

Transatlantic Leadership Initiatives

Strengthening Transatlantic and Global Leaders



Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network TILN Workshop 2017 March 20-26 Brussels, Belgium

A Leadership, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative
of The German Marshall Fund of the United States
*in cooperation with the
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*



OVERVIEW

The Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) advances leaders who are global in outlook, representative, culturally competent, and inclusive. TILN is the premier venue for young, diverse U.S. and European elected and civil society leaders to meet, enhance their inclusive leadership portfolio, and engage senior policymakers. Now entering its sixth year housed within the German Marshall Fund in cooperation with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), TILN has been honored to be supported through partnerships with the U.S. Department of State, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Open Society Foundations, Meridian, IMPACT, ONCE Foundation, Operation Black Vote, Unitas Communications, New American Leaders Project and the World Jewish Congress.

At the center of the initiative is an annual leadership workshop for young diverse leaders from Europe and the United States. TILN workshops have created an empowered and highly upwardly mobile network that bridges the Atlantic and strengthens transatlantic relations for the future. TILN alumni utilize their experiences to reach new heights from mounting campaigns for the European and national Parliaments to becoming Members of the U.S. Congress, Ministers, and regionally and locally elected officials. Alumni include U.S. Congressman Ruben Gallego, Swedish Parliamentarian Said Abdu, UN Expert on Minority Issues Rita Iszak, and other Parliamentarians, Ministers, Mayors, City Councilpersons, regional and local leaders.

The first TILN workshop convened in April 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark with young diverse elected officials and civil society leaders representing 26 countries. TILN II took place in Brussels in March 2013, with the added benefit of participation in GMF's major policy convening, the Brussels Forum, through the Forum's Young Professionals' Summit. TILN convened its third season in Brussels in March 2014, with site visits to the European Parliament and Ghent, Belgium to engage with grassroots leaders on the International Day Against Racism. TILN IV convened in Brussels in March 2015, with site visits to Antwerp, Belgium and took part in a roundtable with diverse senior Members of national parliaments and U.S. state legislatures. 2016 marked the fifth anniversary of the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN), with a TILN workshop in Brussels followed by an anniversary event with alumni in Turin, Italy.

TILN VII convened March 20-26, 2017 in Brussels, where the 2017 TILN cohort explored leadership strategies, networked with U.S. and European political and civil society leaders, and engaged the private sector. U.S. and European experts facilitated the workshop with peer learning sessions on personal missions, empowering diverse communities, shaping inclusive policies, and smart campaigns. TILN young leaders joined high level discussions with politicians from across the U.S. and Europe, including European Parliamentarians Terry Reintke, Soraya Post, and Sajjad Karim. The TILN cohort participated in the Brussels Forum Young Professionals Summit, serving as speakers and engaging with high level officials and policymakers at GMF's flagship policy convening - Brussels Forum.

TILN annual workshops highlight ongoing leadership needs related to inclusion, with many TILN alumni now supporting innovative initiatives that promote equality and inclusion in their home countries through Alumni Leadership Action Project seed grants that allow former participants to maintain their connections, further the work of multinational inclusion, and maximize the impact of collective action.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY ONE - MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

- 11:00 - 11:30 Welcome and Orientation – Making the Case for Inclusive Leadership
- 11:30 - 12:30 Mission, Vision, Purpose
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch – Generating Power through Your Personal Story
- 13:30 - 14:15 Diversity as an Asset
- 14:30 - 16:00 Inside U.S. & European Systems
- 16:00 - 16:30 Partnering Across Sectors to Advance Inclusion
- 16:30 - 17:00 Staying the Course – Value Driven Leadership
- 19:00 - 21:00 Dinner: Leading Change

DAY TWO - TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 (International Day Against Racism)

- 09:00 - 10:30 Smart Campaigns
- 10:45 - 12:00 From Running to Governing
- 12:00 - 13:15 Lunch Tour d'Horizon: Social Capital Strategies
- 13:15 - 14:00 Your Leadership Portfolio
- 14:00 - 15:30 Communication Strategies, and Working with the Media
- 18:00 - 21:00 Dinner Event: Power Networking

DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

- 09:00 - 12:00 Inclusive Policies in Practice: Civil Society
- 12:30 - 14:30 Inclusive Policymaking in Practice: Government Innovators
- 14:45 - 15:45 On Camera Exercises, European Parliament Television Studio
- 16:00 Young Professionals Summit (YPS)
- 19:30 Night Owl Sessions

DAY FOUR - THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

- 8:30 - 15:30 Young Professionals Summit (YPS)

DAY FIVE - FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

- 9:00 - 22:30 Brussels Forum YPS

DAY SIX - SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

- 9:00 - 10:00 Debrief and setting one year goals
- 10:45 Brussels Forum YPS
- Back Home Advancing the Practice of Inclusive Leadership



DAY 1: MARCH 20, 2017

Opening: The TILN 2017 Workshop opened March 20, 2017 facilitated by U.S. and European policy experts. TILN participants began with a focus on their personal and professional goals, including analyzing how to leverage their current networks and roles. Participants discussed barriers to leadership, including a lack of resources, both financial and tangible, and age, gender, and ethnic/racial discrimination. Guest speakers provided information on demographic change in the U.S. and Europe, and strategies for introducing and implementing inclusive policies to meet demographic realities and projections.



Against the backdrop of issues such as migrant and refugee influxes in Europe, youth radicalization, and racial/ethnic profiling, participants discussed the need for a greater focus on equality and anti-discrimination efforts in their countries, including the need for more accurate and positive framing about the contributions of diverse communities, and increased diversity in political, corporate, and civil society leadership.

Stepping into the European and U.S. Political Systems: Participants explored similarities and differences between European and American political systems. American participants listed gerrymandering, the two-party system, a slow government, and the influence of money as some of the key drawbacks to the U.S. political system. European counterparts explained various systems based on country differences, with participants agreeing that multi-party politics is more popular, and money is not as prominent, in European systems. In some countries, participants discussed the presence and impact of lists and gender/race quotas. Among both systems, facilitators indicated potential problem areas such as low levels of transparency, lack of inclusion, nepotism and 'old boy' systems, and partisanship as added obstacles for rising diverse leaders.

Value-Driven Leadership; the Evolving Transatlantic Partnership: A conversation on ethics focused on monitoring political activities to promote the integrity of one's message and brand. At dinner, participants discussed implications of recent elections in the U.S. and across Europe, including Brexit, on the transatlantic partnership and for diverse communities with former MEP Glyn Ford, an architect of the European Union's first anti-racism and diversity policies. Opportunities presented by changing electorates for diverse young leaders in both the United States and Europe were particularly discussed.

DAY 2: MARCH 21, 2017



Building a Movement: Participants explored campaign strategies, including innovative social media tools and grassroots campaigning. Several American participants took the lead in providing real world examples of effective coalition building, grassroots mobilization, voter participation, and communications strategies. Maintaining ties with voters after ‘winning’ was stressed as key to building movements and advancing policy change. The importance of learning from losses and staying engaged was particularly stressed, as change requires time and often does not take place overnight.

Media Training, Diplomatic Protocol, and Dinner: Participants ended Day Two with a focus on diplomatic protocol and communications training – key skills for 21st century leaders working in a global world. Media professionals shared insights on effective use of social media, including developing a strong social media persona, and crafting effective personal messages and interview skills.

European Parliament Diversity Conversations with MEPS across the Political Spectrum: Following civil society conversations, participants met with technical experts from several EU institutions, and MEPs involved in equity and inclusion policy work. EU technical staff provided an overview of EU anti-discrimination and diversity laws including on immigration, racial and religious profiling and discrimination, Roma, and radicalization.

TILN participants with MEPs Terry Reintke (Germany) and Soraya Post (Sweden) at the European Parliament



DAY 3: MARCH 22, 2017

continued In-depth discussions with one of the youngest MEPs Terry Reintke (Germany), Roma MEP Soraya Post (Sweden) and Sajjad Karim (UK) both inspired and revealed continuing struggles in reaching an inclusive Europe, with MEPs citing examples of hate speech in the European Parliament, a rise in hate crimes in the EU, and increases in Parliamentarians supporting exclusionary policies. The day ended with on-camera exercises where participants delivered their personal messages and participated in mock interview panels at the European Parliament studios.

Conversations with Local and National Diversity Leaders: In the lead up to the Brussels Forum Young Professional Summit (YPS), participants met with Belgian civil society leaders and EU activists focused on gender, differently abled, Roma, and Afro-descent communities. Following a moment of silence to commemorate the one year anniversary of the victims of the Brussels attacks, the conversation with activists and artists at “Le Space” café focused on community empowerment and social justice, and ranged from topics on the stigmatization of Roma and Muslim communities and the need for an increased focus on discrimination impacting Afro-descent populations in Europe. Racial and ethnic inequality, profiling, the impact of gentrification in European and American cities, and the positive social impact of diverse teachers and visual/performing arts projects in low-income communities were discussed. The similar situations of marginalized communities across borders underlined the importance of coalition building among diverse communities to advance local, national, and international equity and inclusion policies.



From top to bottom: John Vargas, Hayatte Maazouz, Anna Poisner, Brandon Scott at the European Parliament.



DAY 4-6: MARCH 23-25, 2017

Brussels Forum and YPS: On March 23, participants joined the YPS at Brussels Forum, a wider group of high-potential young professionals with the common goal of fostering dialogue between generations and building new connections across sectors and nations. The engagement with TILN cohorts consistently enriches the quality and depth of conversation at YPS with top U.S. and European leaders on transatlantic security issues ranging from countering terrorism and Russia/Ukraine to economic security.

TILN young leaders Maryam Jashid, Elected Member, Social Council for Hasselt, Flanders, Belgium, Paulette Jordan, State Representative of Idaho, and Alex Yip, City Councillor for Sutton New Hall, Birmingham City Council were featured on a panel moderated by Dr. Mischa Thompson of the U.S. Helsinki Commission: “The New Normal: 21st Century Leadership for Evolving Societies” and were highly sought after for discussion and interviews. Additionally several TILN young leaders were able to meet with U.S. Senator John McCain. They also served as panelists.

TILN young leaders further led conversations at breakout dinners during Brussels Forum, and Ithaca’s brilliant young mayor Svante Myrick gave commentary during the forum about effective and inclusive local leadership that proved to be one of the most memorable contributions of the day.



TILN 2017 Participants(L to R) Paulette Jordan, Martin Mata, Maryam Jamshid and TILN 2017 Facilitator Dr. Mischa Thompson



PARTICIPANTS

Participants

Umut Aydin	(France)	Analyst, Meridiam
Delio Diaz Garcia	(Spain)	Secretary General, Juventudes de Unidad Progresista
Nebojša Dobrijević	(Croatia)	Independent Advisor, Joint Council of Municipalities
Judith Garcia	(United States)	City Councillor, Chelsea, Massachusetts
Diana Horvat	(Serbia)	Editor, Radio Television of Vojvodina
Maryam Jamshid	(Belgium)	Social Council Elected Member, City of Hasselt, Flanders
Paulette Jordan	(United States)	State Representative, Idaho
Natascha Kabir	(Germany)	Green Party Faction Leader, City Parliament of Offenbach
Aroosa Khan	(Netherlands)	Board Member, PvdA Party, Amsterdam-East
Edin Koljenović	(Montenegro)	Program Coordinator, Civic Alliance
Oleksii Krasnoshchokov	(Ukraine)	Board President, Pidmoga.info
Hayatte Maazouza	(France)	Municipal Council Member, Trappes
Sammy Mahdi	(Belgium)	President, Work Group on Diversity, Youth, CD&V Party
Martin Mata	(Czech Republic)	City Council Member, Usti nad Labem
Svante L. Myrick	(United States)	Mayor, City of Ithaca, New York
Frances O'Donovan	(Denmark)	City Council Member, Fredericia
Anna Poisner	(Ukraine)	Counsel, Dragon Capital
Aida Salketić	(Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Cultural Heritage Professional
Athena Salman	(United States)	State Representative, Arizona
Brandon Scott	(United States)	City Council Member, Baltimore, Maryland
Karen Taylor	(Germany)	Advisor to of Member of Parliament Dr. Karamba Diaby
David Walsh	(United Kingdom)	International Relations Officer, Board of Deputies of British Jews
John Vargas	(United States)	Secretary, NALEO
Alex Yip	(United Kingdom)	City Councillor for Sutton New Hall, Birmingham City



Special Guests

Keesha Gaskine-Nathan	(United States)	Director, Democratic Practice–United States Program, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Justin Gest	(United States)	Assistant Professor of Public Policy, George Mason University
Randianina Peccoud	(France)	Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy Paris
Sambia Shivers-Barclay	(United States)	Director, International Visitors, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Department of Education

Facilitation Team

German Cash	(United States)	Political Director, New American Leaders Project
David Johns	(United States)	Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, Department of Public Administration and Policy and (Former) Executive Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans
Mee Moua	(United States)	President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Mischa Thompson, PhD	(United States)	Policy Advisor, U.S. Helsinki Commission
Alfiaz Vaiya	(Belgium)	Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup Coordinator, European Parliament
Simon Woolley	(United Kingdom)	Co-founder and Director, Operation Black Vote

GMF Team

Lora Berg	(United States)	Resident Fellow, Transatlantic Leadership Initiatives, GMF
Snezana Vukovic	(Serbia)	Program Coordinator, Balkan Trust for Democracy, GMF



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of the United States

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

*In cooperation with the
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*



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for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



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FOUNDATIONS**



**The NEW AMERICAN
LEADERS PROJECT**

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