



ACTIVITY REPORT 2017-18

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
#FYEG30 UTRECHT
HOSTED BY DWARS

The last General Assembly held in Madrid last year set several priorities for this year that we, both with the EC, the Office, and the help of the Member Organisations and partners of FYEG, have been working on. We implemented diverse activities, drafted resolutions, hosted progressive events, set up a campaign team for 2019 European elections and lead many other processes that will be defined in this document. Obviously, plans are challenged and need adaptation when facing reality, and the EC did its best to live up to the challenge.

FYEG's work is taking place at a time where Europe is in a turbulent situation. The far-right is continuing to rise, Brexit is a mess and still not enough is done to protect people from big corporations and devastating climate change. But there is hope on the horizon. There were Green successes in Finland, Iceland and the Netherlands. Besides, we see more and more youth standing up for what is right and taking their future in their own hands. These are important determinants for the future of our organisation.

Thanks to the directions given by the previous activity plan, the renewal of our structures, our activists, but also thanks to the support and cooperation with our MOs, we could still carry out, rather successfully, many activities all year long.

The present report gathers a summary of the main activities that FYEG has organised from June 2017 till may 2018, according to the plan approved by the General Assembly in Madrid.

ACTIVITIES: EVENTS AND SEMINARS

In 2017 and 2018, FYEG has focussed its activities on three strategic priorities; fostering the political imagination of Young Greens through topical activities; supporting Young Greens to grow and become more powerful through capacity-building activities, and expanding the awareness of and support for FYEG's vision for a better, fairer and more sustainable Europe among different segments of society, in particular among youth. Moreover, the last GA in Madrid also set up three strategic topics in which our activities, events and seminars would be devoted during the year, those are Migration, Climate Change and the Future of Europe.

Seminars

We organised a successful and huge Smash Borders Build Solidarity Summer Camp in Germany in cooperation with Grüne Jugend (the German Young Greens). Migration policies respecting human rights, generating practical and political solutions to the so-called refugee crisis and counteracting the far-right discourse on migration were the main topics discussed.

Arts, Crafts and Politics, a seminar on political communication was held in Helsinki, Finland. This seminar was about giving young activists the actual tools that will enable them to develop effective campaigns on policies that are well informed, creative and relatable.

In November, green activists gathered in Cologne for the traditional AlterCop seminar which took place in parallel to COP Negotiations. Our activist had the chance to get an understanding of the climate movement, from its origins, to the role of Green Parties and events like COP. Following the seminar, some of FYEG activists and EC members have joined the civil disobedience action Ende Gelände, where they helped to successfully block a brown coal mine. FYEG also had an official COP 23 delegation to Bonn.

As agreed in the activity plan, a series of events dedicated to commons, started to be produced. The first one has been about fighting for social commons. Back to the future! seminar took place in March in Poland hosted by Polish young Greens. During first event FYEG work on increasing the capacities of Member Organisations to advocate for social Commons. The topical outcomes will be documented, among others in a Dictionary of Commons. Two more capacity-building seminars will take place this year about environmental commons (Summer Camp 2018) and digital commons in September.

Beyond the screens

During this year FYEG has committed to organise a series of debates devoted to all three priority topics in the physical space but with a maximum online participation opportunities. The Executive Committee together with the different Working Groups have organised along the year webinars on a broad range of topics: electoral analysis of elections in Germany and Czech Republic; migration roundtable with Ska Keller; series on food. Those webinars or events were generally conducted by an expert or relevant person on the topic, moderated by an EC member and open to all green activists around Europe.

Internal Events and internal communication

Different bodies of FYEG have met during the year in order to ensure that different working structures could accomplish their work successfully. There were meetings of the Campaign Team, the Working Groups, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Ecosprinter Editorial Board, the Financial Control Committee and the Executive Committee.

In October 2017 FYEG organized a meeting of Working Groups in Brussels. The meeting was a good starting point for acquaintance, the formulation of annual work plans, and the exchange of experience between the members of the Working Groups. During the Working Group meeting we held workshops on critical writing, campaigns and how to increase the visibility of WG activities. Members of WG-s had opportunity to visit European Parliament and to talk with MEP Terry Reintke about Young Green activism, after that member of WG-s had meetings with different advisors from the Green Group.

In December 2017, the Strategic Planning Meeting was held in Leuven. Delegates of Member Organisations gave their input and prepared for better discussions and decisions on the Utrecht GA. Special mention should be made of the Campaign Team for the 2019 European Parliament Elections who had their official presentation and started to design together with SPM delegates first ideas for the campaign and the narrative. At the SPM we also spend a session discussing the Israel and Palestine resolution that was adopted at the previous GA and the conflict itself. All MOs were welcomed to put forward where they stand on the issue, how relevant the debate is in their national contexts and where the discussion is positioned on the political axis.

FYEG aims to be as inclusive as possible, for this reason a language and gender inclusion session took place in order to find possible solutions and share good practices used in our MOs.

Finally, SPM delegates were trained on capacity-building techniques for public-speaking.

Early May 2018, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of FYEG we will see our General Assembly happening in Utrecht (The Netherlands) together with a Spring Conference. We will celebrate this throughout the year by publishing stories about milestones and inspiring events in FYEG's history. A special edition of the Ecosprinter will be published at the GA 2018 devoted to FYEG's 30 years. The Spring Conference 2018 will be devoted to issues related to FYEG's and Europe's past 30 years and next 30 years, supporting the topics of the pan-European narrative that will be developed for FYEG's election campaign. The GA and Spring Conference will be a big celebration of our movement, with invited guests from different generations of FYEG as well as inspirational speakers from the Greens and beyond.

The Executive Committee met regularly throughout the year. After kickstarting the year with a retreat in Ronse (Belgium) before the Summer Camp we met several times, including two more meetings in Brussels and a second retreat in Budapest to readjust our course and reflect after the largest part of the mandate was over. Minutes from these meetings were published on the website and sent to MOs by the Office. Besides that, online EC meetings took place every week.

Membership

The idea of Secretariats of Young Greens meeting was not pursued for financial and capacity reasons. During the course of the year, many of our Member Organisations were involved in actions, campaigns, and elections (internal and external). We congratulate the effort and spirit shown by the Young Greens of Europe during the year. We are currently in the process of planning our recruitment week, planned for the end of Summer, with a workshop at the GA to facilitate skill sharing. This year we will welcome new organisations to our family in both Member and Observer Capacity. Keep your eyes open, and follow our General Assembly to find out more.

Partners

We had a good collaboration with our partners and managed to be present at many events. EC-representatives went to activities such as the GGEP retreat, YFJ COMEMs, YFJ-UN Regional Consultation on Youth and Human Rights, t-, YO!Fest partners' meeting, EGP Council meeting and CDNs GA. However, on top of that we also managed to get spaces for our activists to visit the EMI and YFJ event 48 hours for democracy and with a group of 20 FYEG activists we participated in the European Ideas Lab.

We managed to join almost every EGP committee meeting. In an effort to have greater representation of our Young Greens within all party membership structures, we introduced a resolution at the European Green Party council, that encourages the inclusion of younger members in committees, and as candidates. It was passed with no abstentions! We also participated in the debates on other resolutions that were passed, particularly the one on the Common Agriculture Policy. For the upcoming EGP Council meeting, we are proposing one resolution in support of the Istanbul Convention and one suggesting the EGP to become member of EMI.

With the Green Group in the European Parliament, we got a closer collaboration with the communication department, allowing us to react more adequately to issues at stake. The collaboration with Group as a whole is positive and productive. We hope we will be able to collaborate more concretely in the coming years.

Collaboration with GEF

Collaboration with the Green European Foundation was fruitful. As a part of the Summer Camp, we organised two workshops "I dispute your claim!" and "Why not Jordan?" with the support of GEF with an aim to empower young Greens to contribute to the creation of more welcoming and inclusive societies for migrants and refugees.

GEF and FYEG organised a panel debate „Possibilities and Perspectives for Basic Income around Europe". Young Green experts from different parts of Europe gathered to share insights and research possibilities for basic income in different parts of Europe, with a special focus on the youth. Together with our MOs they explored different models of basic income and how they can affect society on economic, social, environmental and feminist levels.

Apart from topical activities, FYEG has been regularly represented at GEF's statutory meetings.

COMEM/YFJ

At the Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, we have emphasized the need for a more prominent place for environmental and ecological policies in the meetings and gathered a broad support for a statement about this issue. It is to be followed up by a closer cooperation with other 'Green' MO's in YFJ and a workshop coming COMEM. Furthermore, we have worked with other political party youth organizations in preparing YFJ for the European elections, stressing the need for youth issues to be prominent on the agenda and to move young people to go vote. Last, we have shared our practices of working with former refugees in an inclusive way in the workshops round. Finally, with the other partners of the Green hub, we are co-designing the programme of this year's YO!Fest.

Working Groups

Working with priority working groups proved to be a good system to focus sufficient energy on themes which are of particular importance for FYEG's overall work. All working groups have been particularly active throughout the year and supported the development and implementation of projects, statements, as well as contributing webinars.

In autumn 2017 we held our annual Working Groups Meeting in Brussels that allowed its members to get to know each other and structure their activities. Members of WG-s had opportunity to meet each others on different internal and external events organized or co-organized by FYEG throughout the year. Next to that the Office supported our Working Groups with the organisation and promotion of webinars.

For more, please refer to the separate Working Group Report.

Ecosprinter

Following the recommendations of the last activity plan, the Editorial Board together with the Executive Committee managed to publish two printed versions relating to Gender and FYEG 30th Anniversary due to be published before the GA and online series on British Elections, German Elections, Mental Health, Migration and Commons.

For more, please refer to the separate Ecosprinter Report.

Office

This year some changes had been held at the office. During the year, FYEG changed the communication officer, project manager and office assistant. Three interns also passed through the FYEG office. These changes have taken away the full capacities of the FYEG office. Nevertheless, all office work has been completed within the prescribed time limit. Since February, the office has been working at full capacity.

For more, please refer to the separate Secretary General report.