

## **Working Groups Report**

Working Groups (WG) are one of the main bodies of FYEG. They are based on grassroots participation being open to all the members of FYEG member organisations. WG provide to FYEG topic discussions and develop campaigns and ideas.

Last October WG groups meet in Brussels to establish their activity plan and to brainstorm all together about the most important topics of the year and how they should be organised and structured.

You can find below a brief report about what all the WG did during the year:

### **Future of Europe**

#### *Activities*

Through the current multiple crises we need awareness, solutions and solidarity at a European level. Therefore for the past months, in the Future of Europe Working Group we have been opening new debates and lines of actions in order to enhance our future as youth while strengthening the Green European ideal.

For the past months, our members have been involved in a process of analysis and understanding of the European project which has lead to diverse collective and individual actions with the ultimate goal of a more solid, green and just European project. We have listed below all major activities we worked on:

1. The Free InterRail advocacy campaign.
2. The Future of Europe Green Resolution Proposal which will be presented at the General Assembly 2017, in response to Juncker's Future of Europe White Paper.
3. Two online debates are planned after both French presidential election rounds, to analyze and get greens informed of the current political situation and impact of the outcome.
4. The Tour the France initiative is fully supported by the Future of Europe WG and conducted by one of our fantastic members.
5. A webinar about European Security and Defense is planned for May or June 2017 to provide young greens with knowledge and resources in a more militarized Europe and open the debate of how to position ourselves within the topic.



6. International Trade has been on our agenda as well. The Future of Europe WG has written a statement on CETA and has developed a project involving Commons. The EC has identified this project proposal as the red thread for the Annual Plan 2018.
7. Future of Europe members were always present during FYEG's activities as well as the European Ideas Lab this year.
8. Monitoring of European political events has been one of the cornerstones of our group.
9. Finally, the FoE has introduced many other project ideas to FYEG EC which might be further developed in the future.

### *Method of work*

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 few months we have kept a stable participation rate to our online meetings. The coordinators have largely contributed to this success by introducing ideas, communicating often with all members on Facebook, by preparing the agenda of the online meetings (including a close follow up of recent developments in the EU), by combining both bottom-up and top-down approach and also by following up on the action points decided in the online meetings. Coordinators were always well prepared as they often discussed things through during bilateral Skype calls. This in combination with very active and enthusiastic members made the Future of Europe WG a performant vehicle. Last but not least, the Future of Europe WG felt never disconnected from EC's goals, plans and activities. For this the Future of Europe WG is grateful that Teo, as member of the EC, was present during all our online meetings and connected our work successfully with the EC.

### **Migration**

Sadly enough, the performance of this WG hasn't met the expectations or plans that we drew during the WG meeting in October. Our main difficulty has been to keep people engaged and active in the group. At the end of the year, only the two coordinators, Cécile and Paz were truly active, which made it really difficult to undertake any task. Throughout the year, other active members have been Lara and Jérémy, who in the end could not get as involved because of their Jobs or studies. All in all, however, we managed to coordinate an action for Human Rights Day, although it did not transcend FYEG and local MO's were only involved in France, where Cécile was.

Other actions we have performed include writing policy papers, although they were not published as we had wished and in the end we tried to have talks with experts, but the group as such had already dissolved and it had become very difficult for us as co-ordinators to



keep active.

We really think that migration and the welcoming of people trying to cross the European borders are of high priority and despite the dim performance of our group (as compared to our expectations) hope that it will continue to be at the core of FYEG's values and priorities for next year.

### **Climate Change and Energy**

The Climate Change and Energy working group has had a very productive year («more than ever!» according to a former co-coordinator). After the Summer break, the working group helped support the COP22 delegation in Marrakesh by preparing «COP outside COP» reports every other day on the what the media was saying about the UN Conference of Parts on Climate Change. Just before the Winter break, the WG also set up a campaign against Commissioner Arias Cañete's Winter Package proposal. This included a Christmas-style postcard in up to 12 different languages that was shared on social media. In the new year, the members of the WG decided to explore the issue of climate refugees. In order to do so, they held an online Webinar with Atle Solberg, Head of the Coordination Unit of the Platform on Disaster Displacement. This was a very well-received activity, with a total of 114 views (as of mid-April).

### **Gender**

During the European Idea Lab, where our WG was represented by me and 2 Members, MEPs and advisors working on Gender Equality were asked where we could cooperate with them in the next year.

A list of subjects has been elaborated and last week I opened a call to vote the 2 main topics Gender WG Members have an interest in working on in the upcoming months. According to the votes, the most welcomed topic is Women on Board/ Women empowerment. It is a good news because we even 2 MEPs to cooperate with on a potential project (Ms. Lunacek and Terry Reintke) and many other organizations promoting women empowerment to brainstorm with. Moreover, it can be related to the second most wanted topic: Toxic Masculinity (in terms of women vs men on board).

### **Food System and Animal Rights**

Our Working group started off with a handful of members and after the first weeks of discussing what projects we would like to work on during this year, some of our members got active in other groups and were not able to join our meetings anymore.



Then we were struggling for a few weeks with coming together as there was Christmas and New Year, but finally we decided to work on a survey about food consumption. Last year's working group had done a survey on meat consumption and the project worked out very well, so we decided to do something similar, but on a new topic.

What we did first was to develop questions and subtopics. We decided to first ask for some general information such as age, place of living and where people buy food, then we created a section with questions focusing on Fairtrade Products, one focusing on buying local products and a last one focusing on food waste.

Once we had the survey done, we translated it to five languages.

During the process of creating the survey and translating it, we had new people joining our working group.

Now, we plan to share the survey through different channels (we contacted the Global Young Greens, we write a little paragraph for the next newsletter of FYEG, we contact our MOs).

Once we have many people taking part in the survey, we would like to share the results through the Ecosprinter and with all the organizations that shared the survey itself. We hope to learn more about people's interests, wishes and doubts when it comes to food consumption so that we can inform them on topics that are relevant.

As our survey is a big project, we will actually need more time to finish our work which is why we hope to be able to continue our work during the summer and we would recommend to have the recent coordinators being in charge of the working group, until the new ones have been elected in September.

In our experience, finding a topic to work on is one of the trickiest things as a working group, especially in the beginning and this is why we believe that it is good for the next working group to have this project going on.

## **Global Justice**

Global Justice had a very low activity throughout the year, consisting mainly of articles and movie sharing through a Facebook group. Hence it was more of a low-key skill and knowledge sharing platform than a think tank. Activities, other than meetings, like movie nights or exhibitions were proposed and discussed, but then never materialised. It was very difficult to find members as well as coordinators.

## **Inclusion**





Unfortunately, after several attempts Inclusion WG didn't manage to work as the other Working Groups. EC coordinator tried to call the members for online meetings with non response at all.

After some months of inactivity, EC decided to pause the WG for this year.

## **Notes**

EC and Gender WG propose to merge the Gender and Inclusion WG into a single Working Group. The name of the new WG will be *Gender and Social Inclusion WG*.

FYEG stands for an open, intercultural and fair society where individuals are free to express themselves and pursue happiness in an equal and democratic society. The Gender and Social Inclusion WG aims to raise awareness among young green organisations and among the wider public on gender equality, LGBTBQ+ rights and inclusion rights, and awareness of all kinds of discrimination. To do this, we want to empower traditionally excluded minorities and other discriminated against groups. Furthermore, the Gender and Social Inclusion WG will work to identify the unequal gender gaps that are enshrined in patriarchal societal structures; develop gender-sensitive policy and practices within FYEG; and develop dynamics and structures, within which women and non-males can successfully participate in democratic processes.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that this new WG would contribute to the effective functioning of both Working Groups, which have been working with very few human resources during the year 2016/17.

