

As amended by the General Assembly of FYEG, May 2011

CDN relations with FYEG

Presentation and recommendations

About CDN

Our mission:

To bring together young greens from Eastern Europe by organising international cooperation projects and support the development of the organisations through skills development, green values education and democratic way of work.

Work area:

Geographical scope of our activities is the area of Eastern Europe. This includes European countries that are not members of the European Union (post-soviet countries and South-Eastern European countries, and the Caucasus region)

Working methods:

Our methods of work are based on democracy. It supports strongly inclusion principle, understanding and tolerance. It is our aim to understand and learn more about culture (especially of ways of performing work) of any given local organisation. We want to respect our differences and adapt our move towards in order to bridge the gap to the level we can remain democratic way of work functioning.

General approach:

Bringing the way organisations work and stand for closer to the green stand points and common green values. We aim to achieve this by showing example, including people, tolerating and understanding the differences and appreciating diversity, rather than trying to stand tall and impose changes or boycott them. We are giving a hand hoping they will learn to shake. This is the bases of what we call a flexible approach.

Work priority:

Our work program priorities are positioned by the interest of our member organisations which, at present, is focusing on the social issues, aiming to enhance cooperation and development. We are keeping as a base green approach creating clear and visible connection to the issues in focus.

Changes made in 2005:

Based on the decision of our network meeting and the decisions of the executives we made following changes:

- We cleared geographical scope of interest (membership system of members and partners)
- Executive Committee of CDN is only executive body and is not obligated to perform every day work related to our activities
- Complete work related to our activities is being performed by the office
- CDN is a project based organisation. We use projects as our main tool for realisation of our objectives.

Membership:

As underline of CDN logo is saying Bringing Eastern Europe Together, our mission is to involve organization from all countries in region. Since not all countries have Green organizations, it is our aim also to find initiatives that can start as green, or green to become, working parallel with them on their development. That is why some organizations within CDN maybe do not have green in name, but they do have it in essence. Due to our mission statement we consider former USSR countries and Russia as very important pivot for development of Green idea in Eastern Europe, of course not loosing focus from Balkan countries, and in that



sense CDN is working to find possibilities to actively engage and create a solid base for successful work in these regions.

Our membership is gathered annually on General Assembly, but apart from that through international events, study visits, communicational tools such as e-lists, workshops CDN is ensuring contacts with and within its members and development and implementation of green idea.

CDN and FYEG share common Green ideas, principles and goals, but are different in their aims and methods. This way of working enhances the impact of the Green idea and Green organizations on a local and a European level. Due to this fact, cooperation between CDN and FYEG is fruitful and needed. In their constant communication and joint work, CDN and FYEG exchange experience and data in order to answer needs and demands of their Members, and are a rich source of information when it comes to enlarging the organisations. Nevertheless, given the different objectives and ways of working, membership criteria are particular for each. We acknowledge the fact that membership of CDN often precedes membership of FYEG for Eastern European organizations. However, every membership recommendation made by CDN is based on an individual assessment of that organization.

What is CDN for FYEG?

- **A bridge for better communication and understanding with Eastern Europe Young Greens**

CDN is in constant communication with its member organizations, following their work and development, as much as participating in very same. On the other hand CDN is made out of its members and they are the one who are forming and directing work of Network. In that sense CDN representing amalgam of Eastern European Greens and can be relevant in fluent communications, cooperation and understanding of position, stands, backgrounds of Eastern European Young Greens.

- **Support in the development of position towards important regional and wider European issues**

It is very important to develop visible and strong position towards actualities. In that sense CDN can, and is willing to be, used as source of information and ideas regarding Eastern European issues. Green idea do not recognize borders and European issues are concerned of all its parts, but we are aware that there are certain aspects that are undoable dividing opinions on East/West and many other categories. In that sense CDN can be seen as good base and source of understanding Eastern European perspective of wider European issues, and help in forming political platform and agenda.

- **Partner in spreading of the green idea and realisation of green work in Eastern Europe**

As being very active since founding, CDN become relevant factor in Green world and has found wide audience for its events and activities. Closely connected with members, and through them with societies of Eastern European countries CDN can be, and is, powerful partner in spreading and implementing Green idea. Also this on practical level means having capable, experienced partners in realisation of concrete activities and events in countries of Eastern Europe. .

CDN encourages FYEG to use the results of its work for overall green achievements (statements, position papers, results of activities, activities, contacts etc.) at FYEG presentations and activities. This all is supporting and raising



the quality of the green movement as a whole. It is just very important that every presentation contains the explanation “Performed by CDN, www.cdnee.org“

What is FYEG for CDN?

- **Political support through promotion of our CDNs work and results, its quality and importance to the third parties, especially green and youth organisations in Europe (EGP, GG, YFJ, Funds)**

FYEG is political youth of Green Party, with opportunity of being present at meetings, and on places where political decisions are made on spot. Also being situate in Brussels, FYEG representatives have significantly bigger opportunity for meetings with other relevant factors, such as GG, EGF, EWD, and representatives of Funds. Through FYEG, CDN can be present and presented also.

- **Logistical support**

Given the longer history of FYEG, the latter has gained and accumulated knowledge on project, financial and organizational management, as well as on working within the Green community and its external partners. This knowledge is as essential to FYEG as it is to CDN, and its transfer to CDN is raising the capacities of both.

- **Financial support**

Due to the high number of common MOs and activities between CDN and FYEG, access to certain funds is limited. Therefore, there is an agreement between CDN and FYEG on CDN not applying for the European Commission's administrative grant, and FYEG GA allocating part of this grant to CDN's administrative budget. This sum is proposed by CDN's and FYEG's ECs, depending on the size of the grant and the financial situation of both organisations.

CDN have to keep organisational and decision making independency but at the same time wants to work in close connection on the issues and in the area of common interest.

CDN and FYEG communication

Tools for information flow:

- Joined EC lists (EC to EC communications)
- Joined general information list (green info in the same stream)

Subjects of the information exchange:

- Clear and up to date activity plan of both organisations (in order to be clear with the plans, not doubling or missing the work). Since on GA only general plans are made, every concrete change or innovation should be mentioned in order to use joined capacity to the maximum.
- Clear and up to date decision making (procedure) information (especially related to joint activities and issues of common direct interest)
- Information on general decision made exchange (minutes of the meeting or changes in practice, decision that affects the common interest)



- Contact person information (defining the person within each organization that is tasked to follow the work of the other and report)

Practical arrangement:

- At least once a year we should hold a joint EC meeting
- Ensure bi-lateral participation at general organisational meetings
- Plan joint visits to countries/organisations of common interest
- Secure places for EC members(s) at events of both organisations (based on previous internal call)
- Enable no charge (fee), full travel/board coverage whenever possible

Additional information:

CDN became observer at FYEG based on the decision of the Network Meeting. CDN encourages FYEG to support and give space for such involvement and continue financial support for CDN representatives at the General Assembly.

Also CDN encourage FYEG representatives to be present at General Assembly, to support it with its presents, experience and practical help (reports on MO, PO status, reports from study visits...etc.)

Member organisation of CDN believe in close cooperation with FYEG and would like to keep our common green values in the middle of the connection lines between the two organisations in the future.

Conclusions for the future

CDN is still young organization, however it is already clear to many that our effect, quantity and quality of our work makes us serious and very important. With the support of members and foundations we aim to continue achieving beyond our limits in future, remaining strong support base for development of green idea and youth green organizations in the east and becoming an important platform and credible partner of the European greens in the development work in the east of Europe.

This will be a step closer to reaching our goal of being sufficient political, technical and information support for young greens in the Balkans, post-soviet and Southern Caucasus countries in any of their national and especially international activities, for the well being of the greens.