

In December 2021, the European Student Think Tank and [European Horizons](#) (EU co-funded project – ERASMUS+), [the only student-led transatlantic policy incubator](#) were thrilled to join forces and launch the [2021 European Policy Prize](#), a policy competition designed to give students a chance to envision real policy solutions around the theme [The Future of Europe in the Age of Crisis](#).

March 2021 saw [the culmination of this first ever European Policy Prize](#) with a KU Leuven student [Stan Bruurs winning the Grand Prize](#) for his essay entitled 'Truth of Dare: Promoting Labour Rights with a European Labour Contract'.

The competition saw entrants from **20 different universities** from across **2 continents**, featuring pieces of topics ranging from **climate change** to **electoral practice, digital infrastructure** to the **European refugee crisis**.

The judges of the competition were unanimously impressed with the **depth and breadth of the policy proposals** on offer, particularly the ways in which these issues were framed in the wider political contexts of Europe.

Marc Friedli, a second place winner from Sciences Po - LSE, wrote on "**E-Democratising the EU Elections**" and a third-place team from the LSE (consisting of Sarah Doyel, Sarah Phillips, Charalmapos Koromvokis and Sydney Arceneaux) offered a **solution to the crisis of the CEAS also earned top spots in the competition**.

[As part of their Prize, each competition winner had the chance to have a call with one of the competition's executive judges:](#)

- Klaus Welle, the Secretary General of the European Parliament
- Dragos Pislaru MEP
- Tamara Perisin, the youngest judge at the General Court of the European Union.

During this time, they discussed the **European Policymaking Process**, as well as the implications of their essay, and how such ideas might be put into practice. [The EPP2021 competition was an amazing opportunity to develop policy skills and engage with high-level EU politicians and decision-makers.](#)

Tamara Perisin gave the team from the LSE an insight into her career at the intersection between her work in academia and at the European Court and told our winners about her optimism for the European Project and European Law, which has become more and more important in recent times.

Klaus Welle, the longest serving Secretary-General of the European Parliament, discussed with Marc some of the difficulties and opportunities of working at the European Parliament. Nonetheless, his message to the young people of Europe was clear: when there's a will, there's a way.

Each of our winners have also received a waiver to the upcoming European Horizons Conference and will see their work published in either the European Horizons' or EST's upcoming policy journals. As our Grand Prize winner, Stan will also receive a book courtesy of our sponsors, TEPSA.

From everyone at the European Student Think Tank and European Horizons, we would like to thank all of our contestants, judges, and hardworking organisation members for making the competition such an enjoyable occasion!

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[About the European Student Think Tank](#)

[About European Horizons](#)

European Horizons is a global, student-led policy incubator whose mission is to give young people a voice in shaping the future of Europe and transatlantic relations.

We equip our members with relevant tools, skill sets, and connections to amplify their voices in the political arena.

