article de Steinmetz¹⁹ questionne comment un réseau pourrait véhiculer une opinion favorable ou défavorable à l'Europe sans être en même temps un système de signification culturelle. Il affirme qu'il est difficile de déterminer s'il s'agit d'une affirmation sur les sociétés modernes, une affirmation sur la culture liée à différentes sociétés, ou une affirmation limitée à l'UE. Je souhaitais lier cette hypothèse avec mon sujet de recherche qui se concentre sur un groupe en particulier : les jeunes étudiants européens. Ainsi, à la lecture de son article, je me demandais si la participation des étudiants à un groupe permettrait que leur lien soit plus fort, et que leur collaboration dans l'organisation d'événements se ferait plus facilement, car leur lien n'est pas purement économique. Mais leur catégorie sociologique similaire permet de renforcer cette proximité et cet attachement culturel.

Méthodes

Le point de départ de ma recherche était les rapports sur le programme Erasmus+ et les informations trouvées sur les sites des différentes associations.

L'analyse s'appuie sur une combinaison de deux méthodes de recherche qualitative différentes : l'analyse d'un corpus documentaire et la conduite d'entretiens.

J'ai donc d'abord analysé la littérature grise, qui est constituée de rapports, de compte-rendu sur les sites internet et réseaux sociaux des principales associations. Je me suis très vite rendu compte du manque de matière concernant la recherche sur les associations européennes des jeunes. J'ai donc essayé de relier mon cas empirique avec la littérature académique. Je souhaitais par ailleurs que cet éclairage sur le cas des jeunes dans les associations européennes soit apporté à partir d'observations empiriques. Le corpus documentaire est constitué de la littérature académique portant principalement sur la sociologie de la société civile, militantisme européen et politisation. Cependant, la littérature grise produite par les institutions européennes ou agences européennes telle que l'ECA a été utile à analyser : rapports et comptes-rendus de la COM, afin de mieux comprendre les échanges entre associations et institutions.

Je m'inspire de la démarche de Marine de Lassalle en replaçant les citoyens ordinaires dans leurs "existences sociales et leurs rapports au politique" (Marine de Lassalle, 2022).²⁰ Je m'inspire également de la démarche de Philippe Aldrin et Marine de Lassalle, qui, je cite, parlent de l'importance « à repérer dans quelle mesure leur rapport à l'Europe prend appui dans leurs univers d'existence, c'est-à-dire dans une expérience du social tout à la fois inscrite dans un temps historique et un espace culturel donné, coordonnée à la détention de propriétés

¹⁹ STEINMETZ George, « Review of Framing Europe: Attitudes to European Integration in Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom, by J. D. Medrano », *American Journal of Sociology*, 2004, vol. 110, no. 2, pp. 494–96.

²⁰ DE LASSALLE Marine, *Faire parler d'Europe : voies et formats des rapports institués au politique*, Rennes : Presses universitaires de Rennes, (coll. « Res Publica »), p. 387, 2022.

individuelles et à l'appartenance à des collectifs plus ou moins objectivés. ».²¹Dans mes entretiens, j'ai tenté de dresser un profil des enquêtés selon leur parcours sociologique. Je me suis inspirée de leur questionnement pendant la réalisation de ses entretiens. En effet, Bourdieu explique que « Par leur profession et leurs univers de sociabilité, certains disposent de « marchés » où échanger régulièrement des idées sur l'Europe et sont en quelque sorte rompus à une situation d'expression de leurs opinions (Bourdieu, 1993). En effet, certains adoptent un comportement plus détendu à dévoiler les informations sur l'Europe et leur pensée tandis que d'autres montraient des signes de prudence dans l'utilisation de leurs mots. Pour reprendre leurs termes, la comparaison des entretiens réalisés avec trois nationalités différentes démontre que « la difficulté, l'inconfort ou, au contraire, l'aisance diffèrent aussi selon les formes que prend le débat public sur l'Europe dans chacun des pays ou selon l'intérêt ou l'implication différentiels des segments de leur population dans les enjeux européens. »²² De plus, à la suite des entretiens, on peut noter qu'il y avait aussi une propension à la sociocentration²³, c'est-à-dire qu'il utilisait leur expérience personnelle pour retranscrire le point de vue sur l'Europe. Enfin, il arrivait qu'ils aient peur de parler au nom de tous, mais s'imbriquaient toutefois sous le « nous » des étudiants partis en échange.

J'ai envoyé des mails à plusieurs associations d'étudiants Erasmus alumni, mais aussi au forum jeunesse afin d'obtenir plus d'informations sur leur organisation vis-à-vis des institutions européennes. J'ai donc contacté ESAA^[SEP]: The Erasmus+ Students and Alumni Alliance, EMA (Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association), The Erasmus Student Network (ESN), garagErasmus Foundation (gE), OCEANS NETWORK - Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange and Networking, the European Youth Forum et Eurydice. J'ai d'un côté des associations et de l'autre côté des agences européennes sous supervision de la Commission européenne. J'ai écrit une version française et anglaise de mes mails et je visais dans un premier temps des associations ou agences qui avaient leur siège social à Bruxelles. Les deux réponses me sont parvenues en anglais. Au fur et à mesure, j'ai réalisé que le contact avec les associations était autant difficile que celui avec les institutions. J'ai essayé de joindre via les mails, mais aussi directement sur les réseaux sociaux. J'ai parfois reçu des réponses qui m'indiquaient qu'ils reviendraient vers moi. Malgré les relances et nombreuses tentatives, je n'ai pas réussi à obtenir d'entretien par cette voie. C'est donc grâce à mes anciens contacts lors de mon Erasmus en Allemagne, qui par la suite m'a donné le contact d'une autre personne, que j'ai réalisé deux entretiens. C'est également en demandant spontanément à des contacts via mon réseau privé que j'ai réussi à avoir les numéros de ces deux autres personnes.

²¹ALDRIN Philippe, DE LASSALLE Marine, « Façons de parler d'Europe », in GAXIE Daniel, HUBÉ Nicolas, DE LASSALLE Marine, ROWELL Jay, dir., *L'Europe des Européens. Enquête comparée sur les perceptions de l'Europe*, Paris : Economica, 2010, p. 149-174.

²²ALDRIN Philippe, DE LASSALLE Marine, « Façons de parler d'Europe », in GAXIE Daniel, HUBÉ Nicolas, DE LASSALLE Marine, ROWELL Jay, dir., *L'Europe des Européens. Enquête comparée sur les perceptions de l'Europe*, Paris : Economica, 2010, p. 149-174.

²³ Ibid.

Par ailleurs, mon mémoire se base sur la réalisation de quatre entretiens semi-directifs. Il s'agit tous d'étudiants, membres d'une association en lien avec l'Europe, chacun possédant un parcours varié et dont trois venaient de pays différents. Deux entretiens avec un ancien membre de l'ESN et un membre actif de l'ESN en Allemagne. Le troisième entretien est différent car la personne est membre de l'association Equipo Europa implantée uniquement en Espagne pour le moment. C'est en discutant avec une étudiante espagnole pendant mon échange à Séoul que j'ai réussi à rentrer en contact avec la personne. Enfin, le quatrième entretien est une étudiante polonaise à Sciences Po Paris. Elle est vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences Po (AEAP). Son parcours est très intéressant, car elle vient de Pologne et a réalisé dans son pays des actions en faveur de l'UE. En effet, elle était membre du jeune Parlement européen. Puis elle est venue en France pour faire ses études universitaires et a fait un Erasmus en Italie. Elle a donc pu me donner beaucoup d'informations concernant la vision des jeunes de l'Europe selon ses trois expériences à l'étranger. J'ai obtenu cet entretien par l'intermédiaire d'une amie qui est dans la même promotion. Ces quatre entretiens ont été réalisés en anglais et par vidéo-conférence.

Ce qui me marqua le plus, à ma grande surprise, fut la difficulté que j'ai eue de joindre ces associations, pourtant animées d'un engagement envers la jeunesse, et les institutions européennes qui semblent néanmoins mettre un point d'honneur à vouloir encourager le dialogue avec la future génération.

Plan

Cette étude est construite en trois parties. La première partie se concentre sur les structures, l'organisation et les échanges entre ces associations européennes. Elle introduit le statut des associations et leur représentation en tant que groupe d'intérêt. Nous verrons si elles suivent les directives et produisent une production de savoir et de symbole en faveur de l'UE.

Dans la seconde partie, nous nous concentrons sur la parole des jeunes sur l'Europe. Nous scrutons leur parcours sociologique, ainsi que leur émergence en tant que société civile européenne, ses critères et s'ils correspondent. Puis verrons, s'ils produisent une vision commune pour le futur de l'Europe.

Enfin, la dernière partie se tournera vers leur engagement politique, leur politisation. Ces étudiants, s'impliquent-ils dans la vie politique ? Nous remettrons en questionnement le sens même de politisation. Puis nous finirons par étudier les formes que prend leur militantisme européen.

I. La structuration, formation des organisations européennes et l'action des jeunes en leur sein

a. Les associations agissent comme des groupes d'intérêts par leur relation organisationnelle

Le livre vert définit les groupes d'intérêt comme des activités qui visent à influencer d'une manière ou d'une autre sur les décisions prises par les organes institutionnels de l'Union européenne.

En outre, si on reprend ces définitions, nous pouvons qualifier les associations européennes comme des groupes d'intérêts et leurs représentants comme des lobbyistes. En effet, si on reprend la définition de Courty, « Le terme de « lobbyiste » est devenu le terme officiel pour désigner tout représentant d'intérêt. » (Courty, 2010), comme le précise le livre vert sur l'initiative européenne sur la transparence publiée en 2006 par la Commission européenne.

De plus, si on reprend la classification de Bouwen (2006), les associations européennes sont décrites comme une des quatre formes principales de représentation des intérêts des milieux d'affaires.

La reprise du terme « groupe d'intérêt » par le livre vert me permet de qualifier ces organisations comme des groupes d'intérêts et leurs représentants des lobbyistes. Ces organisations se retrouvent autour d'un enjeu, mettre en avant l'Union européenne. Mais il est intéressant de comprendre leur structuration. Comment se forment ces associations ? Sont-elles si différentes que ça dans leur structure ?

« There's like a national assembly every six months and there we can introduce ourselves and then we can show them what kind of events we did, like with photos and videos we did, how many participants, like students will join our events and also like structure, do we have a president, vice president, like for finance, we need all this structure and we show them everything, they liked it and so they voted for us. »²⁴

Kébi est l'un des membres-fondateurs de l'ESN Bielefeld, à ses débuts appelé BISN, Bielefeld Student Network. Lui et Madita, une autre membre de l'ESN Bielefeld, ont fait grandir leur association et l'ont fait rejoindre l'Erasmus Student network. Il s'agit d'une des plus grandes organisations étudiante et reçoit des subventions du programme Erasmus+ de l'Union européenne et Conseil de l'Europe. Rejoindre un grand réseau permet de bénéficier des avantages. Madita Maag et Kébi membres de l'ESN Bielefeld, expliquent *« Also, I could learn from different ESN sections, and they have been established for more years and they know how to deal with tax and all these things um but that was a bit challenging in the beginning, but I think now it's more it's becoming more and more easier. »²⁵*

Kébi, ajoute qu'en étant considéré comme un ESN local, il était beaucoup plus facile de grandir, car il avait accès à plus de ressources. *« Yeah, so it was especially in ESN, it was quite easy to do these things. »*

Cependant, ces associations n'ont pas toutes les mêmes structures. En effet, on peut être une association qui promeut l'Europe sans être directement lié au programme Erasmus +. C'est le cas de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences Po (AEAP). Dominika explique bien dans son entretien : *« a permanent association has this contract that what the mission that*

²⁴ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld

²⁵ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

they're doing, let's say, so we would like to have the subvention from Sciences Po because to exist, we have to have this, like this legal status so that we could define our missions. »²⁶

Ces associations sont liées entre elles et ont une visée similaire : promouvoir l'Europe. Il est très courant qu'ils collaborent entre eux. Il est plus simple pour ces associations d'échanger sur les possibles actions entreprises ou à entreprendre. Il est plus évident pour eux de faire des collaborations et monter un projet commun comme l'explique Guille Arranz dans son entretien, « *we collaborated with the European Students Think Tank. That is more like an academic youth association, but we collaborated with them to do a campaign with the Seville City Council. And then I know that Equipo Europa, like the association as whole at the national level, cooperates with the European Erasmus Network, or ESN. I don't know exactly. Erasmus Student Network. Yeah. So I know that they do cooperate with them and they have organized some activities. »²⁷*

En effet, sur le plan organisationnel et légal, ces associations ont beaucoup de points communs. Ils peuvent aussi partager leur ressource afin de monter des projets plus ambitieux et d'obtenir le financement nécessaire à sa construction. Ces associations se regroupent à différentes échelles, comme on peut le percevoir pour l'ENS, pour qui l'adhésion d'un nouveau membre demande son examination. « *On the other hand, you always get like two national assemblies, local meeting points and also all over Europe, you meet with other ESN sections and also let know them. And what was a big plus point also for me when I moved to Stuttgart, I already knew people from the ESN section of Stuttgart, so I get easily connected with other cities. »²⁸*

En effet, ces associations sont intrinsèquement liées et partagent des missions similaires. Comme l'expliquent Courty et Michel, la « Différenciation bureaucratique n'entraîne pas nécessairement la création de nouveaux groupes d'intérêt. »²⁹

Les différentes associations l'illustrent parfaitement. L'Erasmus Student and Alumni Alliance (ESAA) regroupe les associations européennes de ce secteur : Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA), the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), garagErasmus (gE) and the OCEANS Network.

Les forces de ces associations notamment comme l'ESN, c'est son expansion à des échelles nationales et locales et les liens entre son siège situé à Bruxelles à l'échelle européenne et son siège situé à l'échelle nationale (ex de Berlin pour l'Allemagne) et sa présence à l'échelle locale dans un pays comme ici le cas de Bielefeld pour l'ENS. « La fameuse influence d'une organisation ne se mesure pas en fonction du volume de ressources disponibles et publicisées.

²⁶ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

²⁷ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

²⁸ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

²⁹ Hélène MICHEL, COURTY Guillaume, « Groupes d'intérêt et lobbyistes dans l'espace politique européen: des permanents de l'eurocratie », in GEORGAKAKIS Didier (dir.), Le champ de l'Eurocratie. Une sociologie politique du personnel de l'UE, Paris : Économica, 2012, pp. 213-239

(Dür , 2008, de Bièvre 2007) mais doit s’appréhender comme des relations, celles qu’elle parvient ou non à constituer et à entretenir grâce à ces ressources. »

b. Leurs actions en faveur de l’UE, la continuité d’une production de savoir, de symbole ?

Avant d’étudier, l’émergence d’une société civile européenne par ces associations, il est utile de comprendre leur portée par rapport aux institutions européennes. Ainsi, suivre ces individus et leurs trajectoires permet de restituer les liens plus ou moins visibles entre les organisations. On peut notamment observer quelques différences dans l’accompagnement financier des associations et si elles sont liées directement à la COM. Leurs actions et projets peuvent vaguement diverger, mais sont dans l’ensemble similaires.

Ils ne vont pas cependant pas recourir aux mêmes ressources et les projets sont pour la plupart non subventionnés par la COM, mais par des initiatives locales, régionales. Madita Maag me disait « *I don't think that we as an association have gotten any financial support other than this local Erasmus initiative that I've mentioned where you can basically apply for the money and that will then go back into like events and all these sorts.* »³⁰

Par ailleurs, ces associations peuvent bénéficier de ce qu’on appelle des « crédits institutionnels octroyés³¹ par la CE et mis en avant par les représentants d’intérêt. » Les enquêtes m’expliquaient ainsi être conviés aux réunions ou à des workshops une fois par semestre. « *And also once a semester they invite us all students from who gets this live money to one city, last time was Berlin, before was Münster, to meet together, they also pay us everything for the whole weekend then, and then we have some workshops how to manage problems when we are in these events and we don't know how to handle a special or critical situation, and also they connect us with other students or organizations so we can learn from each other.* »³²

L’UE et son modèle unique de production symbolique s’expliquent par son décentrement décisionnel. En effet, ses frontières ne sont pas fixes et se sont étendues au fur et à mesure. En résumé, elle n’est pas figée par des frontières qui représentent un territoire en particulier. De plus, son histoire et le mythe européen ne sont pas diffusés et inscrits solidement dans les consciences collectives des citoyens de l’UE. Par ailleurs, l’association Equipo europa a justement relevé ce point et tentait d’instaurer un cours sur l’UE en raison du manque de connaissances sur l’histoire de l’Union européenne. « *I had the duty of organizing a certain campaign of the association that is called Europe in the Classroom. And in that campaign,*

³⁰ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l’ESN Bielefeld.

³¹Hélène MICHEL, COURTY Guillaume, « Groupes d’intérêt et lobbyistes dans l’espace politique européen: des permanents de l’eurocratie », in GEORGAKAKIS Didier (dir.), Le champ de l’Eurocratie. Une sociologie politique du personnel de l’UE, Paris : Économica, 2012, pp. 213-239

³² Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l’ESN Bielefeld.

basically at first, while I was delegate at the Andalusian delegation, the aim was just to give workshops at primary schools and high schools to teach people about the European Union. »³³

L'UE selon François Foret constitue un “modèle unique de production symbolique”. Mais comment ces symboles sont-ils perçus par les citoyens européens selon les Etats ? Existe-t-il une différence dans la vision des symboles de l'Europe ? Ce graphique nous permet de mieux comparer les différences au sein de même de l'UE. Il était intéressant de comprendre ces différences, car j'ai pu réaliser des entretiens avec des personnes originaires de différents états membres de l'UE. J'ai pu par le biais de l'entretien observer ces différences, mais nous en reparlerons dans la seconde partie. Ce graphique³⁴ nous donne déjà un avant-goût des différentes perceptions de l'UE et ici plus précisément de ces symboles.

TABLE 2 Do you see yourself as ...? (National) and European; European and (national); European only; (national) only, per country

	Total	UK	Germany	France	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Romania	Spain
(National) and European	65.1%	32.1%	67.0%	67.9%	64.6%	61.7%	74.6%	74.1%	78.5%
(National) only	22.6%	58.5%	17.0%	25.8%	19.0%	26.9%	8.2%	16.8%	8.4%
European and (National)	9.2%	5.3%	11.7%	4.9%	14.1%	9.2%	14.3%	6.9%	7.1%
European only	3.2%	4.1%	4.3%	1.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.9%	2.2%	6.0%

Nous avons donc observé que ces associations entretiennent la constitution de réseaux transnationaux et s'utilisent en tant que ressource afin de réaliser des projets et d'améliorer leur mode d'actions. Elles permettant un meilleur échange et une mise en commun des ressources informationnelles.

II. Faire parler les jeunes étudiants européens - l'émergence d'une société civile européenne et d'une nouvelle forme de sociabilité

a. Socialisation des jeunes - Retracer le parcours de ces étudiants engagés et leur construction sociale par les réseaux étudiants

Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire faire parler la jeunesse ? De quoi parle-t-on quand on parle de la jeunesse européenne ?

³³ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

³⁴ FORET François, TRINO Naomi. Standing for Europe: Citizens' perceptions of European symbols as evidence of a “banal Europeanism”? *Nations and Nationalism*, 28(3), 954–971, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12848>

Avant de partir dans l'analyse des rapports de la jeunesse à l'Europe, il est important de redéfinir brièvement la jeunesse et ce qui se cache derrière ce terme. Qu'est-ce que la jeunesse ? Que cache-t-on derrière ce terme généralisateur et flou pour certains ?

Pierre Bourdieu définit la jeunesse comme étant conçue comme une séquence de trajectoire biographique³⁵. Il ajoute qu'on ne peut considérer la jeunesse comme une tranche d'âge sans prendre en considération d'autres facteurs. En effet, selon l'origine sociologique et les trajectoires de chacun, les personnes d'une même tranche d'âge peuvent porter des attributs appartenant à une classe sociale ou qui s'attribueraient à une autre catégorie de tranche d'âge. D'après lui, la jeunesse se construit socialement dans la lutte entre les jeunes et les vieux (Bourdieu, 1978). J'utilise le terme « jeune » dans ce mémoire dans le sens groupe et unité sociale. Cependant, Bourdieu explique que la jeunesse ne peut être une unité si on compare des jeunes de différents groupes et parcours. Dans mon mémoire, les jeunes (entre 20 et 25 ans), ont un parcours assez similaire et sont tous encore étudiants. Je pense donc qu'il est acceptable d'utiliser le terme « jeune » dans ce contexte et d'affirmer l'unité de ces jeunes envers l'Europe.

Après avoir expliqué l'utilisation de ce terme, expliquons comment j'en suis venue à dire qu'il s'agit d'une société civile à part entière. Tout d'abord, j'évoquais le terme « groupe d'intérêt » dans ma première partie et il est important de noter que les deux termes sont imbriqués. Le terme « société civile » a doucement laissé sa place à celui de « groupes d'intérêts. »³⁶

Les institutions européennes ont joué un rôle essentiel dans la création de cette société civile européenne. Elles avaient tout intérêt à en développer une et ont mis les moyens communicationnels et informationnels nécessaires depuis plus de 60 ans³⁷.

On peut supposer qu'elles favorisent l'émergence d'une société civile, "d'un espace et d'une opinion publics aux dimensions de la scène politique européenne." (Aldrin, P., & Dakowska, D. (2011).

Lorsqu'on parle de société civile européenne, cela implique que ces jeunes partagent une trajectoire sociologique. Je me suis rendue compte en faisant ces entretiens des points communs que partageaient ces jeunes européens. On retrouve dans mes entretiens deux Allemands, un Espagnol et une Polonaise qui fait ses études en France. Tout d'abord, ils ont tous un parcours international. J'ai fait un entretien avec trois nationalités différentes, mais dans leur trajectoire biographique, la dimension internationale est unanime. Ce point commun n'est pas sans surprise et a déjà été discuté par de nombreux chercheurs lors d'études des profils européens. Notamment, Dorota Dakowska explique le même constat et écrit « Si l'on se penche sur leurs

³⁵ MAUGER Gérard, « « La jeunesse n'est qu'un mot ». A propos d'un entretien avec Pierre Bourdieu », in Agora débats/jeunesses, 2001, n°26, pp. 137-142.

³⁶ MICHEL Hélène, « La "société civile" dans la "gouvernance européenne". Éléments pour la sociologie d'une catégorie politique », Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales, 2007, n° 166-167, pp. 30-37.

³⁷ ALDRIN Philippe, DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages », Politique européenne, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 7-35.

profils, la dimension internationale de leurs trajectoires biographiques reste l'élément commun le plus frappant. »³⁸

On peut l'illustrer par leur participation au programme Erasmus. Ils ont en commun le fait d'avoir effectué un Erasmus. Ils font partie de la génération Erasmus. « *I did an Erasmus. I was in Copenhagen for a year.*³⁹ » « *Yes, it was one year Erasmus, I was in Milan last year.* »⁴⁰

En résumé, Guille a fait un Erasmus au Danemark à Copenhague. Dominika a fait un Erasmus à Milan en Italie. Madita a fait un Erasmus en Angleterre à Middlesbrough.

« *Yeah, so I was an Erasmus student in 2019 to 2020, and I was in England. And yes, I think that time had a huge impact on my life. And being then an international student myself, I think I couldn't very like put myself into the place and know what people experienced when they came to Bielefeld and also look back on things that were really well when I was abroad and also some things that didn't work so well. For example, it was quite difficult to get to know local students. Like within the international student community, it was relatively easy, but like improving my English and talking to local students, that was more difficult. So that was also part of the reason why I wanted to help establish this kind of room in Bielefeld.* »⁴¹

Les ¾ évoquent leur séjour Erasmus naturellement dans l'interview. Je n'ai pas eu besoin de leur demander, c'est venu naturellement dans la discussion. Il s'agit d'une étape importante dans leur parcours en tant que jeune européen. Ils incarnent l'idée d'une communauté humaine transnationale et se réfèrent à ce qu'on appelle la « génération Erasmus ».

Madita nous explique par ailleurs sa motivation à partir étudier à l'étranger qui est liée à ses études. On retrouve ce lien entre Erasmus et milieu académique très souvent. Guille nous explique aussi qu'il avait découvert les institutions européennes grâce à un cours à l'université. « *Honestly, it just came from a course I had on my first semester in university, which was European Union institutions and law. And I think it was mostly the teacher or the professor that was amazing. And a lot of my friends and I just became really involved. And then the association had just been created and they were looking for members and people wishing to take responsibility roles. So, I don't know, I think everything came together pretty easily.* »⁴²

³⁸ DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Vers une politisation du débat public européen ? L'institutionnalisation des « fondations politiques européennes » », Politique européenne, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 167-199.

³⁹ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale

⁴⁰ ³⁶ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP)

⁴¹ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁴² Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

Dominika a quant à elle un parcours européen par excellence et cela commence dès son lycée. « Okay, so I was in a high school that was Polish, but it was kind of international because we were bilingual in English, and then we have some language courses that were, let's say, like linked with some also cultural courses. So, I had this interest in different cultures, different visions, and also with the cooperation, for example, between Poland and other countries, because I felt like it's so important. So, I had this possibility to participate and live with co-organize as well, because students could also help. In some exchanges, one was with the French school in Brest, and the other one was with an Italian school. So it was, we didn't just do an exchange and travel and host them. It was more a project also about discovering the cooperation between two countries about some different cultural, historical bonds. And also, it was quite a particular high school because we are quite old, it had more than 100 years. So we had a school museum. »⁴³

Un autre de leur point commun est qu'ils sont tous engagés dans un autre programme ou association. Ils sont tous impliqués dans un autre domaine que l'Europe et plus particulièrement la défense des étudiants.

Madita Maag, était par exemple dans un "buddy program"⁴⁴, c'est-à-dire un programme organisé par l'Université et plus précisément l'office international, qui met en relation un étudiant de l'université d'accueil avec un étudiant étranger qui va effectuer son échange dans l'université. Le programme permet de favoriser l'insertion de l'étudiant et le buddy peut l'accompagner et l'aider dans les tâches administratives aussi. Son expérience dans ce programme lui a permis de rencontrer les étudiants internationaux et de se familiariser avec la "community"⁴⁵. Madita a aussi joint une autre association. « I am also part of like the ASTA, like representing the students at a university but it's more like university politics, not necessarily an association but yes also a voluntary work. »

Kébi quant à lui travaillait au préalable pour l'office international de son université. Il ajoute que cette expérience lui a facilité la mise en place de l'ESN Bielefeld et de sa gestion. « I was already working in the international office and the other members was also working in the international office but of the university, so yeah, we all get together, we already had the connection to the internationals, we know how planning events, everything works and so we grow up really fast and yeah. »⁴⁶

Guille explique quant à lui avoir rejoint l'association European Law Students Association, même si le nom peut porter à confusion, il m'explique bien qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une association qui promeut l'intégration ou les valeurs de l'UE. « it does not have any value like to defend

⁴³ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁴⁴ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

integration or whatever. It's European as in geographic. »⁴⁷ Il participait surtout aux workshops que l'association organisait.

En conclusion, ils participent tous à la vie associative de leur école ou contribuaient à l'accueil des étudiants étrangers comme Kébi et Madita. Mais Dominika a commencé l'engagement associatif dès le lycée où elle était guide touristique pour son école. « *And for three years, in my high school, I was a touristic guide, because there were, it's a historical building, there were some monuments inside.* »⁴⁸ Mais elle était aussi engagée au European Youth Parliament⁴⁹. Intriguée, je lui ai donc demandé à quelles actions elle avait pris part lorsqu'elle était membre au parlement. « *I did some networking, of course, then there were the summits that we had to be part of a committee and debate on some issues. So I remember one that was, I was in the committee on employment and social, with the ANPL and social activities, if I'm not mistaken. And for example, it was to debate, to embody a role of someone and to debate on what we do with education or with people who are not neither in education or in employment, some different like hypothetical things to debate. So it was very similar to the model United Nations, a little bit less formal because we were in smaller groups. So yeah, that was it.* »⁵⁰ Son rôle consistait majoritairement à lancer des débats et à tisser un réseau.

Le terme « networking » ou « social network » revient régulièrement chez les enquêtés pendant l'entretien. La sociabilité et la création de relations via ces réseaux sont le point le plus important pour l'ensemble des jeunes interviewés. Ils appuient tous cet avantage. Faire partie d'une association permet la rencontre avec d'autres étudiants. Kébi l'exprime bien. « *that's why I really like also to work at the international office, but now also at the ESN, just to connect with all those peoples.* » et « *it's a big positive point to get connected with all this international, because already when I was working in the international office, I feel really happy that I had so many friends from all over the world.* »⁵¹

⁴⁷ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁴⁸ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁴⁹ « Le Parlement européen des jeunes est l'une des plus grandes plateformes de jeunes en Europe pour l'éducation civique, les rencontres interculturelles et l'échange d'idées - gérée par les jeunes, pour les jeunes. Notre mission est d'inspirer et de responsabiliser une jeune génération de citoyens informés, ouverts d'esprit, responsables et actifs qui façonnent la société et ont un impact. » Définition trouvée sur le site du European Youth Parliament.

⁵⁰ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁵¹ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

Dominika explique qu'il s'agit d'une vraie plus-value pour elle de rencontrer et sociabiliser avec autant de personnes grâce au réseau de l'association⁵² « *also it makes me like get to know super interesting people, and it sometimes occurred to me that during some later events, I met them accidentally somewhere and they remembered me, so that was also funny, and like also apart from getting to know the people with whom we are doing conferences, it's also a great opportunity to socialize with other students and get to know them, and I feel like if I was not so present in this student life, either here or before in bachelor, during my exchange or in high school, I would not be able to make so many friends, colleagues, and this is the true plus value, I would say, because it's not only like us who do something and we make people get to know, learn, but we also like learn everyone from everyone, so this is the greatest thing I would say.* »

L'une des raisons majeures de l'existence de ces associations européennes est de nouer des contacts entre étudiants de toute nationalité. Par ces échanges, se développent des réseaux transnationaux tels que l'ESN. L'un des principaux retours que ces associations reçoivent est le fait qu'elles permettent aux personnes de se rencontrer et d'éviter la solitude. Kébi San évoque alors : « *I mean, one of the feedbacks what we always get, especially in the first few months, is these events help them to get new friends, to get connected with the city, not to stay alone. The people who came totally alone from a different country, with no other friends, stay most of the time alone there. So they're really happy that we do this event, so they get to connect with each other. And especially what I saw is that international students are really open-minded, and they welcome everyone. So, it's super easy to get new friends and connections in these events.* »⁵³

On remarque bien les similitudes de trajectoires sociologiques de ces étudiants. Mais ont-elles généré aussi une vision future de l'Union européenne commune entre les étudiants ?

b. Les jeunes européens partagent-ils une vision commune sur l'Europe ? Portent-ils un discours homogène sur l'Europe ?

« *It's difficult to speak for all the people but I think there's this idea of being close and being together and even growing together more yes I mean it's among the people that I've met this idea of being able to be across like to move across borders and to meet new people I think it's very important especially like for my generation because that's the only Europe basically I know.* »⁵⁴

Si l'on reprend les termes de Weisbein et qu'on les applique au cas des associations européennes, on peut adresser que « cette forme non-gouvernementale », c'est-à-dire ici les

⁵² Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁵³ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁵⁴ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

associations, permettent de souligner le rôle des citoyens dans le projet européen (Weisbein, 2003).

L'attention que portent les institutions au dialogue avec les citoyens permet de favoriser le développement d'associations européennes qui soutiennent et échangent avec les institutions européennes, mais aussi avec la jeunesse. Ces échanges constants entretiennent la diffusion des valeurs européennes qui sont mises en valeur lors d'événements. Prenons l'exemple de l'un des thèmes les plus mis en avant ces dernières années par la COM : le développement durable. L'une des actions réalisées par les associations est très fortement liée à la "sustainability". Que ce soit en Allemagne avec l'ESN Bielefeld, « *last year we did a tree planting event like there's this international forest or it's not a forest yet but we our aim is to make it a forest in some years at the university campus so each year during like the Erasmus weeks there are trees planted and like in last year we also did that with the association and donated two trees that basically symbolizes the internationality also on the campus.* » « *also we gave out like sustainable items like reusable water cup like a bamboo toothbrush just simple things to also yeah try to bring sustainability closer to the students.* »⁵⁵ ou en Espagne avec Equipo Europa « *Also, a campaign called A Tree for Europe that they were like, I think I explained you a little bit about it, but basically they would have to get city councils involved in sustainability and planting a tree in the name of the association, et cetera.* »⁵⁶

Le partage de valeurs se retrouve dans les événements et s'y diffuse à l'échelle européenne. S'il ne partageait pas ces valeurs, telles que la lutte pour l'environnement, il serait difficile d'en faire la promotion.

Ils possèdent dans tous les cas une opinion sur l'Europe et si on reprend Steinmetz, « *How a network could carry an opinion favoring or opposing Europe without simultaneously being a system of cultural meaning is not clarified.* »⁵⁷ Si je reformule, cela signifie qu'il est difficile d'expliquer comment un réseau pourrait véhiculer une opinion favorable ou défavorable à l'Europe sans être en même temps un système de signification culturelle. Il ajoute « *It is somewhat unclear whether this is a claim about modern societies in general, an argument about a deeper level of culture binding together disparate social arenas, or an assertion that is limited to views of the EI.* »⁵⁸ On peut se demander alors si ces jeunes dans ces associations européennes font partie d'un groupe et ainsi si leur lien et influence sont plus forts que des liens purement économiques ou politiques développés dans les institutions.

⁵⁵ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁵⁶ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁵⁷ STEINMETZ George, « *Review of Framing Europe: Attitudes to European Integration in Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom*, by J. D. Medrano », *American Journal of Sociology*, 2004, vol. 110, no. 2, pp. 494–96.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

De ce qu'il ressort de mes entretiens, c'est que les jeunes européens qui travaillent dans ces associations partagent une vision positive de l'Europe. Ils partagent toute une conviction en faveur d'une Europe unie. Cependant, les pays de l'UE n'ont pas tous la même vision et certains sont plus sceptiques que d'autres. Comment cela se répercute sur ces jeunes en échange ?

Madita est par exemple partie en Angleterre pendant la période du Brexit. Elle raconte « *when I was in England basically it was during the time where England left the EU. So, it was a huge topic basically. Also when talking to like my English roommates for example who were very eager on staying in the European Union and were very like politically active in making sure students go voting and like all these things so...um in this like academic young area um or surrounding that I was in it like the EU was more approved of definitely and yeah they were very sad when um it didn't work out in the end yeah.* »⁵⁹

Kébi quant à lui observe que ces jeunes venant de pays euro-sceptiques ou même hors de l'Union européenne ont tendance à voir ses avantages. « *if I talk also with country, students from countries who are, the politics are like a little bit against Europe, they always wish like okay to stay, like especially at the time when Poland was a little bit critical, they also always told me like okay we want that Poland stay like really friendly in Europe and also like students which has no really connection to Europe like Mexico or something, they said I wish Mexico will also a European country, so yeah I think the students who are living here, they see the benefits of being a European country, so yeah.* »⁶⁰

La Pologne est l'exemple aussi utilisé par Dominika qui explique que les jeunes Polonais sont pour la majorité pro-européens, contrairement à l'ancienne génération. « *And when it comes to like the divergent things in Poland, for example, right now there was a big political change and the majority of young people are pro-European, it's rather the older generations that were more conservative and they voted more for the conservative right-wing parties. What emerges is that, of course, Poland would like to have this more recognition at the European level, so maybe like people from Eastern countries would like to contribute to more and to, how to say, bridge this gap between the Western Europe and the Eastern Europe.* »⁶¹

Leur expérience permet d'observer les différences selon les pays. Ils sont aussi directement en contact avec les jeunes et reçoivent et entendent des retours constants par rapport à l'UE.

Cependant, le sens du mot unité peut aussi être polysémique selon les pays européens selon Dominika. Elle partage ainsi les différences qu'elle a pu observer sur la vision de l'UE et son futur.

« *Yes, it was one year Erasmus, I was in Milan last year. Italians that I met were like very, very, say, open, open-minded and everything. What they wanted, for example, was something*

⁵⁹ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁶⁰ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁶¹ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

that they're very attached to, let's say, be more autonomous as a region. I observed that Italians tended more to have this federalist vision of Europe as this federation of different regions rather than this association of states. Whereas in Poland, even if people are very pro-European, they tend to think of Europe more like this organization of independent states who are together, who do things together, but still stay within the borders of a country because Poland is much more unified than Italy. Also, when it comes to Italy, sometimes they express some concerns that, for example, Italy at the European level is more like the indebted country that would not exist unless Germany gave some aids, but it was not true before the next generation EU when Italy became this recipient, but before, for example, it was them who contributed to the bailout of debts, for example, of Greece or other countries. They had also this feeling of not being enough valued at the European level. When it comes to France, here I am very, very biased because I am surrounded by people who do European affairs. In Italy, it was not the case because it was a business school, so let's say that people were more into the economic visions, but when they spoke about their political feelings, it was more diversified. Here everyone is very devoted to working in European institutions, so let's say that here French people feel this need also to be more integrated, to make also France become this leader. Also, after the Brexit, they feel like Europe is a very big strength and they tend to maybe think more about Europe and about the stability even more than at the national level, but of course it's just a subjective thing that I feel. »⁶²

Les idées promues par ces jeunes sont positives, mais ils sont tous critiques et souhaitent faire évoluer et grandir cette Europe. En tant qu'ancien étudiant Erasmus par exemple « *it's especially for European students who tend to do some mobility Erasmus years or study abroad, that even if, you know, the whole thing with diplomas, with the studies and some other practical things is harmonized, it's very difficult from one country to another one to just move, to sweep, and very often the educational system is different. So maybe the vision of international students in Europe would be something that they would like to create more common frameworks and some equal frameworks to have this equivalence and recognition of different diplomas, different also, let's say like statuses in different countries.* »⁶³ Elle explique la volonté de faciliter les études en reconnaissant un diplôme européen. De plus, la majorité des jeunes dans ces associations ont une vision commune de l'Union européenne et s'y projettent dans le futur. Ils admettent tous l'opportunité que l'UE leur a offert. « *But we talked for several times that the Erasmus was a great opportunity. It also came out because during the Erasmus, as some of my friends went to London, and some of them couldn't go because they didn't have their passports with them, because they were just planning on traveling around the European Union. So that conversation would come up several times. And I mean, everyone had the feeling of being happy of being European. And we also agreed, because I was in the association, so we would bring this topic up several times. Pretty much everyone agreed that after the Erasmus, we felt like more European than before. But not like actively engaged, you know, like in*

⁶² Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁶³ Ibid.

activism or policy, whatever. But they did feel European, they were happy to be members of the European Union. »⁶⁴

De plus, les idées pour améliorer le futur de l'Europe se rejoignent beaucoup. Elles concernent un avenir porté vers le développement durable, une meilleure intégration et l'amélioration des échanges avec la création d'un diplôme européen. Ensuite, s'ajoute la défense d'un système plus démocratique. « *But I know that from the final outcome of the documents, I know that all of them pointed to like a sustainable future. They also pointed to further integrating the member states. They also talked a lot about defense integration. Yeah, and also like improving the democratic system of the European Union* ».⁶⁵ Cependant, les idées portaient par ces jeunes sont à prendre avec recul et ne peuvent signifier que la majorité des jeunes soient pro-européens. En effet, ils représentent un échantillon européen avec un parcours très différent de beaucoup de jeunes moins touchés par l'europanisation.

Pour conclure cette partie, on peut avancer que par l'étude des trajectoires sociales de ces jeunes européens et l'observation de leur sociabilité et socialisation entre réseaux transnationaux, on observe le partage de valeurs similaires ainsi qu'une vision commune de l'Europe.

Ces étudiants ont beaucoup d'espoir et s'investissent énormément pour promouvoir l'Union européenne. On pourrait alors en déduire un engagement plus poussé dans la politique. Cependant, pour la plupart, ils insistent bien sur leur neutralité politique. On peut reprendre ainsi les mots employés par Dorota Dakowska et Philippe Aldrin « ces contiguïtés ne trouvent toujours à s'exprimer dans des termes politiques ou idéologiques. Naturalisée en quelque sorte, par des routines relationnelles et des expériences communes, la collaboration entre les promoteurs du centre européen et leurs partenaires périphériques repose d'abord sur un implicite partagé sur l'ordre politique européen. »⁶⁶

III. Rapport ordinaire au politique, militantisme européen

a. La dimension technocratique ou peu démocratique de l'UE

« Il y a là l'adhésion à une sorte d'internationalisme militant mais qui, par contraste avec des générations antérieures, se caractériserait par un credo apolitique faisant écho au « discours politique dépolitisé » promu par les institutions de l'UE elles-mêmes » (Foret, 2008).

⁶⁴ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁶⁵ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁶⁶ ALDRIN Philippe, DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages », Politique européenne, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 7-35.

Tout d'abord, dans cette partie lorsque je vais utiliser le terme « politisation », je ferai référence à la définition donnée par Jacques Lagroye, c'est-à-dire le processus de « requalification des activités sociales les plus diverses, requalification qui résulte d'un accord pratique entre des agents sociaux enclins, pour de multiples raisons, à transgresser ou à remettre en cause la différenciation des espaces d'activités » (Lagroye, 2003, 260-361). Cependant, en science politique, le terme est aussi employé pour définir des groupes, institutions et enjeux.⁶⁷ Yves Déloye et Florence Haegel expliquent : « De fait, selon nous, la politisation inclut à la fois des processus de conformation à l'ordre politique et de contestation de celui-ci. »⁶⁸ Les étudiants sont donc dans une forme de politisation, car ils ne se conforment parfois pas aux décisions des institutions. Ils organisent des événements en lien avec les thèmes promus par la Commission européenne ou participent à leurs workshops. Néanmoins, ils n'hésitent pas à pointer les failles du système politique de l'UE, notamment en ce qui concerne la démocratie et le vote au sein des institutions européennes. De plus, « la politisation a de plus en plus de chances de concerner les catégories les plus éloignées de la politique légitime qu'elle se déploie dans des espaces d'entre-soi ». (Scott, 2009).⁶⁹ Ces réseaux d'associations européennes sont donc au contraire une source parfaite pour générer des formes de politisation.

Alors pourquoi ces jeunes européens adoptent une approche apolitique et neutre envers les décisions prises par les institutions européennes ou les divers partis européens émergents ?

Beaucoup de chercheurs vont faire le lien avec le système politique technocratique et dépolitisé de l'UE.⁷⁰ Ils ajouteront que la stratégie communicationnelle de l'UE, notamment via la presse, ne permet pas de générer un engouement populaire.⁷¹

Par ailleurs, la dimension technocratique ou peu démocratique de l'UE est un sujet dont les étudiants m'ont fait part durant leur entretien. Ils critiquent d'une part le système européen. « *Sometimes it's also maybe, you know, linked to this, maybe the satisfaction that the European elections are, for example, only to the parliament and it's always very predictable, because parties that are popular at the moment inside Poland or inside France or inside Italy, because last year I was in Italy, so I had also this comparison that they just win, because they're popular on their opinions inside and a lot of people just don't verify what they want to do in Europe, in*

⁶⁷ DELOYE Yves, HAEGEL Florence, « La politisation : du mot à l'écheveau conceptuel », Politix, 2019, vol. 32, n° 127, pp. 59-83.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ SCOTT James C., La domination et les arts de la résistance. Fragments du discours subalterne, traduit de l'anglais par Olivier Ruchet, Paris : Éditions Amsterdam, 2019.

⁷⁰ GEORGAKAKIS Didier, « Entre technocratie et politique. Ce qu'une analyse structurale (du champ de l'eurocratie) nous dit du Parlement européen, et le contraire. », in MICHON Sébastien (dir.), Le Parlement européen au travail. Enquêtes sociologiques, Rennes : Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2018, pp. 187-200.

⁷¹ ANDERSON Peter J., MCLEOD Aileen, « The Great Non-Communicator? The Mass Communication Deficit of the European Parliament and its Press Directorate », in Journal of Common Market Studies, 2004, vol. 42, n° 5, pp. 897-917.

the European context. »⁷² L'une des demandes les plus revendiquées par les étudiants est de parfaire la démocratie au sein de l'UE.

« *But they were petitions like not about the subject (...), or if it was about democracy, make sure that the president of the European commission is elected directly by the European citizens, like that sort of petitions (...) like a justification of why we thought that was important.* » ou Dominika « *So of course, like people would like to be more represented. So, there is this vision that makes more like participative democracy could be useful, not only maybe at the European level, because it would be very, very difficult, but more, let's say that the local level, the participation of citizens at the local level can have an impact further on.* »⁷³

Ils jugent d'un autre côté les leaders trop conservateurs et mettent en avant le "gap générationnel". Ils vont considérer qu'ils ne prennent pas sérieusement les nouvelles problématiques d'aujourd'hui telles que le réchauffement climatique, l'égalité des genres, l'immigration, et la démocratie. Ils ne portent pas les mêmes idées. « *it can be how do I say a bit frustrating if you see especially in politics that there are more older people involved who have maybe more like the aspects that are important to their generation in mind and not really much the concerns of the younger um people for example when it comes to climate change gender equality um and anti-racist society um also when looking about like uh the immigration politics and I do see that there are many people who are very like eager to fight for their ideas for the future but yes sometimes it all can also be very um it could put oneself back if you see so often that maybe it didn't work out in the end.* »⁷⁴

b. Un militantisme européen

Les associations européennes développent des partenariats avec des institutions comme évoqué précédemment. En effet, l'association Equipo Europa nouera des liens avec les ambassades ou le Parlement espagnol.⁷⁵ Mais leur échange avec la Commission européenne, notamment les associations qui ont un grand réseau comme l'ESN, traduit une reconnaissance de la part des institutions à ce que les associations soient capables de produire un message européen.⁷⁶ Les associations européennes représentent pour les institutions européennes un nouvel instrument de communication avec le public. C'est pourquoi elles ne sont jamais très loin de Bruxelles. En effet, la plupart des sièges associatifs sont situés à Bruxelles et elles se retrouvent au moins

⁷² Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁷³ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁷⁴ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁷⁵ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁷⁶ ALDRIN Philippe, et Dorota DAKOWSKA, *Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? : Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages, Politique Européenne*, 34, 7–36, 2011.

une fois par semestre pour des workshops.⁷⁷ Même à l'échelle locale, Bruxelles n'est jamais très loin.⁷⁸

Le militantisme informationnel européen est un enjeu ancien.⁷⁹ Weisbein explique, que le rapprochement des organisations vers l'Europe et ses institutions fluctue selon des dynamiques internes et externes.⁸⁰ Ces dynamiques externes peuvent être liées à des rencontres nationales avec d'autres groupes militants à l'échelle nationale ou internationale (dans mon cas d'étude d'autres associations à l'échelle nationale et d'autres collaborations à l'échelle internationale). Il affirme que « l'attitude militante politisée »⁸¹ a décliné au moment où l'organisation a rejoint la structure des pouvoirs gravitant à Bruxelles. On peut alors se demander si ces jeunes dans les associations ne se politisent pas, car ils sont intrinsèquement liés à la COM et bénéficient des avantages et financements.

Les jeunes européens sont pour certains dépolitisés dans le sens où ils ne vont pas se poser de questions sur le système de l'UE et juste profiter des avantages des programmes d'échange. « *Yeah, they just enjoy everything I think, but I don't know how much they are into politics or in these things, I can't really remember that I talked that close to them, but yeah.* »⁸²

Lorsque je leur pose la question s'ils sont pro-européens, ils vont me répondre d'un oui affirmatif, mais cela ne signifie pas qu'ils soutiennent les politiques. Cependant, ces associations peuvent aussi jouer sur les frontières du politique.⁸³ Ces frontières se sont de plus en plus brouillées en raison de divers mouvements de politisation et le rôle d'« entrepreneurs de politisation ou dépolitisation »⁸⁴ n'est plus limité au milieu de la politique, mais s'étend aux personnes ordinaires.⁸⁵

⁷⁷ Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁷⁸ ALDRIN Philippe, DAKOWSKA Dorota, « Légitimer l'Europe sans Bruxelles ? Un regard sur les petits entrepreneurs d'Europe, entre décentrement et recentrages », *Politique européenne*, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 7-35.
DOI : 10.3917/poeu.034.0007.
URL : <https://www.cairn.info/revue-politique-europeenne-2011-2-page-7.htm>

⁷⁹ WEISBEIN Julien, « Le lobbying associatif à Bruxelles entre mobilisations unitaires et sectorielles », *Revue internationale de politique comparée*, 2002, vol. 9, n° 1, pp. 79-98.

⁸⁰ WEISBEIN Julien, « La Fédération française des maisons de l'Europe (1960-2000). La trajectoire d'un militantisme européen de terrain », *Politique européenne*, 2011/2 (n° 34), p. 37-62.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Entretien du 07/03/2024 avec Kébi SAN, Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁸³ DELOYE Yves, HAEGEL Florence, « La politisation : du mot à l'écheveau conceptuel », *Politix*, 2019, vol. 32, n° 127, pp. 59-83.

⁸⁴ LAGROYE Jacques, « Les processus de politisation », in LAGROYE Jacques (dir.), *La politisation*, Paris : Belin, 2003, p. 360-361.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

Les étudiants pourraient jouer les entrepreneurs de politisation ou au contraire de dépolitisation en évitant toute promotion d'un parti politique, et en partageant plus largement leurs idées.

Leur politisation peut prendre la forme de diverses actions. En témoignent pour l'illustrer l'incitation aux votes et la mise en avant des élections européennes.

« Also when talking to like my English roommates for example who were very eager on staying in the European Union and were very like politically active in making sure students go to go voting and like all these things so um in this like academic young area um or surrounding that I was in it like the EU was more approved of definitely and yeah they were very sad when um it didn't work out in the end yeah. »⁸⁶ et « But the association is organizing a campaign because it's also a very important date for us, because it was created, the association was born in 2019 with the objective to promote participations in the elections. »⁸⁷ et « And then this semester as the European elections are coming, we joined other associations to cooperate together and create one framework where every, like, tête de liste of a French party which ran to the election, the European Union, created this threshold of 5% of votes in the previous election. Come and do a conference that would be more in the scientific way, so it would not be a political tribune for like militants, but it would be more about their vision of European Union that then would be contradicted by some scientific researcher, and also will be entirely prepared by students, very interactive. And we did three conferences up to now, which are relative to it, and we are waiting for the others. »⁸⁸

Certains sont engagés dans la lutte de droits individuels et étudiants comme Madita *« Yes more and active in like university politics um standing up for like the students um especially when looking at feminist politics within the university and the the role of women and um trying to yeah support the students rights who sometimes can feel little compared to the professors and feeling like they can't really do anything but we can. And I think it's very good to um come together if um we have the same values and fight for them. And yes also I'm part of a union um I'm not sure if that's the thought value there. »⁸⁹*

Enfin, ils osent interroger les institutions directement par des pétitions. Par exemple, Guille m'explique qu'il souhaitait démocratiser les cours sur l'Union européenne dans les lycées. *« like we would gather signatures of like principals, vice principals from high schools, asking like signing a manifest asking the regional Spanish parliaments to create an elective subject about the European Union in high school. »⁹⁰*

⁸⁶ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁸⁷ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁸⁸ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁸⁹ Entretien du 19/03/2024 avec Madita Maag, trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld.

⁹⁰ Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

Par conséquent, leur implication politique est davantage liée à la défense de droits, de valeurs ou de projets plutôt que le soutien à un parti politique en particulier.

Par ailleurs, leur engagement n'est pas lié pour la plupart à des aspirations professionnelles. En témoigne la réponse de Guille quand je lui pose s'il en ressort quelque chose pour sa carrière future d'avoir travaillé dans une association. « *I think it's more out of the goodwill than actually obtaining anything back from it.* »⁹¹ « *I am not, let's say, a militant for a specific European party or European vision. I'm just super interested in how this cooperation works and how young people can make a change.* »⁹² « *what we do there is basically promote different knowledge, accessibility also of knowledge and of opportunities to students. And it is something that, for me, it's very important, because I stand for equality and broadening of knowledge, also of accessibility to people, which and providing some experiences that would not be otherwise possible.* »⁹³

Conclusion

Ce travail avait pour objectif de montrer comment la jeunesse européenne, organisée sous forme associative, favorise l'émergence d'une société civile européenne et développe un militantisme européen.

Mon travail s'est porté sur les jeunes européens, pour la plupart alumni du programme Erasmus, et leur rapport à l'Europe. En effet, je me questionnais sur la prise de parole des jeunes européens et comment ils la percevaient. En se basant sur un corpus académique et l'analyse de la littérature grise produite par les institutions de l'UE et les différentes associations, l'hypothèse de l'émergence d'une société civile européenne et d'un militantisme européen repose tant par la structuration et les interactions de ces réseaux transnationaux, permettant les échanges et influences entre ces jeunes, que par la diffusion de valeurs européennes à travers les projets réalisés dans ces associations.

Les entretiens réalisés avec des membres d'associations européennes, possédant chacune un mécanisme propre, ont permis de restituer la parole de jeunes d'origines différentes. Les enquêtés avaient comme point commun uniquement le fait d'appartenir à une association européenne. Ces entretiens révèlent alors les similitudes dans leur trajectoire sociale et leur vision de l'Europe. Ils illustrent parfaitement l'émergence d'une société civile européenne,

⁹¹Entretien du 26/03/2024 avec Guille ARRANZ, ex-membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale.

⁹²Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

⁹³ Entretien du 27/03/2024 avec Dominika, vice-présidente de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP).

constituée de jeunes européens aux multiples origines, mais partageant une vision ambitieuse pour leur Europe et la défense des valeurs et droits qu'ils souhaitent promulguer. Néanmoins, en ce qui concerne le militantisme européen, nous avons pu discerner la différence entre une auto-proclamation de leur part en tant qu'apolitique et la réalité que traduit leurs engagements et actions. Les travaux sur la politisation et le militantisme européen ont permis d'identifier les nuances et failles dans l'utilisation du terme « politisé » ainsi que sa dimension trop restreinte, parfois par habitude, parfois par abus de langage, aux institutions et professionnels du politique. La politisation se transmet et grandit dans les niches des moindres interactions sociales.

Cette recherche est limitée par l'absence de réponse de la part d'autres associations européennes installées localement en France, mais aussi le manque de réponse de la part des institutions européennes spécialisées dans le dialogue avec ces associations.

Par conséquent, l'analyse des liens plus étroits entre la Commission européenne, et plus précisément la DG EAC, et leurs échanges avec les associations aurait permis de mieux comprendre les influences mutuelles des organes européens sur la société civile, ainsi que les mécanismes de légitimité employés.

Enfin, les jeunes ont bien insisté que ces associations ne différencient pas les étudiants européens par rapport aux étudiants internationaux et qu'ils avaient pour mission d'inclure tous les étudiants, dans leur ensemble. Par conséquent, on pourrait aussi étudier la diffusion de ces associations européennes hors Europe et leur répercussion sur le rapport des jeunes internationaux à l'Europe.

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Annexes

Récapitulatif des entretiens

Date	Nom	Poste	Nom de l'association	Lieu	Langue	Étude
07/03/2024	Kébi San	Représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld	Erasmus Student Network (ESN) – Bielefeld Student Network (BISN)	Vidéo-conférence	Anglais	Master en biomécatronique à Stuttgart en Allemagne

19/03/2024	Madita Maag	Trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld	Erasmus Student Network (ESN) – Bielefeld Student Network (BISN)	Vidéo-conférence	Anglais	Master en marketing, étudie aussi les sciences sociales et l'histoire
26/03/2024	Guille Arranz	Membre de l'association et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale	Equipo Europa	Vidéo-conférence	Anglais	Relations internationales et droit
27/03/2024	Dominka	Vice-présidente chargé des affaires européennes de l'association de l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP)	l'École d'affaires publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP)	Vidéo-conférence	Anglais	Master Affaires européennes – Sciences Po Paris

Entretien n°1 : Kébi San - Ancien représentant local de l'ESN Bielefeld

Date : Jeudi 7 mars 2024 à 8h (heure française)

Lieu : Par vidéo-conférence Langue : anglais

Durée : 32 minutes

J : Okay, so I will first begin with, if you could introduce yourself in a few words and can you tell us about your role, your experience and your actions ?

K : Yeah, my name is Kébi San or Kebi. I'm studying in Bielefeld at the FH university in masters biomechatronic. Right now, I'm doing my master's thesis. I moved to Stuttgart, so I'm not living in Bielefeld anymore. Yes.

J : Okay, and so can you tell me briefly about your role in the Erasmus Student Network association ?

K : Yeah, the ESN Bielefeld was also founded by a small group of us because before I was there, there was no ESN Bielefeld, so... we were like five to six people who start to build up this section in Bielefeld and for that I was the local representative, so I was connected with the other ESN sections to get information but also do like collaboration with them.

J : Okay, and so what kind of action have you undertake and if there is like one, like was there a particular project that stood out for you while you were working in this station ?

K : I mean, when I started there, we were not the ESN section, we call it like BISN, Bielefeld International Student Network and that's because to be a member of ESN, you have like to go to two stations of like to be an ESN candidate, and then to get vote by to be an ESN candidate and then to get vote to be a real ESN member by the other ESN sections and our project was to was to get in this position like to be a real ESN section, so our biggest project was from the beginning like to do all the projects to show, okay, we can handle our organization, so the other ESN section will vote for us and get let us be an ESN section, so this was actually our biggest project, it also took like one year, after half a year you can be go to a vote for being an ESN section and the next six months we get an ESN section, a real ESN section.

J : So, to be an ESN section, you must fulfill some criteria ?

K : Yeah, I mean, the biggest point is you have to stay in contact with the international student in your hometown or in your home university and then you have to plan some events with them and the main destination was to get like, the main destination was to connect the German people and the international people together, so the international people feel more like home, like feel welcome here in the city, in the country and that's what we did and maybe as you know, I was already working in the international office and the other members was also working in the international office but of the university, so yeah, we all get together, we already had the connection to the internationals, we know how planning events, everything works and so we grow up really fast and yeah.

J : And so did you show them some proof, like how do you prove that you're, that you're connected with German international people work really well, so how did you show them ?

K : Yeah, there's like a national assembly every six months and there we can introduce ourselves and then we can show them what kind of events we did, like with photos and videos we did, how many participants, like students will join our events and also like structure, do we have a president, vice president, like for finance, we need all this structure and we show them everything, they liked it and so they voted for us.

J : Okay, I'll be happy to be able to be a section. What do you think about the advantages of working in this association, like what did it bring us to you ?

K : I mean, first of all, it's a big positive point to get connected with all this international, because already when I was working in the international office, I feel really happy that I had so many friends from all over the world after that, after this time and it's the same with the ESN section. Basically, if you see in Bielefeld, most of the events were by the international office of the university, but this is not normal. Normally, in every city, the ESN sections are, if there is an ESN section, the ESN section are planning these events, the university are not doing these social programs and that's why I really like also to work at the international office, but now also at the ESN, just to connect with all those peoples. On the other hand, you always get like two national assemblies, local meeting points and also all over Europe, you meet with other ESN sections and also let know them. And what was a big plus point also for me when I moved to Stuttgart, I already knew people from the ESN section of Stuttgart, so I get easily connected with other cities.

J : Okay and that's true actually, because I mean just to say that mostly international office didn't organize all these social events, because now I'm in Seoul and I was like oh in Germany, there were so many events like for students to connect each other, but here like not so much, I was like it was really special. Yeah, yeah, so you did a really good job.

K : Thanks, but yeah, the point is also the ESN section get money from the Erasmus Plus and DIRD. Before we were, we didn't have a section in Bielefeld, all the money goes to the university of the international office of the FH, now a part of the money also goes to the ESN section, so we can plan more and more events here.

J : Okay that's a very transition point, because I wanted to ask, I wanted to ask about the, I don't know if you at your position know about this, but because my subject is more about association and the European institution, and because I know that there is like a connection, because even like ESN defined itself as an independent association, but it's supported with the money of European Union Erasmus Plus Program and the Council of Europe, and so did you have like interaction with the European Commission for this, for some subject or like in which way, or if you have like some directive requested, like you have to do this, this, this to promote Europe and students ?

K : I mean for example, we also get like live money, local Erasmus Initiative it's called, and they always like once in a semester say like we have three topics environmentally, social or something else, and we should do an event based on this topic, and then we can write a small summary about this topic, send some pictures about the event, and they will promote the website. And also once a semester they invite us all students from who gets this live money to one city, last time was Berlin, before was Münster, to meet together, they also pay us everything for the whole weekend then, and then we have some workshops how to manage problems when we are in these events and we don't know how to handle a special or critical situation, and also they connect us with other students or organizations so we can learn

from each other. So yeah, for one weekend we have then like a workshop and like free time, social time, these things.

J : So, you are meeting with European commissions or like, and also if you're meeting with like one of the commission, or also if you are meeting with other associations, because there are a lot of other small associations, other parties and other partnerships that ESN have, did you have also these meetings ?

K : Yeah, I mean live money is not only for universities, also for other organizations, international organizations, so if they get also the live money, they also will come and then we can connect. The ESN, if we are in the ESN, like in a local meeting or something, there will be always just ESN members and we just connect with the other ESN sections.

J : Okay, so you actually meet more like those from the European Commission like this one semester, once a full semester, right ?

K : Yeah, I mean there are more events I guess, but they were not that important that we have to come or, I mean they never say we have to come, but there was one, always one weekend where it's important, like the biggest event.

J : mandatory

K : Yeah, but the others are like if you want, you can, but usually we don't go as a student. Sometimes Hannah went, but that's it.

J : Okay, and so you have like directives from, like you say, you have some topics that the European Erasmus program can impose to you, but do you have also like initiative from like the student, like from you for example, if you have a project that you want to present or event, so how do you do to convince the others to develop this project?

K : I mean from our side, if we want to do a project, it's always like discuss in the group and find out what we want to do, and especially in the ESN, we are like all students, we are like, especially in Bielefeld we were a small group of 10 to 15 people, so it was easy to discuss and find out the way how we will manage it. We always have to look about like how the studies are going, some people are at the thesis or doing exams, so we have to coordinate these things, but otherwise we are all voluntary, so we want to be there, so everyone always are happy if we start new projects, and yeah, so it was especially in ESN, it was quite easy to do these things.

J : Okay, and so when you're planning a project, you have to think about how to promote Europe at the same time and the youth ?

K : Not any times, no, basically just we do our project what we like to do, what the students like to do, but sometimes they are like topics like the European day, UN day, we have some topics, then we do it, but normally we just do like funny things what the students would like to do.

J : Okay, and also I see like the Erasmus Student Network has a lot of other activities, I just wanted to know if you, what do you think about the Erasmus Student Network future priorities maybe, because they expand so much nowadays, do you think like they will keep on growing, for example, so as you say you're creating events, but like I also see that you can also like help students to find internship and employment, and so it's a very diverse area.

K : Yeah, the main point is that finding an internship or things like this, it's a bit hard for students at all, because we are also struggling to find the internship, so we don't get support by this from any association, but especially while I was working at the international office, I know we have sections there for international, if they can go there and looking for help for these kind of things, so we think the international, like the university should take care of these things, and we are more for like social things and to feel good here in Germany, to feel welcome here in Germany.

J : Okay, and I mean just to talk more about people in general, what do you, from your experience, what do you see as the main demand of young people, like you were probably working as an association, and maybe some people will go to you and say oh we should do this kind of thing, or it would be fun to do this kind of thing, and did you see like a particular demand of an event in particular ?

K : I mean people would like to travel a lot here, this is like the main thing, so everyone wants to travel, so and especially because we are like, we have connection to a different ESN section, we can just talk with them and then say can you give me a city tour of your city , and then it was like when we offer some trips, it was like after one day already full and we could take anyone more, so these are the things, and also like the events which cost a little bit more, but because we are a ESN section and we have some financial support and we are, we can book for a bigger group at once, these events are also really well visited.

J : What kind of event for example?

K : We went to the football match for example, and it was hard to get the tickets, but we have some contacts with the Chico Arena in Bielefeld, so we could get some cheaper tickets for the students.

J : So sometimes a different ESN section will come together to organize a bigger event?

K : Sure yeah, especially if they are like next city close to each other, then they will come together or they will contact us and say hey we want to do a hiking in our city, we have still some players, do you want to promote our event also in your city? Something, these things also happened.

J : And is it possible also like to, if a different ESN section has a big project to promote it at the one, at the European Commission and say we really want to do this project, is it possible like to have more money for it, if a lot of ESN sections like show that it will be really important events and the benefits of it?

K : Yeah, I mean we get, we can get some money off this, I don't know how directly this works, but we have some, let's say big project which includes everyone from Germany, and we call it Springbreak, it was like a big party for three days in Berlin and we are not only German, also Polish and Czech Republic students are invited there and yeah because of this we, I think we get some more money from the European Commission, but I don't really know how does it work and how much, yeah.

J : Okay and so also more about, because I mean you probably talk with a lot of students from Germany but also from abroad and what do you think about the vision the younger, the young generation have on Europe, like is it positive or is it like homogenous or like what do they say about it ?

K : I mean yeah, I think it's really positive, if I talk also with country, students from countries who are, the politics are like a little bit against Europe, they always wish like okay to stay, like especially at the

time when Poland was a little bit critical, they also always told me like okay we want that Poland stay like really friendly in Europe and also like students which has no really connection to Europe like Mexico or something, they said I wish Mexico will also be an European country, so yeah I think the students who are living here, they see the benefits of being a European country, so yeah.

J : Okay and so did you say like, do you think as ESN as a transnational organization, because like it's implemented in a lot of countries, so do you have contact with also like other ESN, like even in Germany at the national level, but also like in the European Union level?

K : Yeah, we have, I mean there's also a general assembly, which everyone from Europe goes there, and have this weekend with workshops and also voting and everything, beside that we have like also like the spray break, like bigger events, if you have like bigger, really big events for like one weekend or for a week, then we all use always to invite also other ESN section, doesn't matter if it's local, just in Germany or around Europe.

J : Okay and also that's true for the young people, when they are talking about Europe also do they like, even like they say it's great to be here and all, but like did they project themselves into the European Union? Did they feel like young people have a big role and have an impact on the future of Europe?

K : That's hard to say...hm...

J : They just enjoy...

K : They just enjoy it. Yeah, they just enjoy everything I think, but I don't know how much they are into politics or in these things, I can't really remember that I talked that close to them, but yeah.

J : Okay and also do you think that is, okay sorry.

K : Oh it's okay.

J : I would say, do you think that also like there is hesitation to be like extend beyond Europe? Like for example, there is like other, a station like the international student networks and so you think that this European Erasmus program, because they are like still also Erasmus program, even outside of Europe, like for example the people from Mexico that really enjoy being here, so do you think it's a good thing that they extend the European way outside of the European Union actually ?

K : Sorry, I don't get it. I mean the ESN is from outside Europe that they are doing ?

J : Yeah, I mean there are like a station that are in Europe, like implemented in Europe, but also outside of Europe, like for example in Seoul and other countries. And so do you think like ESN should also like extend more and more outside of the Europe to actually like you know get more people in Europe ?

K : Yeah, I mean for sure. Yeah, for sure. I mean we also have every semester, especially for students from outside of Europe. That's why ESN, Erasmus plus, it's like Erasmus and plus more states, so we also can include, extend to different countries. I'm totally open for that. We also have to say ESN Erasmus student network is not only for Erasmus students, but also for all international students. So, this is also like not fixed something, so anyone can actually join us as a member, as a participant. So yeah, I'm totally open for that and I think also the other Erasmus ESN members are open for that.

J : Okay, and just like to conclude a little bit, like what do you think about the Erasmus plus project? Like having worked with and met a lot of young people, what feedback have you had from them? Like how do you see the future of young people in Europe ? Or like for example, did you notice some also difference

between countries? Like for example, are some young people from this country more active or engaged than others ?

K : I mean, I think students from every country, I'm not sure because if I heard from other ESN sections, they said they are really engaged and we have so much project. If they compare with German, especially Bielefeld, because we are really young section, so they say, okay, we have way more projects and everything. So if you also look at their Instagram profile and everything, how many events they are doing. So I can't really say it's based on the city because Bielefeld is also not the biggest city like Paris

or something. So yeah, I think maybe it's like based also on the city and how many students are at the university, but I think everyone do what they can do like in order of how many members they have.

J : And so having worked at the ESN, like starting at Bielefeld, what feedback like today, what will give you, what feedback do you remember like or struggle that you have back then and nowadays you feel like...

K : oh, okay. I mean, one of the feedbacks what we always get, especially in the first few months, is these events help them to get new friends, to get connected with the city, not to stay alone. The people who came totally alone from a different country, with no other friends, stay most of the time alone there. So they're really happy that we did this event, so they get to connect with each other. And especially what I saw is that international students are really open-minded, and they welcome everyone. So, it's super easy to get new friends and connections in these events.

J : Okay, nice. And that's true. And from my experience, I can tell. K : Yeah.

J : Okay. I'm just like thinking if there is another question, but I think you answer very well the question. And so also, I just want to review, you were like the president of the ESN Bielefeld?

K : Oh, yes. No, no. I was the local representative. This was...

J : My local representative. Okay. Okay. So you see the beginning of the ESN section in Bielefeld, right?

K : Yeah. When we first, we couldn't call it ESN. So, we call it B-I-S-N. And then after one year, we are officially ESN.

J : Okay. Nice. Okay. Thank you for answering pretty well my question. Yeah. Well, thank you for your time. And thank you for calling back. Thank you for the interview.

K : Thank you. I want to ask, you asked me that you could have more interview partners.

J : Yeah. If you have contact, I will be glad because it was really hard to actually to, like I sent emails and all, but I didn't get any answer. So, I was quite also like shocked because it was like for me, you know, a student association and like most associations didn't even reply. So, I was like, so yes, you have like more direct contact. I think it will be easier.

K : Yeah, sure. I mean, from Bielefeld section, I still have to contact with, from my colleagues. And some of them already moved out also to different countries. So, are there special like people or you want to interview like the president, vice president, to the finance or just a member? Do you need someone specific or?

J : No, actually, I think like, I mean, I think it would be interesting to see like the different position too, because I think you don't have like the same responsibilities, depending on if you are like a president or if you need to like work with the money and all. So yeah, I think the different position would be actually interesting.

K : Okay. How many people are you interviewing?

J : Well, I'm taking everyone. More information I can get. Because association also, I mean, working in association, I guess, like, you know, everyone has his own experience. So like, every time I would ask questions, they will have their own stories. So it's really interesting, actually. Like, it's not a, you know, kind of theory thing. So everyone kind of the same story. So actually very interesting, like from the different point of view.

K : Okay. Then I will do it like this. I will ask them if they can do an interview. Maybe can you send me a small message about what's the topic and everything ? And I will also send them this information. Okay.

J : Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you. And so, you're still working on ESN, but at Stuttgart, right?

K : Oh, no. No, because when I moved here, the joining the member, the period was already done. So, I couldn't be a real member anymore. But sometimes if they do events, I still join them and help them. But not, not like frequently, but to be honest, I also don't have so much time. I'm doing my thesis. So yeah.

J : Good luck with that.

K : Thank you.

J : Yeah. Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. And good luck with your thesis!

K : Thank you. Have a nice day. Bye Bye.

J : Have a nice day. Bye

Entretien n°2 : Madita Maag – Trésorière de l'ESN Bielefeld

Date : Mardi 19 mars 2024 à 14h (heure française)

Lieu : Vidéo-conférence

Langue : anglais

Durée : 38 minutes

J : So the first part will more focus on your story, like your background. So my first question was whether you could introduce yourself in a few words, your name, age, study, and if you can tell us your role and your experience as well as your action.

M : Yes, sure. So my name is Madita. I'm 24 years old. I currently study in Bielefeld. I'm doing my masters in marketing and also study social sciences and history, but as an undergraduate. And yes, should I also describe my role in like ESN ?

J : Oh, yes.

M : So basically, I founded like the pre-association before we changed the name to ESN Bielefeld, which was called Bielefeld International Student Network back in June 2022. So I am one of the founding members and also in the board since then. And yes, I'm still currently part of that association.

J : Okay. Why did you become involved in the association? Where did this commitment come from? Is there any particular reason, for example, were you linked to? Or you wanted to do an association ? courses? or maybe you thought that it would be good on your resume or any motivation to start doing this and to actually open this association ?

M : Yeah, so I was an Erasmus student from 2019 to 2020, and I was in England. And yes, I think that time had a huge impact on my life. And being then an international student myself, I think I could very like put myself into the place and know what people experienced when they came to Bielefeld and also look back on things that were really well when I was abroad and also some things that didn't work so well. For example, it was quite difficult to get to know local students. Like within the international student community, it was relatively easy, but like improving my English and talking to local students, that was more difficult. So that was also part of the reason why I wanted to help establish this kind of room in Bielefeld. So, when we were founded, the initial idea wasn't on my part. I was reached out to by an email, and I thought, okay, this sounds great. There were some people who were like students who were eager to found this group. And yes, I came to like an info event and I also really liked the people. I think it's like a huge part of becoming part of an association is actually like liking the people, like I'm spending time with them. Yes, so that was also a very positive aspect. And I think how it might look on my resume was not as important. I think it helped later on for me getting a scholarship, for example, for like volunteer work, but it was not my main focus.

J : Okay. And so you did an Erasmus in England, right ?

M : Yes.

J : And so you struggled to connect with local students there and you wanted to improve it. And in Bielefeld, when you started the association, did you have any... Sorry, no, go on.

M : I also was part of like this buddy program. I forgot to mention that. So, I was part in this program for three years. So, I also like knew some international students and kind of, yeah, knew how the community was. But also, I think, so there's basically like the University of Applied Sciences and the University of Bielefeld. And especially like in the university, I feel like there's a room missing for like fun events, things that didn't really have to do with like university life per se. So that was where we wanted to look into.

J : Okay. Okay. Nice. I also did an Erasmus in Bielefeld. That's why I can understand how you feel about the local student and all that. I think that's a good point. And so, yes. Yes. And also, so for like more your profile type, because you were part of the Erasmus student network, so are you pro-European? Like did you start the association because you have hopes for the future of Europe ?

M : Yes, of course. I think this international or like European idea like bringing together people and like now I can say like I have friends in so many different countries and it helps me understand different cultures better and also help me to become more open-minded, I think.

J : Okay. And also, were you influenced by, for example, your family or your friends or are you like the only one that actually did an Erasmus and project yourself for the future and start an association to meet and wanted to engage with other students around the world also...

M : Yes, so basically I'm the first in my family to study, so it's quite new. I didn't have like any role model within my family and the first time I went abroad was not for studies but after school I was working in Ireland for a year and my parents always were very supportive of that and wanted to help me to go abroad and make these experiences and meet new people and meet new cultures, so I think even though they haven't done it themselves they still supported the idea and wanted to support myself in that and also I think that was a part for me to then pursue like in more international studies, like I studied international studies and management. Yes, and I think that was also like a very important reason why I decided to do that.

J : Okay and are you, do you have another form of activist ? Are you committed to only Europe or for example you have taken other commitments of various kind, like are you part of other association ?

M : Oh and so I am also part of like the ASTA, like representing the students at a university but it's more like university politics, not necessarily an association but yes also a voluntary work.

J : Okay and so and then let's move on to Erasmus student network and so can you tell me briefly about your role, your role in this association ? What did you do exactly ? How did you start it ?

M : So as I already mentioned I was like a founding member and also the treasurer of the group and I am still till now responsible for like all the finance activities and but it's not only narrowing down to that of course it's also about like event planning, trying to yeah find new people who want to also be engaged in the community, also connecting to other Erasmus sections in Germany and also in Europe where there are like different form of events where you can participate and I've also done that.

J : And so can you give me some example like what action have you undertaken and if there is any particular that stood out for you like a personal project or like a particular one that stood out for you when we're working in this association ?

M : That's very hard. I always like the events like outdoor events where many people come together for example like a barbecue volleyball situation that we like event that we did and meeting many people also last year we did a tree planting event like there's this international forest or it's not a forest yet but we our aim is to make it a forest in some years at the university campus so each year during like the Erasmus weeks there are trees planted and like in last year we also did that with the association and donated two trees that basically symbolizes the internationality also on the campus.

J : Okay and so this event was aimed for Bielefeld students, and I mean and Erasmus students or was it a joint project with all the Erasmus to work in with another city in Germany ?

M : No it was specifically in Bielefeld but there are also parts from the university from the international office who were like there for like the ceremony so to say and afterwards we organized yes some games

that we could play like on this social field on the university campus and with like yes local students and also international students and also we gave out like sustainable items like reusable water cup like a bamboo toothbrush just simple things to also yeah try to bring sustainability closer to the students.

J : Okay and what are the advantages of working in this association ? What do you make any benefit from it ? from working in this association ?

M : I think personally for me like in terms of organizing myself that it's a major part... also some legal stuff I had no idea before like opening up an association all that stuff that comes with it but on a more yeah emotional level maybe the connectability with the other people...international students but also local students most of the people who are in the association have been abroad or want to go abroad so that's it's like a thought that connects us all and like experiences that we can share and even though we're in different countries we've experienced some similar situations and it's really nice to have people that you can talk with about these things and have yeah like-minded people within your city and make friends basically like they are friends now also.

J : And so, it was to... to create a social network in some in some way.

M : Yeah

J : And also, so from working in this association what do you see as the main demands of young people ? What is the main thing that they keep saying or that you keep hearing about when they are coming to the association ? Maybe they have some demands, or they want some things to do in particular ? Did you have for example heard a lot about I don't know traveling or party or this kind of demands that they have ?

M : Yes I think traveling is a huge like part also of like going abroad. I mean I could I know that from myself like on the weekends I traveled a lot and although like lots of international students are traveling independently we've also tried to work out like a day trip for example within like the closer area and last year I wasn't personally involved more like with the planning but I wasn't actually there was a trip like a weekend trip to Berlin where we're trying to offer that on a very like affordable price. And the section from Germany but also like from Bielefeld but also other sections in Germany and I think also from Poland, and I think Czechoslovakia but I'm not completely sure but also other countries like they met in Berlin for spring break together and yeah celebrated basically a weekend.

J : Okay and so what do you think are the different ideas that the young people put forward ? But did you think that -because you have met a lot of people, a lot of students - did you think there is a more or less an homogeneous vision of the future of Europe or of young people ?

M : It's difficult to speak for all the people but I think there's this idea of being close and being together and even growing together more yes... I mean it's among the people that I've met this idea of being able to be across like to move across borders and to meet new people. I think it's very important, especially for my generation because that's the only Europe basically I know.

J : So this...because you talk about borders and association, and I know that Erasmus students networks have a... are implemented in a lot of other cities in Europe. And so, do you see this student association as a transnational movement ? like it's like they bring a lot of different young European students but also also foreigner I mean outside of the European Union and so it's interesting to know what ideas come up most often in this young people discourse that's why I was asking for you because it's interesting to know there are a lot of people of various nationalities but they may have think actually a common they may have a common vision for the future of Europe and so it's interesting to know that their first maybe their first word is actually to be together and to actually blur the border of the country. And on this day actually what do they say about Europe ? What kind of view they have about Europe ? When you talk about...why are they coming ? like from for your example why did you go to England ? Do you have a specific objective, goal or did you just want to explore actually other country ?

M : for me it was also partly improving my language skills and being in a new area and I've also taken into consideration like how is like the area around the city where I moved to can I travel somewhere is

it very accessible like via public transport for example is it very is it student friendly and also like then the university itself I mean spending like some time abroad it's more than just studying but also studying was a part of that so yes of course I've also chosen like a university that um yeah is close to what I wanted to do in my future. And yes the language part I'm not sure how applicable that is for Germany um I mean German is a very hard language and I do know that some international speakers speak very well but also I think especially among students it's like English is also spoken very well so I think many people can get by just fine only speaking English also.

J : Okay that's true actually German people speak very well English so it's easier also to speak ...so what did they tell you when they when they came to Germany and they meet you and the student association, they probably tell you, you probably maybe ask them why did they choose Germany and what was their answer for this question ?

M : I don't think that necessarily Bielefeld is the first thing that comes came up to the mind of many internationals. So I think sometimes it has more to do with like the topic or other things for example that Germany is quite central in Europe and that it's also easy to travel to different countries based from Germany yes I think these kind of things were actually more important than the city being great in itself because I don't think that many people knew Bielefeld before they come here and then maybe were I don't know pleasantly surprised or not so much depending on the expectations.

J : Maybe okay... because also Germany has a good ...Germany for example Germany University have good reputation so they might also want to go to Germany because they are just studying like you said a topic. They are quite... I mean I've studied in Bielefeld so that's why I... The teachers were really great actually yeah, I learned a lot of things so maybe that's also why they came and then also yeah. For this part is more about the link that you have with the European Commission because, so the Erasmus Student Network is supported by the European Union and Erasmus program and the Council of Europe so when you were working did you have any interaction with the European Commission and in what way exactly actually ?

M : Not really so the thing is also we have quite the new section so many things that we focus on are rather on a level where we trying to establish the association and gaining members and kind of working on internal structures before we can interact more with other institutions of course within like the ESN network we're doing that on a smaller level but apart from that I'm not sure if it also counts into that but we are also like local Erasmus initiative which is supported by the DAAD so that would be a thing where we have a relationship with and I've been to a meeting myself that was organized by the DAAD that also yeah there were some workshops about how to run an association and what to offer how to advertise to international students stuff like that ...

J : And what does the DAAD means ?

M : I think it's the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst. I hope ...it's an abbreviation yeah maybe but you will find it if you just google that

J : Okay. And so, because you were a treasurer for the association, and it was that the European Commission actually gave the money and financed the Erasmus student network in some way for the Erasmus + program. Did you have some thought about this financement like do you think it was okay or how does it really work actually ?

M : I don't think that we as an association have gotten any financial support other than this local Erasmus initiative that I've mentioned where you can basically apply for the money and that will then go back into like events and all these sorts.

J : Okay so you have so yeah you didn't have any direction for example ? Like not from the money for example but for the action you have some theme that you have to respect for the event that you have to do in the future that will give you like you have to talk about for example sustainability or social this kind of thing ?

M : Yes we have that so the way that... it's I think the way the money is distributed it depends also like on the number of students that like international students that are in the university but then also there's like a fixed amount for like general things that you want to do and also in our case it's like 500 euros where you need to do like either like an event about sustainability or information informing about like the Erasmus generation trying to get German students involved to get abroad these things and ... This money has to be paid back if you don't do that with the money and there also, we needed to provide some information and also and we did like a short report on what we did and to yes ensure that we use the money correctly.

J : So, you have to... so you have multiple choices, and you have to pick one in particular right, or you have to fulfill all this directive ?

M : No, it's only it's only one so... For example, we did the sustainability event, and the others is voluntarily, and I don't even think like you need to spend all the money on that but some part of the money.

J : Okay so that one of them was to get German people to go abroad but like if they would like to do an Erasmus or just to...

M : Yes, also I think that's an idea of the local Erasmus initiative.

J : Okay so promote the Erasmus program.

M : Yes but the way we want to or trying to do it is basically to combine that to not only make events only for like a specific group but also for international and local students and I think having international people around you is also a very like good reason and yeah maybe start off the idea to doing that yourself to see like how other people are experiencing it and then wanting to do it yourself.

J : But you did it like for the example like the sustainability event was planting trees, but do you have an event that was purely focused on promoting the European way of life ?

M: Not one specific event no.

J : Okay yeah okay also did you...oh yes I forgot to ask about this when I was talking about the you know this kind of Erasmus to the network and this transnational association in some way and do you think in - because you have met a lot of international students and probably a lot of them also came outside of the EU- and so do you think it's it would be good to extend the Erasmus Student network outside of the EU ? like beyond Europe ? to let the other people outside of the European university know more about the opportunities that they can have in Europe and their program exchanges ?

M : Yes, so for our association although it's called an Erasmus student network, we always make clear it's not only for Erasmus students but for international students like we're not excluding anyone we are happy for all international students to come. But yes I think funding like especially if you want you to go abroad doing like an Erasmus or semester abroad is very important like for my part it was one of the main aspects I took into consideration and will I be able to get funds for example like the Erasmus plus scholarship without it I wouldn't have been able to go abroad because I couldn't finance it and although I didn't want to go too far away and didn't want to leave Europe I think the possibility would have been there more if there were more stable funding situations I mean there are other scholarships but I think it's more difficult to apply and you you're not very sure that you get them so it's a bit more risky in terms of planning.

J : But did you see like any difference between uh the country actually even inside Europe like their way of uh viewing the Europe or their way they was talking about the future of Europe or maybe was there some example some countries of nationalities that were more engaged or more positive in some way for the future ?

M : Yes, definitely I think one thing that I didn't mention that when I was in England basically it was during the time where England left the EU. So, it was a huge topic basically. Also when talking to like my English roommates for example who were very eager on staying in the European Union and were very like politically active in making sure students go voting and like all these things so...um in this like

academic young area um or surrounding that I was in it like the EU was more approved of definitely and yeah they were very sad when um it didn't work out in the end yeah.

J : Okay yeah and yeah also for the ESN association they'll keep... they are keeping developing from creating you know events but also now you can also help people find internships and they try to develop themselves do you think this will continue to develop in other area like just not focusing on the education part but like to open more about the other opportunities for the young people ?

M : So, I think um the educational part will be always a big and very important part of it um especially because it's the roots basically of the association but um yes, I'm very open to it being more opened and ensuring that experience not only for students but also for like internees for example.

J : Thank you and also from your experience from the feedback of the lot of young people uh what do they think about the Erasmus program ? What do they think about it ? and what uh what is your feedback from it ?

M : um I think a lot of people really enjoyed it and like really enjoyed the time um of course like everything it's it's a personal experience and it differs for for everyone but it's yeah it's it's very special um being abroad meeting people who are there in the same situation it kind of creates bonds that are that are lasting and um yes I I think mostly the experiences were very positive.

J : And do you think like what do you think about the future of young people in Europe ? Do you think they are active and engaged ?

M : Yes I hope so um I mean sometimes it can be how do I say a bit frustrating if you see especially in politics that there are more older people involved who have maybe more like the aspects that are important to their generation in mind and not really much the concerns of the younger um people. For example when it comes to climate change gender equality um and anti-racist society um also when looking about like uh the immigration politics and I do see that there are many people who are very like eager to fight for their ideas for the future but yes sometimes it all can also be very um it could put oneself back if you see so often that maybe it didn't work out in the end.

J : Okay and so are you politically active uh in your country also like do you vote ?

M : Yes so I I always vote um I'm not part of a political party particularly but I'm very interested in politics and um study social sciences which now which is also partly made of politics and yes more and active in like university politics um standing up for like the students um especially when looking at feminist politics within the university and the the role of women and um trying to yeah support the students' rights who sometimes can feel little compared to the professors and feeling like they can't really do anything but we can and I think it's very good to um come together if um we have the same values and and fight for them and yes also I'm part of a union um I'm not sure if that's the thought value there.

J : Yeah so, you're actually an activist in different uh for different types of rights and some and so also just to uh return for the link with the European institution so did you actually participate in this workshop oh no you didn't experience it ?

M : um Yeah so it was basically a weekend last year where it changes the city changes like there is um like a local Erasmus initiative also often they're like ESN are also LEI but not all IEI are ESN, and like local Erasmus initiatives is LEI um yeah the terminology can a bit be a bit complicated but if you have questions afterwards like please contact me and I can write it down also . Um But yes so the DAAD organized basically this event where they also informed about the DAAD itself and a bit more of like this um organizational aspect behind it and then also it was some of the workshops they were actually done by other like student associations themselves so kind of best practice approach some of them were maybe very good at like um moting their events via Instagram and so they shared that experience and um so yes we could learn from each other and yeah bringing us together and um yes exchanging it's more like yeah an exchange platform I think for for ideas and for best practices and also for connections.

J : Okay well we just checked but I think you answered quite a lot of questions um yeah thank you and thank you for your time and for taking the time actually to answer this question and to share your experience oh but where did you go exactly in England ?

M : Middlesbrough.

J : Okay okay and well thank you so much oh just one last question did you have some hardship dealing as a treasurer from for the association or was it like every association have some issue ?

M : um I think it was more in the beginning where there's a lot of like law around it and I didn't know anything about it before but it was great because also I could learn from different ESN sections and they have been established for more years and they know how to deal with tax and all these things um but that was a bit challenging in the beginning but I think now it's more it's becoming more and more easier.

J : Okay and so the Erasmus student network allows you to connect with a lot of people, right ?

M : Definitely yes.

J : This will be the main feedback that you will say from this association like what benefit uh did you have from this association ?

M : The big thing will be connected with other people yes connecting and learning from others.

J : Okay well thank you so much and if I have another question maybe I will send you other questions but I think you answer a lot of them and allow me to understand also more about how it actually works and what the feedbacks are and also your background is important to me for my study so thank you and thank you for giving me your time thank you so much.

M : Yeah thank you.

J : Have a good day !

M : Yeah you too ! Goodbye.

J : Goodbye !

Entretien n°3 : Guille Arranz – Membre de l'association Equipo Europa et ancien délégué de la délégation andalouse et de la délégation internationale

Date : Mardi 26 Mars 2024 à 11 h (heure française)

Lieu : Par vidéo-conférence

Langue : anglais

Durée : 39 minutes

J : Then I will start with my first question. So, there will be a part where I will be more focused on you, on your profile, and then the other part will be more focused on the association, on the club, and your role in it. So, my first question was whether you could introduce yourself, your age, your name, your study, and can you tell us about your role, your experience, and your actions ?

G : Okay, so I'm Guillermo Arranz, I'm Spanish, I'm from Seville, and I'm 23 years old, and I study law and international relations. Well, regarding my place in the association, I'm just a member at the moment, but a couple years ago, I was a delegate, first in the Andalusian delegation, which is like the region where I live in Spain, and then in the international delegation where I was abroad in my Erasmus. And in both places, I had the duty of organizing a certain campaign of the association that is called Europe in the Classroom. And in that campaign, basically at first, while I was delegate at the Andalusian delegation, the aim was just to give workshops at primary schools and high schools to teach people about the European Union. But then while I was in the international delegation in coordination with delegates from other regional branches of the association, we expanded the campaign so that we would

also gather signatures from teachers asking the regional parliaments to create an elective subject on the European Union in high school. And that is like still going on, but I'm just not the coordinator.

J : Okay, so can you define and explain more the role of a delegate, how did you become a delegate, and if there are specific missions and you have to pass some tests or something like that ?

G : Yes. Okay, so basically, why did I become a delegate ? It was just that the association was created in 2019. And in 2020, that was my first year of uni. A colleague from a classmate just mentioned this association to a friend and I, and since it had just been created, there weren't that many people wishing to take roles of responsibility. So, he basically just gave us the idea and we looked it up and it seemed interesting to do. We had been very motivated regarding the European Union because of the courses we had been taking during the first year of uni. So, we basically just ran up for election because that's how it works in the association, like people from your delegation choose who are going to be the delegates. And once we became the delegates, basically each delegation, I mean, I know for a fact that it has changed now and that there are like different names to the positions. But when I was the delegate, basically in every region, there would be the spokesperson who was like the leader of the regional delegation and then four or three delegates, if I'm not mistaken. So, we had the first one that was me was the so-called formation delegate. You were in charge of the educative part, both as the association giving this education and receiving it because we would also organize courses for the members of the association. Then there was the action delegate that they called it. And he was basically in charge of the, of organizing like monthly activities within the region, like meetings in cities so that members who get to know each other. Also, a campaign called A Tree for Europe that they were like, I think I explained you a little bit about it, but basically, they would have to get city councils involved in sustainability and planting a tree in the name of the association, et cetera. And then there is one that I'm missing because it's the spokesperson and the communication delegate that will be in charge of creating the content for social media of that delegation.

J : Okay. And so you said that you have to, you take some courses between the member, for the member, I mean to, you said that you take your organized courses also for the member of the association.

G : Yeah.

J : So, what type of courses, to know better about Europe and the different teams ?

G : Yeah. Well, when I was a delegate, we only organized one course. It was an online summer course that it would go on for like, for three weeks in summer, people would have class three days a week in the mornings. And we basically just like contacted teachers of international law, of European law, also like politicians, I don't know, experts in the European union. It was mainly an introductory course. So, you know, they went through like what are the institutions of the European union, what are its competencies, how many countries, how does integration work, et cetera. And I don't know, we just like contacted them and we also had the support of the Spanish office of the European parliament. So that made the work quite easy. I wasn't like the most involved in that organization. Like I did have to contact several teachers, but that was pretty much it because my work was mainly on the Europe in the classroom campaign, but it was all the formation delegates from all the regional associations helping in one way or another.

J : Okay. And was it hard to contact the teacher or were they open to teach you about Europe and specific courses ?

G : They were quite open, but in my case, I just went for the teachers in my uni. So, like I could speak to them face to face. So, it was easier that they wouldn't just ignore the emails. I know that, of course, for politicians and that kind of stuff, it was harder, but in the end, we would always find like some member of the European parliament that came to give a talk. Like if you just kept digging, you would always find someone.

J : Okay. And so you didn't... Oh, sorry.

G : I was just going to add that I know that over the years it has become easier because now the association like officially cooperates with the German embassy in Spain, with the European parliament office in Spain, European commission services in Spain. So like now you have that name backing you up and it's easier that people would engage in the courses.

J : Okay. Okay, that is... And so just to focus, you say that you did an Erasmus ?

G : Yeah, I did an Erasmus. I was in Copenhagen for a year.

J : Copenhagen. And is it why you became interested in Europe or where did this commitment come from ?

G : Honestly, it just came from a course I had on my first semester in university, which was European Union institutions and law. And I think it was mostly the teacher or the professor that was amazing. And a lot of my friends and I just became really involved. And then the association had just been created and they were looking for members and people wishing to take responsibility roles. So I don't know, I think everything came together pretty easily. When I was on Erasmus, I had already been a delegate for a year in the Andalusian delegation and I just changed to the international one because when you go to live to another region, so to say, they like ask you to move to the delegation where you're living. Yeah.

J : Yeah. So, it was kind of abrupt, like you didn't really plan to get involved this much in Europe ? Like there is no one around you ?

G : Yeah, not at all.

J : Okay, no friends, no family that's first here to love Europe ?

G : No, no, no, no one. Like I mean, I would do all of this with a friend from university, but I had just met her in university. So no one from before.

J : Okay. Yeah. So are you only committed to Europe alone ? Or are you taking part in other commitments of different kinds ?

G : Sorry, what did you say about the alone part ?

J : I was saying, are you committed to Europe alone ? Or do you also a part of other association of various kind like outside of Europe ?

G : Well, I'm a member of the European Law Students Association, but despite of the name, it's not like a support the European Union. It's just like people from European countries, but it does not have any value like to defend integration or whatever. It's European as in geographic. But there I'm not as active. I just go to the workshops they organize, but I've never taken like a position of responsibility. And then in the first years of uni, I would also participate in different volunteering activities, but not right now that I'm on my last years.

J : Okay. So you consider yourself as a pro-European person ?

G : Yeah.

J : Like an activist. And now I just want to know, you talk a lot about already about your role as delegate. And I want to know if there is one particular action that stood out for you that you did in your station and that you think about it and think it was really nice to have done this project.

G : To me, it was the part of like organizing the logistics of getting the signatures of teachers to pressure the regional parliaments to create this course. I was not a delegate anymore when they actually brought the petition to the parliaments, but to me it felt very, I would say fulfilling, like to have designed all the steps that people would follow before reaching a high school, how to reach it, preparing the template emails to do so. Creating like an Excel database with every high school of every province from my region that had been contacted or that hadn't. I like helping in general to organize it because I wouldn't do it myself. When we create a campaign, we launch the campaign and then we ask members to like join that specific campaign and work for it. So, then I would be in charge of like having online meetings with the members that were helping to say, okay, how's the job going ? How many high schools have

you contacted ? How many have answered you ? All that kind of stuff. So, I don't know, I feel happy that that's still a campaign that's going on right now. And I would say that's the most important part.

J : And what was the campaign about ? It was for, you have to, like it was a signature for teachers to open courses ?

G : Yeah, like we would gather signatures of like principals, vice principals from high schools, asking like signing a manifest asking the regional Spanish parliaments to create an elective subject about the European Union in high school.

J : Okay. And so it worked at the end or there are still ?

G : So it really depends, like for example, in Cantabria or in Madrid, they do legally exist, those courses. And then I know in other regions such as mine, Andalusian, they brought it to the parliament and it's supposed to still be like an ongoing debate. Of course, I think it's like last point of the agenda, but it's still, and I know that they periodically reach out to the parliament again to keep it alive. So it really depends in other regions, for example, we never reached, for now we haven't reached like a good amount of signatures in order to bring the petition.

J : So, okay. And also I saw in your text you talk about you have to present this project to the parliament, to the European parliament. Was it the signature one ?

G : Sorry, was it what ?

J : Was it a different one than the signature ?

G : Yeah, like what people presented to the European parliament was, you know, the conference on the future of Europe. Yeah, so it was just as part of that conference, the association organized what we call the forum for the future of Europe and a hundred members of the association joined that forum. They were organized in like themed work groups and each of them would develop like 20 recommendations or petitions within that topic and they worked like for around eight months. So like they did initial research, they wrote the draft petitions, then they presented them to the association. We proposed, I wasn't part of the working groups. I was just like there as a member of the normal member. So I would go to the presentations of the draftings, do my suggestions, then they would redraft it, presenting again. And once it was approved by the association, they went to the European parliament and presented all the petitions to the conference. But they were petitions like not about the subject, like they would be, I don't know, if it was about the environment, well, apply a common recycling system in every member state, for example, or if it was about democracy, make sure that the president of the European commission is elected directly by the European citizens, like that sort of petitions and they would be like two pages because they couldn't be longer and like a justification of why we thought that was important.

J : Okay. And do you have contact of one member that works on this project ?

G : I don't have right now, but I think I could find one for you.

J : Well, if you can contact him, if it's okay, it will be nice also to have this kind of interview.

G : Okay. Yeah, of course, I will ask.

J : Thank you. Okay. And also now I want to know if you get, what are the advantages that you gain from working in this association ? Like, for example, for your study or your future working life, the advantages.

G : Sorry, sorry. Could you repeat because someone came in ?

J : Do I repeat the question ?

G : Yes, please.

J : I was saying, what are the advantages that you get from working in this association in your study or in your future work or in your future working life or connecting with people ?

G : In my studies, I don't think I get anything because like, honestly, I think what I've learned in law is more profound than what I've learned about the European Union in my bachelor. It's like deeper than

anything the association can teach. But I think regarding the future career, I don't know when I've had interviews for internships and stuff, this would always come up because it was part of my CV. So I would explain like, how teamwork would be within the association, what projects I had, if I had a leadership role. So yeah, I think that will come up during my career development, so to say. I haven't finished the bachelor yet, but you know. I don't know, that's pretty much it. I think it's more out of the goodwill than actually obtaining anything back from it.

J : You like didn't do it for the profit that you can gain from it ?

G : No, because there was like literally no profit. If we went on a trip, we had to pay it ourselves because also when I was taking that role, we still wouldn't have like all the legal papers finished. So the association couldn't at the time, could not get any help from public institutions. Now they can and now they do organize things that are paid for. But back at the time, when I was more actively engaged, we couldn't.

J : So you have to pay all by yourself ?

G : Yeah, I mean, I didn't travel that much, but yeah, we would have to. For example, I was in Andalusia and then we were organized like a couple face-to-face meetings in a recruitment campaign that we did. So my friends and I were from Seville. We would travel to Cordoba and to Granada to organize those face-to-face meetings. It was just like we paid it ourselves.

J : Okay. And was there a specific process to gain subversion from the public institution? Because do you get subvention from the European Commission or European organization or just from state one?

G : Honestly, I'm not that, I was never that high in the organization to know the details about it, because I was just like a regional part and the ones that would be in charge of the funding were at the national level. So what I know for a fact is that we couldn't get the money. We didn't have a tax identification number as an association. But at the same time, it was hard to get it because bureaucracy in Spain is so tedious. So we just were basically waiting till we had some money so we could pay someone to do that paperwork. And in the end that worked out and then we had the paperwork and all. And for where the money comes from, well, first I know for a fact that it comes from not the members because being a member is free, but if you want you can become a sponsor and just like pay 10 euros a year. And I know quite a few people are sponsors. And then they would get money for specific projects. You know, like for example, I take 20 members of the association to the European Parliament to do a visit. Then we would reach out to the European Parliament, try to get the funding. Sometimes we did and then they would pay the trip. Like the association was the contact thing and then they would give the money for that specific activity.

J : Okay. So you can get some directives from the European Commission to do some certain events. Depends also on different things. And then if you do it, you can get the money to organize the event, right ?

G : Yeah.

J : Okay. Okay. And is the event for sustainability ? Because I know when I was talking to other students, they were telling me that it was like the theme that, like the subject like sustainability, social, that the European Commission promotes a lot. So is the project for sustainability, you get money from it or not? It was purely an issue from your part ?

G : Okay. The planting of a tree one ?

J : Yeah. Yeah.

G : No, we didn't get any money for that. No. And I know that that project now is like finished. Like they did plant a lot of trees, but they've just, like the association has moved on to other stuff.

J : Okay. Okay. So, I just wanted to know, because it's something that a lot of people, also told me is that joining association or doing Erasmus allow them to meet a lot of new people and to connect with a

lot of people. Did you also feel that working in your association and having this project enable you to actually meet a lot of different kind of people and to exchange more about Europe ?

G : Well, in the association, I did meet a lot of people, but honestly, I don't think apart from the friends I already had that became members with me, I don't think I got any like good friends out of the association, just like people I know, and I wouldn't mind hanging out from time to time, but like friends for life, you know ? But during Erasmus, I did meet a lot of people who I'm currently like still in touch with, and we have traveled quite a few times to meet each other around Europe. And yeah, so that's different. I do have like good friendships from the Erasmus.

J : for like when you promote education in Europe ? And did you hear about the yeah, the ideas coming from these people if there is a homogeneous vision for the future of Europe ?

G : Well, as I said, I wasn't part of that project that was about the future of Europe, so I don't know the internal debates that they would have in the working groups. I have no idea. But I know that from the final outcome of the documents, I know that all of them pointed to like a sustainable future. They also pointed to further integrating the member states. They also talked a lot about defense integration. Yeah, and also like improving the democratic system of the European Union, because at the moment, we only choose the members of the parliament. So yeah, I mean, I think that I don't know if in the internal debates they would have before preparing the draftings, they would come up with different opinions. But I think overall, the final documents show like a pretty cohesive view.

J : Okay. And also, and just with your friends or with the people that you met in Erasmus, the vision of Europe was mostly positive. Was the people engaged in Europe in some way ?

G : Most people that I met during the Erasmus weren't engaged like in an association or anything like that. But we talked for several times that the Erasmus was a great opportunity. It also came out because during the Erasmus, as some of my friends went to London, and some of them couldn't go because they didn't have their passports with them, because they were just planning on traveling around the European Union. So that conversation would come up several times. And I mean, everyone had the feeling of being happy of being European. And we also agreed, because I was in the association, so we would bring this topic up several times. Pretty much everyone agreed that after the Erasmus, we felt like more European than before. But not like actively engaged, you know, like in activism or policy, whatever. But they did feel European, they were happy to be members of the European Union.

J : Okay. And also, I wanted to know about what kind of discourse on Europe is produced within this association like yours ? Because your association is very implemented in Spain. Did you think that they want to spread a little bit outside of Spain, that it will keep really linked with the state ?

G : Yeah, like that topic was brought up several times. But at the moment, we just don't have the resources to do so. Because first, that would mean like translating every single document into English. And also not just in English, but like if you want to expand in France, you should have it in French. If you want to expand in Germany, you should have it in German. So that's kind of out of the discussion at the moment. Of course, it has came up several times, but we just don't have the money to do it. And we already have like enough issues. We are not present in every region of Spain, for example. So that would be like a task to do before thinking to go internationally. But we do have an international delegation but it's just of Spanish people, like Spanish members that live abroad.

J : Okay. So you will first focus to implement yourself in more region in Spain first, and then think about the future.

G : Yeah.

J : I just want to know your thoughts about this. Do you think that these associations like yours, do you consider it as a transnational movement in a way that you talk about Europe, and you promote it in some way, and you have some projects. So, do you think that even if you have the resources and even though

you're different from other associations, do you have meetups with other associations to talk about Europe too? And you kind of feel that there is the same goal at the end ?

G : Well, in my case, what I would again, we collaborated with the European Students Think Tank. That is more like an academic youth association, but we collaborated with them to do a campaign with the Seville City Council. And then I know that Equipo Europa, like the association as whole at the national level, cooperates with the European Erasmus Network, or ESN. I don't know exactly. Erasmus Student Network. Yeah. So, I know that they do cooperate with them, and they have organized some activities. And also, a Spanish association called a Talento Para El Futuro. It's like talent for the future. And it's like about youth leadership, that kind of thing, not specifically European, but like political activism. They have also cooperated with us.

J : Okay. And is it easy to do collaboration ? They are all very open to do it ?

G : Yeah, I was going to say it's easier to collaborate with other associations than with official institutions. Because like the associations don't really care about if you have your paperwork all done and that kind of stuff.

J : Okay. Kind of the same thing, but also what will be the feedback that you have from working in this in this association until now ? Like do you have some feedback that you want to talk about ?

G : Like feedback from me to the association or feedback that I have received ?

J : Both.

G : Okay. Well, feedback that I have like that I have received as a delegate about the association was first that people wouldn't really, sometimes people would feel very lost, like when they first joined the association. And it's true that if you don't put an effort yourself to know how everything works, because we do have like an internet where all the vacancies come up, where all the campaigns are organized, where you have the dates and all that kind of stuff. So, if you don't put the necessary time to learn how to use the internet, of course you're not going to find out about anything. So that was, I would say that was like the main feedback that I received because in the association you would see like, we would be a lot of members, like I think we're over 4,000 right now. And, but you would see like maybe only 500 do things on a monthly basis, you know ? And the others would claim that it was because they were never reached about the activities and the opportunities. So, I know that that has changed because with the diffusion channels that WhatsApp has created, the association now has one and I mean you get it delivered straight to WhatsApp. So, it's as easy as it gets. So, I would see that was the main feedback and then feedback from me to the association. And I know that they have changed this since I'm not a delegate anymore. It's like focus on less to like get further because at the time when I was the delegate, it would be like five campaigns at the same time. At the same time you would get like random events every month in every delegation and that kind of things. And then right now they're more like, okay, so we're going to prepare the Andalusian week and all the efforts of the Andalusian delegation focuses on preparing activities for a specific week of the year. And then they have, now we're going to prepare the summer camp, the association. Now everyone is focused on the summer camp, like little by little and organizing bigger events, even though they're not as common because maybe there's like one every couple months. But like that's better, I think.

J : Like quality over quantity ?

G : Yeah, exactly.

J : Okay. And just to finish, are you politically active ?

G : Me ? Well, not in social media. I am in my discussions with people, but I don't like posting about politics on social media. Especially like national politics, you know? You would see me posting about Gaza right now, but that's not like, I don't think it's the same.

J : Okay. And like, so are you, I mean, for example, the European election is coming soon. Are you trying to promote it in your association, for example ?

G : I don't anymore, because I'm just a member and like I'm finishing my bachelor, so I have like a lot of things to do. But the association is organizing a campaign because it's also a very important date for us, because it was created, the association was born in 2019 with the objective to promote participations in the elections.

J : Okay.

G : So now it's like the fifth anniversary, and then they do the same duty that they had when the association was created. So, they're taking it quite seriously.

J : Okay. Well, thank you for your time and answering all these questions. It was very interesting. And answering all this question. It was very interesting. And because even when I was searching the association, it was very like, most of the time it was in Spanish, so it was hard for me to get the information. So it was really nice that you can speak English and talk about it more, so I can get the information. So thank you. Thank you very much.

G : I'm going to ask, okay, if someone from the forum wants to do the interview. I'll let you know.

J : Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you. It will help me. Thank you so much. And have a good day. Bye.

G : You too.

J : Thank you.

Entretien n°4 : Dominika – Vice-présidente chargée des affaires européennes de l'association de l'École d'Affaires Publiques de Sciences PO (AEAP)

Date : Mercredi 27 mars à 11h15 (heure française)

Lieu : Par vidéo-conférence

Langue : anglais

Durée : 39 minutes

J : Yeah. Then I was just like, for the first part, I will focus more about your profile, and then about the association. So like, my first question was whether you could introduce yourself, your name, age, and study. And if you can tell us about your role and your experience, and actions in the association also.

D : Okay, so I am Dominika. I'm 22, and I come from Poland. And now I am studying in France, so it's the same policy, the same program as Manon is doing. So, it's the Paris School of Public Affairs, which is kind of misleading, because it's not only public affairs, but also private things. And we're doing the economics and public policy stream, which is within the branch that is more into the European affairs than the French public affairs. So, it's like that. And I am in the first year of master. And before that, I was also attending Sciences Po. It was also Sciences Po Paris, but Campus de Dijon. And it was a program more, let's say, multidisciplinary, also linked to Europe and specialised in Central and Eastern Europe. So, for me, it was even more interesting, because it was in the area where I come from. So, I had more courses that were more specialised. But it's also great, and I like this focus on economics. Okay, and before studies, I was just living in Poland in Warsaw, and it was for my whole life. And yeah, I don't know what to tell you more. So, about university or more about me ?

J : Like, why did you become involved in the association ? Like, is there any particular reason ? Maybe, like, you were inspired by your family, or your friends, or you did it for your studies ? Is there anything that pushed you to do this commitment ?

D : Okay, so I was involved in student life, in the community life, since I was in school. So it was also in secondary school, high school, that I really seeked something that was in parallel to studies, because I discovered that I have many interests, and also capabilities that are maybe not so much linked to the

curricular thing of studying and having good grades, but I was more interested in something beyond. And for example, I was doing some projects for European youth integration in high school, then for me, it was like more natural to do, to continue these things, also during studies. So, in bachelor, I was involved in some more, the associations that were more into promoting foreign cultures in France, for example, that was the association ASPO, which is the association of Polish students from Grande Ecole studying in Paris, or in Parisian schools elsewhere in France. And during the master, I just saw that there was this association called Association de L'Ecole de l'Affaire Publique, and I got very interested in it, because it was very linked to what we do, it's like one of the main associations in school. So, I decided to apply, and I got accepted for Vice President for European Affairs. And what we do there is basically promote different knowledge, accessibility also of knowledge and of opportunities to students. And it is something that, for me, is very important, because I stand for equality and broadening of knowledge, also of accessibility to people, and providing some experiences that would not be otherwise possible. So,

with this associations, we can trade bonds with people, something which is beyond courses, you can also involve some alumni to guide students to present something that they're doing. And also, we promote our university to some institutions to create this better maybe image of university of the profile, so that also afterwards people can have better opportunity. And when it comes to like different projects that we're doing, let's say that the projects were predefined, for example, that my responsibilities were to do conferences, to do the study trip to Brussels, and we're doing a gala in three weeks of the like academic year. But then what do you do inside is a little bit up to you. So I am, for example, sensitive to some like topics which concerns like this distinction between the European continent and European Union. So, like what we do with countries that are kind of associated with Europe, which are not part of this internal European community. So that my involvement was more towards this broader geopolitical context. That was, for example, the conferences on Eastern Partnership with Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, or then something more linked to the political aspects of the European Union right now. So, we did a conference about the Spanish presidency last semester, and we had the chance that one of the deans of our university is a former prime minister of Spain. So, she had a lot of expertise, and it was also very beneficial to students to just see and talk. Sometimes conferences can be in an informal way so that we learn even more from the insights of the not only how the European Union works, but also why it is like that ? What is the future ? What is, for example, like place of citizens, so that it spreads this knowledge in a good way. And then this semester as the European elections are coming, we joined other associations to cooperate together and create one framework where every, like, tête de liste of a French party which ran to the election, the European Union, created this threshold of 5% of votes in the previous election. Come and do a conference that would be more in the scientific way, so it would not be a political tribune for like militants, but it would be more about their vision of European Union that then would be contradicted by some scientific researcher, and will be entirely prepared by students, very interactive. And we did three conferences up to now, which are relative to it, and we are waiting for the others. So it's also, let's say, like my passion, but it's also shared with all these people who are in the association because we are 20 people that we cooperate together to create something more, let's say, practical, something that can be useful. And it's just our passion, and we share it, and we are happy because, like, during a lot of events, there is like a big interest so that we see that also what we do is how needed.

J : Okay.

D : And that's it. Let's say that I just discovered this association before going to master, and it was a spontaneous decision and a natural one. So that's it. I am not, let's say, a militant for a specific European party or European vision. I'm just super interested in how this cooperation works and how young people can make a change.

J : Okay. Yeah, okay. But you consider yourself as a pro-European person.

D : Yeah.

J : And also, just because you talk about doing some activities in high school also.

D : So, yeah, I was in a high school activity. Okay, so I was in a high school that was Polish, but it was kind of international because we were bilingual in English, and then we have some language courses that were, let's say, like linked with some also cultural courses. So, I had this interest in different cultures, different visions, and also with the cooperation, for example, between Poland and other countries, because I felt like it's so important. So, I had this possibility to participate and live with co-organize as well, because students could also help. In some exchanges, one was with the French school in Brest, and the other one was with an Italian school. So it was, we didn't just do an exchange and travel and host them. It was more a project also about discovering the cooperation between two countries about some different cultural, historical bonds. And also, it was quite a particular high school because we are quite old, it was more than 100 years. So, we had a school museum. And for three years, at my high school, I was a touristic guide, because there were, it's a historical building, there were some monuments inside. And also, it was the setting of some historical books that were also part of them, like the curricular program for literature classes. So, our high school had this project of having several students that were interested in European history and Polish history, and also like the current things to be the touristic guide for people who come from different backgrounds, different areas in Poland, but also sometimes from like our Eastern neighbors, who are coming and we just were doing some workshops for younger kids or for teenagers. So that was one thing. And the other was also the European Youth Parliament, which was like, like now I am not active there anymore, but I participated in several events, and it was very cool.

J : Oh, what kind of events did you do in the European Youth Parliament ?

D : I did some networking, of course, then there were the summits that we had to be part of a committee and debate on some issues. So I remember one that was, I was in the committee on employment and social, with the ANPL and social activities, if I'm not mistaken. And for example, it was to debate, to embody a role of someone and to debate on what we do with education or with people who are not neither in education or in employment, some different like hypothetical things to debate. So it was very similar to the model United Nations, a little bit less formal because we were in smaller groups. So yeah, that was it.

J : Okay, thank you. And so also you talk about, so in your association in Sciences Po Paris, you say you have predefine things to do ?

D : Yeah, because let's say that we are a permanent association, because there are different types of associations at Sciences Po, but I think at other universities it's similar, that a permanent association has this contract that what the mission that they're doing, let's say, so we would like to have the subvention from Sciences Po because to exist, we have to have this, like this legal status so that we could define our missions. And then we just divide it among ourselves. But it were more like a guideline that us, we organize conferences, after works, some, we call it petit-déjeuner d'affaires because we invite people and go for a croissant, and they share their experiences. Or for example, the study trip to Brussels or some institutional visits as well that we go somewhere and we are hosted by someone like the Minister of Finance, la Cour des Comptes and everything. Or the gala that we are doing. And we invite also some people, political representatives as well. So, this was, let's say, pretty fine. But what we do, what conferences we organize, who we invite, it's up to us and also how we moderate it. But so it was like, I knew what I signed up for, so I didn't have these three things that I decide right now that I will do in a completely different direction or because it's like a continuity of this association and each year a group of students takes it over. Then we decide to which extent we are involved. So, this year everyone was

very involved, so that was also very stimulating. And sometimes if it was not me who organized things, I participated and helped the events organized by others because we work like a team.

J : And also, the gala is given by the university itself, like no further from the people before you, right? It's like the university tells you, you should do this, this, and then you have to... the liberty to do what kind of conference, right ?

D : So, the gala is every year, or it's organized by us, but it's not inside Sciences Po. So, it's us who invites the direction of Sciences Po. It's not the direction of Sciences Po who tells us what to do. It's like there is this, you know, so this year, for example, we're doing it in Salon Franco-américain in Paris and what we do is that of course Sciences Po knows, and Sciences Po recommends us to do this gala because it's defined in our statutes that continue year by year. And this is conditional on our missions. Sciences Po also provides us money so that we can continue working and also we have, but it's us who arrange ourselves with other partners who can be either from the private sector or more public sector, who can contribute in terms in financial terms, but also in terms of visibility or some just, you know, some logistical support. And then it's us who decide how to do with the gala and this year we organized, we decided to also add something more than was in the previous year because all the time it was, you know, a very elegant one for students and also for people we invited direction, also some partners and some political representatives, but this year we decided to do a charity gala so that we added this component of that if we generate any profit because we're not a non-profit association, but because we have those partners, because also people had to pay for the tickets, we can, we have the chance to maybe accumulate some amount of money so that we will devote it to called l'École de la deuxième chance, which is about how to help, for example, school dropouts or how to help people who didn't have opportunities to get involved back again and have this student, new student possibilities, either in studies or in work or at work. So, that's it and we are more, we are free to have this initiative to invite someone to choose also the cause to which we would like to devote ourselves. Then this year we had a little bit of problems also in terms of external communication, [...]

(extrait suivant non reporté à la demande de l'enquêtrice)

[...] It's more, how to say, sometimes it's difficult as students to make, to tell people that we are just students who have this initiative and we are not the institution who wants to affiliate them somehow.

J : That's true. Okay, like I was going to ask you if it is hard to actually, because you talk about conference and inviting people. So, I was going to ask you if it's hard for you to contact people, to connect with, like, you mostly try to invite politicians or you can also invite teachers and, you know, people just was like a specialist in European. Do you try to invite different ...?

D : I think that for the cycle of European elections, we of course invite politicians because of them who talk. We also invite, let's say invite, because there are teachers from Sciences Po who are willing to contradict this, who are, for example, specialists when we invited some, there was someone who was more into this problem of ecological transition in the EU, who was expert in that. So always this is this duo. And when we organize some other conferences, for example, the one on Eastern Partnership, it was with ambassadors. So they were not politicians, they were diplomats. In some countries, of course, a diplomat is a former politician. It's very, very linked. But then once we also did a conference on humanitarian action, so we decided international humanitarian action to make this dual perspective. So first was an NGO and we decided to invite the president of Croix-Rouge-Française. And the other person was someone from a director of one unit from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, and he is the director of Centre de Crise et des Soutiens. So, they were both specialists, they were not politicians. Of course, they had their political opinions, but we try and for now, we actually succeeded never to be politicized. So even if at one occasion we get, let's say, affiliated because we do something in partnership with a politician or with someone who is like well-known for his political opinions, we stay always neutral. And that's for the contacting of those people. Sometimes it's difficult, but mostly I just,

you know, reach by email, provides my contact, explains the projects. And it's like, let's say like a very vast majority of cases that they respond, sometimes negatively because they cannot come, but usually they're very interested.

J : Okay. And just because you say you worked, like you have experience in association and you have made a lot of young people from Europe, Eastern Europe and now France. I wanted to know if, yeah, if there are ideas, like homogeneous ideas coming from young people, or what is the idea that you heard a lot about Europe, coming from young people? Is there something that, you know, it's like they tell you a lot about Europe, their vision for now and for the future. Is there something you heard a lot and is it like kind of a homogeneous vision that you have also from your experience in Poland, for example, and in France ?

D : I would say that the vision is maybe not homogeneous, but there are some elements that are similar. So of course, like people would like to be more represented. So, there is this vision that makes more like participative democracy could be useful, not only maybe at the European level, because it would be very, very difficult, but more, let's say that the local level, the participation of citizens at the local level can have an impact further on. Sometimes it's also maybe, you know, linked to this, maybe the satisfaction that the European elections are, for example, only to the parliament and it's always very predictable, because parties that are popular at the moment inside Poland or inside France or inside Italy, because last year I was in Italy, so I had also this comparison that they just win, because they're popular on their opinions inside and a lot of people just don't verify what they want to do in Europe, in the European context. Then what is also quite similar, but it's especially for European students who tend to do some mobility Erasmus years or study abroad, that even if, you know, the whole thing with diplomas, with the studies and some other practical things is harmonized, it's very difficult from one country to another one to just move, to sweep, and very often the educational system is different. So maybe the vision of international students in Europe would be something that they would like to create more common frameworks and some equal frameworks to have this equivalence and recognition of different diplomas, different also, let's say like statuses in different countries. And when it comes to like the divergent things in Poland, for example, right now there was a big political change and the majority of young people are pro-European, it's rather the older generations that were more conservative and they voted more for the conservative right-wing parties. What emerges is that, of course, Poland would like to have this more recognition at the European level, so maybe like people from Eastern countries would like to contribute to more and to, how to say, bridge this gap between the Western Europe and the Eastern Europe. Then, for example, people in Italy. Italy is a unitary country, but I was there last year because I did an exchange.

J : You did an Erasmus ?

D : Yes, it was one year Erasmus, I was in Milan last year. Italians that I met were like very, very, say, open, open-minded and everything. What they wanted, for example, was something that they're very attached to, let's say, be more autonomous as a region. I observed that Italians tended more to have this federalist vision of Europe as this federation of different regions rather than this association of states. Whereas in Poland, even if people are very pro-European, they tend to think of Europe more like this organization of independent states who are together, who do things together, but still stay within the borders of a country because Poland is much more unified than Italy. Also, when it comes to Italy, sometimes they express some concerns that, for example, Italy at the European level is more like the indebted country that would not exist unless Germany gave some aids, but it was not true before the next generation EU when Italy became this recipient, but before, for example, it was them who contributed to the bailout of debts, for example, of Greece or other countries. They had also this feeling of not being enough valued at the European level. When it comes to France, here I am very, very biased because I am surrounded by people who do European affairs. In Italy, it was not the case because it was

a business school, so let's say that people were more into the economic visions, but when they spoke about their political feelings, it was more diversified. Here everyone is very devoted to working in European institutions, so let's say that here French people feel this need also to be more integrated, to make also France become this leader. Also, after the Brexit, they feel like Europe is a very big strength and they tend to maybe think more about Europe and about the stability even more than at the national level, but of course it's just a subjective thing that I feel. When we exchange views, very often it's with people who are already so much involved in the European integration and are surrounded by everyone who is involved that they just may say that Europe is us and we're doing it and we're doing it good, but on the other hand, if we go somewhere else and people are in a different setting, they would say that for them Europe is something abstract, so the optimal thing would be to also introduce this European idea at schools, and there are some other associations, I am not part of them, but for example, Les Jeunes Européens, who do more interventions at schools and do some public actions in favor of Europe and European integration. There we are more in this promotion of different views on Europe, dialogue also, but not only about European integration, but also from this technical side. And they are more spreading this need of European integration, the Jeunes Européens, but they are more, they are not a political party, but they have this political statement of being.

J : But I don't remember if you gave me the name of the association actually.

D : Ah yes, it's Association de l'école d'affaires publiques de Sciences - PO.J : Okay, and just like your vice president ?D : Yeah.

J : Okay, just to be sure I got the information.

D : We have one president who is like at the top of this organization, but then we're like super vertical, so say like we are in the responsible positions, but then there are other people, so it's a president, then I am vice president for European affairs, and then there is this president for public policies, the different streams, because then our department has 11 policy streams, you can study economics, social affairs, defense, environment, I don't know what else, some administration and so on, and in each of the specialties you may choose either the European track or the French track, and the association is made a little bit like our department, so that there is one person for each policy stream, and then I am coordinating everything that also these people want to do with Europe, and I am also offering them the possibility to take part in European projects, and then Romain, which is the second vice president, is more for doing some events for the French internal context, and then Jean-Baptiste who is this president, he is a lot of an external figure, so he will represent our association, he will seek partners, of course participate in our events and create his events on his own, and we just then if there is a leader of one project, of course many other people get involved to help.

J : Okay, thank you, and so I just want to ask if you make any benefits from working in this association, like the feedback and what did you gain from working in this association now and maybe before also ?

D : Okay, so I was also working like not for profit, so if there were benefits, there were like first of all like the satisfaction, then of course it gives a lot of let's say experience in some practical things, that I expand my knowledge, that I test myself also in some other settings, how to moderate a discussion, how to talk in front of a lot of people and not get super stressed, and also it makes me like get to know super interesting people, and it sometimes occurred to me that during some later events, I met them accidentally somewhere and they remembered me, so that was also funny, and like also apart from getting to know the people with whom we are doing conferences, it's also a great opportunity to socialize with other students and get to know them, and I feel like if I was not so present in this student life, either here or before in bachelor, during my exchange or in high school, I would not be able to make so many friends, colleagues, and this is the true plus value, I would say, because it's not only like us who do something and we make people get to know, learn, but we also like learn everyone from everyone, so this is the greatest thing I would say.

J : Okay, if you have like feedback that you would like to share, like from working in a station ?

D : Feedbacks, sometimes we do receive feedbacks that people were very happy or on the other hand were not satisfied with how we held different events, so we always accept individual feedbacks and we try to talk or to respond by mail, and also from the university side, that the university is like very supportive of our projects, and always they try to like leave beforehand and also afterwards they tell us what they think about what we do, they ask us if we need further assistance, and they also ask us for feedback to them on what we think about how the university is organized.

J : Okay, well thank you for all this information. I think you have to go right at noon.

D : Yeah, I would have to go. If you want I can share with you our social media.

Graphique

TABLE 2 Do you see yourself as ...? (National) and European; European and (national); European only; (national) only, per country

	Total	UK	Germany	France	Hungary	Italy	Poland	Romania	Spain
(National) and European	65.1%	32.1%	67.0%	67.9%	64.6%	61.7%	74.6%	74.1%	78.5%
(National) only	22.6%	58.5%	17.0%	25.8%	19.0%	26.9%	8.2%	16.8%	8.4%
European and (National)	9.2%	5.3%	11.7%	4.9%	14.1%	9.2%	14.3%	6.9%	7.1%
European only	3.2%	4.1%	4.3%	1.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.9%	2.2%	6.0%