AR Activity Report 2024-25

Organization:	Executive Committee
Resolution date:	07.03.2025
Agenda item:	4. Reports and plans

Resolution text

Activity Report 2024-25

The activity report covers the period from January 2024[1] to April 2025, is presented and adopted by the General Assembly 2024.

We Empowered progressive changemakers by:

Annual Work Plan: Unite-Think-Act: Political Participation of Green Youth of Eastern Europe

The Work Plan (WP) aim was to enhance political participation of young people of Eastern Europe through strengthening the political vision and strategic approaches of green youth organisations of the region, and to empower them to engage in negotiations and diverse forms of social dialogue with different stakeholders on local, regional and cross-regional levels.

The WP consisted of two phases and will consisted of an international Refocusi Summer Camp that happened in Tbilisi, Georgia (5-10th August) as the first phase, followed by Local Actions (LAs).

- Summer Camp

The first phase, Refocusing Summer Camp , will on one hand provide the space for young people who are politically active in countries of EE to rethink key aspects of their political contexts and share with each other their visions, and on the other, offer them with skills and knowledge of different tools for defining their vision, conducting political action, creating strategy for achieving specific goals, and engaging in social dialogue with different stakeholders. Moreover, it will set the stage for the second phase of the WP and provide them with an overview of the analytical and action tools they can utilise in order to better understand different contexts they are in and subsequently choose the right methods for negotiations and political action.

- Financial Support/Subgrating (Local Actions)

Refocus Local Actions aimed to provide resources and space to young progressive organisations in Eastern Europe to refocus their political vision by creating strategies, policy documents or campaigns.

We facilitated and supported 7 Local Actions (Note: One of the local actions took place in an authoritarian country and due to security risks, we are not publishing its details nor results):

- Democratic Politics for Youth by Green Youth of Ukraine
- Mobilisation for Transformation by Young Greens of Georgia
- Sowing Season by Green Youth of Serbia
- Rising Voices - Shaping the Future Political Agenda by Protests (Latvia);
- Animal Liberation in Local Authorities by Turkish Young Greens;
- Green Youth Academy by Youth for a Green Future (Bulgaria)

Regional Meeting

In 2025, we incorporated the regional meeting into the Summer Camp. We dedicated additional day for work in regional groups (South Caucasus, Balkan, Centre-East) to facilitate intercultural dialogue and create sub-regional visions for the collective Eastern European aim of upholding democracy and green values.

As an outcome of these sessions, we developed three separate strategic approaches specific to the regions of Eastern Europe that would feed into our Strategy 2024-2028.

Study Session

During the six days of the Study Session “Breaking the Barriers: Green Economics and Youth Political Participation in Eastern Europe” that was held in the European Youth Center in Budapest in November 2024, organised by the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN), in cooperation with Youth Department of the Council of Europe, we discussed, exchanged experiences, and generated knowledge about human rights, economy, and proposed ways of overcoming economic barriers to political participation. The intersection of these topics and the overarching theme of inequality were incorporated to discuss a variety of issues. The study session fostered an exploration of the systems in which we live - patriarchy, capitalism, and colonialism/imperialism - and the ways these systems impact social and economic rights of people. Another key aspect was the focus on intersectionality and the ways in which all these topics interact with one another. The study session also aimed to show different perspectives and alternatives to the most prevalent issues related to economy and political participation, giving the participants the chance to discuss solutions and steps towards a greener, more sustainable future. Finaly, participants had a chance to gain practical experience in using advocacy tools which they will be able to use in their local, country, and regional contexts.

Tbilisi Security Conference

As part of “Green Visions on European Security” project, in collaboration with Green European Foundation, we organised one-day conference in Tbilisi on 11th August after the Summer Camp. During the event we spotlighted and dived deeper into the work on the security and defence policy that CDN and GEF worked on during 2023 and 2024. The discussed topics included: non-violence principle,

environmental and energy security, peacebuilding and defence policy (with representative of Latvian Ministry of Defence). We also provided the space for authors of articles created in the previous part of project to present their findings. We gathered experts both from within our network, and beyond. We followed-up the conference with the series of quotes from speakers on our social media; the findings were also useful in creating Foreign Policy & Security chapter for new political platform.

We Strengthened the Network by:

General Assembly

General Assembly (GA), took place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 27-28th April, hosted by Belarusian Young Greens. GA - the highest decision-making body of CDN – was the biggest one in CDN history and brough together over 60 people: the delegates from Member organisations and other friends from the Green political movement to share, network and debate. We elected Executive Committee, adopted activity and financial plan for the next year, amended documents and adopted three resolution concerning the internal governance of CDN. All the documents adopted are available on the website. In 2024, we also discussed and adopt new Strategy for the upcoming four years, accepted new Member Organisation Mladi zeleni (Czech Young Greens). All the adopted documents. During the Political Conference that was a part of GA, we debated about importance of election in fighting the authoritarianism with delegates from Georgia, Serbia, Poland and Latvia (to underline the importance of EU elections). Thanks to cooperation with Green Forum, we also hosted the special guests from Young Greens from Africa and Americas.

Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee met live five times during the reporting period: in February and April 2024 for the 2023-24 mandate, as well as in May and July 2024 and February 2025 for the 2024-25 mandate. Thanks to introduction of the delegation order, the EC Meetings were shorter and more productive, and there was no need for additional meeting. We decided that the minutes from the live EC Meetings that are published on the website should be more detailed and transparent than previously.

Moreover, the regular bi-weekly meeting were happening on regular basis, 15 times during the 2024-25 EC mandate.

Regional Calls with MOs and Feedback

The regular online regional calls with Member Organisation happened only in the Balkans region. It proven to be a success than should be continued next year in other regions. Regular calls were not conducted in other regions due to resignations or inactivity of EC responsible members, and lack of additional capacity to replace them fully. Besides the calls, responsible EC persons arranged in person meetings during regional meeting to discuss important political and organisational developments.

In February 2025, the MO Survey was sent to Member Organisations to assess CDN work and gather input for planning future activities.

Study Visit

The Study Visit were conducted to Croatia on 6-8th December 2024. The decision on the study visit was made by Executive Committee following the political aims that arose during the year: to facilitate cooperation between our MO Zeleni prozor and Možemo! Youth Group and research on how potential cooperation between two Member Organisations from the same country would look like in the future.

The study visit succeeded, as Možemo! Youth Group are applying for membership in 2025, with the explicite consent for that from Zeleni prozor.

Strengthening Internal Capacities

CDN started its strategic work on strengthening internal capacities to be able to effectively deliver its work and achieve objectives. We developed Office guidelines (adopted in February 2025) defining the working conditions of the Office personnel, improved and reinforced delegation order and started newsletter.

As every year, we organised Treasurer Meeting, where we introduced our Treasurer (and back-up person) to finances of CDN. This year, thanks to better task delegation order and using digital accounting tools, we were able to do it online.We participated in external training of European Youth Foundation and Council of Europe's Youth Department, thus deepening our cooperation, and improving crucial skills and knowledge of the CDN EC and Office, most notably: Study Visit „Enhancing international cooperation in times of war" in Lviv, European Youth Capital 2025 (October 2024), Consultative Meeting "How Confident?... Artificial Intelligence, Young People and Youth Work" (January 2025) or "Training Course on Essentials of International Youth Activities (February 2025).

We Brought Eastern European Perspective by:

New Political Platform Creation

At the 2024 GA, we decided to rewrite our political platform, so it an up-to-date, comprehensive and detailed. CDN Team firstly consulted the structure of platform during the Summer Camp, and then during open cosultation meeting in October. We opened the form for proposing postulates for platform in October 2024, where we received input from 3 MOs, and further consulted draft document on Study Session. Unfortunately, due to resignation and inactivity of primarly responsive for political platform EC member, ready draft document was published for consultation only on 1st February, so about 2-3 weeks later than in first timeline, thus the consultations were shorter than planned. Representatives of 3 Member Organisations took part in that part. The full document after consultation was accepted by EC on 15th February, and will be voted during GA.

Digital Events

We managed to organise two ElectionVision webinars, on Taiwan (together with Global Young Greens) and on European Parliament elections. We did not organise ElectionVision on the elections that happened in the second half of 2024 because of lot of events and lack of capacity of Office and EC in Q4/2024 and Q1/2025, however we have it in plans to organise joint ElectionVision 2024-25 webinar in new format.

Moreover, as mentioned previously we organised digital political platform consultations.

Statements and communication

CDN actively monitored and responded to important political developments in Eastern Europe by publishing statements and through social media. We published 12 statements and 3 opinion pieces throughot the reporting period, as well as experimented with new formats (sanctions campaign, short reels with representatives of MOs at the events or series of quotes from conference).

In March 2024, we updated our visual identity (logo, social media templates) to to enable consistency in our communication and facilitate the creation of content for EC and Office.

Since September 2024, we create newsletter to disseminate essential updates, valuable insights, and informed perspectives on key political developments, current events and ongoing issues in Eastern Europe. Besides, we ask Member Organisation for their contribution, further fostering engagement in the network.

Networking

We maintained and strengthened the cooperation with our sister-organisation Federation of Young European Greens. We implemented our revised relation paper in practice. Consequently, we took part in each other's GAs and other events, published 4 collaboration posts, and had close communication both on the EC-EC contact persons, and Office-Office line. Most importantly, We joined as minor partner - represented by one of EC Member in the Prep-Team - in FYEG's activity "Ready, set, go… The Green Future" in Baku, November 2024. We also cooperated in organisation of European Train Tour in Belgrade (March 2024) and had joined EC meeting during EGP congress in Lyon (February 2024).

Moreover, we seeked involvement in activities hosted by EGP and Greens/EFA, thereby further deepening our relations within the Green European community. We participated in both EGP congresses in 2024. We also sent the e-mails to MEPs from Greens/EFA to ask for (financial or substantive) support - unfortunately with response only from Erik Marquardt's office. We continued networking and cooperation with other Green organisations, by participating in events by Green Youth of Montenegro, Green Thought Association (Turkey) or Global Young Greens (meeting in North Macedonia).

We continued the great cooperation with Green Forum as our main partner. Unfortunately, our previous agreement with ForumCIV was terminated and we needed to move to another partnership programme. The transition was smooth and with invaluable help from the Green Forum, unfortunately it took away a lot of capacities from the Office in Q4 2024 and Q1 2025.

We started meaningful cooperation with the organisations beyond European Green movement. Notably, we made agreements to deepen cooperation with SAME (Solidarity Action Day Movement in Europe) and JEF-Europe (Young European Federalists). We also established contact with IFJ (European Youth Forum) with the intention to apply for observer or member statute after reaching necessary number of members. We sent the three new grant applications for funders we did

not cooperate before, during the reporting period and got good feedback, however did not succeed.

[1] In the previous years, CDN had Activity Plans presented work from January-December However, in 2024 we have decided to transition to a new approach in order to enhance transparency, democracy, and allow for a better planning. Our Activity Plans will now align with the timeline from one General Assembly to the next.