

EC1 Ben Ryan

Agenda item: 3. Candidates for Executive Committee

Supporters

Saúl Lara (Juventud Verde); Anna Winkelmann Larios (Joves Ecosocialistes); Vilma Jaatinen (Vihreät Nuoret); Renata Liliana Anetska (Ostra Zieleń); Iason Paschalidis-Gerostergiou (Νέοι Πράσινοι); Salih Tuna (Genç Yeşiller); Cameron Garrett (Scottish Young Greens); Axel Grima (Kollettiv Żgħażaġh EkoXellugin); Adam Ó Ceallaigh (Óige Ghlas); Noah Shively-Blinn (Óige Ghlas)



Member Organisation:

Óige Ghlas, Young Greens - Ireland



MOTIVATION LETTER

BEN RYAN

Dear Young European Greens,

I am excited to announce my candidacy for the FYEG Executive Committee 2024/2025 and to outline my ideas for the future of our organisation. My name is Ben Ryan (he/him) and I am a 27 year old Green activist from Ireland, and glad to host you for the 2024 FYEG General Assembly.

I work as a parliamentary assistant to Deputy Patrick Costello, Green Party MP and Spokesperson on Justice, in the Irish Parliament. I have held different roles within the Young Greens Executive Committee over the last 3 years and am currently serving as the Campaigns and Events officer. Additionally I have served almost two years as the Irish Young Greens representative on the National Party Board.

My political journey started with my frustration at the poverty, inequality, and imperialism found throughout the world. I studied a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Development and Food Policy in University College Cork. As part of this degree, I spent 6 months on work placement and lived in a small rural town in Malawi called Nkhata Bay.

I have had the privilege to travel quite widely which has informed a lot of my worldview. I believe that to make serious strides against climate change, we need to tackle poverty, inequality, and imperialism. If people's everyday thoughts are occupied with keeping a roof over their head and food on the table, they won't have the energy to think of the longer-term system changes required to tackle climate change.

After working remotely in Ireland for a year during Covid lockdowns, I felt the need for change and new experiences abroad. I secured an internship with the Green European Journal in Brussels and moved in September 2021.

During the year I worked with the Journal, I quickly became involved with the wider Green family, particularly FYEG, whose offices were only three blocks from mine. Less than two months later I attended my first FYEG event, AlterCOP26 in Glasgow, where I met some of you for the first time. Inspired by all the Young Greens that I met at this event – particularly fellow Irishman Rob O'Donnell – I joined the Irish Young Greens.

The Irish Young Greens at this time were a shadow of what they were in 2019-2020. Divisive debates about the decision of our mother party to go into government, alongside the almost complete shutting down of society due to Covid lockdowns left the organisation on its knees. I was elected the International Officer in November 2021 and used my time in Brussels to develop relationships with Young Greens across Europe. Myself and a handful of others started to re-organise and restarted our membership system, starting again with just a handful of members.



MOTIVATION LETTER

BEN RYAN

Shortly after moving back to Ireland in September 2022, I was elected Co-Chair and the Irish Young Greens representative on the National Party Board. I continued working with a growing number of committed individuals to rebuild the organisation to the one you see today. I am proud that within two years we have gone from a skeleton organisation to hosting an international young green summer camp, fielding 26 candidates in the recent local elections and now hosting the FYEG General Assembly. Our Young Greens membership has grown to over 420 members.

Over the past three years I may have met you at the several FYEG events such as AlterCOP26 in Glasgow, Young Greens Forum in Brussels, 2022 GA in Karlsruhe, Summer Camp in Podgorica, Mental Health Lab in Brussels, Summer Camp in Rouen or 2023 GA in Barcelona to name a few. I like to think that over time I have contributed a lot to FYEG but also have taken a lot from my involvement. The travels, experiences and people that I have met through FYEG have shaped who I am today. Particularly I would like to note former Sec-Gen Ozgecan Kara who is no longer involved but greatly encouraged me over the last few years.

My professional and personal experiences have equipped me with the political knowledge and capacity to succeed in the role of EC member. I believe that we are in a re-building and re-organising phase after the recent European Elections. Whilst I'm delighted that we went from two Young Green MEPs to the eight we have now, it's clear that Green Politics is on the backfoot in many places.

I want to bring my networks and experience of re-building to help ensure that our MOs are able to learn from each other and build stronger campaigns and electoral representation in the future. I have already helped planning and campaigning in the Irish Local and European elections earlier this and am currently building the campaign to re-elect Patrick at the national election. Additionally I want to help further develop the interoperability and knowledge sharing between MOs through regional organising but also other structures like skills sharing, cross border campaigning and digital communications.

It was my involvement in FYEG that really brought me into the Green family. Through them I joined the Irish Young Greens, then the Irish Green Party, and now work in the parliament and serve on the mother party's board. I want to use the experience, knowledge and networks that I have gained to give back to FYEG and hopefully develop other Young Greens as I once was.

With Green Gratitude-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Ryan", written in a cursive style.



VISION FOR FYEG BEN RYAN

Dear Young Green comrades,

After a bruising European Parliament campaign, we are now in a much different Europe than we were in only a few months ago. Far-right and fascist forces are gaining much more ground in recent years.

In Ireland, we lost two stellar Green MEPs, Grace O'Sullivan and Ciaran Cuffe, but only by a very small amount. We also lost several MEPS in other established delegations like Germany, France, Finland, Austria and Belgium. However, we really need to celebrate the new MEPs elected from Eastern and Southern members like Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Croatia. Additionally whilst we lost MEPs overall we need to celebrate, and support, our new Young Greens MEPs and work to increase our representation in the coming years.

As a member of the FYEG EC, there are three key things that I want to focus on during my term:

Supporting Youth Candidates At All Levels

We have the highest representation of young MEPs in the European Parliament, and I want to replicate this success across national parties as well. The Irish Young Greens worked to ensure that 20% of our mother Party's candidates were under 35. We are proud to have achieved this goal and of the dedicated campaigns ran by our 26 youth candidates in the Irish local elections. I want to establish a forum for FYEG to examine and learn from the recent successes in national elections in countries like the Netherlands, England, and France, and use the insights of those MOs to build up our youth candidates and strategy for future elections.

The experiences learned from operating the FYEG Young Candidates Platform will further improve youth led electoral strategies. With five years until the next European Elections, we need to focus on growing Green representation at the local, regional, and national levels. My experience as the Youth Rep on my party's Electoral Task Force over the past year has taught me a lot about electoral planning and the importance of supporting candidates to help them achieve the best results. I will bring this experience to FYEG, to help our MOs in elections to come.



VISION FOR FYEG BEN RYAN

Enhancing Regional Diversity to Build a Stronger Green Movement

In this mandate, I aim to strengthen our cooperation with member organisations in the South and East regions, working more closely with CDN to develop their capacities and support networks. This is how we can amplify our impact and drive meaningful progress across Europe. Just as we celebrate the increased representation of new voices within our movement, we must also recognize the vital role of smaller EU states in contributing to a more inclusive and dynamic European Green movement. In 2023, the Young Greens of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England & Wales came together to run a summer camp in the north west of Ireland. With 36 young greens from 8 different countries, it was a fantastic opportunity to foster collaboration across regions. I want to see more cross border events organised among MOs and will support them to ensure their success. Strong friendships are key to a more robust and united approach to tackling the climate crisis and promoting social justice.

Combating Hate and Division Across Europe

Far-right parties have strategically modernised their image over recent years while maintaining radical core policies, leveraging populism to gain legitimacy. Social media and algorithms rewarding outrage/hate has further amplified their reach, with mainstream parties legitimising far-right ideas by adopting their similar policies or even sharing government with them.

While condemning far-right parties for their illiberalism is essential, it is equally important to strengthen democratic awareness and resilience among citizens. We cannot wait for the next European election to start campaigning. I want FYEG to use the next 5 years to educate about the threat of the far-right, about the value of your vote, and the necessity for Kiev and tolerance. By focusing on building an organisation of tolerance, hope, and equality, we can better address and counteract these harmful ideologies. We all have a key role in representing and reinforcing these democratic principles.

If these priorities align with yours, I hope you will trust me with your No.1 Vote.

With Green Gratitude-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Ryan", is positioned to the right of the text "With Green Gratitude-".



BEN RYAN

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS
OFFICER



PROFILE

I am the Campaigns & Events Officer of the Irish Young Greens, and the Young Greens Representative on the Party Board. I am a former Co-Chair and International Officer of the Young Greens. I work as a Parliamentary Assistant to Green MP, Patrick Costello. With a background in international development and food policy, I am interested in social justice, climate action, and youth affairs. I am hardworking, a fast learner and an experienced team player.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Patrick Costello, Green Party MP** 2022 - PRESENT
Parliamentary Assistant
 - I manage correspondence (post, email, phone, social media), the office diary, and handle casework.
 - I liaise with internal parliamentary functions and offices of other parliamentarians.
 - I prepare press releases and social media content.
 - I prepare briefing documents for speeches, committee work, legislative amendments and debates.
 - I draft and submit parliamentary questions (particularly in relation to foreign affairs, defence, justice and immigration).
 - I engage external stakeholder and organisations, including NGOs, ambassadors, embassy staff and journalists.
- European Green Journal** 2021 - 2022
Editorial & Communications Intern
 - I handled internal administration, communicating with partners, and the latter stages of article publishing. I also assisted in the creation of new work processes and the optimisation of existing ones.
 - I tracked and updated internal targets, compiling internal reports.
 - I worked closely with the Communications Manager on product dissemination, the webshop and customer service.
 - I compiled weekly reports on the political events in Europe.
 - I provided additional supporting work across the team as required.
- Modern Water** 2020 - 2021
Customer & Sales Support
 - I handled and improved the company's customer relationship management system Zoho (similar to Salesforce), providing internal support, research, website testing and reporting.
 - I monitored email and chat systems daily and was the first point of contact for customers.
 - I provided information back to management and partook in weekly company management meetings.

CONTACT

📍 Dublin, Ireland

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📷 @benterful_bastard

✂️ @cllrbyryan

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

2016 - 2020

- BSc International Development & Food Policy
 - Specialisation: Government and International Politics
 - Grade: First class Honours
 - Thesis: "Examining the US arms trade to the Middle East: A case study of Saudi Arabia."

SKILLS

- Project Management
- Communication & Facilitation
- Programme Planning & Management
- Development Management & Organisation
- Teamwork
- Public Relations
- Academic Writing

LANGUAGES

- English (C1)
- French (A2)



YOUNG GREENS

- Campains & Events Officer
 - Oct 2023 - Present
- YG Rep on Green Party Board
 - Oct 2022 - Present
- Co-Chair
 - Jan - Oct 2023
- International Officer
 - Nov 2021 - Jan 2023

INTERESTS

- Globalisation, Aid & Development
- Drug policy and policing reform
- International Security
- Democratic Participation
- Economic & Political Systems

HOBBIES

- Sailing
- Scuba Diving
- Travel
- Scouting
- PC Gaming

REFERENCES

- Available on request

BEN RYAN

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

COMMUNICATIONS, COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- **Just Transition Greens (JTG)** 2020 - PRESENT
Press & Communications Officer
 - I handle the social media, press releases, co-ordinate responses and assist with communications internally and externally. We organise debates on topics such as drug use, sex work, Palestinian occupied territories, gender-based violence, EU Just transition Fund and others.
 - I also assist in other capacities such as developing policy documents, lobbying representatives, designing graphics, contacting members using Mailchimp, livestreaming, YouTube and associated content etc.
 - As part of this role, I use several tools such as Canva, Mailchimp, Medium, Zoom, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google suite, Microsoft office and am interested to gain an experience of other tools.
- **Malawi Schools Permaculture Clubs** APRIL - AUG 2019
Interim Programme Manager
 - During my Degree, I joined a programme in Nkhata Bay, Malawi. After 4 weeks, I took over as interim programme manager. I managed two local staff and an evolving team of international volunteers. I handled programme communications between Malawi and the UK.
 - I oversaw budgetary plans, logistics, documentation, communications and other aspects of the programme.
 - I managed the organisation of two separate 5-day training sessions in which 40 local primary school teachers were trained to deliver MSPC programme in their respective schools. In the months I was there we managed to extend the MSPC programme from 15 to 22 schools.
- **All Ireland Student Activist Network (AISAN)** 2016 - 2020
Logistical and Financial Planner
 - I was a member of AISAN and a key logistical and financial planner for the 2018 RISE event held in Cork.
 - RISE was our most successful event, with over 100 activists from a variety of backgrounds (from across the island of Ireland) attending, learning and collaborating on several different intersectional issues.
 - I was elected as a board member for the interim board while we attempted to register as a charity.

With Green Gratitude-



NOMINATION LETTER

BEN RYAN

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Óige Ghlas, the Young Greens of Ireland, we are proud to nominate Ben Ryan as a candidate to the Executive Committee of FYEG.

Ben was instrumental not only to keeping the Irish Young Greens alive during difficult times, but has been an active and dedicated officer that has helped to grow our organisation.

We know that Ben will do everything in his power to share his knowledge and expertise with our organisation and our mother party with FYEG. We hope that you will give him your #1 Vote, and look forward to discussing further how he can contribute to the great work of FYEG.

Le buíochas,
Vanessa Mulhall & Sean Gordon Dalton
Co-Chairs
Óige Ghlas
oigeghlas@gmail.com

Vanessa
Mulhall

Sean
Gordon Dalton