Every new academic year MEA's students gather to elect their new team. That's the MEA’s Students Office 2019/2020:

Jessica Vannette - President (American);
Kyra Ganga - Vice President (German);
Johanna Weisz - Secretary (French);
Giacomo Guala - Treasurer (Italien).

Thank you for your work!
On the 15, 16 and 17 of October 2019, the thirteenth edition of the World Forum organized by Alliance happens in Lille; this year it was entitled: “The world forum for a responsible economy”. Over those three days, around 4000 individuals had the chance to attend to more than 70 workshops and conferences about ecological issues in companies, innovative management methods, and fair trade. As a matter of fact, companies have to adapt themself to the current issues through CRS policies, aiming to improve the working environment combined with ecological objectives.

Students from the MEA program volunteered to be a part of the event’s organization. According to them, the world forum was a great experience because they could discover several projects involving different European firms, sharing their expertise and knowledge by working on common projects in the field of responsible economy. They could understand the functioning of commonly shared projects at the European scale. Others remember the sharing of opinions on various topics with business entrepreneurs all working within the clean energy sector as well as with journalists from the “La Voix du Nord” newspaper. They all agree that the world forum is a very gratifying and interesting experience that allowed them to get an insight into the sustainable energy industry sector.

Two students from the master’s program had the chance to go on stage during the closing ceremonies. They exchanged with some professionals and local representatives about environmental issues, with their student’s point of view. IT also allows them to meet multiple CSR actors and to enforce their interest in social and environmental issues.

In the end, the thirteenth edition of the World forum ended with 756 “Egothon” engagements; those engagements are small actions individuals engaged in, to reduce their impact on the environment. Despite an initial objective of 1000, hope and motivation linger and with it individuals determination to act toward climate change emergency.
ABOUT THE EVENT

#NWEimpact is an event organised by North West Europe Interreg, during the 4th and the 5th of December 2019. This event brought together different project representatives supported by Interreg.

VOLUNTEERING

10 master’s students of the first and second year participated as volunteers in this event.

MEA AND INTERREG

This volunteering engagement was the first professional contact created with Interreg through our students.

GAINED EXPERIENCE

MEA's students interviewed different project representatives during their exhibitions. More specifically, they talked closely with the leaders of 8 projects financed by #NWEInterreg.

They also visited different sites in the North of France and Belgium, as the outcomes of the cooperation with NWE Interreg. After the visits, MEA’s students participated at the organised workshops where they could learn new things and expand their network.

Finally during the closing session, two of our students were invited on stage to share their impressions about the event and name the projects they found more interesting!
The SUNY Model, a role-simulation of a session of the European Council, is a knowledge-driven event where the MEA students starting from 2010 have participated in. The purpose of this activity is to develop a better and deeper understanding of the functioning of the European Union and its decision-making process.

In January 2020 M1 and M2 students headed to Vesalius College in Brussels, which hosted the SUNY MEU this year. 14 MEA's students formed the 4-member delegations of Italy, Poland, Croatia, which held the presidency of the Council at that time, and 2 representatives of Press Corps.

Lia Bucci, the COREPER of Croatia, shared her insight from SUNY Model 2020: "This experience was highly relevant to my future personal and professional development.

It was a cross-cultural experience during the preparation and the event, a chance to apply the knowledge obtained and a challenge to fill the gap between my understanding and my teammates. During the discussions, the knowledge of European Institutions was highly relevant, but I found myself recurring to my classes about European Programs, Lobby, European Law and even Business Strategy to support the debate. After this project, I am better prepared to follow my career plan. These have been highly educational months as a team member and as a person".

The participation of the MEA students benefits from the financial support of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the University of Lille - Sciences and Technology, the BDE, and fund rising activities.
After the SUNY Model, all the MEA students managed to participate in the three-day Brussels seminar “Immersion in European Institutions + dissertation”. This event concerned three European institutions: European Commission, Council of the EU and European Parliament + Role Play Game in the Parlamentarium.

On behalf of the four parties, MEA students were debating on two directives trying to reach the agreed position in Parlamentarium. On the second day, lectures on the EU migration agenda, Horizon 2020, fiscal optimization of multinational firms in Europe, to name but a few were given to the students in the European Commission. On the third day, they visited the European Council where the high European official gave a lecture about the EU challenges. Then, the visit to the European Parliament was organized for the students, where they could see where and how the meetings are being held regularly!
The fair has been fully organized by a group of Master 2 students, in collaboration with M1 students who helped to promote this event as a Communication Team within the Project Management course. After five months of hard work, the event finally happened, the 23rd of January in “La Grappe” a cozy space in the city center of Lille. According to Aline (M2 student): “It has been a real pleasure to organize the event for the second time in a row and to exchange with multiple professionals of European affairs from the Lille area”.

The fair’s thematic was the travelling; set bald fasten and escorted by a fabulous crew; students and professionals experienced a road trip all over Europe. This convivial moment has been the opportunity for the master students to exchange with professionals about current European issues. It has been a really great experience for both students and professionals. We are all looking forward to the next one for new adventures.