



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

Grüne Jugend - Grünalternative Jugend's application for candidate membership Executive Committee Assessment

Context

Until 2018, FYEG had a member organisation in Austria called Junge Grüene. In the last years of their existence, a series of conflicts and disagreements arose between the Austrian Greens and the Junge Grüene. In 2017, tensions reached their climax regarding the support to different student unions. The leader of the Austrian Green Party at that time issued an ultimatum to Junge Grüene, saying they would cut the organisation's fundings unless they changed their position.

Despite FYEG's and EGP's attempts to serve as mediation, the Austrian Greens put their ultimatum in action. Junge Grüene later decided to run in a coalition with the Austrian Communist Party KPÖ and in 2018 its members created a new organisation "Junge Linke" (Young Leftists). As Junge Grüene didn't exist anymore, it was formally excluded from FYEG in 2019.

At the same time, other young greens activists started to work on creating a new young green organisation. Some of their members started to take part to FYEG activities in 2018. In 2019, the "Green Youth and Green Alternative Youth" was officially founded.

Analysis

Membership criteria

The analysis of the documents submitted by Grüne Jugend for their application shows that Grüne Jugend meets the Membership Criteria outlined in Article 1.1.2 of FYEG Internal Rules of Procedure.

Grüne Jugend's values and political positions are in line with FYEG's. It was founded on the values of: ecological, feminist, grassroots democratic, self-determined, anti-fascist, anti-discriminatory, solidary, anti-national, egalitarian and non-violent. Its political priorities are anti-capitalism, anti-fascism, climate protection, feminist, education and work reform. Grüne Jugend has a "gender strategy" developed, but acknowledges it needs two years still for a working process to define its principles with the input of its members.

Grüne Jugend is active at the national level and appears to function based on democratic principles. It functions on the state and regional levels, with an annual general assembly

electing members of the national board, and with gender-balance respected in all structures. In addition to the General Assembly, Grüne Jugend also organises educational events to foster political discussions, including an annual summer camp. Since their formation, they have actively campaigned in the 2019 European Elections and Austrian national elections.

Political Assessment

FYEG Executive Committee believes it is important for FYEG to welcome Gruene Jugend as its member organisation and for Grüne Jugend to join FYEG. This membership will be beneficial for both our organisations.

We are pleased to see that Grüne Jugend - Grünalternative Jugend is growing and growing and doing excellent work in Austria, as well as internationally such as attending the European Green Party Council in November 2019.

In 2018, representatives of Junge Gruene invited FYEG and its member organisations to cooperate with the new austrian young green organisation, saying that new young greens (Gruene Jugend) should neither be blamed nor pay the cost of the tensions that took place between the Austrian Greens and Junge Gruene. FYEG EC completely agrees with that declaration.

Recommendation

The Executive Committee is happy to do a positive recommendation for Grüne Jugend's application for candidate membership.