



MIGRATION WORKING GROUP 2017-18 **REPORT**

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

The Migration Working Group 2017/2018 started its work shortly before the Working Group Meeting in Brussels in October 2017 with a first Online-Meeting. A lot of the (new) Migration Working Group Members had before been participating in the summer camp on the topic “Smash borders, build solidarity” in Werneuchen, Germany. Many of the members are active in the Migrations and Asylum context on their regional/local level.

During the Working Group Meeting in Brussels the Working Group set itself 3 main goals for the following year:

- Raise awareness about the EU’s deportation system
- Have over-all vision of how complex migration is
- Build on a discourse against the way borders are currently conceived

Aim number 3 was more an overall objective, while we started to plan direct actions to achieve the first two goals. Regarding the first aim we worked out the idea to produce an activist guideline video on how individuals can stop deportations that are happening via plane during regular flights. Unfortunately, this idea turned out to be too ambitious as it was a hard task to organize the production of such a video online without regular personal meetings. However, as we already have planned quite a lot, it will be possible to shoot this video on one of the next events with a little additional effort. To address goal number two, we started to collect short video-takes of people who shortly described in a sentence or two what comes in their mind if they think of “migration”.

Despite the deportation system we addressed the challenges of the externalisation of borders during online-meetings and during the European Ideas Lab in Brussels. Regarding this topic we are also still planning to do a “Green Late-night Talk” on how the “Turkey-EU-Deal” and other “non-agreements” between countries of the EU and Third countries affect the migration system of the European Union and where this is going to lead in future. For this Green Late-night Talk we could win Maria Giovanni as speaker who is working for the EGP on the issues of Migration and Asylum and who already had met with us on other occasions to report on the current developments regarding those topics in the EU. Based upon this Green Late-night Talk which we want to record, we want to create a webinar about the externalisation of European borders as a follow-up on the summer camp as we were not able to address those issues during the camp.

Furthermore, we are in close contact to Jugend Rettet, whose rescue boat was confiscated in the Mediterranean Sea by the Italian police in August 2017. The trial is starting this month, Jugend Rettet is accused of supporting illegal entrance of the European Union. The Migration Working Group is supporting Jugend Rettet during their Online Campaign and we plan to do another Green Late-night Talk with a representative of Jugend Rettet as soon as the court decision is made.

The Working Group faced a high fluctuance of members, as we had a lot of members who were very active at the beginning but had to step a bit back due to other commitments, especially on their local or regional level. However, we also welcomed a lot of new members during the Working Group Year, a huge sign of how important this issue is still considered to be and that it is still important to discuss and challenge the current European Migration system.