



Natalie Sodzi – EurVoice Coordinator

Why are you applying for the Alumni Association Executive? (150 words)

I am hoping to be the next EurVoice Coordinator as the aims of the position resonate most deeply with me. EYP has played an immense role in developing my confidence in political discourse and being an active citizen. It has taught me invaluable life lessons which I strive to share. I believe in the potential that this outreach programme has to benefit many young people, who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make their voice heard.

This branch is powerfully unique to the UK's National Committee, and it could be a trailblazing way of diminishing the toxic educational inequality gap this country has. I wholeheartedly embrace the significance that EurVoice can have in developing individuality, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Providing a young person with a platform can, and will, equip them with confidence for life; I hope to be the person to facilitate this on a wider scale.

What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them? (250 words)

Firstly, I hope to continue the amazing work done by previous coordinators by **expanding the number of EurVoice sessions held across the country**. I believe in the importance of making this event accessible to a variety of people from different locations, because it currently seems too distant from more deprived areas. Hosting them in smaller towns and cities will make EYP as a whole feel more welcoming and approachable to a larger demographic. This should work to improve the diversity of participants. Creating a **EurVoice Community feel** amongst alumni of these events may encourage them to stay in touch with each other, and pursue further involvement in EYP.

The impact that EurVoice has should be all-encompassing and encourage life-long learning. As a result, I hope to create a **'Eurvoice Amplified' package** to facilitate debates in schools. This would be an **online, downloadable resource** with ideas for informal debates in smaller groups, largely centred on **improving students' ability to take on a variety of perspectives**. This project would be of particular use during the current situation we are in as the inability to attend in-person events should not halt outreach. This may also improve the reach we have, and encourage more schools to become further involved. E.g. Gloucester, Birmingham, Leicester.

Finally, I hope to improve **EurVoice's online presence**. It is already slightly active on Twitter during EurVoice Live, but I believe that creating its own **Instagram account** would encourage more continuous and fruitful engagement, with opportunities for creating online competitions.



What skills and experience (within or without EYP) do you have that will help you in this role?
How will you use these skills for the benefit of EYPUK? (250 words)

Having been involved in EYP for just over a year, I vividly remember the exposure to new people the events provided me with. I learned how to adapt in new environments and converse with different people; skills I will keep for life. I hope to give more young people this experience.

I am currently working on a local project in Gloucestershire, aimed at improving the opportunities available to students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. I am liaising with local businesses to host open days, where students can come in and have direct contact with industry professionals.

Furthermore, I had work placement at the United Nations in Geneva, attending a session at the United Nations Development Programme. Two of their goals are ensuring inclusive education, as well as reducing inequality within and among countries. I want to use EurVoice to develop students into confident individuals.

Lastly, I used to volunteer at Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, teaching adults and children English. I was continuously inspired by everyone I met; particularly the ambitious, young students. They were all from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, although did not believe that this would stop them from becoming the next big politician or doctor. The time I shared with them highlighted the importance of providing them with good opportunities. I keep these students in mind whenever forming my own ambitions, in the hopes of creating a world where every individual has the resources needed to realise their dreams.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Overall, anything and everything I do with EurVoice will have the students' best interests in mind. My manifesto hopefully provides an insight into the direction I hope to give this programme, and I pledge to continuously look for ways to improve it. I also hope to get more EYP Alumni involved in bringing out the best of this, so if anyone has further suggestions along the way, please contact me!

I would like to thank the outgoing executive for making me feel so comfortable and heard since joining EYP. This is an organisation that I hope to give my all to; I truly believe we can achieve amazing things for deserving people.

Good luck to all other candidates 😊