

B1 Strategy Document 2022-24

Organization: CDN

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Motion text

1 **Strategy Document 2022-24**

2 This Strategy Document outlines CDN's core direction for the period 2022-24. It
3 is a consolidated outcome of Strategy Planning Meeting that gathered CDN Member
4 and Partner Organisations in Ratomka, Belarus in March 2020. The document is
5 complementary to CDN's Political Platform and aims at capturing main objectives
6 of the Network, bringing sharp focus to the work of CDN, and assisting the
7 Executive Committee and Secretariat in developing and executing the work plans
8 that are in line with the overall objectives. The document informs our Partners
9 about the organisation's strategic goals and priorities for the next three
10 years, describes the major areas of activities as well as proposes tools and
11 mechanisms allowing realization of the activities of CDN in the period of 2022-
12 24.

13 **1 Support MOs in the process of organisational management, enhancing democratic** 14 **structures and political maturity**

15 Support to its Member Organisations remains the keystone of CDN's mission. The
16 work of CDN is directed towards supporting MOs in their organisational
17 management, enhancement of democratic structures and political maturity.

18 CDN will support the further work towards increasing MOs' capacities for
19 becoming youth advocacy organisations, capable of taking active role in the
20 political processes in their local/national context, being visible for the wider
21 masses and referred to by diverse stakeholders. This will be done through
22 political maturity raising at seminars, trainings, political conferences, and
23 statutory meetings such as General Assembly, as well as direct support.

24 In parallel, CDN will be working on encouraging MOs to question their democratic
25 structures, especially in relation to power dynamics, inclusion and ensuring the
26 factual safe space. This will be achieved with specific trainings, but also
27 through setting the example by continuous work on improving CDN's internal
28 structures and mechanisms for cultivating safe spaces.

29 Big part of CDN's work remains cooperation as we see mutual support and exchange
30 between MOs as a core catalyst for building strong EE Green youth movement. CDN
31 will continue to support exchange between MOs, not only through international
32 and regional activities, but also through supporting direct MO-MO cooperation.
33 This will be done through mediation, advisory and financial support when
34 possible. We believe this further supports building the international solidarity
35 and regional cooperation among members and partners. This being mentioned, CDN
36 will keep fostering solidarity actions, joint campaigns and other activities
37 directed towards MOs joint reaction and positioning in regards to regional
38 political developments.

39 **2 Topical diversity**

40 CDN has always aimed for an inter-sectional approach towards the topics relevant
41 to our member organisations. Such approach enables us to meet the demands and
42 needs in the region while being flexible with the topics our Member and Partners
43 work on. Selection of topics and CDN's activities had always been a reflection
44 of regional dynamics, challenges and needs of our MOs, POs and youth in Eastern
45 Europe.

46 In order to keep the network up to date with rapid political developments and
47 challenges in Eastern Europe, and assess their implications on green youth
48 organisations and their agendas, CDN aims at maintaining the principle of
49 topical diversity of its activities. Taking into consideration the needs and
50 topics of interest to our MOs and POs, we will strive to work on Sustainability,
51 Climate Change, Gender, Digital Rights and Social Justice.

52 We will be keeping track of any arising needs in EE and incorporate them in our
53 work, such as Peacebuilding and Democracy, as well as relevant topics deriving
54 from the main focus areas (Food and Agriculture, Labor rights, Health,
55 Education, Energy, etc.) while maintaining intersectional approach in our work.

56 CDN will actively collect feedback from MOs and POs, and analyse actual
57 political situations in order to assess interest in current topical framework and
58 define any new focus areas in the network. Through our online engagement we will
59 strive to spark discussions which will help us identify additional needs,
60 challenges and topical necessities.

61 **3 Methodological diversity**

62 Diversity in approach to young people through different methods, tools and
63 interactions is a tradition that we aim to maintain. CDN believes that Non
64 Formal Education (NFE) methodologies respond to the needs and interests of young
65 people.

66 NFE is based on the values of inclusion and democracy while being interactive,
67 participatory and experimental methodology which enables people with different
68 skill-sets and knowledge levels to learn and cooperate, thus empowering one
69 another. We are upholding the principles of NFE and aiming to learn and
70 contribute to the new ways of conducting different methodologies within the
71 Green Values as well as share them in the network with young people. Therefore,
72 CDN will keep track of and attempt to further upgrade its NFE competency and
73 invest time and resources in educating and training members of the EC and
74 Secretariat.

75 By the same token, CDN will strive to strengthen its MOs' capacities by
76 providing expertise through adopting NFE methods in its educational or statutory
77 activities.

78 We will explore digital interactive and inclusive methods and implement them in
79 online events, as we have seen the importance and benefits of creating a
80 positive online group dynamic and safe online space. In this process, we still
81 aim towards using open source technologies and promoting their values in the
82 times of a digital transition of Network members.

83 In partnership with our project partners, CDN will keep on developing online
84 courses, podcasts, webinars, among others so that they can be disseminated, as
85 well as open discussions and networking events for the community.

86 **4 Geographical scope of work**

87 In order to strengthen position of MOs and their capacity to take active role in
88 local communities, we will continue to implement activities in local, regional
89 and international level.

90 International activities such as topical seminars, study sessions and summer
91 schools, are the space for gathering knowledge and information that go in line
92 with the development of new ideas, practices and mindsets. They are also a good
93 space for creating cooperation and interaction between MOs, POs, WGs and other
94 green minded EE youth. In this way CDN will keep maintaining its role in
95 enabling MOs to create visibility and wide network in international context. It
96 also positions CDN as relevant partner not only in Green circles but also within
97 organisations working on similar topics.

98 CDN operates in regions that share similar issues and at the same time provide
99 limited space for youth to cooperate due to current and past political tensions
100 between the countries. On regional level CDN will be an effective conjunction
101 between MOs. Through regional activities young people will continue having the
102 space and possibility to cooperate, exchange practices and work together in
103 topics of regional interest. CDN will continue its work in three regions -
104 Balkans, RUMB (Russia,Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus) and South Caucasus and
105 Turkey - by organising regional events, trainings, round tables, webinars etc.

106 In addition to its regional work, CDN will explore cross-regional approach too.
107 This comes as a result of the assessment that some MOs share similarities and
108 needs due to the level of their organizational development or the external
109 pressures of the environments they operate in.

110 Apart from organising international and regional events, local level of support
111 is also very important. CDN will continue to be present in MOs' local life and
112 activities through trainings, study visits and direct support by having
113 representatives on MOs events when possible or through online consultancy.
114 Another way of local support to MOs is by co-organising side events with MOs
115 hosting CDN activities and thus helping them rise their visibility on local
116 level.

117 **5 Internal development**

118 CDN is growing and changing, so are our Member, Partner and Observer
119 Organisations - they are changing and thus changes CDN. We are becoming more
120 political, more diverse and more experienced. We will reflect on all the changes
121 and adapt, with focus on internal development. Institutional sustainability and
122 transfer of knowledge have always been essential for CDN. We believe the
123 institutionalised memory that the network has accumulated should not be
124 stagnated, rather - enriched and matured.

125 Growth generates and causes some challenges as well. We have more events, more
126 projects, more ideas and ambitions - therefore we see the need to strengthen our
127 internal capacities. Consequently, CDN will focus on increasing secretariat's
128 capacities, strive to have more people employed and improve Secretariat working
129 conditions. We will also focus on increasing capacities of the Executive
130 Committee through skill-based trainings and work on strenghtening the role of
131 treasurer in the EC. Additionally, we will strive to better define and implement
132 the role of office responsible EC member, a position that will be an objective
133 body to monitor secretariat well-being.

134 Moreover, CDN will concentrate on engaging in more political work, deepen the
135 understanding of political realities MOs operate in, help MOs in communication
136 with each other and other green networks, commenting on important political
137 news, support organisations vocally and through solidarity actions and
138 campaigns.

139 **6 Working groups**

140 Working groups are autonomous bodies of CDN which ensure bottom-up activities,
141 provide topical expertise and take on consultative role. Working groups are open
142 to all youth and engagement in the groups is not limited by CDN membership. CDN
143 will support their initiatives to plan and implement projects that resonate with
144 MO needs and expectations through development of work plans, different activities
145 whether online or live. We are aiming for working groups to become recognized as
146 topical reference points by MOs and be a starting point for topical cooperation.
147 Working groups can be topical (Digital [x], Gender, AlterUrb) and regional
148 (RUMB). CDN will support new initiatives that come up, especially the regional
149 initiatives and regional working groups that members have shown potential and
150 need for (Balkans and South Caucasus).

151 As the level of independence still varies between different working groups, CDN
152 will strive to secure funding for (bi-)annual WG meeting that will also serve as
153 a space for WGs to learn from each other's good practices. As additional way of
154 engaging WGs, we will strive to hold annual strategic planning meetings and
155 support internally organized teambuilding meetings for all WGs in order to spark
156 discussions about future work and development, as well as provide space for
157 networking.

158 When it comes to the structure of the working groups, focus will be on making
159 them sustainable and self-sufficient. This process will be done by leading the
160 members through different strategic steps, creation of internal documents and
161 ultimately electing coordinators. CDN will continue providing support and
162 resources for working groups to become more independent.

163 **7 Communication and outreach**

164 We live in an age of communications, as some would say the age of "information
165 capitalism", therefore in order to reach out, be visible and vocal, one should
166 invest in communications significantly. As, we also understand the importance of
167 communications in CDN, we will increase our knowledge and focus on it. We see
168 the need to strategically invest more in building EC and Office capacities on
169 communications that will be positively reflected on CDN's visibility and
170 outreach.

171 There are a few concrete steps to be taken in order to enhance external
172 communications. CDN will continue improve social-media strategy, enhance visual
173 identity and improve our quality and presence in social media, in addition, we
174 will strive to hire a communications officer. We will also help our
175 organisations in the promotion of their events.

176 Last but not least, we strive to boost the visibility of the Eastern European
177 Young Green community and ensure youth perspectives are included within the
178 wider Green movement and Green perspectives are mainstreamed within the wider
179 youth movement.

180 **8 Wider green family**

181 CDN is a part of wider Green family and it is a relevant actor that holds a good
182 deal of knowledge, resources and successful green partnerships.

183 We have a very close relation with our sister organisation Federation of Young
184 European Greens and its mother party European Green Party. We plan to continue
185 the good cooperation and make it even more close.

186 The interaction with Green foundations, pan-European Green and youth Green
187 networks will enrich our organisational knowledge and ideological stance. This
188 can later be prospered and translated into educational activities. Partnerships
189 can also help us gain recognition in the struggle for youth to assume
190 significant roles in their societies.

191 The fruitful collaboration within Greens is a very important factor on the way
192 of CDN becoming a reference point as a capacity builder of the Eastern European
193 Green movement. CDN will continue further strengthening the cooperation with
194 other actors within the Green Family making it a wider environment of
195 opportunities.

196 In the process of forming green partnerships in Eastern Europe, we will try to
197 balance between strengthening the existing network and its composing MOs and
198 POs, but also keep on searching for potential partnerships from the societies
199 where we do not have member/partner organisations from at the moment (Kosovo,
200 Montenegro, Russia, Greece).

201 **9 Cooperation perspectives**

202 Besides being part of the European Green family, we strive to expand our
203 cooperation perspectives and find common grounds with other organisations.
204 Therefore, CDN is open and responsive to all initiatives that correspond to its
205 values, are within its capacities, and to the interest and benefit of its member
206 organizations and Eastern Europe.

207 **10 Shrinking space for civil society**

208 We acknowledge the influence that restrictive political environments and
209 shrinking spaces for civil society in the region have on the work of our MOs. As
210 we witnessed lack of capability of governments all around Eastern Europe to
211 respond to the emergency caused with the Covid-19 pandemic without severely
212 threatening democracy and freedoms of people, we expect the pressure only to
213 deepen in the post-pandemic period, especially for political actors, civil
214 society organisations and media with a critical discourse towards governments'
215 actions.

216 This being said, CDN will intensify its work on exploring alternative
217 strategies, methodologies and tools for doing activism in restrictive political
218 environments. The support to MOs in this sense will be provided through topical
219 and skill-based activities and financially when possible. Particular potential
220 is seen in Cross-Regional events organised for MOs on the basis of similarities
221 in regards to the external environment they operate in.

222 **END**