



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

Giovani Europeisti Verdi's application for candidate membership Executive Committee Assessment

Context

It's been several years since FYEG doesn't have a member organisation in Italy, since the previous organisation *Giovani Verdi* slowly disappeared. This is mostly explained by the relatively low results of the Italian Greens who didn't manage to elect members of national or European Parliament since 2008 and didn't manage to appear as a credible alternative to young people in Italy.

Nevertheless, in 2018, Italy was one of the countries in Europe where the biggest Fridays For Future demonstrations took place, showing a real wish for bold climate action. In the past 2 years, as Italy was the most populated EU country without a member organisation (apart from South Tyrol), FYEG had decided to invest some time and energy in Italy. FYEG organised several exploratory visits, and organised an event in Bologna in April 2019, in an attempt to bind ties with progressive activists from Italy.

At the same time, FYEG was put in contact with groups of new young members of Europa Verde, the coalition the Italian Greens belong to. Many of them had been active with Fridays for Future before.

In September, Executive Committee member Kristy and former secretary-general Teo visited an Ecocamp organised by the Italian Greens in Lombardy. On November 1-3rd, FYEG Co-spokesperson Antoine visited another camp organised by Young Green Activists in Crevalcore, near Bologna in Italy. In the past year, one of the founding members, Luca, took part in several FYEG activities such as the 2019 Summer Camp and the 2019 MO training. In addition, Giovani Europeisti Verdi initiated a letter to EU leaders calling for the implementation of Eurobonds.

The organisation formed itself in November 2019 in Crevalcore. In 2020, it adopted provisional statutes and elected its first leadership, online due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Analysis

Membership criteria

The conclusions of the different contacts we had with them and the analysis of the documents submitted for their application shows that *Giovani Europeisti Verdi* meets the Membership Criteria outlined in Article 1.1.2 of FYEG Internal Rules of Procedure.

GEV is active at the national level in Italy. In less than a year, it managed to gather around 100 members, draft statutes and a political mission statement, organised trainings and organised political actions, mostly online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They have a national structure as well as local groups in major Italian cities.

The different observations made during visits, their publications on social media and the documents they provided for the application show that GEV's values and political positions are in line with FYEG values and political platform.

The provisional statutes GEV has provided to FYEG demonstrate the will to function democratically. Their leadership has been elected by its members and members are the only one influencing the political direction of the organisation. We invite GEV to maintain that line when drafting their final statutes, while clarifying the length of the mandate of the different bodies, and clarifying the roles of congress assembly, the national council and executive board. We believe the adoption of final statutes, which so far has been prevented by the covid-19 pandemic, is a prerequisite to applying for full membership.

Finally, GEV is undoubtedly a youth organisation and consists mostly of young people. Most of its members and its leadership are in their 20s or below. According to their statutes, one can be a member between 16 and 35.

Political criteria

It is essential for the European Green Movement in general and for Young Greens in particular to be present and active in Italy, not only because it is the third most populated country in the EU, but also because of the political situation there and because of the livelihood of social and environmental movements there.

While the Italian Greens have faced difficulties in the last years and are torn by internal personal conflicts and the need to win a few seats on the short term for the party to survive, we believe a strong young green organisation can be a unique chance to think on the medium/long term, by training members, by enlarging the scope of the green movement, by strengthening ties with civil society organisations.

Giovani Europeisti Verdi gathers amazing people and talented activists who seem determined and can do just that. It is important that the organisation keeps a certain level of autonomy to be able to navigate through the uncertainties of the Italian Politics and to avoid suffering the consequences of potential conflicts in the Italian Greens. In that regard, being a candidate member of FYEG can give *Giovani Europeisti* the occasions and the means it needs, by being able to have different members taking part in FYEG activities, by hosting events or by benefiting from the MO grants programmes.

We also believe that GEV's membership can be beneficial to FYEG, bringing a new perspective to several topics such as the climate, LGBTQI rights, migration or the fight against far-right.

Recommendation

FYEG Executive Committee recommends FYEG General Assembly to grant Giovani Europeisti Verdi the status of candidate member. We invite the next EC to strongly monitor and support the development of GEV. We invite GEV to take into account the comments made in that assessment and to use all opportunities offered by this status to support its development.