

<b>Application form – CALRE Awards 2023. Stars of Europe</b>
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**Submitting assembly\***

Assembly of Extremadura

**Contact person\***

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**Name of the initiative\***

Debating Europe

**Type of initiative\***

As part of the European days in the Extremadura Assembly, the regional Parliament hosted the "Debating Europe" day, a coexistence project between the regional chamber and the region's schools for students to debate and draw up conclusions on current issues related to the European Union.

**Start date of the initiative**

24 March 2023.

**End date of the initiative**

24 March 2023.

### **Web page of the initiative**

En el siguiente enlace puede visionarse el desarrollo de la jornada:

<https://www.asamblealex.es/acto-1108>

### **Short description of the initiative\***

On 24 March, the Assembly of Extremadura hosted the conference "Debating Europe" as part of the European Days in the Extremadura Parliament.

This was a day of coexistence in the regional chamber between different schools in Extremadura in which students debated and drew up conclusions on current issues related to the European Union that are relevant to Extremadura.

The participating schools are part of the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme and were in the 4th year of Compulsory Secondary Education at the time. A total of 63 students from nine Ambassador Schools of the European Parliament in Extremadura took part: Escuelas Parroquiales del Sagrado Corazón of Olivenza, IES Francisco de Orellana of Trujillo, Colegio María Auxiliadora of Cáceres, IES Valle del Jerte of Plasencia, Colegio Sopeña of Badajoz, IES Sáenz de Buruaga of Mérida, IES Santiago Apóstol of Almendralejo, Colegio FEC-Sagrada Familia of Badajoz and IESO Cella Vinaria of Ceclavín.

Five round table discussions were organised during the day.

- A stronger Europe in the world
- Strengthening Democracy in Europe: Youth Participation
- Development cooperation and migration policies
- Climate change and sustainability
- The digital transition: digitisation and innovation in rural areas

Each school had to reflect on each of these issues. Once they had analysed them, they drew up a proposal for a solution to the corresponding challenge.

Each of them was debated and finally voted on in the Hemicycle of the Assembly of Extremadura.

### **Main features of the initiative\***

The development of this day had several objectives:

- To show students how the Assembly of Extremadura works.
- To allow students to reflect on issues directly related to Europe.
- To make young people aware of the interdependence between Europe and Extremadura.

### **Role of the assembly in the success of the initiative\***

The Assembly of Extremadura, together with the Directorate General for External Action of the Regional Government of Extremadura, coordinated the development of this event.

It provided the necessary facilities and resources so that the centres could participate in the event.

The event was also attended by members of the regional Parliament.

### **European orientation of the initiative\***

Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Extremadura establishes the permanent nature of the Committee on European Affairs.

It thus recognises the importance of European policies for the community. It is not in vain that this committee is in charge of being aware of the political, financial, institutional and regulatory aspects of Extremadura's relations with the European Union, of the application of its policies in the region and of the activities of Extremadura's institutions in institutions or entities in this field.

It is therefore timely that young people in Extremadura become aware of the permanent relationship between the community and Europe.

The European institutions themselves, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions, are committed to strengthening the principle of subsidiarity. "Active subsidiarity" is advocated to bring Europe even closer to its citizens. This is why initiatives such as this one help to involve citizens, especially young people, in the decisions and policies implemented within the Union.

The methodology was inspired by the European Parliament's "Euroscola" competition, which gives students from all over Europe the opportunity to debate for a day at the European Parliament, as MEPs work on European policy development.

The activity also counted with the collaboration of Europa Direct Olivenza and the European Documentation Centre of Extremadura.

## Documentation

Link to the broadcast of the day:

<https://www.asamblealex.es/acto-1108>

Link to the photo album of the day:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/asambleaxtremadura/sets/72177720306969394/>

## Photographs



Family photo of the participants in the conference





Intervention of the students



Intervention of the students



Pupils interviewed by the public television TVE