P2 Activity Plan 2023 - 2024

Proposer: FYEG
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Plan text

1. **Strengthening the FYEG Network and Membership Coordination**

FYEG organises two network activities per mandate to facilitate political exchanges.

The **Young Green Forum** serves as a precursor to the annual General Assembly (GA) of FYEG, where representatives from Member Organisations (MOs), working groups, and other FYEG bodies convene online to exchange ideas and discuss organisational and political issues. It is an excellent opportunity for FYEG members to network, establish stronger connections, and provide feedback to enhance FYEG's activities. The Forum will be held online, tentatively by the end of January 2024, and will be mainly used as a space to unveil FYEG’s 2024 Election Campaign to FYEG MOs and to receive their input, and to address statutory and political issues ahead of the General Assembly.

The **General Assembly** is the highest authority of FYEG, where MO delegates elect the organisation's leaders and approve new members. Moreover, it is the platform for FYEG's members to present and discuss political resolutions on various policy matters. This is the chance for the network to propose policies on current events. The 2024 General Assembly will be held in late summer, following the European elections. It will be followed by the annual public conference that brings together experts, representatives of the federation, young activists, and FYEG partners to discuss and debate a particular political topic.

FYEG Executive Committee will hold four live EC Meetings, tentatively in June 2023, September 2023, January 2024 and June 2024.

Membership Coordination

FYEG remains committed to fostering the growth and coordination of its MOs, which form the essence of our Federation. In pursuit of this goal, FYEG will hold **regional meetings.**

Considering the geographical implications of the upcoming votes on membership at

the General Assembly, the next Executive Committee might consider reviewing the regional zones that are currently: East, Balkans, South, Center-West and North.

The Executive Committee members responsible for these regions will oversee the organisation of regional meetings, the frequency will be decided following the recommendations from the last mandates and it will guarantee coherent coordination and communication across all regions.

The Executive Committee aims to provide more attention and assistance to MOs that have been less active than others. To facilitate this, there is a dedicated budget for MO visits. Furthermore, MOs are encouraged to invite FYEG to participate in at least one of their activities annually to foster a constructive working relationship.

FYEG's strategy to enhance the involvement of its MOs from the East includes ongoing **assistance and collaboration with the Cooperation and Development Network (CDN)** and participating at the European Green Party (EGP) Balkan network meetings. Moreover the second edition of the Young Greens Decentralised Training will be focused on MOs coming from outside of the EU, specifically the Balkan region.

FYEG intends to build upon its previous efforts in the South region, follow up on the outcomes of the live South regional meeting, and further enhance the South region’s engagement in FYEG's political initiatives and long-term planning.

Furthermore, FYEG will continue to **track the participation and representation of its MOs** in its activities and structures.

Regarding the upcoming Study Visits, Estonian Young Greens MTÜ Noored Rohelised will be in its second year of candidacy and if they wish to proceed with full membership, a study visit will have to be planned latest by the end of 2024.

2. **Capacity Building and Educational Activities**

MO trainings

The second edition of the **Young Greens Decentralised Trainings (YGDT)** will bring the same programme as the previous edition, focused on building a vision and recruiting members, to more MOs of the network. The design of the programme will take into account the input that the trainees of the 2022 edition provided during the evaluation phase. This edition of YGDT will especially target MOs from Eastern Europe and the Balkans in need of strategies to enhance their structures and to recruit and engage new members through activities in line with their vision and mission. The programme will take place during a period of 5 months and include individual consultations, a live training, and online

workshops.

In 2024, FYEG will not hold an edition of the Young Greens Decentralised Trainings. The 3rd edition of this capacity-building project will be designed after the EU elections and will be implemented during the first half of 2025. After two iterations of the same programme, the content of the 3rd edition will be developed taking into account the evaluations of the 2022 and 2023 editions, as well as the context of the aftermath of the EU elections, an assessment of the needs of the MOs, FYEG's capacities, and the position of the Green Family in the post-election scenario. The call for MOs will open in autumn 2024.

Focus on youth participation

For 2023 and 2024, FYEG designed a 2-year-long project to support all young people to have a say, influence decision-making and increase diversity in democratic participation, with a focus on election periods everywhere in Europe. For the first phase in 2023, through the "We need the Green YOU(th)!" Annual Work Plan, FYEG will host two main international activities:

- In July, during the 5-day-long "**Writing the Green Stories**" Summer Camp in Sweden, we will see 55 young people come together to explore the importance of narrative-building, storytelling and political communication. Participants will get trained on how to frame complex issues through clear messages and impactful stories, and will be guided by experts to compose the foundational document - the Green Activist Reader - outlining the winning story to influence politics ahead of the 2024 elections and beyond as Young Green Activists.

- From September, the "**Online Influencelection Games**" will be a 4-month long gamification experiment that will see 150 young people competing in a healthy online environment to become the Young Influencelection leaders for the European elections in 2024. A digital platform will gamify the learning process, and turn it into a series of competitive games. By the end of the four months, a small group of trainees will be promoted to Young Influencelection Leaders and become the facilitators of the digital platform to be run in 2024.

For the second phase in 2024, through the "**Your Future Starts Today**" Annual Work Plan, FYEG will host three main international activities:

- In the beginning of the year, a 3-day kick-off event, "**The Green Rave**", would bring together 70 young people from FYEG MOs, progressive youth and environmental movements, and young politicians to gather final ideas and hone skills for the launch of the European election campaign. The activity will be designed to help young community leaders refine the skills to further raise the issue of the 2024 elections in their local contexts.

They will also have a chance to present their work to the wider public during the open event (with approximately 210 external guests). During this event, the Get Out the Vote Europe Tour will be officially launched.

- From the Green Rave until May, the “**Get Out the Vote Europe Tour**” will involve approximately 160 young people directly through 4 decentralised activities, and reach at least 1000 indirectly all over Europe through smaller actions. The core of the activity will be 4 events organised in 4 regions of Europe. The unifying theme of the tour will be getting the youth vote out, i.e. promoting participation of young people in the European elections or increasing their interest in the EU, while promoting the youth message and demands identified in the course of the 2023 Work Plan. The locations will be selected to support our young candidates in their campaigns.

- At the end of the year, a 5-day event “**Ready, Set, Go - The Green Future**'' will bring together 55 participants from all over Europe, from FYEG MOs and other youth organisations. The activities will focus on exploring the means of political and activist participation and the enjoyment and successful use of rights and skills in community-building. Taking place during COP29, the event will also include activities focused on exploring ways of sustainable environmental activism, as well as participation in a peaceful demonstration linked to the main events of COP29.

MO Grant Programmes

FYEG will fund decentralised activities implemented by selected MOs through a grant programme both in 2023 and 2024. First in 2023, through the “**EU and you!**” **Grant Program**, FYEG will support the implementation of 4 to 6 decentralised projects designed to raise awareness on the impact of an EU programme or action for the citizens at the local, regional or national level. The awarded MOs will implement their projects between June and October. Then in 2024, through the “**Get out the vote!**” programme, a selection of FYEG’s MOs will receive financial support for the implementation of actions and events to promote participation in the 2024 EU elections. These local actions will be implemented in April and May.

Working Groups

After the General Assembly, the **Beyond Growth Platform (BGP)** will organise a session at the pre-conference activity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) leading to the Beyond Growth Conference in order to promote our manifesto with Generation Climate Europe to civil society partners and policymakers. The BGP will attend said Conference to represent FYEG’s views. After the resolution to the Vienna EGP Congress, the BGP will then aim to draft an FYEG resolution for the 2024 GA, and initiate steps towards developing a detailed working paper.

In terms of political aims, **the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)** will expand FYEG's work on decoloniality, with a deeper focus on specific areas thereof. RJTF will also seek to collaborate with other racial justice organisations, such as the European Network Against Racism's Climate Justice Working Group. Organisationally, RJTF plans to assess our Safer Spaces Policy and to work with the Office, EC and MOs through a survey to update our Inclusion Plan with a focus on racial justice and the inclusion of racialised, culturally- and ethnic-minoritised youth. RJTF will also hold a live meeting in Brussels.

Study Session "Green Perspectives on European Security"

FYEG and CDN will be jointly organising a Study Session titled "Green Perspectives on European Security" at the European Youth Centre in Budapest from 23 to 28 October 2023. The objective of this Study Session is to foster a shared understanding of security in the context of new global challenges, and their intersections, guided by the values of democracy, the rule of law, self-determination, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and feminism.

To achieve this goal, the Study Session will provide an opportunity for learning and fostering intercultural dialogue between youth from various European countries, wherein they can discuss the concept of security and ways to ensure it.

European Youth Congress

The Congress that was formerly known as the “Congress of Young Europeans” is coming to Greece in 2023. This political event brings together young people from various European countries to discuss and exchange ideas on current European issues, such as democracy, human rights, migration, climate change, and social justice. The Congress aims to foster a pan-European dialogue and promote a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity among young Europeans. It is jointly organised by Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Green European Foundation, and FYEG.

The upcoming 2023 edition of the Congress will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, from October 19th to the 22nd, and will focus on the right to independent living. This event aims to provide a platform for young Europeans to voice their opinions, share their experiences, and engage in constructive discussions with policymakers, activists, and experts.

3. **Bringing forward the youth perspective**

General Comms and Campaigns

Our General Communications for 2023-2024 will focus on providing a voice to young people from across Europe. To achieve this we will make clear and concise political statements through social media on current events and ongoing issues.

We will work closely with our MOs, the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament and the European Green Party to reach a broader audience.

The **Ecosprinter** will remain independently coordinated by the Ecosprinter Editorial Board. The board will work to provide a space for young people across Europe to write on a variety of issues.

Lobbying, advocating and campaigning for the youth perspective through collaborating with our partners and through participation in international political events

FYEG Co-Spokepersons will closely follow the work of the **European Green Party** by attending its Committee Meetings. Moreover FYEG will continue to send delegates to the EGP Congresses. EGP will organise an in-person Congress in Vienna in June 2023, an online congress in December 2023 and an extended in person congress in January/February 2024, and finally a regular Congress in November/December 2024. In the extended Congress of 2024, EGP will introduce the EU election campaign and elect the Spitzenkandidaten. FYEG will attend these congresses with its delegation and will also organise a youth event at the January/February extended Congress. This youth event will be a moment to introduce FYEG’s election campaign as well.

FYEG will have a presence in the EGP Campaign Working Groups, namely the Campaign Working Group and Manifesto Working Group. FYEG will be represented by its EC members when political input is required or by the Secretary-General and/or Communications and Campaign Manager when the meetings are at staff level.

FYEG will continue to **cooperate with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament**, in particular with young MEPs on initiatives that are also political priorities for FYEG. The FYEG Secretary-General will continue to follow the Group meetings when the Agenda is relevant to FYEG’s priorities. Members of the FYEG Executive Committee will also be present at the Group retreat which will take place in Madrid in September 2023.

The FYEG Communications and Campaign Manager will take part in the Greens/EFA Campaign Taskforce meetings whilst the FYEG Secretary-General and/or EC members will join the political discussions that are related to the European Campaign.

FYEG maintains a strong connection with the **European Youth Forum** through the efforts of an EC delegate. This delegate takes part in various events, policy discussions, and endeavours to build relationships with the Forum's members. FYEG will continue this partnership, specifically during the run up to the elections to support the European Youth Forum’s efforts to bring issues and demands of young Europeans to the political debate.

The work carried out from our elected representative in the **Advisory Council on**

Youth of the Council of Europe is a key element for disseminating and lobbying for our green ideas. FYEG EC Member Milan Zlatanović will continue his mandate at the Advisory Council on Youth until the end of 2023. For the upcoming 2024-2025 mandate, Sean Currie put forward his candidacy, representing FYEG. If elected, FYEG will continue its work on climate policy to ensure that there will be more funds for green-minded projects through the EYF. Moreover, FYEG will keep monitoring the democracy and transparency of the processes within the Council. Finally, FYEG is committed to ensure that the work of the Council of Europe is beneficial and supportive to all youth organisations, including smaller ones, to enhance their development and the development of the youth movement and civil society as a whole.

Lobbying, advocating and campaigning for the youth perspective through our campaigns and disseminating our work and ideas to new and broader audiences

In the 2023/2024 mandate, all of FYEG's campaign work will be focused on the upcoming EU elections.

The goal of FYEG's EU24 campaign is to **spread our vision** for "a just, feminist, diverse, democratic, sustainable Europe where people are happy and free"; **mobilise, empower, and engage young people** across Europe around our message of hope and our belief in a Green Europe, and to **increase the visibility** and name recognition of Young Greens.

The full details of the EU24 Campaign are set out in the Campaign Plan.

Our 2024 Campaign will focus on:

- Spreading the Young Green vision and increasing the visibility and name recognition of Young Greens
- Active and involved Member Organisations
- Building a Green community
- Empowering young people through the Young Candidates Platform

4. **Organisational Growth**

FYEG's work on strengthening and improving its internal structures, processes and governance is still vital in order to build on FYEG's successes and to develop and maintain durable, efficient, and strategic foundations for our work. In this perspective, FYEG will continue to work on its strategic planning and Strategic Framework; on the well-being and retention of its EC and staff members; and on internal processes and governance.

Strategic Framework

Last year, a Strategic Framework was created to monitor and evaluate the Strategy and yearly Activity Plans. In the Strategic Framework, each strategic objective listed in the Strategy is linked to relevant activities or tasks and divided into Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). A baseline and yearly target is set for each KPI and responsibilities for the implementation and monitoring of all activities and tasks are decided.

During this mandate and following up on the implementation of the 2022-2025 Strategy, FYEG will update the targets for each KPI in line with the evaluation from the 2022-2023 period. Each EC and staff member will again create an individual plan in line with their roles, priorities and the task division decided at the beginning of the mandate. These plans will ensure tasks are well defined and reasonable plus they will allow easy monitoring of individual performances and contributions to FYEG’s work.

In addition, preparations for the development of the next Strategic Plan will start in the second half of 2024. MOs will be consulted through a survey and during statutory meetings to help set the new goals for FYEG’s work. The new Strategic Plan will be adopted at the 2025 General Assembly.

Human resources, internal management, governance processes, and transfer of knowledge

FYEG’s main operational roles are shared between the EC and Secretariat. Their good coordination and efficient functioning are essential to the development and implementation of the activities and work of the federation.

The FYEG Secretariat will experience a lot of changes and evolutions during this mandate. First, following the increase in the FYEG Office capacities in the beginning of 2023, with two additional temporary positions until the 2024 EU elections, a new Secretary General will also take office in June 2023. A one-month transition period is foreseen with the former Secretary-General to help set up the new mandate as well as a two-day residential Office retreat that will allow the office to plan the year ahead. Then, following the 2024 EU elections, the FYEG Office is expected to downsize and experience a transition period again with senior staff members moving on to other endeavours.

Through this intense period, FYEG will continue to ensure that the staff and EC well-being and working conditions remain a priority and continue the upward trend started over the past few years. This goes hand-in-hand with the efforts started to streamline and make internal processes more efficient: FYEG will continue its work to improve the internal delegation order between the EC and Office, especially with the more detailed provisions to be adopted in the Statutes; the EC task division will be updated and improved based on the last

mandate’s evaluation and recommendation. These processes will also be evaluated before the end of the mandate to ensure a good transfer of knowledge and continued improvement. For all of this to be possible in the long run, FYEG will also continue with its fundraising efforts, to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation.

FYEG will also continue to test and adopt relevant digital tools to facilitate its work. During the last mandate, FYEG started using an accounting software, a project management software and a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool. The FYEG Secretariat will continue to improve the use of these different tools as well as explore possible synergies with other areas of work and between different softwares. The Secretariat will also further its experimenting with working time accounting to better analyse and adjust staff workload and capacities.