



COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
Eastern Europe

ACTIVITY REPORT

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Activity Report 2021

Statutory

General Assembly

10-11 April 2021, Online

12h General Assembly, CDN's main annual statutory event, due to COVID-19 restrictions took place online on Zoom. Member, Partner and Observer organizations as well as Working Group members participated in the event. As a result of GA delegates from MOs elected a new Executive Committee, add amendments on Internal Rules of Procedure, and adopted the following documents: Strategy Statement for CDN 2022-24, Safe Space Policy and Resolution on Eastern European Smart Cities, activity and financial plans for 2021.

Executive Committee meetings

During the mandate, EC and Secretariat had online meetings every second Wednesday on Zoom. All online meetings were held with a quorum of EC. There were 5 big live EC meetings on which major decisions and discussions have been made.

Last ECM (mandate 2020-2021), 8-9 April in Belgrade, Serbia

EC-EC transfer meeting, 25 April, Online

1st live ECM, 7-9 May in Ripanj, Serbia

2st live ECM, 2-4 August in Novi Banovci, Serbia

3st live ECM, 20-23 September in Istanbul, Turkey

4st live ECM, 20-23 November in Budapest, Hungary

Working Groups Strategic Planning Meeting

9-10 October, Online

The activity gathered members of all working groups to discuss the current situation in the working groups, to analyse the needs, struggles, and perspectives for future work. A draft of the manual of good practices for WGs was prepared as a result of the event.

International educational activities:

Online Course “Cities for all - Why?”

1-31 May, Online

The first phase of the “Cities for All-Inclusive Urban Planning and Decision Making in the Eastern European Cities” Annual Work Plan was the online course “Cities for all - Why?”. An online format was chosen due to pandemic restrictions. The OC was aimed to browse how patriarchy shapes our cities, urban infrastructure and lives of urban youth. During the event, the participants were provided with theoretical knowledge on how cities affect the lives of young people of different genders and sexualities, and with the tools for identifying the local challenges in regards of gender-inclusive city planning. In addition, the participants had a possibility to share their struggles and discussed the future of inclusive cities in an inter-cultural safe space. The course’s interactive materials were published on Green European Foundation’s My Green Learning platform, in addition to the online materials, there were 3 Zoom calls per week for workshops and webinars, as well as individual and group tasks. The online course will remain on the platform for access to a wider public.

Training “Cities for All – How?”

25-31 July in Novi Sad, Serbia

The training was the second phase of the AWP. During the live Prep Team meeting that happened in Belgrade between 5–6 June the aim and objectives were adjusted and the agenda was developed. At the event 30 young activists developed their advocacy skills to shape a more inclusive, LGBT+ friendly and safe cities for everyone. To achieve this, different tools and strategies to overcome the struggles of young LGBT+ individuals and women, as well as to engage the local communities around the topic of Cities for all were explored.

Study Session “Work that Work for All”

15–20 November in Budapest, Hungary

The study session was organised in partnership with FYEG and in cooperation with the European Youth Center in Budapest. The live Prep Team meeting happened in Budapest, 3–4 September, during which the PT worked on the enhancement of aim and objectives and developing the program of the main event. The study session gathered 35 participants from Central and Eastern Europe to empower them to claim their social rights in post-pandemic world and the right to decent work, in particular. At the event challenges faced by young people and barriers to access their right to decent work were explored, as well as opportunities and initiatives for young people in accessing meaningful work, adequate standard of living and social security. At the final stage of the study session, the participants were equipped with the tools for countering the challenges and consequences of inaccessible Social rights.

Regional meetings:

RUMB RM on Civil and Political Rights

20–24 July in Chisinau, Moldova

At the meeting representatives of CDN Member Organisations from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus and Green-minded activists from Russia had a possibility

to exchange and deepen their understanding in regards to civic and political rights in the region and different ways of claiming them. Additionally, participants reflected on tools and mechanisms available on different levels for ensuring and claiming these rights. After the RM, there was a live meeting with Gutta Club representatives, CDN's Secretariat and EC members responsible for the region.

Capacity-building activities:

BRAT Cross-RM on Political Activism in the Authoritarian Countries

16-20 September in Istanbul, Turkey

During the event young Green-minded people from Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkey discussed the ways of being a political activist in restrictive environments and keeping it effective and safe. Participants explored different strategies, tactics and tools for penetrating political spaces, as well as discussed the mental health, well-being and motivation of activists. The observed experiences and tools were gathered in a toolkit which will be distributed further among CDN Member Organisations and activists from BRAT countries.

GUMPLA Cross-RM for Youth Wings of Green Political Parties

14-18 October in Tirana, Albania

Members of youth wings of Green political parties which are MOs and POs of CDN gathered together to learn about and discuss different aspects that define political maturity with a special focus on the importance and ways of strengthening democratic structures. Special attention was paid to equipping them with tools for climbing up the political maturity ladder and revisiting their political influence strategies and involvement in the work of their mother parties.

Local activities:

AWP Local Actions “Art for the young, the queer, the feminists of Eastern Europe”

Implementation of the Local Actions from the mentioned AWP was taking place at the beginning of 2021, with finalisation happening by March 2021. There were 7 different Local Actions taking place, mostly in online formats, due to either pandemics or ongoing oppressive regimes in the country. Local Actions aimed to broaden the closed safe spaces of young women, transgender, non-binary, agender, queer, intersex, gay, lesbian, bi- and pansexual people by visualizing their identities and struggles to the wider public using non-formal education methods and art as a communication tool in order to challenge the accepted norms in the society. More in depth explanations of the Local Actions can be found on CDN's website – educational resources – publication ‘Art for the young, the queer, the feminists of EE’.

AWP Local actions “Cities for All – Now!”

September – November

The preparations for Local Actions envisioned by the AWP started in August, and decisions were made on granting 8 Local Actions developed by the participants of the previous stages of the AWP. Unfortunately, three actions have been cancelled due to lack of capacities of local teams or technical challenges. The activities aimed to contribute to the improving of the Urban infrastructure for Women and LGBT+ people in the cities of Eastern Europe and raise awareness on inclusive urban planning, by providing the youth with an opportunity to practice their gained experience in the home cities. Implementation of the LAs happened in September 2021 in 11 cities in 7 different countries and included such types of activities as educational trainings, art workshops and exhibitions, creation of media and research materials. The extended information about LAs will be shared in a publication “Cities for All!” .

MOs Direct support

July - November

CDN supported projects aimed at a contribution and supporting of Member Organisation's work. The call for MOs was opened in June. It total 6 activities were supported by the following organisations: Revolt, Frontline Youth Network, Green Youth of Serbia, Young Greens of Georgia, Albanian Young Greens, and Gutta Club. Implementation of the supported activities happened between July-November 2021. The extended information was published on the website.

Internal trainings:

Training on improving online activities

19 April, Online

Executive Committee had a 3-hour training on enhancing virtual engagement and online learning spaces designed by a professional trainer Romy Alexandra Solomon.

Co-treasurers' training

28 August, Online

CDN Co-treasurers training took place online and the treasurers got introduced to the practices regarding CDN finances - from the organisation of the archiving and bookkeeping to types of reporting done. Secretariat and Treasurer consequently reviewed the current bookkeeping system of CDN. Together with the Network Coordinator, the Treasurer did the semi-annual budget analysis.

Campaigns and statements:

CDN published various statements regarding attacks on LGBTQIA+ and Women's rights, the importance of vaccination against a deadly pandemic and solidarity with Ukraine against Russian aggression. Also together with other young activists in our network, CDN made a campaign about violence against women, pushed for peace and harsher consequences for war.

Networking and internal capacity building:

We see networking events of our partners as an important part of communication and keeping up with the Green Family, therefore we attend trainings, Councils, General Assemblies and different forms of events of our partners. In these events, we participate as observers or partners. The events provide us with experience and skills which we use for internal capacity building of Secretariat and EC through reports and transfer of knowledge. In 2021 EC and Secretariat attended the following events:

- Training by FYEG: how to apply for Erasmus+ grants, 30.04.2021
- FYEG General Assembly, 04-06.06.2021
- Budapest Forum on Building Sustainable Democracies 16-17 September
- GEF Central-Eastern Europe Network meeting, 10.12.2021

Publications and translations:

As follow up to the projects in 2020 CDN produced 2 publications and one online course. The project "Outsmarting the paradigm" was followed up by the publication "Organise, Object, Outsmart the Paradigm" which was translated to Albanian, Croatian, Turkish and Russian. The project "Art for the Young, the Queer, the Feminists" had 2 outputs - publication and online course that were translated to Armenian, Albanian, Bosnian, Georgian, Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian. We also kicked off working on the "Cities for all" publication.