



**FYEG's 2020-2021 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**

### **2020 Work Plan - Not Just a Transition**

The Work Plan was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and moved online and to local context. In its new form, it consisted of 2 parts.

During the series of webinars Just Transition Learning Labs we introduced the concept of a just transition and explored the struggles the youth faces when trying to move away from a carbon-intensive society. We analysed the implications this transition might have on social and human rights both in rural and urban settings and what are the pre-existent problematics that have been accelerated in this time of health, social and economic crisis. Five Learning Labs took place between May and September 2020.

The Just Transition in Action decentralised activities made up the second phase. It kicked off with the Just Transition Community Day with discussions and an info-session about the sub-granting program. We received 9 grant applications and approved 8 of them - one group later dropped out due to lack of capacity. Most of the events took place online or in a hybrid form. Seven actions were organised Scottish Young Greens, Protests, Young Cyprus Greens, Serbian Green Youth, Giovani Europeisti Verdi, Joves d'Esquerra Verda and Confluencia Jove, and Young Greens England & Wales. They approached the topic from various angles, i.e. sustainable transport, the link between climate change and homelessness, hemp as material for the transition, the role of degrowth and more - and using various formats, i.e. online campaigns, youth fora, hackathons, documentaries. This project proved again to be a successful mechanism to support local groups and give autonomy and flexibility to Member Organisations.

FYEG offered applicant MOs the opportunity to receive tailored support from two professional trainers of the Campaign Accelerator in support of the local campaigns and actions. Scottish Young Greens, Giovani Europeisti Verdi and Joves d'Esquerra Verda decided to get trained and received altogether 20 hours of training.

The outputs of projects and conclusions from discussion are being collected in the Green Principles for a Just Transition and our magazine Ecosprinter is publishing a printed edition on just transition.

### **Online MO-MO Training**

In order to build the skills of Member Organisations and increase international networking and horizontal exchange among them, FYEG developed the concept of the MO-to-MO online training. We first asked Member Organisations which skills and knowledge they need training on and which are their expertise and then reached out to potential trainers.

In April 2021, the first round of MO-to-MO online training is defined:

- Social media activism led by Belarusian Young Greens (implemented)
- Social media strategy and analysis led by Protests and Young Green England & Wales
- Self care and mental health for activists led by Norwegian and Spanish Young Greens
- Political maturity of organisations and organisational culture led by Finnish and Georgian Young Greens, together with CDN
- Democratic facilitation and participation led by Norwegian Young Greens

### **2021 Work Plan - Youth Rebuilds a Brave New Europe**

Young Greens are well aware of the challenges exacerbated by the pandemic and already have many solutions. To implement them, we now more than ever need better inclusion systems and active youth participation. Through this work plan, which was re-conceptualised several times to adapt to the Covid situation in Europe, we will explore the struggles with active participation for youth-led organisations, movements and informal groups, promote and develop skills of community organising and exchange successful online and offline tools to expand youth participation in political decision-making, as well as increase participation in their organisation.





The first phase was planned as a live international event, then cancelled in autumn 2020. Following this first reformatting, FYEG opened a call for organisations to host the first Young Greens Summer Festival to take place in August 2021. However, re-evaluating the situation in Europe at the end of April and the slow roll out of vaccines, we still saw too many obstacles to the organisation of an inclusive and truly accessible international activity in summer, and agreed that our capacities would be best at using investing in an alternative programme. The office started working on the coordination of FYEG's next sub-granting programme for the organisation of 4 decentralised summer camps, which is ongoing.

The third activity will be an online write-a-thon aiming to collect all the tools and advice for better democratic participation and make it accessible to more movements. It will be organised in collaboration with the Activist Handbook.

### **FYEG/CDN Study Session - Work That Works For All**

The Study Session organised both by FYEG and FYEG's sister organisation CDN in collaboration with the European Youth Center was postponed due to the pandemic. It is planned to take place in November 2021.

### **Young Green Recovery**

In the second half of 2020, acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic that has swept Europe and the world has had a significant effect on young green movements, we decided to work together with EGP and the Greens/EFA in facilitating a Young Green Recovery. This Young Green Recovery consisted of numerous actions from webinars and online training to direct actions and assemblies. These actions were implemented in a decentralised way by FYEG Member Organisations.

The 6 distinct actions organised across Europe as a part of the Young Green Recovery helped build up young greens' organisational resilience, intensify the cooperation between the young greens and their parent parties as well as promote young green solutions for the society after the pandemic. It gave young activists from all over Europe a voice in putting issues that matter to them, such as a just transition in rural areas, young people in local politics, sex work and many others, on the agenda of the green vision of a post-COVID recovery.

In the end, six decentralised actions were implemented in Ireland, Albania, Poland, UK, Serbia and Spain. Even though the sharp rises in COVID-19 cases across Europe toward the end of the year resulted in only one action being implemented physically, this didn't result in cancellation of actions. The five other actions were ambitiously adapted to the new, online formats resulting in online events with safer participation, larger audiences and more robust outputs, many of which are still available to interested youth.

The outcome of the program, besides local outcomes, is a comprehensive online course about Young Green Recovery on GEF's new educational platform - Green Academy.

### **POLITICAL PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

At the 2020 General Assembly, FYEG Member Organisations elected a Political Platform Committee and gave them the mandate to rewrite our political platform. The Political Platform Committee is composed of four people: Antoine Tifine, Christina Kessler, Lysander-Noel Liermann, Özge Doruk. Gülce Yeniev and Giulio/Mina Tolu were the EC's Committee members.

Since September 2020, the Political Platform Committee (PPC) has led a consultation and drafting process in line with the resolution voted last year. PPC first sent out a consultation form to the Member Organisations, which was filled by 16 Member Organisations. Between October and February, PPC organised consultations with Member Organisations on Social Europe, Agriculture, Energy, Peace & Diplomacy and on Economy.

The Political Platform Committee met every Thursday between October and April and they had 4 Weekend-Long PPC meetings in October, February and April.

The first draft of the Political Platform was shared with the Member Organisations before the MO Forum and it was discussed during the MO Forum. The second draft was published on 22 April 2021, in line with the resolution timeline.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

In 2020, we were excited to welcome Protests from Latvia as a Full Member Organisation, as well as Giovani Europeisti Verdi (Italy), Grüne Jugend - Grünalternative Jugend (Austria), and Mladi Zeleni (Czech Republic) as candidate member organisations.





FYEG committed to hosting regular regional calls for our Member Organisations to share updates as well as discuss areas of collaboration relevant to them. FYEG developed our MO strategy through individual strategies for each of our members, as well as country specific strategies where we currently don't have a member.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to make any study visits to full, candidate, or potential member organisations. However due to the power of technology we were able to attend event organised by our member organisations, and hold meetings with candidate and potential organisations including: Budouci (Czech Republic), Grüne Jugend - Grünalternative Jugend (Austria), Noored Rohelised (Estonia), SF Ungdom (Denmark), and HSS (Croatia).

On 13-14th March we held the annual FYEG MO Forum online. The majority of the MO Forum was dedicated to the Political Platform, where delegates offered feedback and input to the political platform in order for the Political Platform Committee to create a final draft ahead of the General Assembly. Other topics covered during the Forum included: the future of FYEG as an organisation and educational activities, Young Candidates Platform, communication and campaign priorities, Eastern and Southern Europe Strategy, just transition, mental health and of course finances.

## **PARTNERS**

### **European Green Party**

FYEG sent delegates to the European Green Party Council in December that was a hybrid held both in Poland and online. We tabled and successfully passed two resolutions on Trans Rights and on the Right to Protest. We will also send delegates to the May Council and have tabled a resolution on Consent.

Our co-spokespersons and Secretary General regularly attended the EGP Committee meetings and Party Leader meetings to continue dialogue and cooperation, and voice the young green perspective to keep the Green movement radical. Members of our Office and Board also regularly attended task force meetings coordinated by EGP on the Conference on the Future of Europe. We were excited to welcome Cinta Gonzalez Sentis as Junior Projects Coordinator to work on joint activities with EGP to further deepen cooperation.

### **Greens/EFA in the European Parliament**

We continue to work closely with young MEPs and the Greens/EFA secretariat on shared political priorities. FYEG Secretary General regularly attends the Group meetings, while the FYEG Communications Officer attends the GGEP Communications meetings where we exchange on strategy and campaign ideas. FYEG gave input on GGEP campaigns such as on the youth guarantee and housing, and GGEP has supported FYEG in its own housing rights campaign. In November we hosted a webinar on economics where MEP Rasmus Andresen was a guest speaker. During the economics week campaign, MEP Alviina Alametsä also provided a video recording for FYEG to use.

We also worked very closely with Group co-Chair Ska Keller and MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, who is also the chair of the European Parliament's Turkey Delegation. We managed to add two amendments to the 2019-2020 Commission Reports on Turkey, drawing attention to the attacks on HDP youth and also include the case of the arbitrary imprisonment of fellow Young Green Cihan Erdal.

### **Green European Foundation**

Our collaboration with the Green European Foundation continues to be fruitful. FYEG took part in GEF's General Assembly, Strategic Planning Meeting and Partner's meetings. As well as contributing with sessions to GEF's yearly European Green Activist Training week, which was held online. This year, FYEG collaborated with GEF on its Greenr programme, which allows green trainers, facilitators and consultants to easily connect with organisations seeking help for their events, workshops, and other activities. FYEG took part in the selection panel and encouraged young greens to apply to be a part of this project.

### **Heinrich Böll Stiftung**

We were planning to collaborate more with Heinrich Böll Stiftung. Specifically we were to host the final Conference on Just Transition together in Brussels. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, all our events moved online and we couldn't continue this partnership. However, we kept close ties among the organisations.





## European Youth Forum

FYEG attended the YFJ General Assembly and Council of Members (COMEM) as delegates. We were pleased to nominate Henry Winkle as a candidate to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, who was elected to the position. Prior to this, former FYEG co-spokes Zuzana was co-opted to the Advisory Council to represent FYEG when a former member stepped down.

We are also actively following the discussions that are happening in the European Youth Forum regarding the decreasing financial support to European NGOs, provided by the European Commission.

## Global Young Greens

FYEG maintained contact with Global Young Greens, and attended their webinars and supported the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Global Young Greens and Global Greens.

## Cooperation and Development Network

FYEG continues to work closely with CDN. We worked closely together, with the Young Greens of Belarus, to develop an advocacy toolkit and campaign dissemination aimed at calling for European support of democracy in Belarus. With this, together we launched a social media campaign to encourage young people to contact politicians and ambassadors to Belarus, as well as hosted an Instagram Live with young activists from Belarus. We engaged CDN with our joint work on democracy in Belarus with PPYO, to bring the perspective of activists.

## OFFICE

Once again, the 2020-2021 activity period has seen a lot of transitions and growth happen in FYEG office. Some staffed positions have changed or been created and, with the support of the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee, the Secretariat started a process towards structural and organisational change and growth.

The end of 2020 saw the premises of a new staff position being created in the Secretariat as Luka Gudek became a temporary Project Assistant to implement our Young Green Recovery Program, in cooperation with EGP and the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, as a response to the Covid-19 crisis. After this fruitful experience, Cinta Gonzalez Sentis, our former intern, was hired by EGP in the beginning of 2021 to become the new Projects Coordinator for joint EGP/FYEG activities. This new position will improve synergies and cooperation between EGP and FYEG and help FYEG implement its activities.

The beginning of 2021 also saw the end of our 2 year long cooperation with Kelsey DePorte, from freelance Campaign and Events Assistant to full time Communications Officer. Christopher McFadyen has now taken on the task of Communications Officer. Finally, we welcomed two new interns in the beginning of 2021, Igor Skórzybót replaced Anja Presnukhina as Project Intern and Marie Stadler replaced Cinta Gonzalez Sentis as Communications Intern.

Working conditions are still slowly and steadily improving, mostly due to strong commitment from the Executive Committee and Secretariat and due to improved financial planning and management. FYEG is on track with its working conditions improvement strategy with regular monitoring and revision in place. In addition and after a thorough assessment, the organisational change process started at the end of 2020 has set out to improve the working structures and culture within the Secretariat and the Executive Committee throughout the 2021-2022 period, in an effort to create sustainable working conditions within FYEG.

Moreover, FYEG's financial management is also steadily improving, supported by the continued involvement of our Treasurer and the constant scrutiny of the Secretariat on FYEG's finances. The Secretariat and Treasurer, with the support of the Financial Control Committee, have also been working on formalising financial processes and developing long term analysis and strategy to guide financial management in future years.





## **FYEG ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

For external communication we are using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and we just started a TikTok account. On Telegram and Whatsapp we also have 'Green Team' channels - to broadcast info on larger campaigns and actions.

Our Facebook page has 16,394 likes and 17,373 followers, which is an increase of 5.6% of followers in a year. Unfortunately, the algorithm of Facebook has changed and it is actively not promoting political posts, which slowed our growth rate. On Twitter, we have 12,772 followers, which is an increase of 4%. On Instagram we have 3,771 followers, a 15% increase in a year. Our TikTok is new as we opened it in April 2021 and has less than 50 followers.

In 2020/21 we communicated on various issues, our focus was on Foreign Affairs, Welcoming and Inclusive Europe, Climate and Social Justice and Intersectional Feminism. Some of the communications we put out were democracy in Belarus, calling for a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, US elections, Brexit, calling for the release of political prisoner Cihan Erdal, combatting anti-muslim hatred, celebrating young Green feminist activists and COVID-19 vaccine/testing access. This year we turned our very popular webinar series "Lock-down Lounges" to podcasts. Young Green Podcast is available wherever you get your podcast.

Telegram is the current home of internal comms with FYEGers, with various channels allowing young Greens from across Europe to communicate directly with each other. Telegram remains as the main means of communications between the EC/Office and the MOs, also among the Working Groups.

