

AR Activity Report 2023

Proposer: Executive Committee
Agenda item: 4. Reports and Plans

Motion text

1 Bringing Eastern European Young Greens Together

2 General Assembly

3 The first event of the year was the General Assembly (GA), the highest decision-
4 making body of our network. It was be hosted by Ostra Zielen in Warsaw, Poland,
5 in March 2023. Throughout the four days delegates engaged in political and
6 organisational debates, adopted reports & plans, voted for amendments and
7 elected the new Executive Committee.

8 This year's GA was exceptionally important for two reasons. We updated statutes
9 with several amendments, including a major change of structure in membership -
10 we opened the door for Eastern European organisations from the EU to be more
11 involved members instead of partners. We also took a moment to reflect on our
12 journey and celebrate CDN's 20th anniversary with a lively panel discussion.
13 Following documents were adopted: Reports & Plans: [Activity Report](#), [Financial](#)
14 [Report](#), [Activity Plan](#), [Financial Plan](#); Statutes and Internal Rules of Procedure
15 we updated, [Statutes](#), [Internal Rules of Procedure](#); Three resolutions were
16 approved: [Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups in Eastern Europe](#), [CDN-FYEG Relations](#)
17 [Paper Revision](#), [Resolution linked to Statutes Amendments 2 - concerning the](#)
18 [change of the membership structure](#); Delegates also amended following
19 documents: [Political Platform](#), [Safe Space Policy](#), [Strategy Paper 2022-24](#). We also
20 welcomed new Observer organisation - [Neoi Prasinoi - Young Greens of Greece](#).
21 While with updating statutes, [Ostra Zieleń \(Polish Young Greens\) and Protests](#)
22 became member organisations. And finally, the General Assembly also elected the
23 new Executive Committee.

24 [Minutes of the General Assembly](#).

25 Annual Work Plan on Climate: Bring Your Tote Bag 26 But Smash the System

27 The realization of the Work Plan has passed successfully, with core elements of
28 the first activity, Eastern European Climate Summer Camp, being the facilitation
29 of space where young activists met, learned from the facilitators and each other
30 about climate crisis and related adverse effects, and shared and gained skills
31 necessary for tackling these issues on different levels of influence (political,
32 societal, educational...), hence contributing to the aim of the Work Plan, which
33 was to equip the young people from Eastern Europe with better understanding of
34 climate crisis and skills for mobilising the youth around the issue, in order to
35 empower them to bring systemic change in their local communities and regions.

36 Summer Camp lasted for 7 days and was held in Ulcinj, Montenegro, hosted by URA.
37 It gathered 36 participants from 17 countries and 8 prep team members from 6
38 countries.

39 The second part of the Work Plan were Local Actions or Eastern European Climate
40 Campaigns, where representatives of participating organisations of the first
41 activity organised local and regional Campaigns with topics and activities
42 related to the Climate Crisis. Out of 10 applications involving 15 countries, 7
43 Campaigns were selected involving 10 countries of Eastern Europe:

44 The Campaign in Bosnia and Hercegovina conducted by Revolt focused on education
45 of youth and their mobilisation for the fight against contributors to Climate
46 Crisis. Utilising NFE methods, they organised an internal training, 3-day
47 educational event, and two activist gatherings. New Regions from Belarus took
48 the educational approach as well, organising 5 events (3 online, and 2 in
49 person) which focused on sustainable practices and countering the adverse
50 effects of Climate Crisis. Young Greens of Georgia focused on raising the
51 knowledge base about climate crisis in Georgian language with the creation of 6
52 articles and 3 educational videos. Green Youth of Ukraine opted for a concrete
53 and relevant problem-solution approach, organising awareness raising activities
54 in elementary and high schools about the adverse effects of burning crops in
55 autumn and proposing composting as solution. Czech Young Greens worked on
56 mobilisation and green movement building around climate issues, organising
57 meetings, and producing a publication. Protest from Latvia took an artistic
58 approach and developed a performance which was played twice, coupled with
59 complementary street actions. Young Greens of Greece joined the regional
60 Campaign conducted by Green Youth of Serbia and MODOM (North Macedonia) who,
61 together with two partner organisations from Croatia (Green Window) and
62 Montenegro (URA), organised a pan-Balkan "Let's TRAIN" Campaign, focusing on
63 advocating for improved and more sustainable railway infrastructure in the
64 Balkans, directed at stakeholders in their respective countries. The showcase of
65 Local Actions results can be found [HERE](#).

66 Regional Focus

67 Regional focus remains integral part of our work. On that account, we organised
68 feminist cross-regional meeting for young women activists in Green political
69 parties. Furthermore, each EC member is assigned entire region and MOs within
70 now and is responsible to organise quarterly catch-up calls. The cross-regional
71 meeting brought together dozen women from Green parties and youth wings across
72 Eastern Europe. We used non-formal methodology as guiding tool for the session
73 that were led by team of volunteers thus creating safe environment with peer-to-
74 peer learning principle. We also had expert invited to deliver 1/3 of sessions
75 that was highly evaluated by the participants. Our focus equipped young women
76 from political parties with necessary skills to actively take part in political
77 processes. One of the prep team members run for the local council of Belgrade
78 and was elected in December 2023. Within the framework of the event, we
79 organised public panel discussion with women politicians, including co-chair of
80 Green-Left Front and MP Biljana Djordjevic, from Serbia to discuss their
81 experience, challenges and hopes - livestream is available [HERE](#).

82 Contributing to Green Peace & Security Debate

83 During the six days of the Study Session “Green Perspectives on European
84 Security” that was held in the European Youth Centre in Budapest in October
85 2023, co-organised by the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe
86 (CDN), Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), and Green European Foundation
87 (GEF), in cooperation with Youth Department of the Council of Europe, 34
88 participants from 17 European countries, together with a team of 5 people from 5
89 countries, discussed, exchanged experiences, and generated knowledge about the
90 state of play regarding the security situation in Europe, questions of what
91 security means to people from different backgrounds and what areas of life are
92 impacted the most by the security concerns, what frames of reference we need in
93 order to interpret current security issues, and what the Green movement has to
94 offer in terms of the way policies are formed around concerns of European
95 security. During the session, we primarily focused on the following objectives:

- 96 • Fostering intercultural dialogue between youth from different European
97 countries by providing a space to discuss the concept of security
98 intersectionally;
- 99 • Exploring the concept of security as at the intersection of diverse
100 societal factors, and the effects of the interrelationship of security
101 with various societal factors on policy decisions;
- 102 • Deepening the participants' understanding of the current state of affairs
103 of security in Europe, existing approaches to the concept of security and
104 their strengths and weaknesses, and perspectives and lived experiences of
105 those outside their lived contexts;
- 106 • Exploring the role of young people to ensure sustainable and resilient
107 security and peace in European countries, and the tools and solutions at
108 their disposal to do so, such as Human Rights Education and collective
109 action;
- 110 • Through these explorations, working towards concrete outputs, such as a
111 toolkit, that set out common learnings and understandings gained to act as
112 a referential resource for future actions and initiatives of FYEG, CDN,
113 their respective member organisations, and other organisations represented
114 centred on these themes;
- 115 • Motivating participants to push organisations, be it FYEG, CDN, their
116 respective member organisations, or other organisations they are involved
117 in, to consider security issues on their agenda and further develop the
118 topic in their platforms.

119 Being organised by both CDN and FYEG, this Study Session provided a unique
120 opportunity for gathering of young people involved in the green movement from
121 both (traditionally understood) Western and Eastern Europe, and engage them in
122 discussions related to current concerns around European security, as well as for
123 fostering a dialogue between young people coming from different political,
124 geographical, economic, and social realities, and carrying with them a different
125 set of experiences and historical baggage. The group saw a positive and fruitful

126 setting of the common ground, and common goals to pursue, while acknowledging
127 the diverse perspectives and unequal needs of people from different parts of
128 Europe.

129 With a common vision in mind: that of a peaceful, prosperous, cooperative, and
130 green Europe, participants and the team behind the Session produced the Toolkit,
131 to serve as a guiding document for organisations and individuals seeking to
132 bring this vision into reality.

133 **Professionalisation and growing internal** 134 **capacities**

135 Looking inwards and ensuring relevance and sustainability of the organisation
136 was high on the priority of 2024 working year. As planned, we organised less in-
137 person activities while focused to improve the quality of the events. We managed
138 to this by better preparation, smooth logistics, as well as better content with
139 invited experts to deliver several sessions.

140 There was a restructure in office and office assistant got promoted to Finance
141 and Office manager that contributed to improved management and clearer division
142 of roles with Secretary General. At the same time, we did not renew position of
143 Project Assistant due to lack of relevance and need. The process of restructure
144 is ongoing. 2023 was the first year during which we started fully using new
145 accounting software that improved financial management as well as transparency
146 and accountability.

147 In order to improve and better coordinate the work of the Executive Committee,
148 we adopted “Delegation order” that outlines decision making authority for
149 individual assigned EC responsibilities. This has significantly improved the
150 effectiveness of the work of the EC, collaboration between staff-EC and overall
151 health of organisational management. Simultaneously, we developed more detailed
152 Task List of the Executive Committee that includes all responsibilities
153 throughout the year with descriptions that enables better understanding of their
154 work by EC members. Task list corresponds with delegation order.

155 During 2023 General Assembly, we started the working on a new, four-year
156 Strategy. We heavily invested in this process, organised strategic planning
157 meeting attached to the GA to ensure its relevance for the MOs. Taking the
158 report from SPM into account, the Secretary General led the process and together
159 with an EC representative worked on the initial draft, which was subsequently
160 reviewed and approved by the entire Executive Committee. In the second phase,
161 the draft was shared with MOs and Partners with a survey to gather feedback,
162 guiding further revisions. Simultaneously, Secretary General organised several
163 meetings with stakeholders including in-person feedback session during Study
164 Session in Budapest attended by 10 participants. Based on the input, Secretary
165 General and a designated EC member further refined the strategy. The Strategy is
166 ready for the amendments and final adoption by Member Organisations on the 2024
167 General Assembly.

168 Finally, process of updating Visual Identity and Website starting by the end of
169 2023 and finished in March 2024 from which CDN has a new logo, visual identity,
170 and well-working website.

171 Building alliances and Networking

172 CDN continued the good cooperation with Young European Greens. We had joint
173 study session “Green Perspectives on European Security”. Throughout the year we
174 took part in the FYEG activities (General Assembly, Summer Camp) as well as
175 provided space for FYEG participants on our events. We planned the cooperation
176 in the activities for 2024 (European Train Tour, Alter-COP) and scheduled the
177 joint EC-EC meeting during the European Green Party Congress in Lyon, February
178 2024. Following the 2023 CDN GA decision, we revised the relations paper that
179 was published in May 2023.

180 The EC and Office were invited for the European Green Party Congress in Lyon,
181 February 2024 even though our role is limited as an observer the meeting brings
182 different stakeholders together with whom it is possible to organise side
183 meetings. We participated in other events organised by EGP and other European
184 Green organisations: Secretary General took part in European Ideas Lab organized
185 by EGP and Greens/EFA in March and together with two EC members in European
186 Green Academy in November.

187 Other Green stakeholders remained on our radars. As the side event of our study
188 session we met with Hungarian Green mayor, MPs and youth. We did not organise a
189 study visit in the country where we do not currently have a member organisation
190 and are underrepresented in our network – we moved it to 2024.

191 We also increased CDN’s engagement with other stakeholders with whom we share
192 basic values. Secretary General took part in the Consultative Meeting of Council
193 of Europe and in the two Ulex training.

194 Executive Committee Work

195 All of the activities that are explained in the document are enabled by the work
196 of the Executive Committee and office. Throughout the year we organised 4 live
197 EC Meetings during which the EC decided on their responsibilities and tasks;
198 discuss upcoming and asses past activities; map and establish the topical
199 priorities for the next year’s projects; share takeaways from the regional calls
200 and feedback from the members; make other relevant decisions.

201 As mentioned in the strategy document, we want to strengthen the position of
202 Treasurer within the EC. Based on the inputs of the 2022 treasurer meeting, we
203 implemented the recommendations such as a financial overview during the EC
204 meetings by the treasurer, closer communication between the treasurer and
205 Secretary General; higher involvement of the treasurer in decision-making
206 regarding the budgets. Treasurer visit took place attached to the second
207 Executive Committee Meeting in May.

208 We adopted the important documents regulating the work of EC, namely the Task
209 Delegation and Communication Strategy.

210 Digital Activities

211 Throughout the year CDN published 9 statements, disseminated the resolutions
212 voted on 2023 GA, promoted young green candidates in elections in Poland and

213 Serbia and hosted two episodes of ElectionVisions on Turkey and Poland as well
214 as scheduled the next episode on Serbia in January 2024. We continued the open
215 space for others to [suggest online activity](#) that resulted in organisation of
216 webinar on the relevant political issues ("Increasing russian influence in
217 Georgia while waiting for EU candidate status" in August).

218 CDN started creation of social media campaign focusing on sanctions on companies
219 still operating in Russia. The videos being part of the campaign were recorded
220 during the study session and the campaign was scheduled for January and February
221 2024.