

## Executive Committee 2016-2017 report

The Executive Committee (EC) was elected at the General Assembly in Prague. Czech Republic from the 25th-29th of May 2016.

### **1) Presentation and distribution of tasks in the EC**

The Executive Committee was constituted with 8 members, including two spokespersons, Marie Pochon from Jeunes Ecologistes (France), Teo Comet from ViNO (Finland), one treasurer, Jean-Micheal Muhire from Ecolo j (Belgium), and regular board members Paula Espinosa (Spain) Maria Kola (Cyprus), Anastasiya Kastushkina (Belarus), Fabian Wagner (Germany) and Adrià Belenguer (Catalonia).

In Prague, it was the first time that most of us had the opportunity to work together even some of us didn't know each other before. The transfer with the retiring Executive Committee took place on the day after the closing of the General Assembly, where most tasks and information was communicated to the new EC.



Before the retreat there were not a lot of urgent task to be done. The retreat took place in an awesome landscape close to Belgrade, Serbia. There we had the chance to get to know each other, we played some team-building games and expressed our feelings and fears on what we expected of our mandate. After some days analyzing the FYEG goals and our capabilities and future prospects we distributed our tasks and roles taking into consideration what was the best for each individual and for the whole group.

The distribution of tasks was quite challenging as not all the EC members had clear enough which were all the tasks needed to be done and the opportunities FYEG gave to them to apply their knowledge and experience. However, during this year we managed to collaborate all together and work always in a positive way to deal with the defiances.

### **2) Internal organisation**



Even a half of the EC had full time jobs, we managed to match our agendas and we find out the way to proceed with the regular online EC meetings (ECM), which took place every two weeks. We also had the flexibility to adapt when one of the members needed a change the day of the ECMs. And we really thank all the Northern and Eastern EC members who attend the EC meetings at unearthly hours. Despite the difficulty for the EC members who worked full time, all of us managed to attend almost to all the live ECM. We had ECM twice in Brussels and one in Madrid. In February we met in Mainz, Germany, for a mid-term retreat.

As in past ECs, communication and management tools were deeply discussed. After having experienced some of them as Mumble, Skype, Slack and others, we worked with Google for communications with Hangout and for management with Drive. Not for political views but because it was the most comfortable and easy for all the EC members.

Office capabilities suffered a lot of changes during the year with the recruitment of a new project manager and the creation of a new job function: communication officer. The EC together with the office worked to improve FYEG capacities.

### **3) Challenges and limits**

During this year we faced a lot of challenges as a group and also as individuals. FYEG requires a lot of commitment, work and capacity of empathy and everyone has its own life projects and personal issues. We lived together several great moments, we shared happiness, successes but also stress and fears. That shows that the best way to grow as an individual and also as a group is to put us in front of challenges and try to deal with them learning about our mistakes and hits.

Our main challenge was the lack of time and capacity for some of us to proceed with our duties. Some of the new projects required a lot of commitment and hard work. It could seem that a team of eight members is big enough to face all the activities planned for the year but that is not always true. Also it has been challenging to make decisions all together, not just because we have different views but also different cultures and working habits that make the decision making process difficult.

From our most humble opinion, we would like to give some advices to the upcoming board:

- to become an EC member is always exciting but requires at least 10 or 20 hours of dedication per week depending on the moment. It's important to be aware of your capabilities and limitations.
- A good and feasible task distribution is essential. The workload should be more or less the same for everyone, it's not fair to have some EC members overloaded.
- Spokespersons should not be involved in leading too many projects as their role requires other tasks to be done.
- It is essential for the office staff to back EC volunteers in their duties, and that project planning is done accordingly to the resources allocated and available.



## **Personal Updates**

### **Jean Michel**

*It was an intense and great experience, I learned a lot from my position but also from other ec members, the office and MO members.*

*GA in Prague was my first. I discovered what was a federation statutory meeting. It was interesting to discover the MO positions on several topics during amendments session.*

*Ec retreat in the Serbian mountains was helpful to meet each other on a more personal level outside the GA and online meetings .*

*Working group meeting and Strategy planning meeting were short for me, I just pass by because I was in Brussels at that time. I am not member of any WG but it was great to meet WG members and discuss on topics that were new to me. Same for SPM.*

*I couldn't join the Pastafary delegation at GYG but I had the opportunity to follow GYG steering committee election : emocionante.*

*This GA will be my last one as treasurer of FYEG, 2016 was a milestone in my life, and FYEG contributed a lot to it.*

### **Adrià**

*It has been a really intense and amazing year. FYEG gave me the opportunity to grow personally and politically as I have never done before. I'm bit unsatisfied with myself because it was difficult to deal with my full time job and my tasks. I was not always able to give my best to FYEG and I feel bad about this. However, I have met awesome people with great ideas and I learnt a lot!*

### **Maria Kola**

*Working in the EC of FYEG for the past year changed my perspective of how I see political work. Multiple changes were happening during this year all over the world, and FYEG's EC proved that we can stand politically united next to all the green friends. On a personal level, this year was full of understanding and cooperation. Sometimes was easier than others, or limits were pushed, but we managed to work all together to make things true. Working at a European level and to make every organizations' request come true, is not easy. Patience, time and commitment were the key aspects for everything to happen and yet lots of ideas were combined to fit in one year's activities. After one full year of being an EC member of FYEG, I take plenty of knowledge with me to make a better member organization back home.*

### **Anastasiya**

*This year in FYEG has brought a lot of unexpected discoveries for me, both in political and personal spheres. I met a lot of really outstanding people, whose ideas and entire personalities inspired me to move forward to my aims.*

*Thanks to the EC and activities I was involved in I received unique insights that I have never could have an access to in Belarus.*



*Unfortunately, I wasn't able to contribute to the life of FYEG as full as I had planned initially. That happened due to a number of reasons and I feel really sorry for my only partial involvement in the activities.*

*However, I am definitely sure that I will use received skills and knowledge in improving the structure of the Belarusian Young Greens in the near future.*

### **Marie Pochon**

*This last year as an EC member but also, for the first time, as spokesperson, taught me a lot, generally speaking about what we Greens are able to do, when we are organised and mobilised on an issue, but also what are our limits as a movement, that need to be tackled if we want to grow even stronger, louder and impactful in the societies we act in.*

*I have seen these last three years truly beautiful people develop themselves in an astonishing way. FYEG has this power to bring - and create- the best out of individuals all over Europe to become a solid collective, united by a common emergency to demonstrate, to communicate, to denounce and to take action for the causes they believe in, or fight against. From the support to Member Organisations in need, to the many positions fought and advocated for during this last year, it has been again an occasion for me to strengthen my political attachment to our community of values and our political family. I have sometimes as well felt powerless, facing the many -too many- challenges, all over Europe, of societies that don't seem to become any fairer or greener, and of the vision of the endless road to see our progressive ideas emerge in political decision making. These two realities are true and co-exist in our societies... and FYEG as a network can't have a better function than to provide a safe space, a supportive network for young people fighting for a better future.*

*Strengths and flows, this is what this last mandate also gave me an opportunity to discover about myself. This was a very difficult year for me, both at personal and activist levels, where I had too much responsibilities to enjoy fully my role, or to do my work correctly as a spokesperson. In this way, here again, the supportive nets and relationships was priceless. The friendships I have created through FYEG, but also some of the events, and especially the non-male event in Istanbul, was a powerful moment for me to realise my chance to be surrounded by such inspiring individuals, that I could trust and fight along.*

*I am proud that you have trusted me for these three years and I sincerely did my best in the functions you gave me. I also want to say thank you to the colleagues, the FYEG staff, and of course all of the young greens activists all over Europe who are just the best family one can hope for. My political engagement has never been more alive, my thirst to fight for fair, equal and green societies never been that strong, and this is, for a major part, thanks to all of you, and I hope I had the opportunity, throughout my mandates, to make you feel the same urge for mobilisation, and political action.*

### **Paula Espinosa**

*During this year I had the opportunity to develop different activities and coordinate some others. Probably, I won't never forget from this year the preparation of the Demasculinisation of Politics project; I have enjoyed very much and it was very grateful to see how participants become a such a great group. I also felt very proud of being part of the FYEG delegation at the two EGP Councils (In Scotland and Liverpool) that took place during this year of*



*mandate where FYEG had an active roll: presenting amendments to the documents and organising different workshops.*

*In general terms, I feel confident enough to say that I am happy about the job the EC has been producing this year. I believe that one more time FYEG has covered MOs and green activist expectations. For the first time, FYEG it is also represented in different and important european and international decision making bodies such in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. The whole EC lived with great enthusiasm this victories and I strongly believe that those can be taken in consideration as a reflexion of the good reputation that FYEG is achieving. A reputation that year by year FYEG is gaing thanks of the dedication and enrollment of the green activists that work hard for the organisation.*

### **Teo Comet**

*The past year in the EC taught me a lot about the Young Green movement, in particular about the massive potential we have when we have thought-through ideas, dedicated people, fruitful teamwork and good timing for our actions.*

*A meaningful contribution for me this year was to constantly strive to support Member Organisations, even during very hectic moments. Discussing with and supporting Young Greens of England & Wales around Brexit, Serbian Green Youth at the Summer Camp and protests, DWARS and ViNO around elections, Junge Grüne in their challenges with the Austrian Green Party, and many other occasions and discussions, was fascinating and productive. The work with the MOs is really important.*

*FYEG-wise, I am very happy that we have taken big steps towards getting ready for running a pan-European campaign a year from now. We have expanded our office with two new positions, a half-time Office Assistant and a full-time Communications Officer. This significant increase in resources make us more apt to deliver what the MOs need.*

*When it comes to partners, we have kept close and mutually supportive relations with Green partners, in particular the EGP and the Green Group in the European Parliament. We will need their support in the coming years and we have created the circumstances for that. Moreover, we have strengthened the voice of Young Greens in both the European Youth Forum, with Sebastiaan Rood elected to its Board, and the Council of Europe, with Katarina Pavlović elected to the Advisory Council on Youth. Their presence and hard work will benefit all Young Greens for the next couple of years.*

*I had the opportunity to work in a diverse team of Young Greens who each brought an added value to FYEG. We had many nice moments and some difficult moments, and we went through all that together. Thank you, Marie, Adrià, Anastasiya, Fabian, Jean-Michel, Maria, Paula, Artur, Gio, Petra, Laura, Cansu and Paz, for the past year. You made me grow and I hope I gave something back to you.*

### **Fabian Wagner**



*This past year in the EC was incredible for me! Never before have I had the opportunity to grow as much politically and personally through all the exchanges and also challenges I encountered on the way. It's sometimes easy to despair over all the issues we face and loose hope over their complexity, it's easy to feel inapt to tackle any of them or to feel lost in finding a point to start. That's why I am deeply grateful and very happy that we all together are able to create FYEG as a space that allows everyone to work on these points, to turn depressing awareness about problems into empowering and enlightening struggles to fight for the causes that we feel passionate about. In this regard it was very inspiring to see all the different approaches to our common struggles. Sometimes these differences might seem huge, but travelling all around Europe and exchanging with so many people showed me that, in fact, it holds true what Jo Cox said: "There's so much more that unites us, than divides us." This is a very soothing and positive revelation that I will always remember when I face any apparently insurmountable differences within the Green party. Beyond my own topic I am very glad to know that there are so many beautiful people all over Europe and the world who fight for what they are passionate about and whom I can count on to turn this world into a way better place.*

*Before I started my engagement with FYEG I knew there were a lot of problems, now - especially after this year - I know how to tackle them (well, I have an idea), and this is mainly due to all the open, inspiring and sometimes mind-blowing debates I had with all of my fellow EC members and all of you, the FYEG activists. Thank you very much for this and all the wonderful moments throughout the year! <3*

