Candidates’ Questionnaire – GB Elections 2019

Personal details

First and last name: Lika Abramishvili
Age: 23
National Committee: EYP Georgia
Nationality: Georgia
Current occupation: President of EYP Georgia (the term ends in mid-December).
Project manager of UNICEF Georgia and Council of Europe Georgian Office events.
Member platform: [Is your profile on the Member Platform updated?] Yes/No
Contact details: E-mail: Labramishvili@eyp.org.ge; lika.abrams@gmail.com
Phone: +995 571 97 90 97
Skype: Labramishvili@eyp.org.ge
Availability: [Are you able to dedicate 3-6 hours per week for the GB?] Yes/No
[Are you able to physically attend at least four events each year?] Yes/No

Questions for candidates

1. What would your aim and priorities as a GB member be, and with what mind-set will you pursue them?

Throughout the last few years European Youth Parliament has faced a lot of challenges, which turned out to be a great learning experience, leading to the constant and consistent development of the organisation. It is definite that there are several priorities and goals I set for my term as a GB member. Before stating them, I think it essential to emphasise the importance of the following year, as it is promising to be one of the most impactful in the context of evolving a new international strategy. Alongside, I find it crucial to re-analyse how we position ourselves as an international actor in youth communities. These being said, there are two key priorities I have set, one of them being a new international strategy and the other - impactful international visibility.

The new international strategy is meant to pave the path for our network in the following years. If used correctly, it will shape the future of the organisation and provide proper guidance. Thus, the new international strategy is a huge responsibility for the Governing Body, as well as an effective tool for all NCs of the network to utilise and elaborate more on adapting it to individual needs. Taking all these factors into account, I believe there are three main areas we should focus on. These are: raising the accountability of individual NCs and GB with continuous support, re-designing classic EYP methodology and academic structures, as well as, moving on to a more strategic management of the network. National Committees are our main stakeholders, human resources and representatives. We need to elevate accountability in order to ensure mutual trust, coordination, and guaranteed help they should European Youth Parliament
be given on a daily basis. All the hard work behind the sessions and events are slowly fading away as we barely manage to pack accumulated knowledge and expertise in an attractive and understandable way for external partners and potential alumni. Strategic management will allow us to be visionary in a more pragmatic way, where we manage to find a golden mean between desires and needs.

EYP is a project that fosters the active participation of young people in society and their employability, by developing youth leadership and entrepreneurship through a variety of actions, including capacity building, fellowships, support to policy dialogue in indirect ways and a lot more. However, unfortunately, I highly doubt that international youth, political and generally active communities are aware of it. On the other hand, I believe impact we have on young society of Europe is interlinked with and shown in the amount of support we receive internationally. In order to make sure we increase our visibility, we should not only produce effective communication materials, but also have the courage to make bold statements, commitments and position ourselves in the international youth community. Apart from having values, mission, and strategies in place, we should also try to develop the message box, which will ensure and validate our importance. Sometimes, we tend to think that if we fully understand something, others should do so too, but reality has proven the opposite. That is why it’s important that we reach out to communities and make sure they understand the values we have in EYP.

Last but not least, I am fully aware that there might be other types of issues that require thorough understanding and adequate amount of time on behalf of the Governing Body. I am ready to invest my resources in facing any type of challenge that may arise, as well as, provide the team with fresh ideas for resolving problems. The reason I decided to put emphasis on above-discussed priorities, is that I find them to be crucial for prosperous, sustainable and time-effective development of our organisation.

2. In your view, which EYP projects deserve more resources and which projects are less of a priority?

According to my vision I think “Open Forum for Youth” as well as “Strengthening the EYP Network” are the directions/projects we should focus on the most.

I see Open Forum for Youth as an effective tool to ensure impactful international visibility, enable theme-oriented partnerships along with political participation and spread our messages. This might also help with re-designing conventional methods we have been resorting to for many years in EYP. A good example of such innovative approach would be if we decide to be involved in policy dialogue, there will arise a need for alternative activities within the sessions, thus we would use the platform of open forum. It is not linked to any partisanship, it should be seen and developed as the part of active citizenship, civic education and youth participation.

As for the second project, I think here we can cover capacity building, which will not only be oriented on internal development, but will include CSOs and generally other actors as well. It’s very important to be ready to commit to more significant ideas, which reaches out to a broader spectrum of young people and strengthen the network by expertise-sharing. Secondly, we can aim at tackling structural problems we encounter as a network, where we will individually assist NCs, closely observe their needs and re-evaluate councils’ work, which definitely needs major changes for improvement. Once we give more accountability, independence and importance to all EYP Councils in the process of decision-making, we will instantly notice more positive outcome.

I do realise that International Sessions are of a great importance in the network, but I also think that it might be more strategic to organise up to two flagship events per year and offer more diverse activities.
programme to participants and also give spots to other youth organisations as well as give a chance to inter-NC cooperations.

3. What personal skills, knowledge or experience will you bring to the board that will be needed to face the challenges that EYP is likely to encounter?

It is worth mentioning that my professional interests in the field of Political Science brought me to the network of the European Youth Parliament from the very beginning. However, the reason why I have decided to stay and continue working in the European Youth Parliament was the actual contribution of this network to my personal development. After some time in this organisation, every step forward has turned into some kind of measure to the development of my career which is in direct touch with my self-assessment. Every other session or a position that I was taking, were the sources of overcoming new barriers and getting information on brand new aspects and topics.

Quality over Quantity – this is a theorem that the development of this organisation and many other organisations have proven not once, but many times. This is something I applied several times to my professional occupations and projects. So far, it worked really well.

Various working experience in the NGO sector, as well as strong organisational skills, are the key contributors to my active leadership style and future work within the network. Advance knowledge of EYP structure will help me to find the most suitable solutions to current problems.

Strategic thinking is one more quality of mine. This helps me to approach complex things with pragmatism and not be afraid of taking risks in order to make sure things develop effectively.

Having served on the governance for around three years, I have seen the bigger picture of our organisation including its struggles, challenges and a full potential. The experience that I have acquired both within and outside of the EYP, including UNFPA, UNICEF Georgia and Council of Europe in Georgia, is a crucial asset in terms of operational planning.

All above-mentioned qualities will help me to contribute to shaping the network in the best possible way, in the best interests of our organisation.

4. What experience do you have of non-profit management?

I’m an aspiring Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in NGOs and International Organisations. Skilled in Non-profit Organisations, International Relations, Fundraising, Research, and Management. I am an active citizen and policy specialist with a special focus on youth policies, young people and regional development.

I served as the president of EYP Georgia for two terms (ongoing), worked for Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia with the focus on external partnerships, partnered up with British Council within the project of Creative Spark, provided logistical support to MultipleIndicatorClusterSurvey in Georgia, currently working on the projects by UNICEF Georgia and Council of Europe Georgian Office.