



OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES YOUTH NETWORK

NARRATIVE REPORT

Study Visit to Brussels by the Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network (OCT-YN)

9 – 13 October 2023



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ICE on behalf of DG International Partnerships at European Commission

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1. Context of the Study Visit

The Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network (OCT-YN), launched in 2022 by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), aims to **increase the ties between young people living in OCTs and the EU and enhance the knowledge and involvement of young people in the EU-OCT partnership.**

The network's objectives are to:

- connect young people from the 13 OCTs to each other and with EU institutions and decision-makers
- provide an OCT youth perspective to the EU-OCT partnership in a spirit of co-creation
- deepen understanding about the EU in the OCTs
- create links with other youth initiatives at regional and country level, including the EU and Member States

On July 2023, the second edition of the OCT-YN was launched. The 2023-2024 OCT-YN cohort is a group of 25 young people (aged 20-28) representing all 13 OCTs associated with the EU: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Greenland, New Caledonia, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, and Wallis and Futuna (See under Annex 2 the overview and profiles of the OCT-YN members).

In the frame of their one-year mandate (July 2023 to June 2024), the members of the OCT-YN have the opportunity to attend a week-long Study Visit to Brussels, that aims **to explore the functioning of the European Union** by visiting the European Commission, the European Parliament, and by entering into dialogue with EU officials and other key stakeholders of the EU-OCT partnership.

In 2023, 24¹ OCT-YN members could attend the Study Visit to Brussels which took place on 9-13 October 2023.

This narrative report summarizes the main activities of the Study Visit and offers an overview on the topics discussed and main outcomes of the event.

¹ One member could not attend the event, due to the lack of available transportation (Kerguelen Island, French Southern and Antarctic Lands) – however this member could connect via digital means to three different sessions of the Study Visit.

2. Content of the Study Visit

The Study Visit lasted 5 working days from 9 October to 13 October 2023 and featured the following activities:

- Getting to know each other
- Building positive team dynamics and team building activities
- Peer-to-peer exchanges and sharing on themes relevant for the OCTs
- Meeting with DG INTPA Commissioner
- Meeting with DG INTPA Unit B.3 All Overseas Countries and Territories
- Visit at the European Parliament and at the House of European History
- Meetings on themes related to the OCTs and to the European Commission's programmes and actions
- Meeting at the Permanent Representations of Denmark/Greenland and France to the EU
- Follow-up steps and debriefing round

Beside the programme elements, the participants had plenty of time for networking at the fringes of the meetings and visits and for discovering Brussels.

Please see in Annex 1 the day-to-day agenda of the Study Visit.

3. Day by Day report

9 OCTOBER 2023: DAY 1

The staff of the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), Unit B.3, along with the Technical Assistance team, extended a warm welcome to the participants attending the Study Visit in Brussels. The programme of the day, objectives and working principles were shortly introduced.

Subsequently, the OCT-YN members were given the opportunity to foster interpersonal relationships, acquaint themselves with the diverse OCTs present within the group, and cultivate a team-oriented spirit alongside positive group dynamics through a series of three engaging exercises, detailed as follows:

- **Map of the World:** participants were asked to locate the place(s) where they travelled from on a common map and to share about it to the group. Each OCT-YN member had the chance to share which city, country or territory they travelled from and if anything special occurred on the way. On a second round, the participants shared another location that was important for them (place of residence, place of education, work ties, family ties, etc.).
- **Speed-dating:** the members of the OCT-YN had the chance to lead focused discussions with their peers in groups of two or three on given topics for a short time (5 minutes). In this way, the participants could talk individually with everyone in the group and exchange on their personal backgrounds and interests but as well on OCT-related topics. The composition of small groups changed for each discussion.
- **Team-building activity:** the participants were divided into eight small groups and got instructed to perform a task: build the highest self-standing tower possible with a given set of materials in a limited timeframe. Upon finishing the task, participants were given the opportunity to reflect on and analyze their group's internal processes. They identified key principles vital for fruitful and affirmative teamwork, such as establishing a unified strategy or vision from the outset, methodical progression, fostering inclusive leadership, recognizing and adapting to ineffective strategies, and navigating through the most challenging scenarios. This reflective exercise was instrumental in developing a shared insight into the fundamentals of positive team dynamics.



Following the lunch break, representatives from each OCT delegation seized the opportunity to introduce their respective territories through concise, "pitch-style" presentations. This allowed them

to inform other participants about the key characteristics and notable aspects of their OCTs. The presentations were expected to answer the following points:

- Where is your OCT and how is the climate? How many (young) people live there?
- What is special about your OCT? What are three main characteristics of your culture and your language?
- What are the main economic activities?
- What are the main constraints and challenges?

The member of the OCT-YN who could not attend the Study Visit was asked to provide a video answering the same questions, so that this OCT (French Southern and Antarctic Lands) could also be presented - the video was shared to the other OCT-YN members prior to the Study Visit in Brussels.

Through this activity, participants not only expanded their understanding of the various OCTs but also had the opportunity to introduce themselves. Many delegations brought along their OCTs' flags to share with the group. Additionally, some participants contributed to the collegial atmosphere by bringing and offering local delicacies or gifts from their islands to the group.



The last session of Day 1 was dedicated to exploring further and to comparing the reality in the OCTs, especially on three specific matters: the perception of the EU in the OCTs, the education system and educational opportunities, and challenges faced by (young) people in the OCTs. The group was divided in sub-working groups which all had the chance to reflect and exchange on these three topics. The main outcomes of the exercise are summarized here below.

The **group working on the EU perception in the OCTs** highlighted that most of the population in the OCTs have a distant, if not non-existent, relations to the EU. A lack of awareness on the role and action of the EU in the OCTs was mentioned, except for the Erasmus+ Programme, which remains widely known especially among youth. OCT-YN members believe that OCT governing bodies know about the EU-OCT Partnership but that the population does not comprehend it. The group perceived a lack of communication among OCTs and between the OCTs and the EU. Furthermore, the group mentioned that there was no or limited knowledge on the functioning of the EU and its actions and benefits to the OCTs. They also indicated uncertainty about where to find such information.

The **group working on the educational systems and educational opportunities** listed the following issues: skills mismatch, lack of opportunities to pursue education in their own language, lack of opportunities for higher education on the islands resulting in migrations and brain drain, weak quality of education (lack of qualified staff, lack of local teachers, low salaries for teachers resulting in high turn-over, overcrowded classrooms, missing digitalization, etc.), multiple educational systems on the same island, unequal access to education for undocumented population, lack of financial support to pursue higher education abroad. The fact that school curricula are based on the member states'

curricula was mentioned as a challenge shared by all OCTs, as curricula are not tailored to the local cultures and local history, resulting in a real cultural and knowledge gap for the local young population.

The third **group working on (youth) challenges** highlighted the following current challenges: costs of transportation, quality of education, extra curriculum activities and other opportunities for youth, food security, local unemployment, local nepotism and favoritism, inflation and low wages, mental health, language barriers, lack of economic diversity, lack of representativeness of OCTs, lack of trust in youth for employment for instance, etc. Future challenges to be faced by OCTs were listed by the OCT-YN members as: climate change resilience, demographic issues (aging population, over population), brain drain, current mind-sets and fear for changes of OCT inhabitants, local prices especially for housing and land.

Following the presentations of each group, the technical assistance team presented the agenda of the week and various technicalities of the Study Visit were discussed. Remaining open questions were answered.



10 OCTOBER 2023: DAY 2

On the second day of the Study Visit, the OCT-YN had the chance to have an **exchange session with the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen**. Besides various members of her Cabinet, the Head of Unit for All Overseas Countries and Territories (DG INTPA B.3) Anna Burylo and various staff members of this unit were present.

Every member of the OCT-YN was given a chance to introduce themselves and share their background and interests with the EU Commissioner. Additionally, the Commissioner inquired with those OCT-YN members who returned to their islands after studying abroad whether their decision to come back felt instinctive or not, yielding a variety of responses across the group. .

The Commissioner presented the engagement of the European Commission towards youth in the world and highlighted various programmes and actions led by the EU in line with the three main pillars of the Youth Action Plan: Engage, Empower and Connect. Moreover, the Commissioner shared her own path from being a teacher to becoming an EU Commissioner and explained the OCT-YN members about her role and responsibilities.

An extensive round of questions and answers took place at the end of the presentation, during which the OCT-YN members could inquire about various topics of their interest such as: contribution of the EU for sustainable development in the OCTs, EU-OCT linkages, how to perform as a woman/ mother in an executive job, matching skills in the OCTs, EU representation and visibility in the OCTs, etc.



The afternoon of Day 2 was dedicated to **exploring the EU-OCT Partnership with the Unit B.3 of DG INTPA working on All Overseas Countries and Territories.**

The group was welcomed by Felix Fernandez-Shaw, the Director of INTPA.B on Latin America & The Caribbean, Relations with Overseas Countries and Territories. Various staff members of the DG INTPA Unit B3 were present: Head of Unit Anna Burylo, Deputy Head of Unit Catherine Metdepenningen, Heads of Sector Emilie Wattellier and Karl Rawert, Matthias Dalig, Rikke Nielsen, Frédéric Maier, Estelle Payan, Ivana Jukic, and Madalena Vale.

After a short introduction on the commitments of the European Commission towards young people and the historical backgrounds of the EU-OCT Partnership, each OCT-YN member was invited to present themselves and reflect on the question “Why do we need Europe?”. OCT-YN members mentioned that they believe Europe is needed for various reasons such as democratic development, partnership-building, peace, sharing common values, cooperation and contributing to solving global issues. However, some OCT-YN members also acknowledged the fact that they did not feel European and that they were not sure why Europe was needed for their OCTs. They also highlighted the lack of awareness of people in their OCTs concerning the role and actions of the EU on their islands. This triggered a discussion on the relation between the OCTs and the EU, and between the OCTs and the

Member States, on European citizenship and what it is/means to be European and hold an EU passport, as well as on the European integration process after the 1957 Treaty of Rome.



Thereafter, DG INTPA Unit B.3 staff members presented to the OCT-YN members the role and work of DG INTPA, the background of the EU-OCT Partnership, the specific instrument and legal framework of this partnership, institutional relations and dialogue between OCTs and the EU, various EU-OCT programmes and their financial allocations, as well as horizontal programmes from which OCTs can benefit.

OCT-YN members had the opportunity to ask questions, share their observations or request clarifications on the presentation. Following enquiries occurred: how decisions are taken to open an EU Delegation in a certain region, participation/ voter turnover in European elections in the OCTs, the overlapping of various citizenships and laws (in the example of New Caledonia), benefits from the EU-OCT Partnership for the EU and reasons behind the strategic interest of the EU in OCTs, how allocations of funds for OCTs are decided upon (competitive, negotiations, etc.), how to access results of EU projects in the OCTs, how to tailor EU project management rules to the local OCT setting's and customs, sustainability of EU technical assistance and other EU projects (with example of Irma Hurricane Response in Sint Maarten), EU support for cooperation projects among OCTs, decision-making processes for priorities, consequences in case of shortcomings of OCTs when implementing EU funded projects, etc.

After the presentation and discussion, the OCT-YN members and the DG INTPA B.3 unit staff members were invited to further discuss in smaller groups. This format allowed the various participants to network and get to know each other.



11 OCTOBER 2023: DAY 3

On Day 3 of the study visit, the OCT-YN members attended **a visit at the European Parliament Hemicycle**. The presentation covered the history of the European Union, the overview of the Member States of the EU over time, the role and functions of the European Parliament, European policy-making processes and its various steps, political representations at the European Parliament, upcoming European Parliamentary elections, the work process of the European Parliament including voting system and translations, etc.

After the presentation, the OCT-YN members had the chance to view the European Parliament Hemicycle.



The afternoon of Day 3 was dedicated to **exploring EU programmes and projects that are relevant for the OCTs**. Three presentations were offered to the OCT-YN members on the following topics:

- **DG INTPA Youth policy and programmes**, by Viviana Galli, Policy and Programme Manager at DG INTPA G.3 Unit “Youth, Education and Culture”
- **EU funded programme BestLife2030 on biodiversity in the Outermost Regions and OCTs**, by Cristina Romero and Alexandru-loan Craciun of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA)**, by Ann Philipps, President of the OCTA Executive Committee

Viviana Galli, Policy and Programme Manager at DG INTPA G.3 Unit “Youth, Education and Culture” offered an **overview of the work of the European Commission in terms of youth participation and youth empowerment**. The speaker presented the Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU External Action, which was adopted in 2022, and explained its framework and principles: youth inclusion, participatory approach for transformative change, human rights-based approach and gender equality, evidence-based policy-making and accountability. The three pillars of the Youth Action Plan (Engage, Empower and Connect) were explained and initiatives under each of these pillars were presented. Programmes accessible for OCT youth were highlighted. The Youth Empowerment Fund, newly launched in Autumn 2023, was introduced and explained to the OCT-YN members. The newly formed Youth Dialogue Platform was also explained.

The presentation was followed by various questions from the OCT-YN members, covering the following topics: inclusion of the OCTs in the various programmes presented by the speaker, priorities of the Youth Empowerment Fund, how DG INTPA reaches out to youth in the Outermost Regions and OCTs, which is the role of the EU when working on educational projects (clarifications on competences of Member States and EU), how OCT youth could be better represented in international platforms or forum’s which address matters that concern OCTs, where to find further information on

these youth opportunities, process of consultations with youth especially under the Youth Sounding Board, etc.

After a short break, the next presentation was dedicated to the **EU funded programme Bestlife2030 on biodiversity in the Outermost Regions (OR) and OCTs**. Cristina Romero and Alexandru-Ioan Craciun, two members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) leading the programme implementation delivered the presentation. The structure, aims and objectives, and key activities of Bestlife2030 were presented to the OCT-YN members, including facts and figures about the programme (scale and scope). A selection of projects funded under the former generation of this programme was then presented to the audience, specifically biodiversity projects implemented in the OCTs.

The audience was particularly interested and attentive to the presentation and followed-up with multiple questions and enquiries, covering the following topics: projects in specific OCTs, involvement of local communities and how to ensure local sustainability, after-grant situations of these projects, data collections in the OCTs and how to use such funding programmes to fill the existing data gaps, regional cooperation among OCTs to solve common challenges, etc.

The last presentation of the day was dedicated to the **history, objectives, activities and governance of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA)**. The President of the OCTA Executive Committee, Ann Philipps, detailed the creation of the OCTA, the initial number of members and its increasing memberships until the Brexit in 2020. The speaker highlighted OCTA mission statement: “To work collectively through the promotion of common positions and partnerships for the sustainable development of OCTs by cooperation, capacity building and communication”. The three main pillars of OCTA current strategy (1- Dialogue and Governance, 2- Communication and Learning, and 3- Cooperation in Strategic Areas) were presented and various projects and initiatives of the past years were highlighted to the audience. Finally, the restructuring and changes in OCTA governance and management since 2022 were explained by the speaker.

The OCT-YN had the chance to ask various questions to the OCTA speaker and enquired about the following topics: how could OCT youth contribute to the change management of OCTA, how to ensure OCT representativeness on international events such as COPs and the potential role of OCTA in facilitating this, how to ensure youth engagement and inclusion in OCTA, how to ensure a balanced approach in OCTA considering the various OCT’s interests and expectations. The participants showed a great interest in contributing to the OCTA re-structuration and development.



12 OCTOBER 2023: DAY 4

Day 4 started with a guided visit at the permanent exhibition at the **House of European History**. The participants were divided in two smaller groups, allowing a direct discussion with the professional guides. Guided visits were tailored to the interests of the OCT-YN members. The guided visits lasted for 90-120 minutes, were very appreciated by the OCT-YN members and resulted in multiple discussions with the guides and within the group.



The afternoon was dedicated to the visit at the European Commission organized by the Visitors' Center of the European Commission. The group was welcomed by the visit's organisers and the agenda of the afternoon was presented. The OCT-YN participants had the opportunity to attend following presentations:

- **The Role of the European Commission as the Political Executive of the European Union, The European Institutions** - Prof. Dr. Stephan Simon (DG COMP), Senior Expert, Member of internal speakers' team for the Directorate General for Communication
- **Education, Training and Youth** - Raffaella Margaryan (DG EAC), EAC - Erasmus+; Youth and European Solidarity Corps & Alexandros Tournas (DG EAC), Trainee, Directorate-General Education and Culture
- **Traineeships at the European Commission** - Manon Pigeyre (DG COMM), ex-Blue Book Trainee, visit's organizer, Directorate General for Communication
- **Gender Equality Strategy** - Louisa Gzenai Makboul (DG JUST), Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
- **EU Impact on Employment and Social Issues: What every young person should know** - Filip Tanay (DG EMPL), Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Each presentation was followed-up by time dedicated to Questions and Answers, so that the participants could enquire the speakers on their particular interests or ask for clarifications.

At the end of Day 4, the participants had the chance to share a common Belgian dinner at the heart of the capital city.

13 OCTOBER 2023: DAY 5

The morning of Day 5 was dedicated to **meeting with the Permanent Representation of France to the EU** for the French OCT-YN members and with **the Greenland Mission to the EU and the Permanent Representation of Denmark to the EU** for Greenlandic OCT-YN members.

The meetings were hosted and led by the relevant Permanent Representation/ Mission and allowed the OCT-YN members to explore the role and function of the Permanent Representations/ Missions to the EU. These meetings also helped the OCT-YN members to better encompass the relations and linkages of their OCTs with the Member States of the EU they are constitutionally linked to.



The last session of the Study Visit was dedicated to **planning the next steps of the mandate of the OCT-YN members and debriefing of the week.**

The main objectives were to offer a group reflection on the next steps of the OCT-YN, to collect ideas and suggestions on the activities of the OCT-YN and on potential contributions of the members, and to gather feedback on the study visit. Last but not least, the session allowed to wish everyone a safe trip back home.

The team presented the overview of the upcoming activities that are foreseen in the frame of the mandate of the OCT-YN, mainly: webinars, networking meetings with other youth organisations/ networks, meeting with DG INTPA, contribution to the EU-OCT Forum, participation in various international events or fora (tbc), online meeting with the Permanent Representation of The Netherlands to the EU, online meeting with Members of the European Parliament, visibility and outreach activities, joint activities/ meetings with the relevant EU Delegation or EU Office. The participants highlighted that some applied or were selected to attend international events where they will as well bring up the voices and perspectives of the OCT youth such as the 2023 Arctic Circle Assembly to be held in Iceland, the Regional Conference on Youth Caribbean to be held in Barbados, the COP28 to be held in Dubai, etc. The team reminded the participants that they can request support or help if they intend to apply for opportunities or participate in events that have a link to the mission and activities of the OCT-YN.

After this review, the group of participants was divided in three sub-groups and requested to reflect on the three following topics:

- **Up-coming EU-OCT Forum in February 2024:** what could be your contribution or engagement? What is the message you would like to share to the EU-OCT Forum participants?

- **Learning and activities:** what would you like to further explore in the frame of your mandate? Which topics do you want the webinars to focus on? Which other youth networks would you like to meet? What are your learning objectives?
- **Visibility and outreach:** How do you plan to communicate about the OCT-YN in your OCT? What could be the message to your peers? Do you have any other ideas for youth participation and outreach to your OCT peers?



Outcomes of the “EU-OCT Forum” working group: The OCT-YN members listed the following ideas concerning their contribution or participation in the EU-OCT Forum: a declaration on common issues faced by OCTs, a video with all OCT-YN youth represented, a video about challenges faced by OCTs and potential solutions, an art exhibition, create and launch an OCT Youth Association, a sculpture/ flags representing all OCTs. Moreover, the participants highlighted that they believe youth should have a permanent invitation to the EU-OCT Forum (and other EU events) to ensure youth participation and representation (secured invitation). They wish to see an open dialogue on colonialism, to reframe the perspective(s) on the EU-OCT relationship highlighting the importance of the OCTs, and to see more emphasis on the importance of the access to funding. Lastly, but of great significance, they aim to make a memorable impact on the attendees of the EU-OCT Forum.

Outcomes of the “Learning and activities” working group: The OCT-YN members highlighted possible topics/ formats for the upcoming webinars: presentations from EU Delegations/ Offices based in the OCTs, EU job opportunities and career development (incl. entrepreneurship, climate innovation), constitutional relationship and partnership between the EU and OCTs (with details for each OCTs), European Parliamentary elections (2024) and the various political parties, communication strategy, campaigning and advocacy, climate change programmes and projects in the OCTs. The OCT-YN members wish to use the opportunity of a webinar to discuss how to establish and launch an OCT Youth Association. Furthermore, they wish to connect with other international youth organisations, youth networks or local OCT youth associations (no specific names stated). They wish to further learn from each other or from other active young people throughout their mandate.

Outcomes of the “Visibility and outreach” working group: The OCT-YN members highlighted various organisations or networks to reach out in order to raise visibility of the network e.g., Europe Direct in Curaçao, Foyer in Saint Pierre et Miquelon, CEDE and CKI in Aruba, BAK in Sint Maarten, MIJ in Wallis and Futuna, etc. The members highlighted that a networking meeting with the Youth Sounding Board might be very inspiring. In order to inform the wider audience about the OCT-YN, the members agreed to use social media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and others), run presentations in schools, municipal events, at youth organisations or student associations, contact the local press, have info booth at international events, or run information webinars. The OCT-YN members expressed their wish to **establish an OCT Youth Association** as a chance to broaden OCT youth perspectives. The idea of this association would be to raise youth voices at the international level, to connect young people that share a similar reality, to meet youth from around the world and travel, to create diplomatic relations, to network and to learn about opportunities for OCTs.

Last but not least, the participants mentioned that they wish to receive the Communication Toolkit of the network.

Following the presentations, the Head of Unit for All Overseas Countries and Territories (DG INTPA B.3) Anna Burylo came to wish farewell to the OCT-YN members. She shared about her background in youth participation and engagement and about her career path. A discussion followed-up on our various identities as individuals and if the OCT-YN members felt Europeans or not.

At the end of the session, the OCT-YN members had the chance to share their insights, learning and highlights about the week.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 / Day-to-Day agenda of the Study Visit

Date	Programme
9 October	10:00 – 13:00: Welcome, Getting to Know each Other & Team-building
	14:00 – 17:00: Exploring OCTs and youth-led exchange fair
10 October	09:45 – 10:15: Meeting with DG INTPA Commissioner
	14:00 – 18:00: Network Meeting with DG INTPA – Unit B.3 All Overseas Countries and Territories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part 1: Presentation of the EU-OCT Partnership and discussions - Part 2: Networking with DG INTPA OCT Unit's staff members
11 October	11:30 – 13:00: Visit at the European Parliament Hemicycle
	15:00 – 18:00: Meetings at the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DG INTPA Youth Unit - Programme BESTLIFE2030 (IUPN) - Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA)
12 October	10:00 – 11:30: Guided Visit at the House of European History
	14:00 – 18:00: Visit by the Visitors' Center of the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Role of the European Commission as the Political Executive of the European Union, The European Institutions - Erasmus+ Youth Programme and the European Solidarity Corps - Traineeships at the European Commission - Gender Equality Strategy - EU Impact on Employment and Social Issues
	20:00: Belgian dinner at the Roy d'Espagne restaurant
13 October	(Parallel sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10:00 Meeting at the Greenland Mission to the EU and the Permanent Representation of Denmark (for Greenlandic OCT-YN members) - 10:00 Meeting at the Permanent Representation of France to the EU (for French OCT-YN members)
	14:00 – 16:00: Planning follow-up steps of the OCT-YN & Debriefing 16:00 – evening: Free time & departures

Annex 2 / Overview of the members of the OCT-YN Cohort 2023-2024

ARUBA



Aisha Marí Romero
Age: 22

'Committed to ensuring that OCT-Youth is informed and aware of all the opportunities available to us'



Delaiah Tromp
Age: 25

'Advocating for social justice and children's rights'



Maurielle Marie-Jose Tromp
Age: 22

'Passionate about inclusion and diversity'

BONAIRE

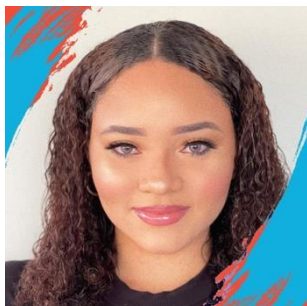


Jeny Molina
Age: 27

'Passionate about the economic development of emerging markets where sustainable development of the community is fostered'

Jeny also has strong links to Curaçao.

CURAÇAO



Sebel Antoin
Age: 22

'Unlocking potential, unleashing change: passionate about empowering the youth through knowledge and education'

Sebel also has strong links to Bonaire



Sophia Vermaas
Age: 21

'Passionate about upholding the rule of law and good governance'



Stephanie Walroud
Age: 24

'Dedicated to raising awareness for island resilience in the face of climate change'

FRENCH POLYNESIA



Hinamoe Brotherson
Age: 24

'Creative mind seeking for justice and equality in Mā'ohi Nui'

**FRENCH
SOUTHERN AND
ANTARCTIC
LANDS**

GREENLAND



Elie Castang
Age: 22

'Happy to help scientific research in foreign regions'



Maja Bourup
Age: 27

'Passionate about international relations and economic growth in Greenland'



Louis Chemnitz
Age: 27

'Passionate about unity in diversity, respect, cooperation, values and capacity building'

NEW CALEDONIA



Leïa Gurrera
Age: 22

'Passionate about better access to higher education for everyone'



Soanile Moal
Age: 25

'Passionate about the ocean and devoted to fight against climate change'



Hugo Nguyen
Age: 26

'Dedicated to empowering Pacific communities for sustainable development and cultural outreach'



Noémie De Saint Quentin
Age: 22

'Passionate about entrepreneurship and committed to youth in order to preserve the social life of our country'

SABA



Francine Zagers

Age: 21

'Passionate about intersectional justice and creating a sustainable and safe future for all'

SAINT BARTHÉLEMY



Valentin Dantec

Age: 23

'Passionate about European integration, international cooperation and development'

SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON



Elisa Cecchetti

Age: 21

'Passionate about strategic and political issues related to security and defence'



Joshua De Lizaraga

Age: 27

'Passionate about culture and social policy'

SINT EUSTATIUS



Suverei Tearr

Age: 25

'Building bridges for the young future'
Suverei also has strong links to Curaçao.

SINT MAARTEN



Roberto Patrick

Age: 26

'Equivalence in education is sustainability!'



Shanica Romney

Age: 27

'Passionate about social sustainability through the work of community building and international cooperation'



Riddhi Samtani

Age: 27

'Committed to being an agent of change to solve the most pressing issue of our generation: climate change'

WALLIS AND FUTUNA



Sonia Polutele

Age: 25

'The fight against the monopoly and the economic stakes of tourism'



Aurélie Selui

Age: 20

'Free thinker curious about the world'

Annex 3 / Outreach and visibility (selection)

The OCT-YN members contributed greatly to raising visibility about the Study Visit in Brussels by posting regular updates, stories and news on social media platforms (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok).

After the completion of the Study Visit, the OCT-YN members have also contacted OCT-based media for further dissemination. Here below is a selection of outreach and dissemination.

Article in the local newspaper "Sermitsiaq.ag" about the engagement of a Greenlandic OCT-YN member and the study visit in Brussels



Nysgerrig på diplomati og geopolitik

Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz var i foråret i praktik ved Grønlands mission til EU i Bruxelles. Efterfølgende er han blevet medlem af et internationalt ungdomsnetværk, der netop har været på studiebesøg i Europa-Parlamentet

Udlandsophold

Trine Jønsch-Jørgensen
Integrationsrådgiver

27 årige Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz, der studerer statskundskab og filosofi på universitetet i København, er på studiebesøg i Bruxelles for at møde med EU-kommissionen for internationale partnerskaber Jutta Uipalans, som del af et internationalt netværk af unge fra over 20 forskellige lande og territorier (OCT).

«Under mit ophold blev jeg medlem af OCT Youth Network, som jeg også var en del af tidligere. Jeg blev opmærksom på det, og det er et netværk, hvor vi mødes for at diskutere og dele erfaringer med hinanden. Det er et meget inspirerende og lærerigt netværk, som giver mulighed for at møde andre og lære om deres lande og territorier. Måske kan det være en mulighed for at engagere sig i samarbejdsprojekter, fortæller Louis Ilik Papis, der er født og opvokset i Nuuk.

Faglig og mentalt styrket
Under sin praktik har Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz fået mulighed for at arbejde mere praktisk

med diplomati, og det har styrket ham både fagligt og mentalt.
«Jeg synes det har været super spændende, og jeg har det faktisk som en øve at repræsentere mit folk og Grønland. Det var rart med at være en del af et internationalt netværk, hvor folk er interesserede i at høre om Grønland og vores kultur, natur og økonomiske fremtid», fortæller han.

Praktikperioden ved Grønlands mission til EU løb fra februar og frem til juli 2023. Grønlands Mission til EU varetager Grønlands interesser overfor EU på vegne af Naalakkersuisut, og er således involveret i arbejdet omkring OUV i Grønlandsbudgetsamtaler, fiskeriparternet, skattekampen med EU, samarbejde med de andre overvoksle lande og territorier, EU med lovmønstre og andre samarbejdsprojekter som Grønland har indgået med EU.

Desuden varetager missionen Grønlands interesser og opgaver indenfor EU's centrale politik, Grønland-UK handelsaftalen, samarbejde af hval- og regner i relation til den generelle interesse og for Grønland.
«Grønlands Mission til EU ligger i samarbejde med Danmarks Permanente Repræsentation, den Danske Ambassade og den Fæderale Repræsentation i EU.

En varieret hverdag
Arbejdet som praktikant har involveret informations- og nyhedsudgørelse, at skrive orientations-

tinger og udvekslinger, deltagelse i møder og konferencer og events. En del af det også gik med at planlægge Arctic Future Symposium, som er en vigtig event i Bruxelles for at skabe interaktioner mellem EU og Grønland, Norge, Sverige, Danmark, Finland, Canada, Island og Færøerne. Under praktikken har Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz fået præsenteret sin egen ide om grønlandske adgangsprojekter, der danske udenrigsministeren og den danske minister i Europa Kommissionen i forhold til det kommende EU-kommissionens i Nuuk. I juli besøgte Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz og Jutta Uipalans, som Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz tog del i hele programmet.

Jeg har også været til møder i EU-Parlamentet for at høre om beslutningerne om ændringer til FETC, som er Parlamentets konstante forberedelse.

Tilbage i Nuuk er det tid til at reflektere over oplevelsen. Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz er i gang med sin kandidatindsats på statskundskab og har derfor endelig fået sin kandidat for 'Sara Uloq' i BCL.

Jeg har fået en rigtig fantastisk forberedelse og mulighed for at møde andre og lære om deres lande og territorier. Det er et meget inspirerende og lærerigt netværk, som giver mulighed for at møde andre og lære om deres lande og territorier. Måske kan det være en mulighed for at engagere sig i samarbejdsprojekter, fortæller Louis Ilik Papis, der er født og opvokset i Nuuk.



Louis Ilik Papis Chemnitz til EU's Grønlands Mission i Bruxelles i foråret.

Radio interview on La 1ère Saint Pierre et Miquelon (France Info)

Pendant un an, Elisa Cecchetti et Joshua De Lizaraga vont représenter Saint-Pierre et Miquelon à la Commission Européenne



Partager :

Elle est Saint-Pierraise, étudie en master en politiques publiques à Paris, lui est Miquelonnais et prépare une thèse de physique à Montpellier. La semaine dernière, Elisa Cecchetti et Joshua De Lizaraga étaient tous deux réunis à Bruxelles avec 23 autres jeunes des Pays et Territoires d'Outre-Mer

Selection of LinkedIn posts:



Mauriëlle Tromp · 1st
Resettlement Asst. at UNHCR | OCT-YN Ambassador for Aruba
1h · 🌐

Dear network,

I am delighted to announce that I have been selected as representative of Aruba for the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) Youth Network alongside [Delaiah Tromp](#) and [Aisha Romero](#). I look forward to serving my mandate from July 2023 to June 2024.

The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) Youth Network is an initiative launched by the [European Commission's](#) Directorate General for International Partnerships, aiming to increase the ties between young people living in OCTs and the European Union and to enhance the knowledge and involvement of young people in the EU-OCT partnership. The OCT Youth Network is composed of 25 young people representing 13 OCTs associated with the EU.

Find out more about the OCT Youth Network and the current members here: https://lnkd.in/eG_Z-Bzn

[#OCTYouthNetwork](#)



Hinamoe Brotherson · 1st
Legal advisor
12h · Edited · 🌐

🇺🇸 The Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network : what is it ? 🤔

🇫🇷 Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to represent French Polynesia 🇫🇵 in the European institutions of Brussels, in Belgium. 🇺🇸

💡 Alongside with the other young and bright members of the EU's OCT, we were able to address some serious issues faced by our Territories to EU's leaders and stakeholders.

It was a pleasure working with my colleagues : [Riddhi Samtani](#), [Roberto Patrick](#), [Sophia Vermaas](#), [Francine Zagers](#), [Sebel Antoin](#), [Stephanie Walroud](#), [Soanile Moal](#), [Hugo Nguyen](#), [Noémie De saint Quentin](#), [Sonia Polutele](#), [Shanica Romney](#), [Valentin Dantec](#), [Elie Castang](#), [Louis Chemnitz](#), [Maja S. Bourup](#), [Mauriëlle Tromp](#), [Delaiah Tromp](#), [Elisa Cecchetti](#), [Joshua de Lizaraga](#) & [Leia Gurrera](#).

Stay tuned for the future projects we have! 📺

[#octyouthnetwork](#) [#eupartnerships](#)



Francine Zagers · 1st
OCT-YN Representative for Saba
1d · 🌐

This past week I had the honor to represent Saba as a member of the Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network in Brussels! 🇺🇸

My intelligent and talented young colleagues from the 13 OCTs of the EU brought incredible insights from their home territories that contributed to meaningful and powerful discussions. The team facilitated holistic and unique meetings with EU representatives and allowed us to see EU institutions including the European Parliament and the European Commission. Everyone I met this past week shaped me and changed me for the better in one way or another. I leave them with nothing but love and gratitude. ❤️

As Saba is the smallest of the OCTs, there was a certain pressure to represent my home island in a fair and just way. Leaving Brussels has only left me better equipped to do so, and I am excited to implement the knowledge gained into meaningful, island-wide impact. 🌟

A special thanks to the incredibly talented members of the technical assistance team who made this possible for us:

[Tiphaine Coulardeau](#) [Frédéric João Maier](#) [Max Fras](#) [Clara Beffa](#) [Michela De Gregorio](#) [Terezina Dajlani](#)

Moreover, a special thanks to the [Saba Tourist Bureau](#) for the materials they gave me to share with



Louis Chemnitz · 1st
Student at University of Greenland
41m · 🌐

Last week I had the pleasure to go on a one week Study Visit in Brussels, as part of my one year mandate as a member of the Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network - representing Greenland 🇬🇷

We met the Commissioner for International Partnerships, [Jutta Urpilainen](#), staff from DG INTPA, and other key stakeholders in the OCT-EU partnership 🇺🇸

I leave Brussels inspired by youth from OCTs far away from my home 🇬🇷

[#octyouthnetwork](#)



Hugo Nguyen · 1st
Information and Outreach Officer
2h · Edited · 🌐

I had the chance to represent my country at the European Union 🇺🇸 🇫🇷

Two weeks ago, I was invited to Brussels as one of the New Caledonia reps for the Overseas, Countries and Territories Youth Network (OCT-YN).

This was a great opportunity to discuss the current partnership between the EU and the OCTs from a youth perspective, our current struggles and opportunities for the future.

A lot is yet to be done when it comes to education and climate change, but it still felt empowering to see so many brilliant souls working towards the same goal: giving a voice to Overseas Countries and Territories.

This is what I will remember from this mission, the chance we had to share our experiences and benefit from each other's stories.

We came from the Pacific, the Caribbean, the North Atlantic and even the Antarctic, and we left as one people, connected by the sea, raised by the wind, and rocked by the diversity of its music.

Our mandate may only be a year long, and we may have a long road ahead of us, but we will change the world eventually.

[#octyouthnetwork](#) [#OCTA](#) [#eupartnerships](#) [#DGINTPA](#)



Sebel Antoin · 1st
LL.B.
9h · 🌐

I had the honor of representing Curaçao 🇨🇺 as part of the OCT Youth Network last week in Brussels.

First launched in 2022, OCT Youth Network aims to increase the ties between young people living in OCTs and the EU and enhance the knowledge and involvement of young people in the EU-OCT partnership.

It was an incredible and unforgettable experience networking and meeting peers from the different Overseas Countries and Territories. During our time together, we had productive conversations about the issues we all share, from sustainable development to social inclusion. It was inspiring to see the unity among our diverse group and the potential for collaboration to bring positive change. We also discussed how the European Union can support our efforts, which left us feeling hopeful about the future. This experience reinforced the importance of international cooperation in addressing common challenges 🇺🇸

[#octyouthnetwork](#)



Selection of Instagram Stories/ Posts/ Re-posts:



Annex 4 / Closing speech by one of the OCT-YN members

“Meeting all of you guys was a blessing in every way. Working with you these past few days reminded me why I joined this program in the first place. I must admit that for me, it was never really about integration or feeling European, but rather about getting together as one people, connected by the sea, raised by the wind, and rocked by the diversity of its music. I do think that your countries are lucky to have so many brilliant souls within their ranks. So I wanted you to know that I go home optimistic about the future as you all inspired me to face the world with nothing else than passion, laugh and affection.

The truth is, I was hoping I could bring change to my country but then I met all of you and realized we could actually change the world.

I can't know for sure if life will bring us back together again. But I would like you to know that, we, as Pacific Islanders, do not make friends, we just extend our families. So from this day and until our last, please remember that you will always have a home in New Caledonia. As you might have heard me say a few times already, we have more than 30 languages in our country and so many ways of saying thank you. Even though I was tasked with representing the whole of New Caledonia, I can only say this in the three ways I learned growing up.

Cam on nhieu, Oleti atraqatr, Ci oreone.

In other words, Merci, Gracias, Maūruru, Qujanaq, Masha danki, Malo tou ofa Malo le alofa, Dank je wel, Shukriya.

Thank you,

For the brightness of your minds,

And the kindness of your hearts. “