

Two **EDYN Belarus** members took significant steps in furthering their careers by running campaigns for election to Belarusian parliament. Yahor Levachou and Danila Lavretski both ran campaigns using skills they had gained from their involvement in the EDYN network. Yahor focused on communicating and building trust with citizens in his community.

Yahor said that his experience in EDYN taught him about the different aspects of how change is made, which motivated him past the widespread political disinterest of citizens due to the lack of fair and real elections in Belarus. He will continue to use these skills and experiences to build on this campaign.



▶ Designing and implementing projects with their fellow members, supported by small grants

## SUCCESS STORIES

**EDYN North Macedonia** member Deniz Selmani was selected as a member of the first class of Obama Foundation Leaders, a virtual program for young leaders who want to create change in their communities and across the world. In this role, Selmani's hopes to empower young leaders who have a strong moral compass to give back to the community and inspire a collective goal focusing on the Roma community in Europe, who face racism towards their communities.



*"My experience working as a member of EDYN is great, at every meeting I have the chance to meet young leaders who are sharing similar or the same values as myself. Also, during the different sessions on topics related to democracy, human rights, and foreign policies, I have the chance to participate, hear, and discuss important issues. As a member of the Macedonian chapter of EDYN, we are about to start implementing the activities of our strategic plan through which we will increase the visibility of EDYN in North Macedonia and advocate for systematic changes that will improve the democracy and give a voice to the youth who want to engage in the political life of the country."* Deniz Selmani



▶ Engaging in individually-tailored professional development and mentorship activities



*"I think we succeeded. We collected 1,200 signatures, and I became a candidate. We went around 1,500 apartments and met with 3,000 voters. We again took second place despite the fact that there were twice as many candidates in these elections. When you understand all the same, the elections will not be fair, it's nice to hear the words of support and just interest from the outside. Thanks for that, EDYN, for helping to somehow inspire hope."* – Yahor Levachou



▶ Receiving practical skills-building on a range of topics including campaign management, fundraising, and digital communications



**EDYN Albania** chapter launched their MEF project, **Youth and Europe** – a national debate tournament between young people coming from different cities and backgrounds in Albania. Created in response to the lack of youth involvement in politics and civil society in Albania due to a lack of meritocracy and opportunity, this project sought to encourage involvement and reward debate performances based on merit. The final two teams competed in the last round of the debate, which was conducted live on the television show "A Show" with Albanian journalist Adi Krasta. They successfully debated topics such as economics, politics, and EU integration.

**EDYN Bosnia and Herzegovina** members organized a youth oriented Get Out the Vote digital campaign in Mostar. Several members of the project team have been involved in elections campaigns before have applied to knowledge to creating this project. The elections in the city, which has not held municipal elections in 12 years, presented a unique opportunity for EDYN to engage young citizens in the local democratic process for the first time.

▶ Taking part in opportunities to apply their professional skills to member-coordinated initiatives at the country level.

