

Engagement Opportunities in Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation for Young Professionals and Students



EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

Promoting the European network of independent
non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks



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25 October 2024, 15:30 – 17:30 CEST

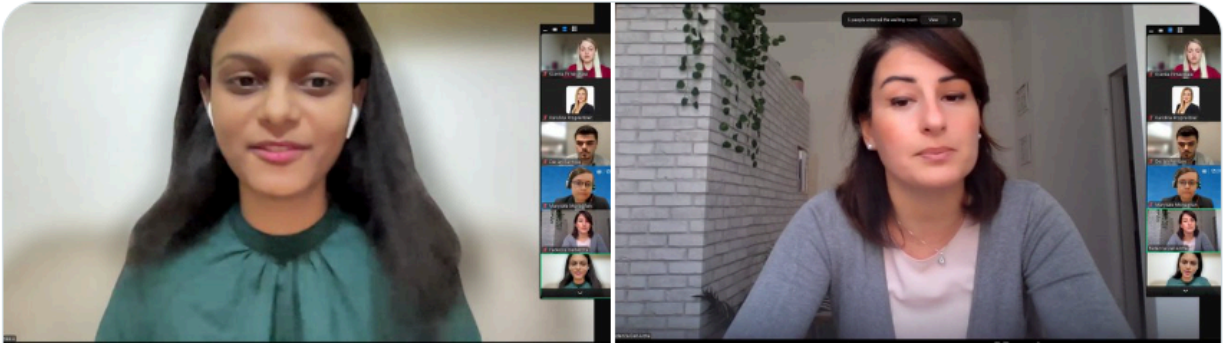
Virtual Event

On 25 October 2024, the [Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation \(VCDNP\)](#), the [Istituto Affari Internazionali \(IAI\)](#), and [International Student/Young Pugwash \(ISYP\)](#) held the second edition of the “*Engagement Opportunities in Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation for Young Professionals and Students*” event. The virtual meeting provided key insights and hands-on advice on youth engagement and careers in the arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation space, and was attended by over 100 students and young professionals.

Building on the success of [the first edition of the event held in October 2022](#), the webinar informed participants about youth-led groups and initiatives in the field and offered a platform to connect and network.

Participants benefited from presentations by five organizations and their initiatives: The British American Security Information Council (BASIC), the European Leadership Network (ELN), the EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC), the International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The organizations shared information about their activities and youth programmes and offered opportunities for learning, research, and engagement on a wide range of issues within the arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation field.

The event was organised within the framework of the [Young Women and Next Generation Initiative \(YWNGI\)](#), established under the [EUNPDC](#).



Left to right: Sanaa Alvira, Leadership Team Member at International Student/Young Pugwash, and Federica Dall'Arche, Senior Research Associate at the VCDNP

Opening remarks were delivered by Federica Dall'Arche, Senior Research Associate at the VCDNP, and Sanaa Alvira, Leadership Team Member at ISYP. Both highlighted the importance of engaging all generations and people with diverse national and cultural backgrounds to promote inclusion and diversity in the arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation field.

Younger Generation Leaders Network (YGLN) of the ELN

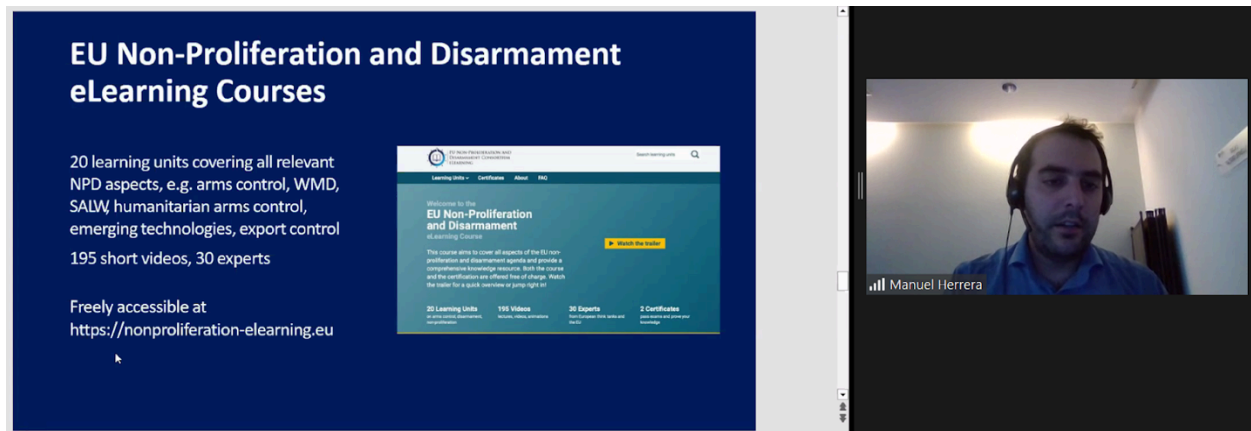


Nikita Gryazin, Policy Fellow at the European Leadership Network (ELN)

Nikita Gryazin, Policy Fellow at the European Leadership Network (ELN), presented ELN's Younger Generation Leaders Network (YGLN), a youth group which consists of 150 members from over 40 countries, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary. YGLN holds regular events like "YGLN Wednesdays," where members exchange and connect. YGLN also publishes analyses and commentary on international affairs by its members and holds an annual gathering

for in-person engagement. The network comprises four distinct groups and is led by an executive committee, helping to shape its members into future decision-makers. More information on YGLN and membership is available on the [YGLN website](#).

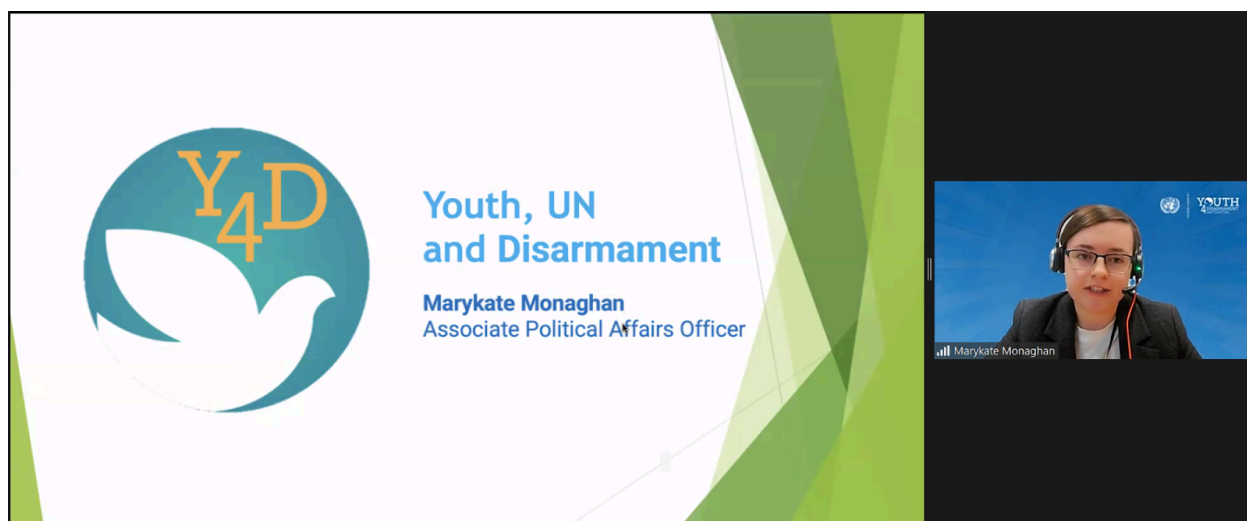
The EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC)



Manuel Herrera, Research Fellow at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Manuel Herrera, Research Fellow at IAI, provided an overview of the next generation activities organised by the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC). The EUNPDC organizes and coordinates activities for a network of over 110 research centres and universities all over Europe. One of the flagship programmes of the Consortium is the [YWNGI](#), which offers events online and on university campuses in Europe. A key part of the Initiative is an annual [mentorship programme](#) for young women. Other activities include the [Next Generation Workshop](#) – an opportunity for emerging experts to showcase their research ahead of the EUNPDC Annual Conference in Brussels. Herrera also offered an overview of the [EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament E-learning courses](#), a comprehensive library of interactive online courses on arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation issues offered by the Consortium and presented the Consortium’s internship programme. More information about the Consortium can be found on the [EUNPDC website](#).

The Youth4Disarmament Initiative of UNODA



Marykate Monaghan, Associate Political Affairs Officer at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

The Youth4Disarmament initiative, organised by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), was introduced by Marykate Monaghan. She provided an overview of the initiative's work to empower young people to champion and participate in disarmament efforts, highlighting programmes, including capacity-building workshops, creative projects, and the "Advocates in Motion (AIM) Campaign" to integrate youth perspectives into global policy-making. The initiative also includes the Youth Leader Fund, a comprehensive programme running through 2030, featuring online learning, a study tour to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, mentorship, and networking for young advocates. Additionally, she encouraged youth engagement through online events, creative advocacy, joining disarmament-focused groups, and accessing educational resources like UNODA's Disarmament Education Dashboard. More information can be found on the [Youth4Disarmament website](#).

Emerging Voices Network (EVN) of BASIC

What is the Emerging Voices Network (EVN)?

- The Emerging Voices Network (EVN) is a digital, global network of high-potential, early career researchers on nuclear weapons and nuclear policy issues.
- Formed in 2020, the EVN was created to offer effective networking, enable sustained dialogue, and facilitate collaborative problem-solving between early career researchers.
- The network today has over 250 members representing roughly 80 nations.
- We are perhaps best known for our EVN Policy Cycles.
- Applications to join are currently closed, but you can send us your contact information to be informed when we are next recruiting.

Declan Penrose, Policy Fellow at the British American Security Information Council (BASIC)

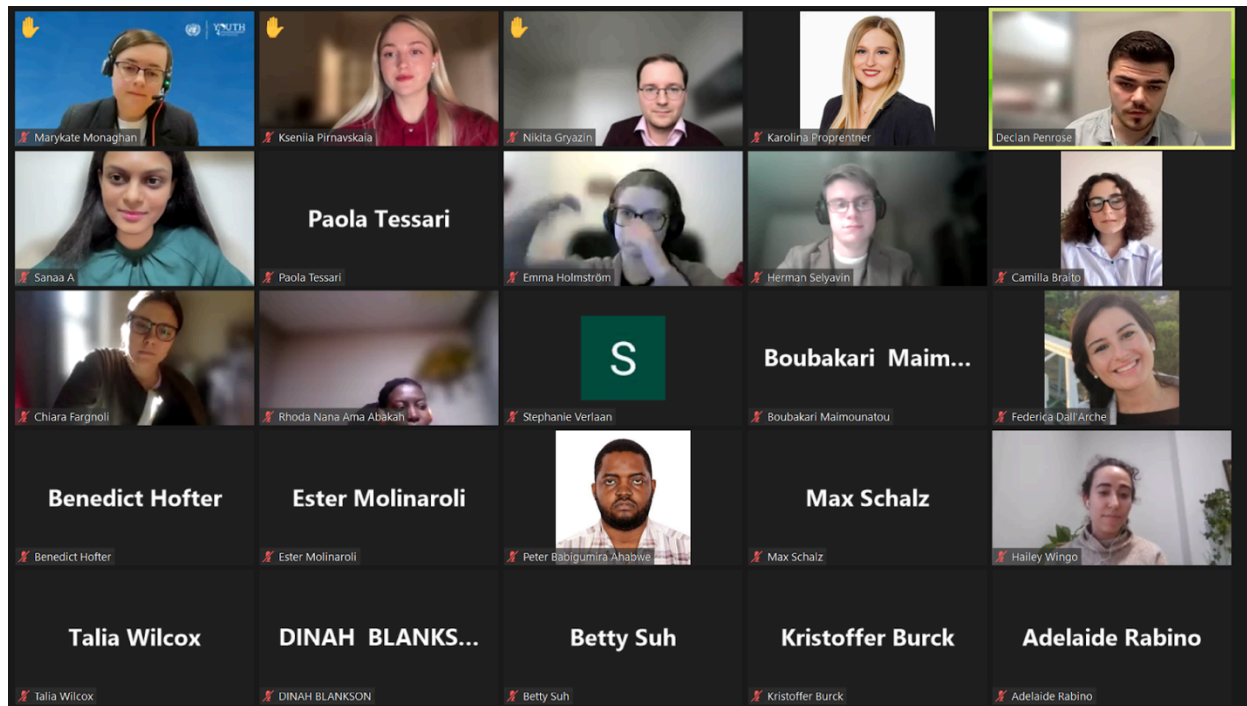
The Emerging Voices Network, which was introduced by Declan Penrose, Policy Fellow at the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), is a digital, global network of young experts and practitioners working across nuclear issues. The network emphasises the importance of cross-regional and cross-disciplinary collaboration and organises side events at international conferences, such as NPT Review Conferences, and publishes an annual series of policy papers, written by working groups of emerging nuclear experts from around the world. More information, including on ways to participate, can be found on the [EVN website](#).

International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP)

The image shows a presentation slide for the International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) network. The slide has a white background with a red border. At the top left is the ISYP logo, which includes the text 'ISYP' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and 'INTERNATIONAL STUDENT/ YOUNG PUGWASH' in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the logo is the title 'ISYP Mission' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a list of three bullet points: 'Foster cross-national dialogue for young professionals.', 'Interdisciplinary approach: nuclear weapons, climate change, emerging technologies.', and 'Aim to nurture understanding and build personal connections for peace-promoting policymaking.' At the bottom left of the slide is the text 'Inspired & supported by Pugwash Conferences.' In the center of the slide is a black and white photograph of a group of seven young professionals standing in front of a building. To the right of the slide is a video feed of Kseniia Pirnavskaia, a young woman with blonde hair, wearing a red top, speaking. The video feed is labeled 'Kseniia Pirnavskaia' at the bottom.

Kseniia Pirnavskaia, Deputy Director at International Student/Young Pugwash

The work of ISYP, a global, interdisciplinary network of students, young professionals, and national groups, was presented by Deputy Director Kseniia Pirnavskaia. She explained how ISYP covers a wide range of topics related to existential risk, including climate change, emerging technologies, and nuclear weapons. with the aim of nurturing understanding and build personal connections for peace-promoting policy-making. More information on ISYP and on how to participate is available on the [ISYP website](#).



Event participants and organisers

Panellists also shared their personal experiences and career journeys, entering and navigating the field, emphasising the challenges and rewards they encountered.

The lively discussion following the presentations touched upon many topics, including work-life balance, mental health, the inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as gender and geographical barriers, among others. The rich conversation offered practical insights for young professionals aspiring to make a meaningful impact in the field.

Closing remarks were delivered by Paola Tessari, Senior Researcher at IAI, and Kseniia Pirnavskaia, Deputy Director at ISYP, who shared information on additional opportunities available in the field and thanked the panellists for sharing helpful advice and guidance.