

Hi, my name is Aydin and I want to share my first and only Youth Pass story with you, which ended this year in June 2019.

When I first applied for “Culture Backstage” (<https://creature.paris/culture-backstage>), I was thinking of learning more in a “professional” way, learning more about tools, tactics and other ways to get going and bring my project to the next level. From an idea to action. Culture Backstage was designed for young cultural entrepreneurs from all over Europe (Italy, Germany, France, Belgium & Poland) who wish to develop and implement projects on a European scale, but what I found was way more beautiful and important to me.

When I first met the people, I must admit I was a bit shocked and a bit irritated, but this feeling was quickly gone after I talked and spend time with these amazing people. Most of the people had a background in culture and arts. I also did some exhibitions, but I just recently started in that field. I was shocked, because most of the participants seemed very content and fully embraced who they are and expressed themselves in ways I would never even consider, because I would describe myself as rather introverted and not really confident in myself and my ideas.



Now I was going to spend the whole next year with these amazing people in five different countries, learn and grow with them, while enjoying great European cities.

I knew from the beginning that this will be something meaningful, we had a great energy and good vibes only in that group. Everybody was very supportive and the institutions and organizers did a very good job in selecting the participants.

Like I said, I am (still) not very confident, but I guess it's just part of a long process, but spending time with these great human beings helped me a lot to accept myself more and to be more vulnerable, express myself in ways I never did in my life, take risks and just put myself out there, even if it might be hard and uncomfortable.

I felt extremely safe, it was kind of like a loving family, where you openly could share your problems and other things that haunt you, without being judged or mistreated. Or just simply enjoy being around those people.

Those guys brightened up my life and I am really grateful that I could be part of Culture Backstage over the last year and sadly this project ended quite quickly. I learned a lot just being around those great people and I will never forget the experiences we made during that year.

Thanks to everybody who was involved in this and making all of that happen.

A lot of love from Germany,

Aydin