



# Activity Plan 2010/11

*Activity Plan as adopted during the FYEG General Assembly 2010, Bratislava.*

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FYEG does many different projects every year, from youth exchanges to study sessions and seminars. The different forms of meetings have showed different advantages and disadvantages. For example, youth exchanges are a great opportunity to get together, exchange ideas and green views but are less usable for an in-depth discussion of a certain topic. Seminars on the other hand are a possibility for discussing politics but not very suitable for every newcomer in all cases. Therefore since 2007 FYEG has followed a specific structure for its activities that you can find [here](#) or in the annex of this document.

For the year 2009 and 2010, the General Assembly decided to give 3 main objectives which were:

- COP15 and UNFCCC negotiations
- Green Economy
- Capacity-building

This year the General Assembly will decide upon new priorities and if needed specific activities.

## **1. Training and Study Session**

### **a) Training on capacity/organisational building**

As requested several times, MO have various similar problems regarding their capacity to run their organisation concerning the long term, the number of members, political orientations, reaching on frequent basis an audience, strategy of a political youth wing, etc...

A survey has been sent to MO in order to list their needs and organise a plan according to those needs, ecological and financial possibilities. The application for grant is under writing progress.

**Deadline to apply – June 1**

### **b) Gender: Work in Progress! (Strasbourg, France, September)**

The aim of the activity is to take a closer look at the situation on the labour market in EU- and non EU- European countries. We would like to invite 8 or more countries out of the Federation of Young European Greens and ask them first to collect some facts in a research about the situation in their home country. We would like to compare the results first in the session in order to be able to then proceed to evaluate them and discuss. After this we would like the participants of the study session to work out a list of aims that are not being fulfilled at the moment although they are set in various regulations such as EU directives, and then discuss, if those are all inclusive when it comes to different genders, age groups, social backgrounds of the potential workers.

This aim covers the problems of the different access of the genders to the labour market in the EU and beyond (in neighbouring countries, EU candidate countries) – which influences also the pan-inner market of the European continent. We would like to compare experiences of young people of different genders in starting their career, working on the market or being unemployed.

Application approved but on the waiting list.

### **c) Decision-making Participation Training (Turkey or Belgium, late 2010 or early 2011)**

Providing opportunity for young people to learn about methods for being more active in decision-making mechanism and developing policy on youth problems (migration and unemployment will be the main issue) and to ensure development dialogue with decision-making mechanism at the local, national and international level.

Main reason why migration and unemployment is chosen as the main topics of this project is that Bursa is one of the largest immigrant-receiving and the highest numbers of unemployed city of Turkey and the massive migration wave from Artvin. And the main determination of migration is unemployment. Like Germany! As a result of this the socio-economic structure of both two cities has changed and this situation especially impact on young people. The young participations from Germany, Belgium and Turkey who have similar characteristics and problems will take a chance to discuss about urban affairs, multiculturalism, economic and social problems as a result of immigration and the effect of those on the young people through workshops, hearing with young MEPs and specialists and simulations.

This project will provide sharing experiences, getting know each other, determine problems and offer solutions for them between young people by using informal and participatory learning methods. On the other side the young people will get information about the EU policy, methods and good applications on youth policy, the decision making mechanisms at local and EU level and the roles of young people in the democratic process.

Application sent – decision pending

## **2. Seminar**

### **a) Young Oikos Nomos Fights Misery (Greece, 27-30 October)**

Despite our local and national market economy globalised over the last decades, the European continent with instruments like the EU and European Economic Area offers a specific regional market which contribute to 80% of the GDP growth in general. These characteristics of economical cooperation and regional autonomy brings advantages to improve our daily life but unfortunately is not adapted enough to our needs and goals of improving all categories of our societies. Several reasons are to be highlighted and studied in order to understand how the system works according to all cultural and national diverse realities. More than half of the population in our countries struggle at work and with their expenses, as an average one fifth of the young population from 16 till 25 years old has no chance to find a job and thus are forced to be excluded from the rest of the society, the poverty is raising in Europe and the misery affects our lives bringing more and more social tensions and barriers to build up an inclusive and fair society open to improve its future.

The risk that face young generations currently is to lose the goal of our economical system which should serve our main objectives of life and well-being in general. This lost of perspective effects our daily life by not giving us the right tools to understand and thus improve our systems and living conditions. Additionally to this risk, nowadays the economy is taught at university and in the media as a science not understandable for

everyone. We would like to change this reality in order to determine what are our final needs and experiment alternative solutions which would take into account not only the growth of our bank account but also our well-being together with respecting our environment, our pairs and ourselves.

This seminar has been granted by the Green European Foundation, will be in cooperation with the Greek Green Party and gather around 20 participants minimum and a PT of 5 members.

Accepted

#### **b) Green Economy Seminar (Catalonia, autumn 2010)**

During four days in autumn, 32 youngsters from seven different European countries will have the opportunity to exchange and learn about how their society function economically. This seminar will be organised by Joves d'Esquerra Verda in cooperation with the FEYG WG on Green Economy. Our societies more privileged than others paradoxically produce too many inequalities, discriminations and misery among young people in particular. This seminar is aimed at raising awareness and increasing knowledge about the living conditions of youngsters in various culturally different countries with different economical realities. The objectives are to explain the principles of economy with a deep insight of its evolution historically and linguistically, to make them described by themselves the economical systems they live in with its advantages and limits, and finally to encourage them to think about viable solutions in order to contribute constructively to the eradication of poverty and misery.

Due to technical difficulties with the Spanish grant provider, the application must be sent again.

Deadline to apply - June 1.

#### **c) European Citizen, actor for peace home and abroad (Brussels, late 2010 or early 2011)**

CNAPD, Belgian platform of NGO proposed several European youth organisations to organise together a three days seminar, dealing with the topical themes related to European challenges today, such as non-discrimination, inclusion of minorities, peace-keeping and building, etc...

FYEG will be able to send between 5 and 10 people from 2 different countries. This seminar would be a good opportunity to be included in the Falafel network and its activities.

Deadline to apply - June 1.

#### **d) From one continent to another: Welcome to Europe! (Calais, France, 11-16/09/10)**

This project initiated by the French Young Greens aims to bring together 24 youngsters, 6 participants from 4 different countries, where migration is high, and its challenges experienced. Migration involves primarily young people, the vast majority of migrants are young, and those who will receive them in affluent countries, more sheltered from the climate challenge and the stakes of wealth are also young. It was therefore necessary to organize a seminar on "The various forms of acceptance of young migrants in multicultural Europe of today."

Our goals are various:

- Explore the migratory route from start to acceptance in the host country
- Raising the construction of stereotypes of migrants in different European countries
- To reflect on how we welcome migrants in our countries
- Give clues on how young people can fight against racism and for living together

Taking place in northern France, where the themes are felt more strongly, we consider the importance of openness to others, the way they are welcome and the legal framework within which the hosting is

performed.

Application sent – decision pending

### **3. Conference**

Traditional Spring Conference on the side of the General Assembly. This year it will be in Bratislava, Slovakia, from the 13<sup>th</sup> till 14<sup>th</sup> of May.

Question of organising other conference during the year, but where and how?

### **4. Exchange**

#### **a) CDN Summer Camp (Turkey, 24-31/07)**

This Summer Camp is co-organised with the sister organisation of FYEG, the Cooperation and Development Network in Eastern Europe (CDNEE). The project is under preparation, calls for PT member and participants have been sent out.

#### **b) Direct democracy - advantages for inclusion and participation of young people - Spring Break (Valencia, Spain, 13-20/03/11)**

The winter camp used to be too difficult to organise due to the christmas holidays and exams period from December till February. To be able to organise a yearly big gathering of Young Greens, the FYEG EC decided to apply for a youth exchange in early spring aiming at gathering between 60 and 70 young greens from all over the continent.

Historical achievements and the modern role of representative democracy should be recognized as huge steps towards the participation of citizens in decision making processes. However, it has also been marked by certain shortfalls, particularly the lack of participation and exclusion of social groups. Huge abstention rate became a regular feature of elections in European countries. Professionalization of politic strengthened the disenchantment of citizens. The democratic functioning of societies should not be reserved to well-educated and informed people. Democratic choices must be inclusive and not imposing its views to other groups disadvantaged by being a minority such as handicapped, religious and not economically productive categories. The importance of direct democracy has been increasing in the last decade; especially within different youth initiatives such as the promotion of student rights and free education. Those have had significant common elements application of direct democracy as the basic decision making concept working well in the student community and ensuring fair and legitimate deciding, but also high involvement and participation of thousands of students. In that regard, practices of direct democracy can be successfully applied to all different forms of social organizations including local, regional, national and international authorities, but also to the profit and non-profit sectors in order to stimulate the high involvement of all individuals involved. Direct democracy is usually considered as a decision-making form that provides fairer approach and high involvement of broader social groups. Contrary to the representative democracy that is often limited by its hierarchical order, the limits of direct democracy are set by the will and motivation to participate and the personal charisma and technical possibilities to organize a plenary for large groups. As with every other form, direct democracy has many advantages, yet it is not free of challenges. However, as it is often applied by many youth organizations and their activities, it deserves a chance to be explored in more detail, including comparing different experiences in such organizations in order to improve their practices in the future.

The main objectives of the Spring Camp will be:

- Promoting the idea of direct democracy as a tool for higher participation and inclusion of young people and a fairer and more inclusive decision-making;

- Exploring good practices and obstacles that occur in its implementation;
- Discovering new approaches and methods to empower the member organizations to encourage and motivate young people into an active participation;
- Supporting the local youth organizations;
- Promoting diversity and common European background.

Application sent – decision pending

## 5. Campaigns

### a) COP16 – Yes We Cancun!

As it might be difficult financially to travel to Mexico, that flying is non-option when talking about climate change and due to the fact that most of the negotiations are done at a national level before the big international conference. It might be an idea for the WG Climate to run a campaign of actions and political messages towards the COP16. It will be an opportunity to cooperate among the European Youth Climate Movement and the YOUNGO (UNFCCC constituency group for youth).

## 6. Representation and Networking

### a) CDNEE

FYEG will participate in the **CDNEE 8th Network meeting** and in the preparation of the **Summer Camp**.

### b) Representation in the EGP

- EGP Councils (2 times)
- EGP Committee (6 times)
- Which orientation for FYEG strategy towards the EGP regarding:
  - Youth Policy paper?
  - National Green Parties which are not Green?
  - New EGP/FYEG Agreement?
  - General strategy (paper to propose, stand to take, youth wing utility issue, etc...)?

### c) European Network of Green Student Unions Networking days (late 2010, early 2011)

Already the office investigated and collected details about National organisations of Green Student Unions. In the context of Europeanisation of Education, such network can be relevant. The idea is to propose a networking session among representatives of such unions in order to define European common idea about progressive and new educational system and coordinate initiatives.

Some of the Green Students' Unions already expressed their interest in attending such meeting and see the possibility to build up a network.

Application to be written – Deadline June 1 or September 1

#### **d) Falafel Network**

After the exchange in Istanbul last November, the network restarted but nobody currently is following it. Issues around this network are:

- its objectives (conflict prevention, peaceful resolution, inter-cultural-faith dialogue, etc...)
- Type of members (only youth political organisation, only young green organisations, etc...)

#### **e) GYG: Second Congress (Berlin, Germany, 08-14/08)**

Global Young Greens (GYG) is a worldwide network where young people interested in environmental sustainability, social justice, grassroots democracy and peace can converge. It incorporates green youth organizations, green political youth wings and individuals who want to see the things above take hold within our lifetimes. GYG connects people via the web and in person, and seeks to provide the tools for young people to become more effective agents of change.

After a successful first congress in January 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, Global Young Greens announces its second congress. This is done well in advance keeping in mind the preparation time. This second GYG congress will take place in Europe. The German Young Greens will host the congress in Germany.

#### **f) Representation and Participation in the European Youth Forum:**

During this new year we will of course continue our lobbying activities to improve their orientations and the content of various papers they produce.

We will of course continue to participate in regular activities and others if a YG is interested in. Below is a non-exhaustive list of events FYEG will be represented:

- EU Fund information day,
- COMEM
- Working Group on Employment and Social Affairs
- Working Group on Social Inclusion of Migrant.
- once every 2 months meeting of the representatives of political party youth organisation.
- Other meetings for which we will send someone from the EC or we will advertise it to send a YG representative.

#### **g) Representation and Participation in other Network and Youth organisations meetings:**

### **7. Working Groups**

#### **a) WG Gender Issues**

No activity. Possibility to get involved the WG in the preparation of the Study Session.

#### **b) WG Green Economy**

This WG is working very well and is very active. After organising the seminar for beginners in Serbia last April, they will organise a seminar for more advanced knowledge young greens in Greece and an other one

in Catalonia dedicated to more in-depth issues that shape the Green Economy.

WG meeting, Brussels, 28-30/08

### **c) WG Climate**

Have just been selected and must have a first skype conference to list its objectives, determine a road map and divide tasks.

WG meeting, Brussels, 28-30/08

## **8. Publication**

### **a) Ecosprinter:**

The goal is to produce 4 Ecosprinter per year and publish only 2. Question of publishing on paper or only online.

## **9. MO visit**

This year the goal is to visit all new Full MO and the candidate MO. However it can be useful if possible to meet the young green organisations which are struggling to stay alive.

## **10. Statutory Meetings**

### **a) General Assembly 2011**

Call for host organisation to be sent out. However due to financial difficulties, FYEG might not have the choice to organise it in Brussels, where funding opportunities will be bigger and easier to raise.

### **b) Executive Committee Meeting**

Our Executive Committee will meet 5 or 4 times during its mandate. The first one should be held in Brussels in order to introduce the new EC to relevant persons from the Green family and to the FYEG office itself.

### **c) Finance Group Meeting**

This year the financial control committee will be meeting at least once every 6 months.

## **11. GA Decisions**

Decisions on priorities:

- The priorities of 2009 are still a focus of this year. These priorities were **Green Economy, Climate**

### **Change and Capacity Building of MO.**

- This GA decided to add 3 new thematic priorities for this year which are **Migration** (including minorities), **non-formal education** and **Digital Rights**.

#### Working Groups adopted:

- Green Economy mandated WG
  - Climate Change mandated WG
  - Other proposals mentioned during the discussion are WG on Animal Rights, Digital Rights, Regionalism and on the Structures of FYEG. These WG will be set up by the EC throughout their mandate and according to their results will be presented next year to the GA.
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#### ANNEX 1:

*As adopted at the General Assembly of FYEG, 21/04/2007.*

## **FYEG Project Concept**

FYEG does many different projects every year, from youth exchanges to study sessions and seminars. The different forms of meetings have showed different advantages and disadvantages. For example, youth exchanges are a great opportunity to get together, exchange ideas and green views but are less usable for an in-depth discussion of a certain topic. Seminars on the other hand are a possibility for discussing politics but not very suitable for every newcomer in all cases. We also encountered difficulties in finding enough participants for every event and it was not clear, which target group should be reached and what outcome is expected. Therefore, the Executive Committee has prepared a strategy paper on how to proceed with the different projects and how to increase the quality of the projects as well as the satisfaction of the participating members and MOs. Also, concerns regarding the impact on climate and possibilities for young parents have been taken into account.

#### The General Assembly decided:

### **1. Youth Exchanges**

Youth Exchanges are especially designed for “newcomers”: people that go for the first or second time on an international exchange or haven’t been much in contact with greens yet. In the past, youth exchanges were often seen as a possibility to discuss a topic thoroughly, which is impossible due to the nature of a youth exchange and the requirements of the funder. This has led to frustrations and exceptions that couldn’t be met by the organisers. The youth exchange should be treated as what it is: a place to get together; define similarities and differences around a topic, exchange ideas and experience, meet new people and take inspiration from it. Also we need to be aware that youth exchanges require a great amount of work and organisation from the host, the coordinator and all

partner organisations (finding the exact amount of participants, organising a venue for a lot of people, holding a prep meeting etc.)

Therefore FYEG will in future organise two youth exchanges a year; taking into account the great resources it requires. They will be placed in a specific time of the year, so that all MOs and members know beforehand that there is an event coming up (for example: the winter and the spring exchange). The exchanges should in general include not more than 40 participants. They are prepared in cooperation with an MO and usually applied for at the National Agency. The exchanges should be big and well-known happenings of FYEG that everybody wants to go to. The two exchanges should serve different purposes: one should be dedicated to new members. The participants should be new in the MO or new to the international work. The exchange should give them the European “virus”; inspiration and motivation. At the exchange, they will get an insight into FYEG, other member organisations and into one specific topic. The aim is to get people interested for European/international work within the MOs and to gain activists for FYEG. The group leaders should be experienced. No political outcome such as a statement is required; street actions should be done if possible.

Secondly, there should be a youth exchange as the get together of FYEG activists, to stay in touch, exchange views about topics that might not be only consensual, get closer together, get to know more and new MOs, develop FYEG further. For FYEG, the aim is also to stay in close contact to the MOs, know what the important topics are for them. For the MOs this is also an opportunity to network.

The results and discussions of all exchanges should be widely available to all MOs over the website and announced in the newsletter. We will also explore possibilities for a better preparation of projects via WIKI, Forum or website. This goes as well for all other projects.

## **2. Seminars**

Seminars require less workforce due to the shorter duration, less participants and shorter preparation period. FYEG will strive to organise up to 4 seminars a year that deal with topics that are of interest and priority for FYEG and its MOs (examples: FYEG campaign topic, lacking policies, weak points in PP, currently debated topics). They should be max. 5 days long (incl. travel days) so that also working and studying people and people with other commitments can participate. The number of participants should in general not be bigger than 30. They are prepared for together with an MO and ideally applied for through the National Agencies. The aim is to develop policies, statements or amendments to the PP as well as political resolutions. The participants should be involved in their MOs and /or FYEG and if possible already have some experience regarding the topic.

## **3. Study Sessions**

FYEG will try to hold one study session per year. It is mainly directed to FYEG members but should also be open for members of other organisations or individuals. The topic is chosen according to the priorities of FYEG and its Mos.

## **4. Trainings**

FYEG will strive to organise two training courses a year on various issues, for example fundraising, project management or lobbying, according to the needs of FYEG and its Mos.

## **5. European Youth Fund**

FYEG will apply twice a year to the EYF and strive to finance one meeting and one publication per year with this money. This meeting can be used as one of the seminars or trainings.

## **6. Flying costs/ environmental friendly transport**

In every project application, FYEG will present the costs of train or bus travel as expected travel costs. The amounts will be provided by the partner organisations. FYEG will also apply for the atmosphere fees of participants who need to take the plane as "special costs". FYEG will ask its participants to take the bus or train rather than the plane and will try to help (with the support of the MOs) to find cheap possibilities for that. FYEG will inform the participants of all possible financial risks that environmental travelling unfortunately still bears.

## **7. Bring your children!**

FYEG will for every project apply for costs related to the bringing of children by their parents, for example baby sitting or special needs to the accommodation as well as travel costs.

## **8. Project proposals**

Open Space Technologies, get-together etc often have project proposals as one of their outcomes. These proposals should be very warmly welcomed. If requested, the project coordinator will explore with the project initiators which form of project the idea would best fit into and to find an MO that takes care of the project. This would lessen the work load of FYEG but involves the project initiators and the MOs more closely into such projects. MOs and other project initiators can also request support from FYEG by submitting a questionnaire to the project coordinator.

## **9. Participation in other events**

Apart from this, FYEG will continue to apply as partner to projects organised by MOs, will help to facilitate and initiate projects done by the MOs

## **10. European projects co-organized by the EGP**

FYEG will in general take part in EGP events and projects.

## **11. Project overview**

FYEG sets up a project database with applications and reports of all realized FYEG projects and the applications of rejected FYEG projects in order to ensure a transfer of knowledge and expertise and the promotion of best practises.

## **12. Additions from the GA**

### Decisions on priorities:

- The priorities of 2009 are still a focus of this year. These priorities were **Green Economy, Climate Change** and **Capacity Building of MO**.

- This GA decided to add 3 new thematic priorities for this year which are **Migration** (including minorities), **non-formal education** and **Digital Rights**.

Working Groups adopted:

- Green Economy mandated WG
- Climate Change mandated WG
- Other proposals mentioned during the discussion are WG on Animal Rights, Digital Rights, Regionalism and on the Structures of FYEG. These WG will be set up by the EC throughout their mandate and according to their results will be presented next year to the GA.