



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

GENERAL 27-29 AUG
2020 **ASSEMBLY**
BRUSSELS, BE / ONLINE

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019-2020



FYEG's 2019-2020 Activity Report outlines each activity, whether statutory or educational, organised and hosted by FYEG, sometimes with the support of our partners. This report covers the topics that each event was based on, in line with FYEG's Activity Plan and aims as an organisation.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2019 Work Plan - Reclaim Your Social Rights!

The [2019 FYEG Work Plan](#) was centred around the theme of social rights. FYEG identified the precarious situations faced by many young people and the unequal access to social rights across Europe, including but not limited to: job insecurity, inaccessible housing, unequal access to education, and quality healthcare.

The 2019 Work Plan was designed to empower young people to understand and gain access to social rights and increase their capacities to advocate for them. The Work Plan consisted of 3 parts. The first was a Spring Conference in Bologna, Italy which introduced participants to various legislation and experiences in social rights, with focus on housing, education, future of work and healthcare. The second was a Summer Camp in Borsko jezero, Serbia which focused on practical skills to access social rights. The Summer Camp included a hackathon where participants designed their own projects to promote and advocate for social rights. Finally, the Work Plan concluded in the Autumn with a series of local hackathons. FYEG's member organisations could apply for a grant to fund their own local hackathon to focus on a social rights issue relevant to their local context. FYEG received 9 grant applications and approved 8: Scottish Young Greens, London Young Greens, Czech Young Greens, Serbian Young Greens, Polish Young Greens, Georgian Young Greens, Ukrainian Young Greens and a group of Italian activists. The grant process proved to be a successful mechanism for FYEG to support members' projects on a local scale, by giving autonomy to the member organisations to

develop something locally relevant while also helping them gain project management skills.

Thanks to the hackathon concept, the Work Plan produced concrete outputs that can be used as resources for all FYEG activists.

Local Hackathons:

- Renters' Rights Hackathon - London, England
- Landlords Need Not Apply - Glasgow, Scotland
- Dritte sui Diritti - Un Hackathon Femminista - Marina di Pietrasanta, Italy
- Bydlení je právo Hackathon - Brno, Czechia
- Democracy Begins From Community - Berdyansk, Ukraine
- Omladina u prvim redovima borbe za socijalnu pravdu - Novi Sad, Serbia
- Turning chaos into progress: Hackathon on Polish education - Katowice, Poland

FYEG also produced [a guide](#) on planning a local hackathon for youth organisations, and our magazine Ecosprinter published a [special printed edition](#) on social rights based on the outcomes of the Work Plan.

Study Session - Actions Speak Louder Than Words - 20-27 October 2019

The study session was organised in close cooperation with the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre. Its aim was to go beyond looking at everyday activism and youth work to understand what drives young people to engage in activism and politics today, looking at how civil society has changed in the last 30 years and understand external factors influencing youth engagement.

This was the first time that FYEG hosted an educational event where almost half of

the participants were from outside of FYEG structures. It was successful in helping FYEG engage civil society from other movements. Having a larger presence of activists from outside of our formal structure provided a fresh perspective and allowed us to challenge common-held beliefs and statements like “we are always horizontal and non-hierarchical”, or “our movement is open to all”. In the future we will experiment more with engaging groups outside of our usual green circles. FYEG also put this into practice by collaborating with Fridays For Future at COP25 in Madrid, Spain.

Surfing Skills for Green Waves - Member Organisations' Training - 10-12 December 2019

The training took place in Brussels, Belgium and was designed for the board and secretariat members of young green organisations. It focused on tips and tools of communications, campaigning and management, and the training of new members, including recruitment and looking after volunteers alongside alumni relations. Depending on their main field of work and interest (communications or recruitment) participants attended trainings delivered by experts on these topics. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a training on building safe spaces, and finances & administration. The trainers all had a background in European Green Party, Green European Foundation or Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament.

During the training MEP Kim van Sparrentak shared her experiences from the European Elections campaign and recent political developments in the EU political sphere. On the last day of the training participants visited the European Parliament and met Ska Keller, co-president of the Greens-EFA group in the European Parliament.

The feedback was very positive, and participants found the sessions to be useful to take back to their organisations. It was also a benefit to

invite participants who do not usually attend FYEG events, so they gained insight into the organisation also. There were complaints that the training days were too long without enough breaks, so it should be taken into account in the future to suggest fewer sessions but prioritise topics. We also had an alcohol-free evening and games night at the venue as part of the evening program.

Delegation to COP25

The COP25 was originally planned to take place in Chile and the FYEG Executive Committee decided to give the accreditations of FYEG to Global Young Greens. This was to make sure that young Greens from South America can be represented at COP instead of European delegates traveling across the Atlantic to attend the COP. Unfortunately when the COP was rescheduled to Madrid, FYEG together with Global Young Greens had to organise a new delegation. You can find a report from two of the GYG delegates [here](#).

2020 Work Plan - It's Not Just a Transition

This work plan was heavily disrupted by COVID-19. The seminar on urban youth just transition perspectives, to be held in Barcelona in April, was merged with the summer camp on rural youth just transition perspectives into one seminar and will take place in October 2020 in Barcelona.

Part of the programme of both activities has been readapted as a series of webinars to allow participants as well as a wider young audience to start delving into the topics. While the live event will mainly focus on the solutions and way forward for youth to advocate for a just transition in their cities or villages, the Just Transition Learning Labs aim at unpacking the broad term of just transition and exploring the main challenges and struggles of youth at the local, national and international level. This series of 6 webinars repurposes non-formal education methods typically used at our live

activities, such as the living library, by bringing them into the digital space, and it explores new methodologies, such as interactive mapping, digital silent debates or gaming sessions.

Many participants who had been selected for the Barcelona seminar in April are regularly taking part in the Learning Labs and wish to apply again for the merged seminar in October. Additionally, the content of the Learning Labs will be turned into an introductory course on the just transition, that will be firstly made available to and tested with all selected participants, and finally made available as an education tool for everyone. Despite the cancellation of all IRL activities for the vast majority of 2020, these adaptations have so far proved successful in maintaining the work plan going and ensuring the achievement of expected results.

FYEG's participation in the European Youth Event/YO!Fest

The European Youth Event was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 and thus falls outside the scope of this activity report. Interest in the activity from members of MOs was significantly larger than our capacity to bring people to the event, and we would encourage larger MOs to consider getting in touch with their MEPs to send their own delegations in 2021 to ensure as many young greens as possible can participate in this amazing event.

Lockdown Lounges

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread and particularly since March many European countries entered lockdowns at different levels. This meant that FYEG and its MOs' activities had to be cancelled, postponed or altered. The lockdowns also meant that many people felt isolated from others and unable to participate in green activism. That is why FYEG hosted the weekly Lockdown Lounge webinar series, for young greens across Europe to still get together and talk about topics we are passionate about.

In total, 12 Lockdown Lounges were held covering the following topics:

- 2 open mic events where members could deliver short presentations on topics they are interested in
- Climate crisis with MEP Michael Bloss
- Reproductive rights with activists from Malta and France
- Precarious work with MEP Kim van Sparrentak
- COVID-19 and socio-economic recovery with MEP Kira Marie Peter-Hansen
- Conference on the Future of Europe with MEP Daniel Freund
- Universal Basic Income with MEP Alviina Alametsa and young green Irina Studhalter
- Eurovision and LGBTQIA+ rights with MEP Terry Reintke
- Just Transition with the Just Transition Working Group
- Rent and Housing Rights with the Scottish Young Greens and Joves d'Esquerra Verda
- Refugee Rights with MEP Erik Marquardt
- Pride and LGBTQIA+ Rights with various LGBTQIA+ activists from young greens in Azerbaijan, UK and Poland.

Each webinar had up to 30 people attending live, and those livestreamed on Facebook reached nearly 1000 views (sometimes more). We experimented with different platforms and measures, as unfortunately there were two incidents of "zoombombing" at the start of our series. As a response we chose to make the webinars less interactive, but encouraged smaller webinars for FYEG members to allow this interaction safely. It was well-received to invite MEPs on topics they campaign on, as this also creates the dialogue and initiative for future collaboration with FYEG and our MOs. It was also highly popular to hold webinars with our MOs and activists, as well as working groups, to showcase their work and campaigns.

MEMBERSHIP

We were happy to welcome new Member Organisations in the FYEG family in 2019. MIL Network from Azerbaijan and Protests from Latvia joined the Federation as candidate member organisation.

Our Co-Spokesperson Antoine Tifine and Sec-Gen Özgecan Kara did a study visit to Latvia to meet Protest. FYEG EC members also visited several organisations and countries (see the EC report for more details)

Moreover, with the work plan, for the first time we directly supported our Member Organisations with local actions. Besides the financial contribution, FYEG's Project Manager provided training on project management. We believe these experiments are very useful especially for smaller organisations to also get hands on experience of working with budgets, reporting and more.

On March 13-15th, we organised an MO forum that was heavily disrupted by Covid-19. Due to the rapidly worsening pandemic, the MO Forum had to be moved online at the last minute which did not allow a preferable amount of time for preparations and adjustments. Despite this, the majority of programme points were still able to take place. The re-envisioned campaign was presented for feedback, as it had shifted from a climate emergency to a system change campaign. There were also discussions on the Political Platform, safe spaces, booze and alcohol policy, and translation. The discussions on MO fees were organised in two different meetings to provide more time and space to focus on this topic.

PARTNERS

We had a good collaboration with our partners and managed to be present at many of their events.

EC representatives and Office members went to activities such as the Council of Members of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), Council meetings of the European Green Party (EGP), Committee meetings of the EGP, the General Assembly of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN) and the General Assembly of Young European Federalists (JEF).

FYEG was also represented in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe by Project Manager Katarina Pavlovic. FYEG's 2018-2019 Secretary General Teo Comet is a member of the Consultative Body on Membership Applications of the European Youth Forum. Moreover, after his term with FYEG he was elected to the Board of Green European Foundation.

European Green Party

FYEG attended EGP's Winter Council in Tampere, Finland in November 2019 where the new EGP Committee was elected. FYEG and EGP co-wrote a resolution on Climate Emergency which was adopted in Tampere. We also worked a lot on improving the other submitted resolutions on Marine Protected Areas, Nuclear Weapons, EU-Mercosur free trade agreement and on refugees. We also organised a session on the role of Youth in the 2019 European Elections.

The EGP Council which was due to take place in Skopje, North Macedonia in June 2020 had to be moved online due to the pandemic. At this council, FYEG submitted a resolution called "Power to the Gig Workers: Guarantee the socioeconomic protections of gig-workers", drafted by the Social Europe Working Group and co-signed an emergency resolution on Black Lives Matter, both of these resolutions were adopted with no votes against and 1 abstention. We successfully submitted amendments to the COVID-19 Recovery resolution submitted by the EGP committee, which ensured that Greens across Europe would stress that the aviation industry is not bailed out as part of the recovery program, and that Green parties would push

for free mental health care to be included into recovery plans. We also submitted successful amendments to the Climate Neutrality resolution submitted by the EGP committee. We were pleased to see many young greens present as parts of other delegation which allowed for great cooperation on resolutions.

Throughout their mandate, the FYEG Co-spokespersons joined every EGP Committee Meeting and EGP Party Leaders Meeting, building up on the good cooperation between FYEG and EGP during the last years.

Greens/EFA in the European Parliament

We successfully updated the Framework Agreement between the Green Group in the European Parliament and FYEG. In the scope of the new agreement, FYEG is now able to have two interns and has almost doubled the financial amount allocated to the cooperation between the Group and FYEG. By the end of 2019, FYEG is invited to attend and take space in the Group meetings as well. FYEG Sec-Gen represents the organisation at the Group meetings. We also worked on building and tightening connections with young green MEPs, firstly by organising young green MEPs breakfast and lunches in the European Parliament (which we had to stop at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic) and later by inviting many of them to speak during our Lockdown Lounges.

Green European Foundation

Collaboration with the Green European Foundation was fruitful. FYEG took part in GEF's General Assembly, strategic planning meeting and partners' meetings, our Sec-Gen and our Co-Spokes are regularly invited to speak at their events.

Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Together with HBS Paris, GEF and FYEG organised the Congress of Young Europeans 2019 on 4-9 September 2019. FYEG organised

two workshops on democracy and climate strikes.

European Youth Forum

We participated actively in the statutory meetings of the YFJ, the Council of Members in November 2019 in Amiens, and the online Extraordinary General Assembly in June 2020. Additionally, our co-spokesperson and sec-gen have held meetings with the policy team of the YFJ to discuss engagement with Young MEPs, and with the programs team of the YFJ to discuss safe-space policies and guidelines. We were happy to be one of YFJ's partners for the YO!Fest which has been postponed to next year, and to continue our collaboration on policy and other matters with member organisations of the YFJ who have climate activism at heart!

Global Young Greens

Contact between FYEG and GYG was quite regular, especially during the collaboration on COP25. FYEG offered to host GYG's Steering Committee elections for their European representatives at the planned GA in May. However, when the GA was postponed due to covid-19, GYG held the elections online and FYEG supported promoting the call for candidates.

Cooperation and Development Network

Our partnership and close collaboration with CDN continues. We attended CDN's General Assembly in Belarus in April 2020. We collaborated with CDN on the online trainings, webinars and a joint statement on LGBTQIA+ Pride. Members of FYEG Office and EC took part in the Green View and vice versa in Lockdown Lounges.

Movements

We continued our collaboration with various grassroots movements in 2019 too. During the General Assembly, FYEG's member organisations adopted a resolution that details the nature of our partnership with movements.

FYEG continued to take part in civil disobedience actions like Ende Galende and Climate Strikes.

OFFICE

The end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 have seen a lot of transitions and growth happen in FYEG office. Staffed positions have all changed or evolved and, after a successful election campaign in 2019, FYEG is adapting to new opportunities.

2019 saw Teo Comet's two-year mandate as Secretary General end and Özgecan Kara be elected as our new Sec-Gen at the General Assembly in August. Our Communication Officer, Jan Steurs, also made way to Kelsey DePorte, former Campaign Officer, to take his place at the end of 2019. And early in 2020, after two years as Project Manager, Katarina Pavlovic was replaced by Cristiana Cerri Gambarelli. All former employees have made their way to other positions within the Greens which says a lot about the talents working within FYEG. Moreover, starting from February our Office Assistant, Caroline Mathieu, increased her working hours and responsibilities as newly titled Office Manager.

Working conditions are slowly and steadily improving, partly due to the increased financial stability following the European elections. A long term strategy has been set up and starting from January 2020 salaries were raised for the first time since 2016. With the office increased capacity, overtime has also started to be closely monitored and coordination has been improved by weekly office meetings.

In addition, FYEG's financial management is on a good track and this has been recognised by the Financial Control Committee and our member organisations. This was ensured by a strong involvement and an intense cooperation between FYEG Treasurer and the office on FYEG's financial management both in 2019

and 2020. We would like to ensure a smooth financial operation in FYEG and we will continue investing in more Treasurer transfers and Financial Control Committee meetings.

Finally, from one intern, Milla Sussi, in Fall 2019 we grew, from the first half of 2020 and thanks to the new framework agreement with the Green Group in the European Parliament, to being able to recruit two interns: Henry Winckle and Cinta Gonzalez Sentis. Starting from 2020, we will be able to recruit two interns every semester: one intern to support the Project Manager and one intern to support the Communications and Campaigns Officer.

FYEG IN SOCIAL MEDIA

For external communication we are using Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We have "The Green Team" channels in Telegram and Whatsapp where we share news and campaigns. Slack is also a tool used by some activists to engage in campaigns, and organise actions.

Our Facebook page has 16,333 likes and 17,289 followers, which is an increase of 11.8% of followers in a year. On Twitter, we have 12,263 followers, which is an increase of 19%. On Instagram we gained 979 followers in a year, which is an increase of 42.6% and means we have reached 3,300 + followers.

We relied heavily on social media and creating content to disseminate our message. In 2020, in the context of the global pandemic, we created the cycle of webinars "Lockdown Lounge". It had 14 episodes covering different topics: Climate Crisis, Precarious Work, Reproductive Rights, Social employment and COVID-19, Conference on the Future of Europe, UBI, Culture (Eurovision), Just Transition, Renter's Rights, Refugee Rights, LGBT Rights. The videos were streamed on Facebook, and the average number of views is between 800 and 1,300.

The use of Telegram is more for internal use,

but is useful to build the sense of community among the FYEGers of all around Europe and keep the MOs in the loop. Telegram remains as the main means of communications between the EC/Office and the MOs, also among the Working Groups, but Slack is being used by some internal structures and is a useful hub of communications also used by some MOs that is worth exploring.