

## E1new FYEG 2019-2020 Activity Plan

Proposers:

Agenda item: 4 Plans

### Text

#### 1 **1. Be Brave, Green Europe!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 Let's keep fighting for a social, sustainable, and feminist Europe together!

## 36 **Political priorities**

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

40  
41 We will develop and advocate for political ideas for an open society truly for  
42 all, fight against climate crisis, and focus on what Europe can be for young  
43 people's welfare and social rights. We have a holistic, radical political vision  
44 on Europe, where we show the interlinkages between different issues. When it  
45 comes to radical political visions, we are already a leading progressive voice  
46 within the Green movement. With the capacities of the Executive Committee but  
47 also our internal bodies like committees and working groups, we will continue to  
48 come up with radical ideas and push for change with impactful actions.

## 49 **Just Transition**

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

56 All stakeholders of the societies should be part of an active and participatory  
57 creation process. We need to ensure young people's say in the political  
58 processes leading to a carbon-neutral just society. The growing new industries  
59 need to consider the skills and perspectives of groups frequently marginalised  
60 in the labour market, such as women\*, working-class and low-income people,  
61 LGBTQ+ people, migrants and refugees, racialised people and ethnic and racial  
62 minorities, disabled people, and others. Adopting a feminist and social justice-  
63 oriented framework for energy development is important to ensure this.  
64 Fundamental rights (such as a right to equality, freedom, and education) need to  
65 be ensured. Equal access to services and the fight against poverty should be  
66 given as much importance as reducing carbon emissions.

## 67 **Democracy**

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

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

78  
79 Also, Young People's quality of life must also be taken into consideration.  
80 Young people must have access to basic rights in order to have time and strength  
81 to participate in the democratic life.

## 82 **Social Europe**

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

88 In an ageing society, young people are feeling more and more disengaged with  
89 politics as the economic and social difficulties they face persevere. The social  
90 rights that should be guaranteed are not corresponding to the ones they can  
91 actually enjoy. Moreover, a lot of young people don't have job security in a  
92 Europe where working conditions are getting more precarious and the whole  
93 continent is in the midst of a reorganization of its economy in which the  
94 platform owners are seemingly developing power that may be even more formidable  
95 than was that of the factory owners in the early industrial revolution. Short-  
96 term contracts, accumulation of low-paid internship, "uberisation" and platform  
97 economy or zero-hour contracts, combined with difficult access to health care  
98 and education, puts young people in more and more difficult situations. It is  
99 time to put back basic rights and social emancipation at the heart of social  
100 policies. This should be an opportunity to reflect on the future of work and the  
101 role it has in people's lives. It is time to reclaim our social rights!

## 102 **Welcoming and Feminist Europe**

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

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

## 117 **2. Activities**

### 118 **Social Rights Work Plan**

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

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

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

### 144 **Training for Member Organisations boards and offices**

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

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

### 155 **Just Transition Work Plan**

156 In 2020 we are opening a big topic that will be relevant in many years to come:  
157 just transition. This project will be spread over the entire 2020 and will aim  
158 to ensure young people's say in political processes leading to a just carbon-  
159 neutral society. The first part of the year will be marked by the project kick-  
160 off - a seminar focusing on young people's involvement in building and access to  
161 (1) just systems of mobility (public transport and urban energy systems), and  
162 (2) welcoming and inclusive public spaces. It will be followed by a Summer Camp

163 that will bring the Young Greens together with organised rural youth. The Summer  
164 Camp will take place in a rural area and address (1) access to affordable and  
165 healthy food and clean water, (2) access to hard and soft rural infrastructure  
166 and its impacts on youth and minorities. Both gatherings will serve as platforms  
167 for a wider discussion on just transition and finally result in consolidating a  
168 proposal for *Green Principles for Just Transition* that will be adopted by the  
169 membership and presented at the closing conference at the end of 2020.

### 170 **3. FYEG...**

#### 171 **As a movement**

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

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

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

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

#### 194 **As a feminist and inclusive organisation**

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

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

204 organisation, in relation with other FYEG structures.

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

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

## 212 **And its partners**

### 213 **EGP**

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

### 219 **Greens-EFA group in the European Parliament and Young Green 220 MEPs**

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

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

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

### 238 **European Youth Forum**

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

243 youth forum.

244 **GYG**

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

250 **Movements**

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

255 **And its member organisations**

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

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

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

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

274 **And its working groups**

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

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

283

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

284

- A Feminist Network, opened only to women, trans and genderqueer people

285

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

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

## 288 **And its office**

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

291 FYEG wants to improve the working conditions and employment conditions of people  
292 working in the office. FYEG will make sure the upcoming move of EGP and FYEG  
293 office represents an improvement of their working conditions. FYEG also wants to  
294 explore ways to reduce their workload and increase their salaries. FYEG will  
295 organise more regular office meetings and retreats and wants to open the  
296 possibility for members of the staff to get professional training, in the fields  
297 they feel gaps need to be filled.