

AR Activity Report 2025-26

Organization: CDN
Resolution date: 18.02.2026
Agenda item: 4. Reports and plans

Resolution text

1 The activity report covers the period from April 2025 to March 2026.

2 **We Empowered progressive changemakers by:**

3 Annual Work Plan: Keep your fist up and your head held high!

4 Building resilience of green youth organisation in Eastern
5 Europe

6 The Work Plan of 2025 consists of an international Resilience Building Summer
7 Camp as the first phase, followed by Local Actions realised in 7 countries
8 across Eastern Europe. Both activities aimed to support green youth
9 organisations in Eastern Europe to build resilience for operating within
10 environments characterised by democratic backsliding and deterioration of
11 democratic values, and maintain capacity to advocate for improvement of
12 democratic processes to counter these trends.

13 • Summer Camp

14 The first phase, Resilience Building Summer Camp took place in Chisinau,
15 Moldova, hosted by Gutta-Club on 7-13th July 2025. The Summer Camp intended to
16 equip participants with knowledge and skills related to resilience building for
17 operating in environments characterised by democratic backsliding, and empower
18 them to disseminate that knowledge and skills among their peers. It gathered 39
19 people, and was well evaluated (report of increased capacities: 4.5 out of 5 on
20 average).

21 • Financial Support/Subgrating (Local Actions)

22 The Local Actions aimed to enable green youth activists to disseminate further
23 the knowledge, skills, and resources related to resilience and by doing so
24 strengthen the capacities of green youth organisations for upholding democracy

and democratic values within different contexts in Eastern Europe.. We supported following organisations and projects:

- Resilient Frontliners by Frontline Youth Network
- Green Youth Forum by Youth for a Green Future
- Strong roots, strong voice by Revolt
- Don't stay aside by Green Youth of Ukraine
- Czech Young Green's General Assembly 2025 Brno and following activities
- Local Action title: Pathways to Resilience: Building Solidarity Across Movements Genç Yeşiller
- Democracy: time for a reality check? by Zeleni prozor

As well as the Local Action by the CDN Feminist Action Team.

Cross-Regional Meeting: Towards political autonomy of youth wings

This year Regional Meeting was another time merged with Summer Camp. It focused on the specific topic being the leading part of our new project with Green Forum, i. e. political autonomy of youth wings. The participants created the working definition of political autonomy ([link](#)) with the short roadmap to its achievement in the areas of operation, representation, finances, strategy and ideology; as well as discussed the membership engagement ladder that can be used as resource by the Member Organisations ([link](#)). Both documents will be a basis for activities realised with the support of Green Founm in 2026.

Study Session

The Study Session „Art and Cultural Cooperation of Green European Youth“ Study Session "Canvas of Change: Youth, Culture and Political Participation" was held from 29 September to 4 October 2025 in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France together with FYEG.

Learn to challenge the systems of oppression - capitalism, patriarchy, and imperialism = through brush, colors, pens, and art" was one of the key messages shared by 35 young activists during our study session. The key learning point - the critical role that art and culture play in shaping political processes. Participants engaged in various workshops (such as performance, music, creative writing, and zine making) and benefited from guest lecturers and rich exchanges that were all viewed through an intersectional lens.

The participants created zine Corpus Erectus, and the institutionalised the Arts&Culture Action Team.

60 EYF Special Call for Ukraine – „Environmental Consequences 61 of War: Monitoring and Overcoming“

62 The international activity organised as part of EYF Special Call for Ukraine was
63 held in Sheptytskyi, Ukraine on 26-30.08. It gathered 26 young people with the
64 aim empower and mobilise them for cross-border cooperation in spreading the
65 awareness of the environmental consequences of Russian aggression on Ukraine,
66 and its cross-border effects on youth, democracy and human rights by providing
67 them with space, theoretical knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for
68 their rights related to the environment on the local, national and European
69 level. We discussed how to make the environment more resilient and how the
70 international community can contribute to the sustainable reconstruction of
71 Ukraine. participants created three campaign plans: on the consequences of
72 mining of Ukraine, the long-term consequences of Kakhovka Dam Destruction, and
73 the protection of the environment in criminal law, which were or are to be
74 implemented in adjusted form.

75 We are grateful for the town of Sheptytskyi for a warm welcoming and for the
76 Centre of Environmental Initiatives Ecoaction for materials and provided
77 workshop.

78 Training for Trainers: Non-formal Education and Green and 79 Progressive Politics

80 The Training for Trainers was an additional activity organised thanks to
81 additional funding from International Foundation GroenLinks. It gathered 10
82 participants from MOs to strengthen their capacity to design and conduct
83 educational activities within their organisations and communities by equipping
84 participants with tools and methodologies of non-formal education while
85 deepening their understanding of Green and progressive politics in the regional
86 context. It consisted of two parts: (1) critical thinking of values in the local
87 context (including discussion with Serbian MP Biljana Djordjević), (2) non-
88 formal education and project coordination training. The participants were
89 selected by Executive Committee, based on their activity and experience (up to
90 26 years old, and attending at least one event in the 2025, with high level of
91 participation), and regional balance.

92 The resource pack “CDN Non-Formal Education Guidebook” was created, available on
93 the [website](#).

94 We Strengthened the Network by:

95 General Assembly

96 The 15th General Assembly of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe
97 (CDNEE), took place 29-30 March in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by Zeleni prozor.

98 The main output of GA was brand new Political Platform - a comprehensive and
99 detailed document that will be a basis of CDN advocacy during the next years. We
100 also elected Executive Committee, adopted activity and financial plan for the
101 next year, amended documents. Two resolutions were created: [Saving the democracy](#)

102 [– right to protest in Eastern Europe, with emphasis on Serbia and Georgia,](#)
 103 [Keeping Green Values in the age of AI.](#) We also welcomed three new Member
 104 organisations: Youth for a Green Future (Bulgaria), The Union of Young Democrats
 105 (Lithuania), TG – Youth – Možemo and Tematska grupa Mladi, Možemo! - politička
 106 platforma.

107 The political conference consisted of two panels: „Student Protests in Serbia
 108 and Croatia: Striving for Better Education and Democracy“ and the round-table
 109 „Be resilient!“.

110 During the preparation of 2026 GA, two workshops were held in order to create
 111 the resolutions together with MOs in the policy areas selected via poll:
 112 Arts&Culture and Feminism.

113 Feminist Action Team

114 Feminist Action Team started in August 2025 to create local action to build the
 115 resilience women and non-binary activists together, inspire each other, share
 116 experiences, create campaigns, and build a safe network. It covers the topic of
 117 gender equality and feminism. The local action consisted of webinar with experts
 118 on the female sexuality, sex work, and sex education in the context of Eastern
 119 Europe and book club meetings. FemAT currently gathers 25 people and will
 120 continue its work in 2026.

121 Arts&Culture Action Team

122 Arts&Culture Action Team was created after the Study Session to create the
 123 second edition of the Corpus Erectus zine, gathering 14 members, participants of
 124 the StS. The zine was published in February and is available on the website.

125 Effective Internal Governance

126 In 2025-26, CDN put more emphasis on its internal governance, strengthening the
 127 work and position of EC and Office. The work will be continued throughout next
 128 year.

129 Effective and Productive Executive Committee Meetings

130 We organised three EC Meetings:: (1) in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova on 5-
 131 6.07.2025, (2) in Bohinjska Bistrica, Slovenia on 25-27.10.2025, (3) in
 132 Bucuresti, Romania on 14-15.02.2026. The focus of the EC meetings was as always
 133 planning of topics and activities and making political decisions about the
 134 network. The main topics of the meetings were: for the first meeting planning
 135 the activities for 2026 and updating the IRPs, for 2nd meeting mid-term strategy
 136 evaluation, for 3rd meeting updating the activity plan and GA documents
 137 preparation. The minutes from the meetings are available on the website.

138 Due to strengthening the procedures, the transfer meeting took place online,
 139 thus EC started work immediately after the GA and all the meetings were working
 140 ones.

141 Office retreat

Office retreat took place in June, in Montenegro and focused on improving the sustainability of CDN. The new transfer documents (main one, and for each position) were created, thus improving the quality of onboarding and transfer of knowledge in the office before new people arriving in 2026.

Refined internal documents

Internal Rules of Procedure were revisited and refined during EC Meetings. There were 2 consultations calls regarding the changes in December, with the participation of six MOs. Based on their input and internal discussion, EC put forward the ready document.

On the II ECM, the mid-term evaluation of the strategy was discussed. The strategy was evaluated well, with three amendments put by EC to be voted by GA and Key Performance Indicators refined to better reflect the goals of CDN.

Diversifying Funding Sources

As mentioned previously, we received additional grant for Special Call Ukraine that included up to 17% administrative/structural costs. We also sent one another application (rejected), and planned to re-apply for SI Creative Partnership (rejected in 2024), though the programme was not opened yet at the moment of writing the report. Due to the capacities taken for organisation additional event, we did not focus on smaller-scale fundraising.

Enhanced Communication with Member Organisations

The Executive Committee regional responsables continued good practice to organise regional calls with MOs, in all the regions. During the Local Actions, we visited Czech Young Greens and planned to visit Youth for a Green Future (unfortunately visit was cancelled due to the health issues).

Internship programme

CDN open its internship programme Communication and Projects Intern in June 2025. We received 60 applications, and invited 6 people for the interview. The selected intern, Sintija Krivina, works from September 2025 to February 2026 (prolonged for March 2026, due to the GA).

The internship programme focuses on the communication, especially during the project. The main learning outcomes was creating and implementing the communication plans about the events (mostly during the StS) and campaigns (especially Stop Ecocide, organising smaller-scale activities (FemAT local actions). The internship programme proved to be succesful, contributing to enhancement the external communication and improvement of the Office's workload, with the recommendation to make the more precise plan of internship with defined main fields of work and learning outcomes for each month of intern's work.

Office changes

The term of Secretary General finishes at 2026 GA. Igor decided not to run for another term. The call was opened together with the call for EC. EC decided to recommend Filip Janković for the position. The transfer period will be in April and May.

184 The contract of Project Coordinator finished in 2026, and PC decided not to
185 prolong it. We opened the call in February, which is still opened at the moment
186 of publishing the report. New person will be selected by EC before the GA. The
187 transfer period is planned for May and June (to be decided with person
188 selected).

189 The transition periods was planned in advance (more in the activity plan).

190 **We Brought Eastern European Perspective by:**

191 **Enhanced External Communication**

192 Increasing the outreach and engagement of the external communication was one of
193 the priorities for 2025. We managed to increase the quality of communication,
194 however, this was limited due to capacities moved to the additional educational
195 projects that were prioritised.

196 We organised two campaigns (below), as well as decided on organisation on the
197 additional campaigns in 2026 to be implemented around the GA: Culture. A Public
198 Good and Stop Femicide. We experimented with new forms of content (as interactive
199 maps, quizzes etc.), while maintaining the seriousness of communication.

200 **Biodiversity in Eastern Europe campaign**

201 Campaign aimed to promote our political platform's chapter on biodiversity
202 through showing the real examples of Eastern European nature that need to be
203 protected. It consisted of series of interactive instagram stories, posts and
204 reels, and the website page with the map of Wonders of Eastern European nature
205 with over 20 places submitted on instagram story question.

206 **Stop Ecocide campaign**

207 Focus of the campaign was to increase awareness of the russian ecocide in
208 Ukraine and to lobby for implementation of ecocide in the international law. The
209 campaign was created as the follow-up of „Environmental Consequences of War“
210 event. It consisted of 7 posts, informative website, 3 webinars and related
211 stickers with QR-code leading to the website.

212 **Electionvision**

213 There was three episodes of ElectionVision: (1) Elections 2024/25: Europe and
214 World; (2) on presidential elections in Romania and Poland; (3) on parliamentary
215 elections in Czechia and Moldova.

216 **Networking with Green European Movement and Beyond**

217 We continued good relations with FYEG, mostly in organising study session and
218 publishing joint statements (eg. on political prisoners in Belarus, on the
219 political violence in Serbia or on Bulgaria joining the Eurozone). We were
220 mutually represented at most of our events, and took part in each other's
221 digital activities as speakers (eg. ElectionVision: Eastern Europe and World
222 2024/25).

223 We kept the good contacts with other international youth NGOs and were mutually
224 present at some of our events and digital activities, but finally did not submit
225 any joint projects. We applied for the status of delegate in Eastern Partnership
226 Civil Society Forum, not received information at the moment of publishing the
227 report.

R1 Enabling creation, preserving memory. For the progressive cultural policy for Eastern Europe.

Organization: Executive Committee

Resolution date: 14.02.2026

Agenda item: 5. Resolutions

Resolution text

Across Eastern Europe, culture is increasingly treated as a marginal or instrumental policy rather than a public good. Artists and cultural workers are often deprived of social security, forced to take on additional jobs outside the cultural sector, and pushed into precarious employment conditions, rendering long-term cultural work unsustainable. This leads to talent drain, burnout, emigration of artists and cultural workers, and the exclusion of people from less privileged backgrounds from artistic and cultural professions. At the same time, underfunding of cultural institutions in some countries, such as Serbia, is a political tool used to silence critical and anti-government narratives, further contributing to the precarity of culture workers and undermining artistic freedom. The fair pay and social security of artists and culture workers, as well as good, sustainable funding of institutions, should thus be a priority of cultural policy. The universal basic income for artists can be considered, following the evidence from pilot programmes, eg, in Ireland, that show strong socio-economic profits from such investments^[1].

Participation in culture needs to be encouraged, especially among young people. There are several good practices already implemented in Eastern European countries, such as free museum entrance days programmes existing in Bulgaria or cultural vouchers covering entry to cultural institutions for students and teachers in Slovakia^[2]. Young people need to be treated as creators of culture, not just consumers, and have spaces to create and participate in shaping cultural spaces and programmes in their communities. Culture needs to be integrated into education. There are some good ways to do it, such as school visits to cultural institutions or the Estonian initiative to organise the lessons with trained culture workers^[3]. This needs to be tailored to the age and needs of children, to build the habit of enjoying culture, and go in pair with broader reform and modernisation of the educational system. Regional culture and local institutions should be financed to be attractive for young people, and cooperate with schools.

Systematic underfunding or neglect of cultural infrastructure also affects the cultural heritage. Archives, collections and documentations of historical and contemporary culture are often neglected or fragmented. Cultural products sectors as early digital art, video games, etc., are being lost^[4]. The initiatives such as Stop Destroying Videogames^[5] highlight the need for legal and institutional frameworks that allow preservation, archiving and public access to digital cultural works. Moreover, the neglect of digitalisation and the lack of open-source and free digital materials lead to further inequalities in access to culture, especially between big cities and towns and rural areas with little to no cultural institutions. Countries should follow examples such like Slovakiiana cultural portal that has digitised over 180.000 objects from over 75 institutions.^[6]

Promoting cultural heritage and collective memory is an important aspect of building resilience and decolonisation in some countries, such as Moldova or the Baltic States. On the other hand, historical revisionism is a key discourse point of Vucic's or Orban's regimes, and even in democratic countries, it is often a political tool used to consolidate power and spread hatred towards minorities and neighbours. For example, the Institute of the Romanian Revolution of December 1989 was led for 17 years by former president Ion Iliescu and used to promote himself and his political movements rather than conduct independent and reliable research. Similarly, the Polish Institute of National Remembrance, despite some successes, is widely used to legitimise current right-wing politics and whitewash Polish crimes (such as Operation Vistula). While promoting further decolonisation, states should depoliticise collective memory and focus on creating research institutions that promote high-quality scientific research, archiving, institutional intercultural dialogue, and funding for interactive and immersive museums.

With this, we urge the Eastern European politicians:

- Guarantee stable and independent public funding for culture, including a minimum budget threshold;
- Introduce social protection mechanisms, including healthcare, for cultural workers.
- Expand participatory cultural governance, including participatory budgeting and public involvement in shaping cultural priorities and programmes;
- Integrate culture meaningfully into education systems.
- Ensure public access to publicly funded culture, including the principle that cultural content financed publicly should be available digitally whenever possible and the implementation of good programmes from other countries.

CDN will contribute to these processes by:

- Advocating for cultural workers' rights and proper culture funding, including social security and fair pay, and promoting evidence-based policy arguments and good practices from Eastern European countries;
- Continuing its work to provide counter- and alternative narratives addressing populist use of prejudices and collective memory, supporting intercultural dialogue and decolonisation processes;
- Promoting digital access and archiving of culture, including open-access cultural content or initiatives to preserve endangered cultural forms;
- Working with its partners to develop youth-focused cultural participation programmes, with emphasis on active creation, such as a guidebook for leading school theatre or peer-led performances on important environmental issues

- 84 [1] Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. (2025, September 22). Basic
85 Income for the Arts pilot produced over €100 million in social and economic
86 benefits. Government of Ireland. [https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-](https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-communications-and-sport/press-releases/basic-income-for-the-arts-pilot-produced-over-100-million-in-social-and-economic-benefits/)
87 [communications-and-sport/press-releases/basic-income-for-the-arts-pilot-](https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-communications-and-sport/press-releases/basic-income-for-the-arts-pilot-produced-over-100-million-in-social-and-economic-benefits/)
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- 89 [2] Council of Europe. Culture vouchers in: Strategy 21 - Good practices.
90 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/-/back-to-school>
- 91 [3] Council of Europe. Back to School in: Strategy 21 - Good practices.
92 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage/-/back-to-school>
- 93 [4] Campbell, I. C. (2020, November 19). The Internet Archive is now preserving
94 Flash games and animations. The Verge.
95 [https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/19/21578616/internet-archive-preservation-](https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/19/21578616/internet-archive-preservation-flash-animations-games-adobe)
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98 [initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2024/000007_en](https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2024/000007_en)
- 99 [6]<https://slovakiana.sk/en/about-slovakiana>