

Annual Report

for 2025



Free European Youth e.V

A YEAR WHERE THINGS STARTED TO CLICK

If 2024 was about gaining clarity, 2025 became the year where Free European Youth e.V. started to position itself more visibly within the European youth ecosystem.

The organisation moved beyond simply delivering activities and began actively engaging with broader discussions around democracy, sustainability, and digital transformation. What changed was not only the scale of involvement, but the level at which the organisation operated. Local actions, digital practices, and European-level dialogue started to connect in a more intentional way.

This created a different kind of presence. Free European Youth e.V. was no longer only a participant in projects, but increasingly a contributor to ongoing conversations about youth work and its future.

A MORE LAYERED WAY OF WORKING

One of the most noticeable developments in 2025 was the way different types of activities started to complement each other.

Online workshops, local micro-events, and participation in international forums were no longer separate lines of work. They began to feed into each other. Ideas discussed in European-level settings influenced local actions, while experiences from grassroots activities were brought back into policy-oriented spaces.

This created a more layered structure where local activities generated real experiences, digital formats expanded accessibility, and international forums gave visibility and context. Instead of scaling up in a linear way, the organisation started to operate across different levels at the same time.

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WEBINAR - DIGITAL TOOLS TO LEARN GERMAN

One of the most impactful activities of 2025 was the webinar "Digital Tools to Learn German", which addressed a very concrete and often underestimated barrier for young people: access to language learning.

Rather than approaching language acquisition in a traditional way, the webinar focused on how digital tools can make learning more flexible, accessible, and sustainable over time. It was designed as a practical and open resource, allowing participants from different backgrounds to explore how technology can support their individual learning paths.

What made this activity stand out was its hands-on approach. Participants were not only introduced to platforms and applications, but actively guided through how to use them. The session encouraged interaction and the exchange of experiences, creating a space where participants could learn not only from the facilitator but also from each other. This peer dynamic added a depth that could otherwise have been missing from a purely technical presentation.

Impact & Outcomes

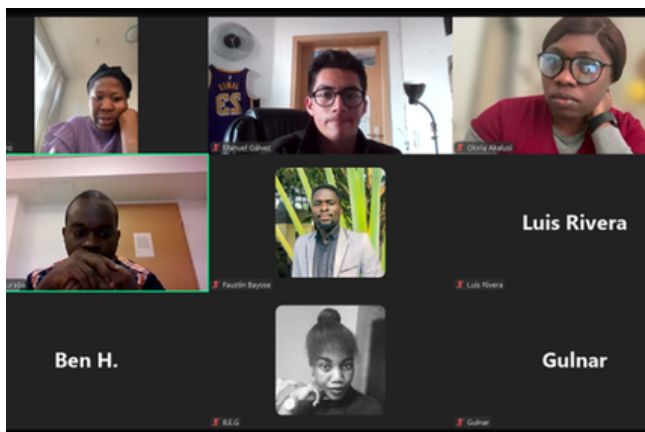
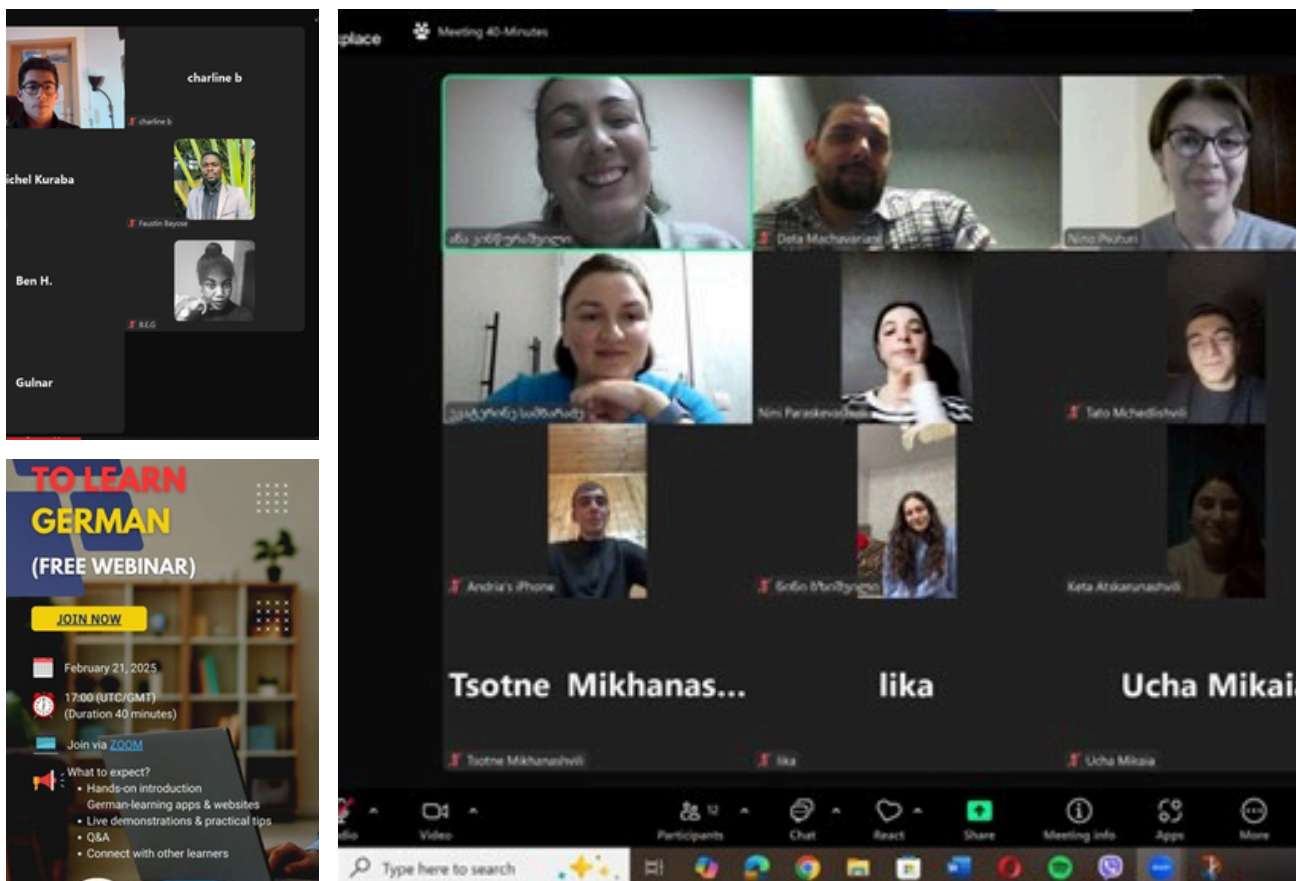
The impact was particularly visible in how participants applied what they learned. Many reported being able to reorganise their study habits and approach language learning with greater confidence. For those who rely on flexible or remote learning environments, the webinar provided a clear structure that had previously been missing.

Another meaningful outcome was the creation of a small but active learning community. Participants connected with others from different countries, exchanged experiences, and in some cases continued supporting each other after the session ended. This added an intercultural dimension that goes beyond language itself.

In several cases, participants began sharing these methods within their own local contexts, introducing digital learning tools to youth groups, peers, and educational environments. This multiplier effect extended the reach of the activity far beyond the original group of participants.

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WEBINAR - DIGITAL TOOLS TO LEARN GERMAN



Live Demonstrations & Practical Tips

- How to use apps effectively
 - Set a daily goal (15-30 mins)
 - Combine apps for better results
 - Track progress with statistics
- Pronunciation & Listening Tools
 - Forvo – Native pronunciation samples
 - YouGlish – Find words in real video contexts
 - BBC Languages & ARD Audiothek – Slow German podcasts

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WEBINAR - DIGITAL TOOLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

The workshop "Digital Practices on Environmental Activities" brought together environmental advocates and tech enthusiasts to explore how modern technology can strengthen ecological initiatives in practical, hands-on ways.

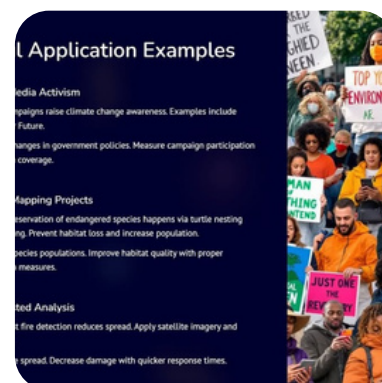
Rather than approaching the topic theoretically, the session moved through concrete tools and methods: digital mapping and GIS platforms, AI-assisted environmental analysis, online campaign design, and carbon footprint tracking. Participants worked through live demonstrations, shared experiences from their own contexts, and developed strategies they could apply directly to ongoing projects.

The collaborative format was central to the workshop's value. Group work and open exchange allowed participants to learn not only from the facilitators but from each other, reflecting the diversity of backgrounds and initiatives present in the room.

Impact & Outcomes

The workshop produced a tangible shift in how participants approach environmental work. Beyond individual skill development, it resulted in a set of shared outputs: a directory of green tech tools, practical guides for online mobilisation, a mapping resource database, and a strategic framework for technology-driven activism.

Many participants have since taken on active roles as digital coordinators within their own local organisations and educational environments, extending the impact of the workshop into communities well beyond the original event.



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EXPLORE THE CITY: BAMBERG

Bamberg is not the kind of city that reveals itself from a distance. It needs to be walked. This was the premise behind "Explore the City", an activity organised for 13 young participants that used the city itself as the main learning environment.

The Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, provided the backdrop for a day of guided exploration, architectural discovery, and historical storytelling. Participants visited the Bamberg Cathedral, moved through streets spanning several centuries of European building tradition, and took on a group photography task that encouraged them to look more carefully at what surrounded them. A cultural comparison workshop later in the day gave everyone a chance to step back and reflect on what they had seen in relation to their own contexts.

What made the activity work was the absence of distance between the content and the experience. History was not presented as information to absorb but as something visible in the stones, the layout, and the atmosphere of the place itself.

Impact & Outcomes

For many participants, the most lasting effect was a shift in how they approach unfamiliar places. Several described leaving Bamberg with a different instinct for observation, one they have since applied in their own cities and communities.

The group produced a shared photo gallery of the city's landmarks and developed a working framework that could be adapted for similar youth-led explorations elsewhere. A number of participants have drawn on the experience in their own youth work, using it as a reference point for designing activities that connect young people to local history and cultural identity.



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STEPPING INTO EUROPEAN-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS

One of the clearest differences compared to previous years was the organisation's presence in European-level forums.

Participation in events in Berlin and Bonn allowed Free European Youth e.V. to bring its experiences into discussions around democracy, sustainability, and youth participation. At the same time, it created opportunities to engage with policymakers, networks, and organisations working on similar topics.

This was not only about visibility. It also influenced how the organisation thinks about its own work. Local and digital activities were no longer seen in isolation, but as part of a wider ecosystem that includes policy, advocacy, and long-term change.

EXPANDING THROUGH LOCAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to Erasmus+ applications, 2025 also marked the organisation's first steps into local funding landscapes.

Applications were submitted to several small-scale and regional funding schemes, including a municipal youth engagement grant supporting community-based activities, a local environmental initiative fund aimed at sustainability projects, and an integration-focused micro-grant scheme for youth participation. Outcomes from these applications are pending.

These efforts reflect a growing understanding that long-term impact requires diversification of resources. Engaging with local funding mechanisms also strengthened the organisation's connection to its immediate environment.

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WORKING WITH 30+ NGO'S BEHIND THE SCENES

Collaboration reached a new level in 2025.

Free European Youth e.V. worked with more than 30 partner organisations in the development of projects and activities such as Erasmus+ ; DSEE; CERV; Deutsch-Französische Jugendwerk (DFJW). This expansion was not just quantitative. It required a more structured approach to communication, coordination, and shared decision-making.

The organisation became actively involved in shaping multi-partner project concepts, aligning different organisational priorities, and maintaining continuity across long preparation processes. Operating within such a broad network strengthened Free European Youth e.V.'s credibility and positioned it as a reliable actor capable of contributing to complex international initiatives.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF IMPACT

The outcomes of 2025 are not limited to specific activities. They are visible in how participants and the organisation itself evolved.

Young people engaged more confidently with digital tools, not only as users but as creators. They also developed a clearer understanding of how their local actions relate to wider societal challenges. Conversations that began in workshops continued in informal channels, local initiatives, and peer networks long after the activities themselves had ended. This kind of carry-over is difficult to measure but easy to recognise: it shows up in the way people talk about what they do, and in the new connections they bring back into their own communities.

At the organisational level, there was a noticeable shift towards thinking in systems rather than individual projects. Decisions about what to pursue, who to work with, and how to design activities became more deliberate and more connected to a longer-term direction. FEY e.V. ended the year not simply having done more, but having developed a clearer sense of why it does what it does. This creates a stronger foundation for the work ahead.

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PROJECT APPLICATIONS REFLECTING A BROADER VISION

The range of Erasmus+ applications developed in 2025 shows a clear expansion in both scope and ambition.

Among the key proposals:

- Act for Earth: Solutions for Greener Tomorrow (KA152)
- EcoVision Youth (KA152)
- Bridging the Digital Gap: Inclusive Youth Work for All (KA153)
- Digital Youth Work For Social Inclusion (KA153)
- NET without HATE (KA153)
- Green Democracy Lab: Young Citizens Shaping Policy (KA154)

These projects do not focus on a single theme. Instead, they reflect a broader vision where inclusion, digitalisation, environmental responsibility, and democratic participation are treated as interconnected challenges. Compared to previous years, there is a clear shift towards more policy-oriented and socially responsive project design.



FREE EUROPEAN YOUTH
EINGETRAGENER VEREIN

Free European Youth e.V

LOOKING FORWARD WITH MORE CLARITY

By the end of 2025, Free European Youth e.V. is operating in a different space compared to just a year earlier. The foundations laid over the past two years are no longer just foundations. They are starting to produce results that point clearly towards what comes next.

2026 will be a year of deliberate expansion. The organisation is entering a phase where the experience accumulated across projects, partnerships, and European-level forums can be translated into something more sustained. This means pursuing larger and more ambitious Erasmus+ projects, deepening relationships with partner organisations across Europe, and taking on a more active role in shaping the conversations that influence how youth work is understood and funded at the policy level.

The team is growing. New people are bringing fresh perspectives, energy, and expertise into an organisation that is increasingly capable of taking on complex, multi-layered initiatives. This growth is not simply about capacity. It is about building a group of people who are genuinely invested in the same long-term vision and who can carry that vision into new contexts and new partnerships.

Thematically, the work ahead will continue to sit at the intersection of digital transformation, environmental responsibility, and democratic participation. These are not separate agendas. They are different dimensions of the same question: what kind of Europe do young people want to live in, and what role can they play in building it. Free European Youth e.V. intends to remain a space where that question is taken seriously.

The ambition for 2026 is not only to do more, but to do it with greater intentionality, stronger partnerships, and a clearer understanding of where the organisation wants to be in five years. The direction is set. The work continues.