



FUTURE OF EUROPE WORKING GROUP 2017-18 **REPORT**

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
#FYEG30 **UTRECHT**
HOSTED BY DWARS

Alexia Delfosse, FoE WG member

The Future of Europe Working Group is a place where you are free to propose all your ideas to build projects. It's a place where you can freely think and talk about European politics, and particularly European Green politics. It's also a place to learn theoretically and pragmatically about how European politics works, and about how to organise things (webinars etc.)

I learned a lot of things so fast thanks to my participation in the EGP council, in the European Ideas Lab. It enhanced my political beliefs, my political participation, and allowed me to improve my knowledge of European Politics. I also grew personally. In terms of the concrete organisation of the WG, I think we should have passed less time planning, but beyond that, I liked the way the working group and our meetings were organised. The telegram group was very useful to stay in touch with the group and to benefit from the very interesting articles shared by our mates.

Anni Schlüter, FoE WG member

For me it's been only a few months that I am a member of this working group and it is still a new and exciting experience for me. I'm sad that I couldn't attend the last meetings due to wifi issues and time zones but I hope it is getting better - at least when I'll be at home next month. I am still overwhelmed by a few members of our working group who are in my opinion really inspiring, therefore it is for me not only exchange but also education. I can't really say a lot about the activities because of the reasons I named before, but I am really looking forward to learn more about campaigning and FYEG itself and I am excited to be able to join the EYE. Last but not least, I really admire Kristy's and Sam's work as coordinators, you do an amazing job!

Kristy Louise Rhades, WG Co-coordinator

Without solidarity within the young generation, there won't be much being achieved in Europe's joint future. What we need is a solid basis; one group that covers the ideals of young green Europeans like a dome covers the precious content of a snow globe. Once the young Europeans unquestionably feel "united in diversity"-that the original image of a United States of Europe is the ultimate way of defining one another- we can move forward in a much more efficient way because of identification. After that, urgent matters such as a joint handling of the refugee emergency, re-democratisation of parliaments and the combat against right-wing extremism, equalisation of ALL identification groups, climate protection and the construction of a sustainable energy collective throughout the EU as well as profound parliamentary reforms and further beyond, can be tackled effectively. If we start to think as a collectivist young people's society today, issues like self-distrust in the Union will vanish and the continent will again act out of mutual self-assurance in future. I truly believe that this collectivist thinking inside our working group was visible to the naked eye and I was very lucky to observe it from front row.

Sam Murray, WG Co-coordinator

The Future of Europe working group is a space to try and make sense of a turbulent time in European Politics. The original working group was founded out of the ashes of major shifts across the continent from Brexit, to the rise of populism and the context of authoritarianism. This year's iteration has responded to difficulty by creating hope and really focussing on developing a positive future. Our members have devised projects, had debates, and been to a variety of events to explore and build ideas. It has been a privilege to work with a dedicated group of activists who all want Europe to have a bright green future. This is a spark to light a match.

COORDINATORS' REPORT

Working Groups (WG) typify one of the main bodies of FYEG. They are based on grassroots participation being open to all the members of FYEG member organisations. Future of Europe WG members were always present during FYEG's activities as well as the European Ideas Lab this year or the European Youth Event.

This term, the FoE working group welcomed a couple of non-party affiliated participants with green conscience, which broadened the perspective on discussed subjects a lot. Therefore it should be discussed if people from outside MOs should have the possibility to participate independently.

WGs lead topic discussions and provide these to FYEG's core. Originally developing campaigns and ideas, this year's working group showed exceptional interest in organising and members participating in webinars.

All together the FoE WG hold discussions about current FYEG/WG activities, recent European political events or EU-wide topics and exchanged dates on upcoming events that might be interesting attending. A major success in the Future of Europe WG was to keep every member involved and committed to work on different projects. Throughout the past months the working group has kept a stable participation rate at our online meetings. The coordinators have contributed by introducing ideas, communicating frequently with all members on telegram, by preparing the agenda of the online meetings (including recent developments in the EU, our current activities, upcoming events, administrative topics) and also by following up on the action points decided in the online meetings, especially the introduction of newly elected members. Online meetings were very well prepared as the coordinators often talked things through during bilateral calls. Unfortunately, the facebook group that had been set up right at the beginning of the term hadn't been fully active as originally expected.

The FoE WG has introduced many other project ideas which should be further developed in future. We felt the working group took a little time to find momentum and that the WG year is not long enough and will be encouraging through our MOs to explore potential changes to IRPs surrounding working groups.

We wish to strongly recommend the mandate for this working group be renewed, but perhaps with a clearer sense of the boundaries to what this group will focus on. We found a lot of potential for cross-WG activity in the topics discussed and could benefit equally from shared projects as well as defined boundaries. From our WG members there is a clear will to continue developed activities, and to be active in participating, thus assuring the group legacy and impact.

FOE ACTIVITIES

For the past eight months, our members have been involved in a process of analysis and understanding of the European project which has led to diverse collective and individual actions with the ultimate goal of a more solid, green and collective European project.

Major activities our working group or specific members have been involved in:

Green Late Night Talk on German federal elections (26 September 2017)

A webinar was planned and broadcasted directly after the German federal elections, to analyse and get greens informed of the current political situation in Germany, prospect coalition building and impact on the European Union, especially with regards to right-wing extremism, external relations between France-Germany or Germany-Greece and inner-German tensions.

Green Late Night Talk on Czech legislative Election (24 October 2017)

A webinar was planned and broadcasted directly after the Czech legislative elections, to analyse and get greens informed of the current political situation in Czech Republic, especially the difficult situation within and for Czech Greens.

Putting FYEG and YES Future of Europe WGs in touch (November 2017)

In November Fabian Wagner asked us to meet with Elisa Gambardella, chair of the Young European Socialists Future of Europe Committee. In our conversation we talked about what issues of the future of Europe we felt we had in common. Issues included tackling the rise of populism, supporting a reformed EU, but the main topics we found common ground on was supporting votes at 16 and a common age of candidacy. As it became clear that any cooperation would be by political work we passed communication to our EC liaison Zuzana to take things forward.

48 Hours for Democracy (15-16 February)

In his capacity as FoE WG co-coordinator Sam was invited to attend European Movement's 48 Hours for Democracy. The event was a democracy hack with a variety of NGOs and activists to try look at reforming EU system to forge a new democratic ideas. The main concepts developed included cultural activities, changing MEP and commission attitudes, supporting feminist space and also democracy festivals. More can be found in Sam's full report submitted to EC.

European Ideas Lab (1-3 March)

Several members of our working group attended the European Ideas Lab 2018 in Brussels. The aim of their attendance was to explore what new ideas are being developed by civil society and to explore the connections which could be made.

The experiences can be read in the accompanying report from Alexia.

Forum - Révolutionnons l'Europe ! (6-8 April)

The event by the young French and Belgian Greens will be visited by several working group members. During this event, they will be involved in discussions about ideas for Europe's future, interaction of the European youth etc.

Parliamentary Reforms webinar (24 April)

One topic which has permeated discussion around the future of Europe is parliamentary reform. We had previously been approached to have a discussion with the person organising the progressive caucus within Europarl but the person was not responsive to suggested meeting times. Sam and Alexia offered to take the topic forward and to build a webinar reflecting more recent developments.

Alexia correctly pointed out an opportunity for educating the wider FYEG Membership on how come of the technicalities of Europarl work, considering most will be going into next year's elections having conversations with citizens about the workings of the EU. Sam also pointed to being able to tie in the discussion around votes at 16 and common age of candidacy, and though we could possibly invite

Elisa Gambardella from YES to participate although are waiting on the advisement of EC as to whether such an invitation is appropriate.

Other speakers approached include Petros Fassoulas of the European Movement, european politics lecturers at the Sorbonne, members of DWARS and we have asked Zuzana to help us to invite a green MEP. We will split the hours in two with the first half hour discussing ideas for parliament reform such as transnational lists and greater integration. The second half our will focus in on parliamentary reform impacting young people with votes at 16, common candidacy age and youth engagement.

Future of Energy webinar (3 May 2018)

A webinar about the future of the European energy grid is planned for May 2017 to provide young greens with knowledge about the prospective Energy Union, gender and energy transition as well as climate and sustainability in terms of renewable energy.

General Assembly (9-12 May Utrecht)

We have a cornucopia of vivacious offerings to bring to the GA. As the GA is when we sadly bring our year to a close and it is the 30th bday of FYEG we wanted to show y'all what a party can be! The FoE working group are hoping to bring you three premium exclusive limited edition activities.

The first is led by Luuk, who had the idea of asking folks at the GA to join a sing a long of a version of Ode to Joy with the words rewritten. The words will reflect the future of europe we want to see in a perfect slice of activism!

Now every good party needs drinks and your mixologist for some birthday bdazzle is Nils, who can not only make a mean virgin mojito (don't always need alcohol y'all), but will tell you where every bit came from and the carbon footprint left behind.

So let's get raise our cups of ethically sourced beverages, making sure the only footprint left behind is on the dance floor.

Finally every good party has something to take away, to help postulate philosophical approaches, and exercise the mind. We will be giving away super exclusive guides to the future of europe with short essays from our working group.

The essays either reflect on a specific topic or give an overview vision. This booklet will reflect the thoughts going around the WG in our meetings where we share our thoughts on the big stories of the age.

YO!Fest + European Youth Event (31 May-3 June Strasbourg)

Both initiatives are fully supported by the Future of Europe WG and several WG members will attend both events.