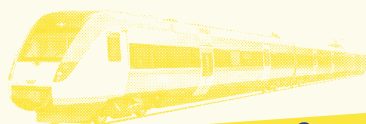# THE STORY OF DiscoverEU AND HOW YOUR IDEA CAN TRANSFORM EUROPE TOO !

Now a pan-European project, DiscoverEU had its humble beginnings as an ambitious dream by two young Europeans. Through dedication and commitment from the EU, the idea blossomed into the exciting project we know today, giving travel opportunities to young Europeans! DiscoverEU demonstrates that, with support from the EU, your ideas – however daring – can become a reality.

HOW IT STARTED

In 2014, two German students – **Vincent-Immanuel Herr and Martin Speer** – decided to travel across Europe on a trip that would change their lives. Exploring 14 countries, they discovered their European identity as they made friends and learnt about Europe's diverse culture. While having dinner in Vienna, the two began to wonder: what would it be like if all young Europeans had such an experience?

'When we first voiced the idea of free mobility for young Europeans, it was not taken seriously – even laughed at. Today, thanks to many visionaries of all ages and backgrounds who kept an open mind, this idea is implemented as part of the Erasmus+ programme, and is providing tens of thousands of young people with a European experience.'

Vincent-Immanuel Herr and Martin Speer

HOW IT DEVELOPED

The idea quickly gained the attention of European leaders and was picked up by the European Parliament, which supported it through a Preparatory Action. The European Parliament then invited the European Commission to launch it and, in June 2018, the first 15,000 young Europeans were selected to travel. In the first two years, 350,000 people applied for a DiscoverEU travel pass through 4 application rounds, and a total of 70,000 18-year-olds were **given the opportunity to explore Europe** through the initiative.

HOW IT'S GOING

In 2021, the proposal to make DiscoverEU part of the **Erasmus+ programme** was adopted as part of the EU's 'Investing in People' theme. This ensures that thousands more young people across Europe can continue to benefit from DiscoverEU in the years to come. Also look out for the new learning opportunities that come with Erasmus+ !

YOU CAN DO IT TOO !

Everyone can play a part in building the future of Europe.
So – how can you turn your idea into a European initiative?

1. Align your idea with current youth priorities – check out the **European Youth Goals** for inspiration!

2. Join the **EU Youth Dialogue** or organise an **Erasmus+ Youth Participation Activity** to make your voice heard.

3. Be creative! How about joining an **Erasmus+ Youth Exchange**, the **European Solidarity Corps** or organising a **Solidarity Project**?

4. Voice your ideas by taking part in the **Conference for the Future of Europe**.

Take it from Herr and Speer – with ambition and dedication, even the smallest idea can become reality. You may even change lives in the process!

EXPAND YOUR COMFORT ZONE

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