

“YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN VOICES”

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Aissam Benaissa (Algeria)

Aissam is an Algerian grassroots activist and founder of the “Young Arab Voices” programme in Algeria. As Master trainer, Aissam has trained more than 500 debaters and trainers in debate skills in Algeria and the Maghreb, and has contributed to the creation of not less than 25 debate clubs Algeria-wide. He initiated the “Ramadan Debates 2013” competition in Oran and chaired the first national debates competitions in the country “Algerian Boxing Days in 2014 and 2016”. His efforts helped to shape careers of talented young eager advocates for local and international issues. He moderated in March 2017 the “Dialogue meeting” between the EU High Representative on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and 35 young leaders from the Maghreb, Europe and the Middle East, which is considered as an important milestone in the launching of the “Young Mediterranean Voices” program. He also moderated in June 2017 the youngest debate panel at the European Development Day 2017, under the theme of “youth employability” and whether it contributes to the building of “peaceful and inclusive societies.” Aissam is based in Berlin-Germany where he works on a new media platform “The Maghreb Eye”. He holds an MA in International Studies and Diplomacy, an LLM in International Economic Law and is fluent in Arabic, English, French, German and Hebrew.

Ariadna Romans (Spain)

Ariadna Romans i Torrent and is twenty years old. She is proudly from Girona and studies Political Sciences (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and Philosophy (Universitat de Barcelona). Ariadna took part in several debate leagues where she was member of the winner team, such as on the intern league of Universitat Pompeu Fabra, the Vives League and the JCI intern competition. She also took place in the intern competition of Brians II penitentiary as group leader. Ariadna is currently vice president of the youth association deba-t.org, where they promote the debate and discussion in order to become critical and active citizens. She is passionate about cultural, philosophical and moral topics, always related with sustainability and gender equality.

Saja Hussein (Egypt)

Saja is co-founder of “Albedaya-Men-Hena” NGO which works on providing economically restricted and under privileged children with modern methods of education, and of the ‘Refqan’ awareness campaign that was built to advocate women’s rights in Islam. She is also co-founder of Hypatia women debates club with whom she participated in the Anna Lindh Forum in Marseille 2013, and debated along with Martin Schulz. She has been part of “Culture Corner Initiative” which aimed at spreading culture and awareness among Egyptian youth. She has also participated in the Battle of Ideas in London 2015, and the Debate to Action training in Communication and Advocacy skills in Amman Jordan, 2016. Saja was part of the selected team of the Young Arab Voices who met with the EU’s HR/VP Federica Mogherini in March 2017. Building on the success of that meeting, she also was part of the young ambassadors who participated in the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Journalist Awards event in Brussels in December 2017. Saja holds a Master’s degree in International communications and development with a dissertation on how to use communication in the effective way for social change, awareness and development. Currently working on adolescents and youth



development in Egypt as well as on an initiative which works on inclusive education for children and adolescents.

Ferran Dalmau (Spain)

Ferran Dalmau Fradera, 21, is from Sant Boi de Llobregat. Ferran started an Industrial Engineer career, but after having passed the first year he decided to make a change in order to be able to contribute more to society. For that reason he began the Degree in PPE at UPF. Ferran's two greatest professional passions are the EU and the World of Education (as a mean for social change). This leads him to work day after day to be able to put his knowledge and his skills at the service and improvement of the society. Complementary to this, Ferran takes part in student associations such as deba-t.org or Pompeunomics, which promote the critical debate and the generation of social capital within the university community. On the other hand, he also had work experience in the banking world, where he worked for companies such as the CaixaBank Group. Despite having profound ideological and political convictions, he does not militate or participate in any political party.