

The BeEUTOPIAN Student Conference, organised by the EUSTT, took place on April 25-26 both at VUB and online. The conference aimed to reclaim a meaningful space for discussion, exchange of knowledge and networking within the EUTOPIA Alliance. Each of the two conference days focused on a different topic: mental health and student participation. These two issues were brought up and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, and heavily impacted the lives and opportunities of young people across Europe.

On April 25th, the conference started with the inspiring opening remarks of Luk van Langenhove, Vice-President for EUTOPIA at VUB, and of Matthew McCarthy, General Coordinator of the EUSTT. After that, we exchanged with Aleš Mendiževc, Ph.D. at the University of Ljubljana, who talked about mental health and human love and hate for technology in the era of Artificial Intelligence. Later on, David Gosar, PsyD and Ph.D. from the University of Ljubljana as well, taught us about machine learning and how it can be applied to the field of psychology, highlighting its enormous benefits but also its risks.

Later on, participants engaged in the 'Wall of Post-Pandemic Emotions', which was a relaxed space to express ourselves and contrast the pandemic time with the post-pandemic one. As the final speaker, Olivier Mairesse, associate professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, showed us the impact of the pandemic on the sleeping habits of young people.

On April 26th, we started with a rich panel of student representatives of associations throughout the Alliance: Marc Jodar from Compartim la UPF, Aïssatou Jalloh from Decolonize VUB, Alexander Şorodoc from AIESEC, Miriel Sissonen from Handels Kvinnliga Nätverk and Nino Shakulashvili from the University of Gothenburg's Graduate School Organization. They discussed the role of their organisations within the EUTOPIA Alliance and the impact of the pandemic on their activity. After that, we held student flash talks. Firstly, Bernat Payà and Carlota Roperó, EUTOPIA Student Representative and EUTOPIA Career Ambassador respectively, explained to us their role and invited us to make the most of the tools and opportunities EUTOPIA offers to us.

Then, Miha Robnik, a philosophy student at the University of Ljubljana, recited a political philosophy essay. Finally, Miša Glišič, Ph.D. Student of German Studies at the University of Ljubljana, talked about cultural hybridity in our daily life. The last session of the conference consisted of a workshop called 'Changemakers', where participants formed groups and were handed out pressing current topics for young people such as rising housing prices, lack of funding for research, cheap rail transportation or unpaid internships. The conference was closed by the remarks of Matías Díaz Roqueta, the EUSTT's Head of Events.

