



## YOUNG TRANSATLANTIC INNOVATION LEADERS INITIATIVE

Launched in 2016, the Young Transatlantic Innovative Leaders Initiative Fellowship is the flagship program of the Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative (YTILI) of the U.S. Department of State and is supported in its implementation by the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). YTILI empowers young European entrepreneurs and innovators with the tools, networks, and resources they need to turn ideas into action and grow successful enterprises. Recognizing that European entrepreneurs face unique challenges to starting a business, the YTILI program is also a vehicle for building a transatlantic network of leaders that can more fully contribute to an ongoing policy dialogue to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems and opportunities for innovation.



“YTILI taught me to be courageous, encouraged me to follow my dreams, and in the end, even if I fail, I will simply be a wiser entrepreneur and a more experienced leader.”

– Christina Athanasopoulou, 2017 YTILI Fellow

During this year-long fellowship, 70 young European entrepreneurs from 45 countries will participate in a series of activities designed to strengthen their businesses and create a transatlantic innovation network. YTILI fellows are young entrepreneurs between the ages of 24-35 with either commercial or social ventures that they are seeking to scale in their home countries. YTILI Fellows are given access to a network of professionals, mentors, and resources aligned to support the growth of their venture during the fellowship experience. By exploring entrepreneurship in the transatlantic context, YTILI fellows will also develop the expertise to better engage in policy conversations in their home countries, across Europe, and in the transatlantic sphere.





“From the country of crisis, I found myself in the U.S. Department of State, to represent Greece, and learn new ideas and techniques to bring the entrepreneurial revolution to our economy.”

– **Vasiliki Natampasi, 2017 YTILI Fellow**



“I wanted to increase my networking ability and grow my network and I surely did. The people I met and the people I'm going to meet in the next few days helped me become better in that and I'm working to leverage the network I created during the program in Washington, D.C. and during my placement in Charlotte.”

– **Matteo Forte, 2017 YTILI Fellow**



“YTILI was a great opportunity to expand my network and business relationships.”

– **Blerina Ago, 2017 YTILI Fellow**

## Key Dates

**April 12, 2018:** Fellowship Year Begins

**June 4-7, 2018:** Transatlantic Innovation Summit in Portugal

**October 14-21, 2018:** U.S. Experience

**October 21-24, 2018:** Washington, DC Closing Summit

**May 2018– December 2018:** Online Professional Development Engagement

**December 31, 2018:** Conclusion of the Fellowship