



General Assembly 2023

Warsaw, Poland

9–12 March

#CDNGA23

ACTIVITY PLAN

2023



COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Eastern Europe

Activity Plan 2023

Bringing Eastern European Young Greens Together

CDN is a **network of young green organisations** with an aim **to connect young activists to learn, exchange, get empowered and lead the fight for a better future** at the local, national or European level. And **we have been doing this for the last 20 years now.**

CDN as a network unites 20 organisations that are different in their type, structure and size. There are youth wings of political parties with defined structures and without structures, NGOs with staff and stable funding as well as those without, there are some who are in between the two mentioned types and some who are moving from one to another. **Eastern Europe is a politically diverse region** as well from flawed democracies to authoritarian regimes, therefore being an activist is a very different thing in each country with different challenges and risks.

With our work, we try to find the middle ground, though it is not easy so that they are **relevant to all organisations and activists from the region.** However, we also have a more **targeted approach** and organise activities that cover only a particular number of organisations and give us more chances to go deeper.

As a general comment to the plan, in 2023 CDN will be organising fewer in-person events. Based on the feedback of participants, and members of our network as well as assessment by the Executive Committee we came to the **conclusion that “more events = more impact” is not true** therefore the focus will be to **increase the quality and depth of each event** while making less throughout the year. In addition, member organisations have mentioned that they do not have enough human capacities to take part in this number of activities that we organise. Alongside MO capacities, it has also been challenging for the CDN office, as well as EC, to organise event after event that took most of the time and even resulted in over hours. Therefore instead of

dealing with logistics and the programme of the events the whole year, we will put a bigger focus on 1. Higher quality and better-prepared events, 2. **Professionalisation and internal capacity building of CDN.**

So, here is what we will be doing in this very special year:

General Assembly

The first event of the year is the **General Assembly (GA)**, the highest decision-making body of our network. It will be hosted by Ostra Zielen in Warsaw, Poland, in March 2023. The GA will elect the new Executive Committee, debate and vote on resolutions, and amendments to internal documents, including statutes which is a very special occasion; hear and adopt reports and plans; as well as, decide on the status of organisations that apply to become part of our Network. The 2023 GA includes **a Strategic Planning Meeting** during which the delegates will shape the upcoming priorities, the scope of work and the general development of CDN. The meeting will gather input for the 2024-27 strategy paper that will be drafted by the Executive Committee and tabled for discussion and adoption for the 2024 General Assembly.

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

Tackling climate crisis and campaigning to raise awareness on the topic comes as a priority for members of our network, as shown by the outputs of the 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting. The first event of the Work plan is a seven days long **Eastern European Summer Camp**, taking place on **June 5-12 in Montenegro**, with the aim to equip young people from Eastern Europe with a better understanding of the climate crisis and skills for mobilising the youth around the

issue. While the **second phase** of the work plan, **Local Actions**, is the direct outcome of the first phase – participants will apply to organising local, cross-regional or regional activities in order to kickstart context-specific discussions and campaigns on climate activism. The aim of this activity will be to empower young people from Eastern Europe to bring systemic change in their local communities and regions. Both activities aim to bring a greater understanding and mobilisation on topics of climate rights and the climate crisis, as well as expand on the long-term consequences of the climate crisis.

Regional Focus

As indicated in the strategy paper, focus on (cross)Regional work will remain an integral part of our activities also in 2023. This year the meeting will be **cross-regional** and a follow-up of the **meeting of youth wings of political parties** that took place in Tirana, Albania in 2021. This year's meeting will be female* only and will bring together young activists and politicians, mainly members of our network but not limited, from Eastern Europe to discuss and analyse the challenges they face from an intersectional perspective, share experiences and empower each other, assess safe space and diversity within the parties and develop inclusion toolkit. As regional work is under the capacity of the Network Coordinator who is not a woman, we will open the call for the coordinator for this activity who will take the role of the Coordinator.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee will organise **quarterly online calls** with the members of the network in the regional format that got a positive response from MO/PO contact persons. Besides the calls, responsible EC persons will try to arrange **in-person meetings during the events** to discuss important political and organisational developments, as well as receive feedback.

Contributing to Green Peace & Security Debate

Starting with the number of statements and a strong position on Ukraine, continued with the Conference organised in June 2022, CDN has been found to be instrumental in **contributing to the security debate within the Green partners from Eastern European (and Green) perspective**. We aim to continue and contribute even further to the debate with the participation of members of our Network.

Study Session, which is a joint event with Young European Greens, will be dedicated to this very subject and take place in **Budapest** in the last week of **October**. The aim is to rethink and build a common understanding of European security in the context of new global challenges from a Green perspective. The event will bring together 40 participants all over Europe to explore the main concepts and share perspectives. The meeting should result in a common policy paper.

Attached to the Study Session, in the scope of the project “**Green Perspective on European Security**” in cooperation with Green European Foundation, we will organise **Conference** within the programme, and invite speakers with different academic, and political backgrounds to contribute to the discussion with expertise. The project will continue with work on the publication where we will have the possibility to submit articles and positions.

Professionalisation and growing internal capacities

For many years, the focus of CDN was to work externally – organising events, and meetings, and supporting member organisations through different means. At the same time, the internal capacities of CDN have been placed lower in the priority. This, of course, had a positive impact in many ways however also had a negative side as with the increased number of activities, the back to support them was lacking – staff had to work over hours while EC got a lot of burden

throughout the year. In 2022 we already started to address this issue and we plan to foster this in 2023 even further.

Firstly, as you see in the plan, we will have fewer in-person activities and one of the reasons is to make sure the only task is on for the staff and the EC has not organise event after event. This will allow CDN to **focus on internal capacities** in several directions: 1. We plan to **restructure the secretariat** and reshuffle positions and related tasks. The current structure was developed back in 2020 and was useful for the next years that were packed with activities thus there was a need for two “units” – one organising statutory activities, the other – projects. However, throughout the practice, we assessed that this is not very relevant at this stage with fewer in-person activities and in addition, there is a need to improve several directions. Thus, with the restructuring “office assistant” will be transformed into “finances and administrative officer” that will include tasks from the existing position, and will get parts of the Network Coordinator’s tasks while transferring some of the tasks (event logistics, communications) to another position. The project assistant, on the other hand, will transform into “events and communications officer” that will incorporate tasks from the previously office assistants as well as the remains of the project assistant; mainly will be responsible for managing events logistics and communications. The other two positions will mostly remain as they are.

Moreover, we will organise trainings for the office and the EC throughout the year; strive to adopt tools and software programs to support the work processes.

In 2023 we will finally **update** the **Visual Identity and Website of CDN**. The issue has been flagged for a few years and EC has recommended addressing it. However, it has never got enough priority as it is a rather time-consuming process as well as needs funds to support. After long consideration, we decided that it is possible and highly important to do so in this year therefore responsible persons from EC and staff will work with the external service provider and update the website&visual identity by the end of the year.

Building alliances and Networking

CDN will continue the **good cooperation with Young European Greens** with whom this year we have a joint study session on Peace&Security. Moreover, we will revise the relations paper, as suggested by the resolution, to ensure our good cooperation as well as support the institutionalisation of the relations. Throughout the year we will try to take part in the activities organised by FYEG as well as have space to have participants from FYEG to our events thus supporting mutual exchange.

Network Coordinator and EC member(s) will also take part in the councils organised by the **European Green Party** even though our role is limited as an observer the meeting brings different stakeholders together with whom it is possible to organise side meetings. Besides, we will strive to participate in other activities organised by EGP and nurture our relations.

Other Green stakeholders will also remain on our radars. We will try to organise a **study visit** in the country where we do not currently have a member organisation and are underrepresented in our network.

We also aim to increase CDN's engagement with **other stakeholders** with whom we share basic values.

Executive Committee Work

All of the activities that are explained in the document are enabled by the work of the Executive Committee and office. Throughout the year we will **organise at least 4 live EC Meetings** during which the EC will decide on their responsibilities and tasks; discuss upcoming and assess past activities; map and establish the topical priorities for the next year's projects; share takeaways from the regional calls and feedback from the members; make other relevant decisions.

As mentioned in the strategy document, we want to **strengthen the position of Treasurer** within the EC. Based on the inputs of the 2022 treasurer meeting, we will implement the recommendations such as a financial overview during the EC

meetings by the treasurer, closer communication between the treasurer and Network Coordinator; higher involvement of the treasurer in decision-making regarding the budgets. **Treasurer visit** will take place attached to the second Executive Committee Meeting.

Digital Activities

Throughout the year CDN will organise several **webinars** on the relevant issues, **publish statements**, and **host ElectionVisions**. In addition, have open space for others to [suggest online activity](#) that we started to practice this year but we will increase, with strengthened internal capacities, the focus on it.