



FEDERATION OF YOUNG  
EUROPEAN GREENS

**GENERAL** 14-18 AUG  
**ISTANBUL ASSEMBLY**  
HOSTED BY GENÇ YEŞİLLER

**ACTIVITY PLAN 2019/2020**  
ADOPTED BY FYEG GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN AUGUST 2019



# 1. BE BRAVE, GREEN EUROPE!

Between May 23rd and 26th 2019, the European Elections took place. In several countries, Green parties performed better than expected, and than in the past, in the midst of the growing global climate movement. For the first time for many years, the turnout for these European Elections was higher than the previous edition, reaching 50% for the first time in 20 years.

These elections were the climate elections. The strong climate movement and the conjunction of climate strikes, climate marches, civil disobedience movements and climate court trials managed to make the fight against climate change one of the main topics of the electoral campaign. Months prior to the European Elections young people were taking to the streets to demand climate justice over and over again, and multiple polls have shown that this concern was especially high for young voters.

The concern over climate change and the vote of young people are what we think have been the main drivers of the Green Wave that has spread across Europe. In several countries, green parties have achieved one of their best results ever. The Green wave especially hit the cities of Germany, Finland, Sweden, France, Belgium, Ireland, the UK, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark where Green parties scored more than 10%.

This good results in mostly Western and Northern European Countries will not make us forget the more difficult situation in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe where Green Parties didn't perform as well, where the Green proposals are even more needed now than ever. It will be important not to let this political gap between Europe's center and peripheries grow bigger in the next years. FYEG will continue its work to bring the Green Wave to the rest of Europe, and find new solutions to local struggles.

While Europe is facing a climate, social, environmental and democratic emergency, Young Greens won't sit still. We will work, together with the movements that brought us this far, towards a truly inclusive and sustainable Europe. This will only happen if we manage to maintain the pressure of citizens and movements, as institutional politics alone will not make that happen.

During the last two years, FYEG and its member organisations have worked hard on making a European campaign. We are happy that this European-wide campaign was met by a European-wide success. We thank all of you for making that happen.

FYEG will develop its relations with movements such as youth climate movements, social movements, feminist movements, LGBTIQ\* movements and anti-racist movements, among others. We will develop contacts with them, invite them to take part in our events, support their work and campaigns when needed.

So let's keep fighting for a social, sustainable, and feminist Europe together!

## POLITICAL PRIORITIES

After the Green Wave and European Elections 2019, we will move towards a new decade with 4 political priorities: Just Transition, Democracy, Social Europe, and a Welcoming & Feminist Europe.

We will develop and advocate for political ideas for an open society truly for all, fight against the climate crisis, and focus on what Europe can be for young people's welfare and social rights. We have a holistic, radical political vision on Europe, where we show the interlinkages between different issues. When it comes to radical political visions, we are already a leading progressive voice within the Green movement. With the capacities of the Executive Committee but also our internal bodies like committees and working groups, we will continue to come up with radical ideas and push for change with impactful actions.

### Just Transition

The energy transition away from dirty fossil fuels is not only about coal, energy and climate. People have to be placed at the heart of the transition to make a fair and just energy transition not a burden, but an opportunity for a Green system change. People must feel empowered to act and the social and cultural aspects must not be neglected. The energy transition has to be inclusive, leaving no one behind.

All stakeholders of the societies should be part of an active and participatory creation process. We need to ensure young people's say in the political processes leading to a carbon-neutral and just society. The growing new industries need to consider the skills and perspectives of groups frequently marginalised in the labour market, such as women\*, working-class and low-income people, LGBTQ+ people, migrants and refugees, racialised people and ethnic and racial minorities, disabled people, and others. Adopting a feminist and social justice-oriented

framework for energy development is important to ensure this. Fundamental rights (such as a right to equality, freedom, and education) need to be ensured. Equal access to services and the fight against poverty should be given as much importance as reducing carbon emissions.

### Democracy

It is not an understatement to say that the European project is undergoing its biggest stress test this far. Climate crisis, rise of authoritarianism, widening inequalities. Younger generations find it more difficult to imagine a future to look forward to than previous generations did.

The future of Europe is being built by young people and it is being built today. European democracy must be safeguarded and enhanced. Education, transparency and more engagement are the future of democracy. Political systems have to represent young people, become more accessible to different forms and channels of citizens engagement beyond traditional voting, including opportunities of digitalisation such as e-governance and e-democracy.

Also, Young People's quality of life must also be taken into consideration. Young people must have access to basic rights in order to have time and strength to participate in the democratic life.

### Social Europe

Social justice is one of the core principles of FYEG. It can be linked to non-discrimination, full-enjoyment of human rights, and peace. We will keep fighting for these aspects as long as there are people without access to healthcare or a roof above their heads, without the opportunity to educate oneself and grow, or without employment and emancipation.

In an ageing society, young people are feeling more and more disengaged with politics as the economic and social difficulties they face persevere. The social rights that should be guaranteed are not corresponding to the

ones they can actually enjoy. Moreover, a lot of young people don't have job security in a Europe where working conditions are getting more precarious and the whole continent is in the midst of a reorganization of its economy in which the platform owners are seemingly developing power that may be even more formidable than was that of the factory owners in the early industrial revolution. Short-term contracts, accumulation of low-paid internship, "uberisation", the platform economy or zero-hour contracts, combined with difficult access to housing and health care, puts young people in more and more difficult situations. It is time to put back basic rights and social emancipation at the heart of social policies. This should be an opportunity to reflect on the future of work and the role it has in people's lives. It is time to reclaim our social rights!

### **Welcoming and Feminist Europe**

We will keep pushing for a Europe where everyone is welcome, where freedom of movement is seen as a fundamental right and where we overcome difficult situations through empathy, solidarity and cooperation. We hold a fundamental belief that nobody is illegal.

The rise of fascism doesn't only affect refugees and migrants. Everywhere in Europe the fear of people that are different is increasing. Beside an increase in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic attacks, we are seeing more homophobic attacks as well. On top of that, the fascists that are preaching hate to others, are also trying to stop the liberation of women. Fascists, promoting (white) male superiority use the same analogies against women and LGBTQIA+ as to migrants and refugees or Roma, or against any imagined or constructed "other". Fighting fascism and promoting humane migration policies will stay a top priority by demonstrating that positive alternatives for an open, feminist, and diverse Europe exist, and can be developed even further by Green policies.

## **2. ACTIVITIES**

### **Social Rights Work Plan**

In 2019, FYEG is organising a series of events related to social rights. The work plan kicked off with a festive unconference on the status of social rights and the different struggles around them, organised in April 2019 in Bologna, Italy. The Summer Camp taking place in July in Serbia, will train participants in organising hackathons locally in order to find creative solutions to concrete problems. Around 5 local hackathons will then take place around Europe, between October and November 2019. The project will result in a handbook on what the status of social rights is in Europe right now and on different creative types of activism and advocacy that Young Greens and other organisations can use to fight for their social rights. These tools will be developed in relation with the Social Europe Working Group.

### **Future of Activism Study Session**

In the end of October 2019, FYEG will organise a Study Session "Actions Speak Louder Than Words - Youth Engagement, Grassroots Activism and the Future of Democracy". The study session is organised in collaboration with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and will take place from 20-27 October in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. This study session will be an attempt to zoom out from our everyday activism and youth work, and understand what drives young people to engage in activism and politics today. We will work on identifying the causes and social issues young people are passionate about, the drivers for activists to organise and act 30, 20, 10 years ago and today. We will question the social, economic, demographic, technological and political conditions that drive or hinder young people's engagement today. We will learn from the history of youth-led movements and try to understand why activism takes so many shapes in different parts of Europe.

## Training for Member Organisations boards and offices

In line with FYEG Strategic Plan 2018-2020 adopted in 2018, FYEG wants to reinforce Young Green organisations in Europe. This year, FYEG will organise a training for board members and staff of its Member Organisations.

Following the General Assembly, a poll will be carried out to identify the needs for training and the interest of MOs' board members and staff to get trained. Based on that, we will offer them to take part in a training either on Communication, public speaking, recruitment of members, management of local groups and volunteers, finances and fundraising, non-formal education, etc. These trainings will be made up of exchanges of best practices and trainings by professionals.

## Just Transition Work Plan

In 2020 we are opening a big topic that will be relevant in many years to come: just transition. This project will be spread over the entire 2020 and will aim to ensure young people's say in political processes leading to a just carbon-neutral society. The first part of the year will be marked by the project kick-off - a seminar focusing on young people's involvement in building and access to (1) just systems of mobility (public transport and urban energy systems), and (2) welcoming and inclusive public spaces. It will be followed by a Summer Camp that will bring the Young Greens together with organised rural youth. The Summer Camp will take place in a rural area and address (1) access to affordable and healthy food and clean water, (2) access to hard and soft rural infrastructure and its impacts on youth and minorities. Both gatherings will serve as platforms for a wider discussion on just transition and finally result in consolidating a proposal for Green Principles for Just Transition that will be adopted by the membership and presented at the closing conference at the end of 2020.

## 3. FYEG...

### As a movement

The development of FYEG should remain orientated towards its Member Organisations. We will put more resources and energy into contributing to their development, especially in Southern and Eastern Europe. This happens through giving the opportunity to members to take part in trainings, seminars or summer camps, to do an internship in FYEG's office, to be part of FYEG structures, including Working Groups, Prep-teams or the Executive Committee, through which they develop skills that will be useful for their organisations. This year, we will organise a training for members of boards and office of our member organisations to have an even more direct impact on them.

FYEG is also a place a political development and reflection. It is important that our political platform remains in line with the priorities of European Youth and takes into account the work done by FYEG and its member organisations in defining new concepts and solutions to the crisis Europe is facing. As our current political platform was adopted in 2012, FYEG will start in 2020 an inclusive process with the aim of adopting a new political platform by 2021.

FYEG is also a powerful network to support each other, express solidarity with one another and learn from each other's local contexts. We will organise webinars to give the possibility to update each other on the latest political developments, similarly to those that were organised by the Future of Europe Working Group until last year.

FYEG will also work on developing additional channels for volunteers to support the work of FYEG and develop their own skills.

## As a feminist and inclusive organisation

We will work on making FYEG more inclusive, implementing the inclusion plan prepared by the Feminist Committee and submitted to the 2019 General Assembly.

Providing a space for only women, gender queer and trans people in FYEG proved to be a tool for empowerment and addressing unequal power relations in our society. In this spirit, we will provide a space for the feminist network in FYEG to grow. The Network will start as a Working Group that will gather Young Greens that self-identify as women, trans or genderqueer. It will follow up on the work done by the feminist committee and offer a space for women, trans and genderqueer people to work on making FYEG a more feminist and inclusive organisation, in relation with other FYEG structures.

The feminist network will focus on organising a training on practical and political skills before January 2020 (self organized), monitoring the Sexual Harassment protocol as well as creating a manifesto for the 8th of March together with FYEG's allies.

Further, the Executive Committee will work to make more FYEG events accessible to minors, especially bearing in mind the presence of intoxicating substances, and develop a policy for intoxicating substances at FYEG events.

## AND ITS PARTNERS

### EGP

FYEG intends to work with the European Green Party on the basis of the very good and successful cooperation we had with them in the past years and even more during the last European Election Campaign. We want to keep being the voice of young people inside the EGP, in order to promote progressive solutions. We especially want to work with the EGP on contributing to the development of Greens in countries where

the Green movement is less present or well organised.

### Greens-EFA group in the European Parliament and Young Green MEPs

With the 2019 European Elections, 7 people that were part of our Young Candidates Platform were elected as Members of the European Parliament. One fifth of the Greens-EFA group members are under 35. Five former FYEG spokespersons are sitting in the Greens-EFA group, many of them in strategic positions. This is without precedent and represents both a responsibility and an opportunity. Since their elections, FYEG have worked with Young Green MEPs to identify ways for Young Green MEPs to collaborate with one another and with FYEG.

FYEG wants to maintain a strong political link with them, so that we can support each other in making sure young people's voices and concerns are heard and represented inside the European Parliament. FYEG must serve as a bridge between Young Green MEPs, Young Greens activists and organisations and Young People active in social movements (climate movements, social rights movements, feminist movements, LGBTIQ etc.) We want to work with them on organising an event that would bring all these people together.

We also want to renew and uphold the successful partnership we have with the Greens-EFA group in the European Parliament.

### European Youth Forum

FYEG will keep working closely with the European Youth Forum. We will continue our work on bringing climate change and sustainability consistently to the table, making sure it is one of the priorities of the European Youth Forum in the upcoming years. We will also work towards safeguarding an open and diverse youth forum.

## GYG

We will work to improve our communication and cooperation with the Global Young Greens, especially in the event of an upcoming Global Greens and Global Young Greens joint Congress. FYEG will also reinforce its cooperation with Global Young Greens when it comes to international negotiations, such as COP25 in Chile.

## AND ITS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

In the past years, FYEG has tried different ways to maintain good communication channels with its Member Organisations between General Assemblies. Some have been successful, such as the addition of one meeting of MO representatives between two GA (Strategic Planning Meetings) and the creation of regional chats but some have shown their limit (Strategic Planning Committees).

In line with the proposed deletion of Strategic Planning Committees from the Internal Rules of Procedure, FYEG will explore new ways of maintaining a good and permanent contact with its member organisations.

We propose the creation of an MO forum that would meet once per year in person with representatives from the political but also organizational areas of MOs. These two person delegation, i.e. one co-spokes and the international officer, would meet in what would be the substitute of the current SPM. The MO forum would also work online in regional chats where issues previously taken care of by the SPCs will be discussed. The MO forum will meet once per month (all the regions) with a previously prepared agenda by the EC person in charge. The maximum amount of time without a meeting shall not exceed 3 months.

We will also continue our efforts to systematise the sharing of information with our Member Organisations.

## AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

Last year, FYEG had six thematic working groups, which required a lot of work from EC members, with only limited results. It is important that working groups are set up with a clear and specific mandate and timeframe, which doesn't necessarily correspond to a period of time between two General Assemblies, and can access resources to meet or organise projects. This implies having a smaller number of working groups.

In line with proposals for changes in the IRPs, FYEG Executive Committee will set up the following working groups, coming up with clear mandates:

A Social Europe Working Group, following up on FYEG 2019 Work Plan

A Feminist Network, open only to women, trans and genderqueer people

A Just Transition Working Group, working on FYEG 2020 Work Plan

FYEG Executive Committee also has the possibility to create additional working groups during the year depending on the emergence of new political priorities.

## AND ITS OFFICE

During the past years, FYEG office has been growing and played a key role in the development of FYEG activities and political work and it will continue to do so.

FYEG wants to improve the working conditions and employment conditions of people working in the office. FYEG will make sure the upcoming move of EGP and FYEG office represents an improvement of their working conditions. FYEG also wants to explore ways to reduce their workload and increase their salaries.

FYEG will organise more regular office meetings and retreats and wants to open the possibility for members of the staff to get professional training, in the fields they feel gaps need to be filled in.