

FYEG ACTIVITY PLAN 2016-2017

Adopted: 29th May, Prague, Czech Republic



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

Dear Young Greens all over Europe!

We would like to introduce you our activity plan. What is an activity plan in FYEG? It is an important document to outline political, educational and internal activities, which are embedded in a mid- and long-term strategy.

The activity plan we introduce to you is supposed to be readable- we do not want to get caught in details. Nevertheless, we do not want to leave you alone with this short outline. For further explanations, you will find attachments on the timeline, partners, communication and further concepts. The activity plan is supposed to be a framework for the work of the Executive Committee. The frame itself is set by the General Assembly and thus the Member Organisations, yet the Executive Committee may make modifications to the priorities and plan itself shall the political situation in European require it, which would then be discussed with the Member Organisations.

The 2015-2016 Executive Committee

Cengiz, Iryna, Johannes, Laura, Marie, Morgan, Teo, Tornike

Aims, Analysis, Narratives

The Crisis of Europe: the old is dying and the new cannot be born

Today's Europe is in upheaval and despair. We all experience a multiplicity of crisis. Beyond the economic, social and environmental crisis, Europe experiences a political crisis which threatens our democracy. It is necessary to understand how this multiplicity is intertwined, such as how the economic crisis leads to nationalistic and racist fear-mongering on the one hand and to economic dictatorship by neoliberal and conservative governing politicians on the other hand. Neoliberalism is pouring oil into the fire. The result is even stronger far right political movements.

Since the 70's the dogmas of neoliberal capitalism have haunted Europe, such as austerity, the destruction of the welfare state, the deregulation of finance markets, outsourcing public infrastructure and crushing labor laws and social rights. The results of this ideology are not more freedom and opportunities for all of us, but increasing inequality, poverty, unemployment, instability and fear. The rich have become richer, the poor have become poorer. Inequality has grown on a national and global level.

But the World Crisis does not just describe the state of the economy caused by an insane profit orgy, which has been organized by Europe's political elite. It also describes our daily life. In these confusing and troubling times people feel isolated and ignored by far away media, political campaigners and politicians, who are not able to grasp the people's needs, especially young people's need to make a decent living. There is an absence of strong, progressive anti-establishment politics and of a lively democracy, which is more and more reduced to elections every few years and filled with empty phrases and stupid soundbites. This corrupted democracy creates a huge void. This void is unfortunately filled by the racist and nationalistic imaginary created by the far right.

Framing the Future of Europe

We need to experiment and create a new paradigm, which feeds peoples' hopes and needs for a better living and strengthens the imagination, for the struggles for a good life for everyone, and not just for a few. We need to create a positive and effective alternative project for Europe, that brings people together and not separates people who are branded to be different. We want a Europe, where nobody has to fear to be different.

Thus, we as Young Greens want to provide a progressive compass in these times. Present-day Europe is not our responsibility as young greens, but changing it is our shared responsibility. Such a compass entails a strong voice for social rights, for democracy and dignity of all people.

We should do this by **developing the European wide Young Green community**. This means to spread a common narrative, through going to our member organisations, tell our story, imagine a political community which is not just local but transnational. We act locally, but our struggles are connected through our ideas. Second, we do this by **connecting our struggles with the struggles of other civil society movements and initiatives**. This

means to develop networking strategies and be present at different kinds of mobilization as FYEG.

Parties rightfully do not inspire trust anymore, neither of the broader public nor of activists. However, they are still the necessary instruments for progressive institutionalised politics. We therefore have to **listen to the diversity of local movements**, learn from them, support them and be part of them. As a political youth organization, occupying the in-between space between grassroots civil society organisations and activists, and institutional politics, it is our responsibility to support and create bottom-up **politics** and **democratize Europe**.

FYEG's **political priorities** in terms of communication and events from June 2016 to December 2017 will be migration and refugees' rights, the "Future of Europe", and climate justice. The Future of Europe will entail the question of the Brexit as much as gaining momentum against Austerity and the fight to renew Europe's democracy. Migration and Refugees' rights, as well as climate justice, will be covered on the road to COP22 and our event in Marrakech.

Activities: Events and Communication

2016/2017 will be a year of trial and error. We will experiment with new formats of political outreach and events but also intensify and enhance what we are good at and what we successfully established.

Going beyond traditional campaigning

We will focus on **media activism**. This entails, for instance, reporting about the Brexit referendum, visiting Member Organisations and telling their stories to the rest of the MOs, struggles against austerity, decisive elections in Europe, and last but not least, solidarity with refugees and activism against borders. Beyond that, this format also creates flexibility for ad-hoc developments. We will create temporary media teams for each mission and send these teams to relevant activities about these issues. However it is not just about reporting, but also about creating progressive story lines. The key of our media activism is to internationalize political debates and struggles, and by doing so connecting them. For creating better outreach we will enhance our **social media** performance to reach more and more **professional standards of communication**. We will also invest time for investigation and trials of diverse social media channels. We will continue to work with our current **visual design** and will enhance it. The Executive Committee, and especially the co-Spokespersons, will be tasked to develop a general **communication plan**, which emphasizes to not just publish European-wide topics but frequent developments in countries. This communication plan also involves the enhancement of the external communication of events of FYEG (social media, website reporting), and the media strategy of the Federation.

Seminars

Seminars will focus on the **COP**, on empowerment non-male actors in politics, the cooperation with the **Global Young Greens** and on **Sex Education**. In September 2016 there will be a study session in the European Youth Center on the latter topic. We are going to gather our member organizations to educate youth workers and educators within our

partner organisations and beyond to increase skills and knowledge to deal efficiently with those social and political opponents who deny the youth the right to sex education. **From COP22 to global solidarity:** November 2016 to April 2017 will be marked by our effort to connect Climate Change, Migration and Global Justice through our activities around COP22 in Marrakech and a global seminar that we will co-organize with the **Global Young Greens** at the European and Global Greens Congress in Liverpool in April. FYEG recognizes the critical importance of organizing a Global Young Greens Congress parallel to the GG Congress in Liverpool. The EC and the office will actively support the Global Young Greens Steering Committee and Young Greens of England and Wales on fundraising efforts for the GYG Congress as well as logistics. We aim for organising an event targeted at women and none male actors in politics' in Turkey. This event would allow the young greens movements at national and European level to advance on objectives of inclusion, gender equality and female and non-male empowerment and participation.

Going beyond small events

We want to balance smaller events and bigger events in the future. After the organisation of the summer camp in Serbia in July 2016 with 60 participants, we aim to hold another, larger, more ambitious summer event with around 100 participants in 2017 . We will also retain the possibility of organising a Twinning Cities networking and training activity in late 2016 or in 2017, according to the interest expressed by MOs. Additionally the EC will seek possibilities to strengthen Twinning the Cities in a structural manner in cooperation with MOs. If such a networking and training activity is realized, an evaluation is to take place with a view to the creation of the activity plan for 2018.

Picking up from the idea that emerged from the strategic planning meeting in February 2016, of creating the possibility for bigger gatherings of young Greens, 2017 will constitute the first step of what we hope will become a practice. From this perspective, a bigger event than usual will be organized during the summer 2017 as a first experience in order to implement the practice from 2018 on. In 2018, we could even aim for greater number of activists based on the gained capacities and experience, as well as on the necessary longer preparation process that would allow a preparation such in advance Considering that building a young green community is one of our fundamental priorities, such events in 2017 and 2018 will carry this spirit to the 2019' European Parliamentary elections. We want to establish the tradition of summer camps and put effort in fundraising them on a sustainable basis and not just depending on flexible financial regimes. In terms of big events, we intend to extend the 2018 summer camp to a political summer festival of 300-400 participants following evaluation of the 2016 camp.

In 2016/2017, we will also test **European Action Days**. As a federation we want to create our own action days. We suggest one or two of these to unite on one single day our activists all over the continent to take action under one topical umbrella in the context of the three main topics of 2017. The idea is to organize street actions and local events in many European cities on the same topic and telling the same story adapted to the local context.

Pan-European Panel Series

The Executive Committee will evaluate the possibility of pan-European Panel debates together with MOs. The idea of the project is to have similar discussion on the same topic in many European cities. These discussions will be documented and will be put on a web platform (such as FYEG's Youtube channel). The topic will be determined by the Executive Committee in collaboration with selected and interested MOs and resemble around FYEG's political priorities in 2016/2017.

Internal Events and internal communication

In Fall 2016 we will organize our traditional **Working Group Meeting**. The Ecosprinter Editorial Board is encouraged to meet then and/at FYEG Summer Camp in July 2016.

In early 2017, we will hold another **Strategic Planning Meeting**. We want to establish a new tradition of internal events. We see the necessity of pre-General Assembly planning within the federation, involving especially the Member Organisations. This Strategic Planning Meeting will evaluate the implementation of new formats in our activities and does the political planning for the following General Assembly.

In May 2017, we will hold our traditional **General Assembly** and the **Spring Conference**. The Spring Conference besides the Summer Camp, is one of the major educational events of the Federation. We will further enhance the quality of workshops. We want to engage with major European intellectuals, Green politicians, activists and representatives of other political families. The 2017 Spring Conference will have a more educational dimension than in previous years, the topic being political communication. The subject of the 2017 Spring Conference will be chosen in the context of the three main topics of 2017.

The **Executive Committee** aims to meet at least 5-6 times physically, including one or two planning retreats during its mandate.

Internal communication should not be overloaded, but Member Organisations should be frequently updated. The Secretary General takes on the responsibility for the general Member Organisations coordination. The Organisations will be divided by regions among Executive Committee Members. The office and the EC will facilitate communication within regions in Europe, bearing in mind that coordinating this chiefly depends on the MOs themselves. This also applies to platforms for MO to MO communication.

The office together with the Executive Committee will provide a **newsletter** once a month and a **Member Organisation-letter** (once a month). The MO-letter will focus on formal announcements. There will be also one or two general **MO-Skype calls**. One should be between the Strategic Planning Meeting and the General Assembly. EC project concepts resulting from the Activity Plan are to be made transparent to Member Organisations and the Strategic Planning unit, including the aims, resources, target groups, intended evaluation and general outline of the project.

Membership

FYEG recognizes different styles of working, places, national/regional contexts and aims among the Member Organisations. The Executive Committee will evaluate local situations and support smaller Member Organisations in their growth. Bigger Member Organisations will be supported by FYEG with international input, networking opportunities, meetings for mutual learning among key activists from MOs and europeanization of their struggles to produce more impact and learn from each other. FYEG will also establish contacts in regions and countries without Member Organisations and it will evaluate potential Member Organisations. The Executive Committee will do its best to be present at General Assemblies of Member Organisations and it will try to perform as many study visits as possible from a financial and timely point of view.

FYEG will encourage Member Organisations to enhance regional cooperation, such as creating regional events of 2 or more MOs. The Executive Committee and the Office will support the organisation of such regional events in sharing best practices and helping the submission for grants, not excluding a direct financial support. Such regional events could entail supporting MOs to organize skill training, such as speakers trainings.

Skill Trainings

We need skilled activists, coordinators and speakers in political struggles. The executive committee will conceptualize and negotiate with possible funders to expand and establish frequent trainings and potentially a training program that could benefit Member Organisations' activists. The EC will also investigate the possibility to set up an FYEG Pool of Trainers. Priorities are speakers, campaign and communication trainings and training capacity builders in a train-the-trainers program that would develop into this potential 'FYEG pool of trainers' available within FYEG and for MOs. The Executive Committee will organize also a training session for itself for the purpose of team building and a professional task division.

Ecosprinter

We aim for more space for the Ecosprinter to become the most necessary place for critical thinking and assessment of green politics, political news and contexts, and MO/FYEG activities in the coming year. Therefore, the Ecosprinter aims to enhance its partnership with the Green European Journal and further professionalize its work including rebuilding the website, establishing a network of Young Green publications and, if possible and deemed useful, creating a printed edition of collected articles from Young Greens. One person in the Executive Committee or the Board of Editors is to be responsible for fund-raising for a printed edition of Ecosprinter.

Office

FYEG will strive to a part time **office administrator**. The Executive Committee will evaluate if the office administration should include accounting, which is partially provided by an outsourced service at the moment.

The office in co-work with the Treasurer will enhance the controlling and will provide every EC meeting and the strategic planning meeting with an updated budget report.

The office will develop project timelines for the year and is responsible for webpage and general event reporting.

The responsibility of the office is to assist the Executive Committee and other volunteers as much as possible to make their political activities as solid, transparent, professional and valuable as possible. This includes responsibilities such as travel arrangements, reimbursements, non-political EC meeting preparations, accommodation. The **Secretary General** is centrally responsible for the preparation of the structural meetings. An audit of the relationship between EC and office is recommended to be implemented during the mandate of the EC and will be reported to the GA.

Working Groups

Priority will be put on specific Working Groups of FYEG responsible for the development of specific campaigns related to one of three topics determined in this Activity Plan. We thus aim at streamlining the following: political priorities, topics of Working Groups, campaigns, and activities.

While other Working Groups might continue to exist in the future, the accent will be set by the Executive Committee and the Office to support at least three specific Working Groups on political development, organisation of activities and communication, as well as on practical, logistical and administrative aspects.

Inclusion Audit

We believe it is healthy to conduct an investigation on how inclusive FYEG's structures, activities and atmosphere. With inclusion we specifically mean the inclusion of groups that are traditionally marginalised in decision-making, such as women, trans persons, minorities, disabled persons, migrants, and other groups. The Inclusion Audit (IA) will investigate whether FYEG's structures, rules, procedures and working methods make our Federation as inclusive as a Green organisation should be, namely that it counters structural discrimination that certain groups face in society in general as well as within organisations. Furthermore, it will investigate whether there are instruments (such as event monitoring, project planning and others) that FYEG has not used, or is not extensively using, that could serve the purpose of better inclusion. The Investigation will be conducted by a team set up by the Executive Committee.

Commitment to Open-source tools

As following the instructions in our IRPs, we will actively investigate potential tools for a more open-source based work within the Federation this year; investigation that should come out with concrete budget/organisational proposals for the next GA. This will include the experimentation of an independent server, safer and encrypted mailing services, and training(s) of activists on such issues within the frame of already existing events.