EC4 Maria Khachatryan

Proposers:
Agenda item: 6. Executive Committee Candidates

Introduction



Age:
18

Gender:
female

Organisation:
Frontline Youth Network

Your E-mail Address:
mariavaxkhachatrian@gmail.com

My name is Maria. I am from Armenia, and I am excited to apply for the Executive Committee Candidacy. For the past three years, I have studied in an eco-school, where I learned how to make eco soaps and paper, recycle already used items, compost, plant trees, and, of course, economize water by using rainwater. In 2024 I graduated from the school and was accepted into LCC International University, where I am currently a freshman studying International Relations and Development. Studying abroad has also impacted my decisions, and now I even more appreciate the safe space, values, and inspirations that I felt during my work with CDNEE. My first interaction with CDN was in August when I participated in the Refocuse Summer Camp in Tbilisi. With CDN, for the first time in my life, I was a panel speaker for an international program. Next, I got selected to be a prep-team member for the Study Session 2025, where I had the best days of my life. I still keep the chocolate Santa clause that Igor gifted me, with "my future boss" on it. Not yet, Igor, now it is time to work together, but maybe one day, who knows? CDN has had so much impact on my life that now, I applied to become the event coordinator of my university. What was I thinking about Nikola? Being in the same position as you? Maybe, but more specifically, to relive the smooth organizational experience I went through during both the Refocuse Summer Camp and the Study Session that you ensured. Finally, I am applying to become the Executive Committee member, keeping in mind that I will work with the people who once inspired me, and I will work for the organization that opened its opportunities for me to experience the "first times in my life".

Maria Khachatryan
February 27, 2025
Executive Committee Candidacy

Motivation letter

I made the decision to apply to become a member of the Executive Committee of CDN this November, after hearing a phrase that turned out to be very significant to me: 'We are the CDN.' At that time, I was participating as a preparatory team for CDN's Study Session Breaking the Barriers, and for the past two months, the prep team and I were preparing the agenda, adopting methodologies for our sessions, brainstorming the objectives and putting efforts to ensure the effective and inclusive environment.

At first, I joined the prep team because I saw it as voluntary work—something new I wanted to try. I didn't expect it to change my understanding of life, my values, and my goals, but it absolutely did. Over those two months, I realized how much I loved what I was doing, and it never felt like work for even a second.

During the Study Session, we had an unexpected visit from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. While having lunch, we were discussing who should represent our work to Alain Berset. I showed interest but doubted if I was credible enough to do it. That was when one of the Executive Committee members, Anja, reassured me by saying, "CDN is us; we are the CDN."

Later that evening, everyone—from the participants to the Secretary General of CDN—worked together on drafting the speech. That moment made me realize something important: CDN is not just an organization; it's all of us. And I don't want my time with CDN to simply be an experience that helped me grow personally and professionally—I want to actively contribute to CDN and grow alongside it.

So the time came, when I can be someone for CDN. As a member of the Executive Committee, I envision myself presenting credible news on the CDNEE telegram account, also creating content for the CDNEE instagram profile. With my background of organizing recycling activities, environmental workshops and sustainability projects I intend to initiate campaigns and projects for CDNEE that promote sustainability and environmental awareness. My participation in CDN's panel sessions during ReFocus Camp allowed me to examine CDN's green values. So I am committed to integrating these values into my work within the Executive Committee, ensuring that every project and decision reflects our collective vision for a greener and more just future.

Beyond environmental activism, I have a background in political philosophy, which has equipped me with the analytical skills to contribute to CDN's political and strategic direction. I can support policy-related discussions, develop statements on critical issues, and help CDN engage with the Green movement across Eastern Europe.

CDN has given me the space to learn, grow, contribute and feel home and I am eager to continue this journey as an EC member.

Maria Khachatryan

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Education

Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School GPA - 9/10 2014-2024

Musical School named after Alexander Achemyan GPA - 10/10 2016-2022

Work Experience

Ambassador, Mentor | Frontline Youth Network 2023-present

- Co-published the Peacebuilding Education manual with UK government support, and trained 100+ teachers on conflict resolution, mental health, and equality.
- Developed the Coordination Reform Between Armenian and Georgian CSOs project to enhance minority education access, supported by the International Women's Rights Projects.
- Gave a panel speech on peacebuilding, reconciliation, and sustainable peace at the Tbilisi Security Conference.
- Organized Seeding Change 2023 and led six sessions on peacebuilding, human rights, feminism, and project management for 35 participants.

Sales Assistant | Stradivarius

- Provided Customer Support by enhancing the quality of the sales, and participated in training on Efficient Sales Management, Time Management, and Customer Support. 2022-2023

Activities

Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe Member 2024-present

- Was on the Preparatory Team for Breaking the Barriers: Green Economics and Youth Political Participation in Europe Study Session in Budapest for 35 activists and politicians (ages 16-35).
- Partnered with the CDN to design the agenda, led 7 sessions on youth political participation and economic systems, and represented our work to Alain Berset.
- Represented Armenia in political collaborations at the Tbilisi ReFocus Summer Camp.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach | Student 2024 Jun-Aug

- Received Full funding from the U.S. Embassy for the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University EducationUSA Connect Program.
- Studied aviation, psychology, and academic writing, worked with admission officers, and won the Explanatory Speech Competition.

Mentor | American Corner Armenia, Yerevan 2022-2023

- Mentored 14 students in English, using dynamic methods like games, movie analysis, and song translation to enhance language skills.

Organizer | GenZ NGO 2020-2024

- Organized 4 eco-themed Christmas and Easter bazaars using recycled materials and co-hosted VR-based biology, physics, and chemistry activities.

Participant | UniGrowth Development Center 2024-present

- Participated in "The Green Triangle" Erasmus+ international environmental program.
- Designed inclusive board games for children with disabilities in the "Let the Game Begin" project and created gaming cards for the "Fast Fashion? Fast Forward!" initiative.

Competitive College Club Student | EducationUSA Armenia 2023-2024

- Gave a public speech at the graduation ceremony, volunteered at TEDx UWC 2024, and led workshops on studying in the USA.

Digital Citizenship Ambassador Training; American Councils Armenia (Teacher) 2022-2023

- Conducted 12 classes about the digital footprint, phishing, conspiracy theory, fact-checking, and evaluating sources for 21 students.

DiliMUN Delegate | United World Colleges in Dilijan 2023 Apr-2024Apr

- Represented China in ECOSOC, authored four resolutions, and won "Best Delegate."
- Represented the USA in the Historical Crisis Committee, wrote 4 position papers, and earned the "Best Resolution" award.

Researcher and Participant | Climate Uturn Initiative 2023-2024

- Completed the "Sustainable Cities" training, focusing on eco-friendly solutions and gaining project implementation and management skills.
- Presented a personal project on clothing waste management called “Two Boxes”.

Member, Delegate | European Youth Parliament Armenia 2023-present

- Won the “Best Delegate” Award in National Sessions, won 3 amendment papers, and debated over political, economic, and educational topics.
- Studied diplomacy at the “Building Resilient Future” Conference by Understanding Europe Project.

Participant | UniGrowth Development Center 2024-present

- Participated in "The Green Triangle" Erasmus+ international environmental program.
- Designed inclusive board games for children with disabilities in the "Let the Game Begin" project and created gaming cards for the "Fast Fashion? Fast Forward!" initiative.

Student | Tumo Center for Creative Technologies 2019-2023

- Completed Filmmaking, New Media, Photography, and Music courses, founded a digital guitar quartet.

Regional Youth Green Camp; EU4Youth, CENN (Participant) Aug 2023

- Wrote business projects, and environmental entrepreneurship.
- Studied about environmental issues in the Caucasus region.

Volunteering experience

Volunteer | Armenian Tree Project Aug 2018-present

- Initiated creating a greenhouse at Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School.

Yerevan City Coordinator| Maqoor NGO 2023-present

- Organized 6 habitat cleanings and 14 informative sessions in Yerevan, and launched the "VeramshaKIR" recycling project.

Full Life | Camp Leader 2024 Jun-Aug

- Led a summer camp for children with disabilities, provided care and support, and organized first aid training sessions, cooking nights, ceramic sessions, and disco events.

Volunteer, Coordinator | Pan-Armenian Union 2024-present

- Opened the World Junior Boxing Championship 2024, coordinated participants’ arrivals and departures, delegated them, organized hotel accommodations, and translated for 28 athletes across Armenian, English, French, and Russian.

Restart Foundation 2022-2023

- Conducted 10 seminars about "Political Participation" for 45+ people.
- Organized meetings for 200+ young people to discuss project planning.

Awards and Recognitions

- Third Place in the Republican French Olimpiad “La Coq Française” among 2,500+ participants. 2022
- Grand Prix Winner at the XI International Contest-Festival of Arts “Art Music”.
- Winner in the Malatia Sebastia’s French Recitation and Public Speaking Competition. 2020
- Gold Medalist at the International Competition-Festival of Arts “Copenhagen Stars” in Denmark. 2019
- Winner in the National Competition-Festival of Musicians “Little Step”. 2021
- Winner of "Sharpshooter" National Military Education Shooting Competition among 500 participants. 2022

Languages

Armenian|Native Russian|C1 English|B2 French|B2 Lithuanian|A2 2022

Media and Public Engagement

Tbilisi Security Conference Panel Speaker
Content Creator for EducationUSA Armenia

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E-mail.: projects@frontlineyouth.net
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From: Frontline Youth Network
To: Cooperation and Development Network
Subject: Recommendation Letter

With this letter, I highly recommend Maria Khachatryan to be a member of the Executive Committee of Cooperation and Development Network.

Throughout her time with us, Mrs. Khachatryan was an active member, consistently volunteering for assignments and engaging in webinars.

Mrs. Khachatryan's involvement in our “Seed the change” summer schools in 2023 and 2024 was particularly noteworthy, as she not only participated but also showcased her knowledge, critical thinking, and ability to collaborate effectively with peers. Even after graduating from the ambassador program last year, she remained engaged, taking the initiative to organize a webinar for current ambassadors, demonstrating her willingness to support and guide the next generation of ambassadors.

Additionally, Mrs. Khachatryan was an integral part of the preparatory team for CDN’s Study Session in Budapest. Her contributions to the planning and execution of the session were invaluable, and she further extended the impact of her experience by holding a follow-up meeting where she shared her insights with others.

Maria also took part in the ReFocus Summer Camp by CDN Eastern Europe and was a panel speaker on peacebuilding. She has represented the Frontline Youth Network in different events, bringing a strong youth perspective.

In November 2024, Maria participated in the European Green Academy, where she interacted with politicians and activists from across Europe. She was the only participant from Armenia to receive a full scholarship for the event. She also joined the Training Activist Day, where she exchanged ideas with representatives from various European organizations.

Maria’s passion for social justice continues to grow. She was recently accepted into the Social Justice Lab 2025 program by FYEG, and next month, she will travel to Zagreb to learn and share insights on human rights and social justice.

Additionally, Maria has received a 100% merit-based scholarship to study International Relations and Development in Lithuania, which highlights her academic excellence and global mindset.

Given Ms. Khachatryan’s deep commitment to peacebuilding, her expertise in community organising and

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communications, and alignment with the values of peace, human rights, and solidarity, I am confident that she will be a valuable asset in the Executive Committee.

For these reasons, I highly recommend Mrs. Khachatryan for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. Should you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at projects@frontlineyouth.net

Lusine Kosakyan
Network Director
1st November 2024