

# **Global Young Greens Annual Progress Report**



**2019-2020**

Presented by the Global Young Greens Steering Committee

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This report covers the period from Summer 2019 - Spring 2020.

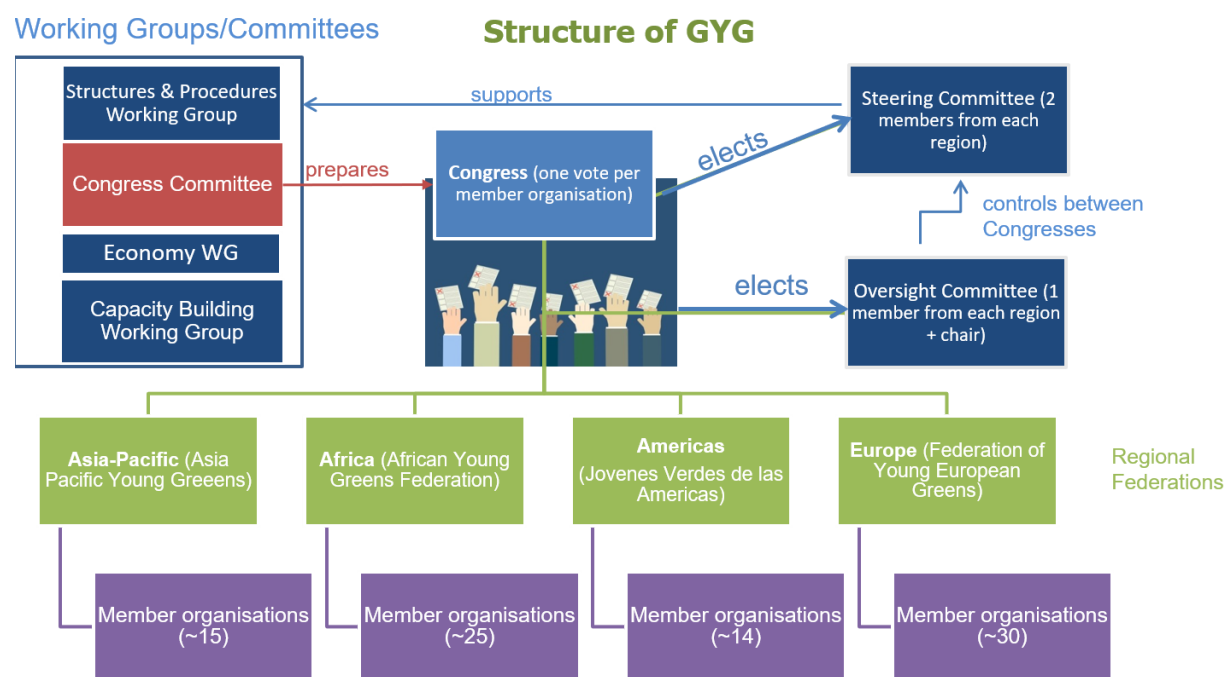
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# 1. Introduction

The Global Young Greens (GYG) is an emerging youth-led organization supporting and uniting the efforts of young people from a green-alternative spectrum around the world. It works towards ecological sustainability, social justice, grassroots democracy and peace. GYG has significant potential in the growing global green movement. GYG is a network that includes four federations (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe) and has a total of ca. 80 member organisations. GYG’s highest decision making body is Congress (held every ~ 4 years). In between Congresses, the Steering Committee, whose work is overseen by the Oversight Committee, organises the work of GYG.

This report is the final report of the outgoing Steering Committee whose term started in spring 2017 after the GYG Congress in Liverpool. The members of the Steering Committee have partly changed since 2017, with Lionel Gwanzura, Eva Pfannerstill and Martha Agredo by-elected during the term. In the past year, the new Steering Committee has made progress in a number of areas. This report will map out the particular areas in which the SC has progressed, and also the challenges that it has faced. It will reflect upon the objectives set in the past report and examine the ways in which GYG has met them. It will conclude by identifying recommendations for the incoming Steering Committee.



*GYG organisational structure as of spring 2020.*

## 2. Report on progress

### Key Achievements

- **More transparent and regular communication** - increased communication with members has led to an increase of followers and engagements across GYG platforms.
  - The [GYG introduction video](#) is amongst the most viewed items on website;
  - Over 1200 people are subscribed to the [GYG Newsletter](#), with 20% of readers consistently opening the newsletter, although reach is likely much greater than this as the newsletter is promoted on Facebook and Instagram channels also.
  - The addition of a NEW “News from the Steering Committee” section in the GYG newsletter aims to make communications more transparent by providing regular updates to showcase work that may not normally be so visible to members.
  - 5,600 likes on our [Facebook page](#) (+600 from July 2019) and consistent positive engagements and social media impressions.
  - Interaction with and among member organisations was made possible by a continuously updated [membership database](#).
- **Increased participation in GYG elections - most contested elections to date**
  - Online elections for Steering Committee members have been the most contested GYG elections to date, with a particular increase in the number of applications in the regions of Africa (6 candidates) Asia Pacific (5 candidates).
  - The GYG Oversight Committee (responsible for running elections) has been proactive in providing key tools (including an [online voting tutorial](#), [Code of Conduct](#) and regular communication with members, all in English, French and Spanish) to facilitate and promote GYG elections across all 4 regions.
- **Applied for observer status to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
  - In Summer 2019 we applied for observer status to the UNFCCC to become more involved with the global youth climate movement, attend COP conferences as observers and to create a regular participatory opportunity available for our members. GYG will be notified in August 2020 whether or not the application was successful.
- **Active and successful GYG Committees and Working Groups**
  - In spite of some changes to members via by-elections, the current GYG Steering Committee has been the longest standing active committee in the history of GYG.
  - During the previous 3 years, GYG has seen the introduction of: the [Oversight Committee](#), the [Structures and Procedures Working Group](#), the [Capacity Building Working Group](#) and the [Congress Committee](#), all of which involve young greens from across the world working transnationally to develop the organisation, increase cooperation and visibility.

# Committees and Working Groups

## Oversight Committee (OC)

### Overview

The [Oversight Committee](#) consists of one representative of each region and a chair. Its task is to oversee the work of the Steering Committee, to ensure that complaints are handled fairly, and to organise online elections. The current members of the Committee are Gregorio Blanca (region Americas), Chalwe Chandalala (region Africa), Lara Jo Pitzer (region Europe), Riwa Ghawi (region Asia-Pacific), Julius Rupprecht (Chair).

### Election Report

As the 3-year mandate for the SC elected at Congress 2017 ended, online elections were held to elect a new Steering Committee in April/May 2020. The Oversight Committee was responsible for organising these elections, which included the information of member organisations about the call for applications, the collection of applications, the registration and verification of voting representatives from the GYG member organisations, setting up the voting platform, and counting the votes. A Single Transferable Vote system was used. An [online voting tutorial](#) was developed in three languages in order to help answer frequently asked questions and generally ease the process.

Participation in the elections was the largest so far in GYG elections with 6 candidates for the region of Africa, 2 for the Americas (+ 1 person who withdrew their application), 5 for Asia-Pacific, and 3 for Europe. 8 member organisations from Africa voted, 9 from the Americas, 10 from Asia-Pacific and 12 from Europe. 10 out of 22 member organisations with voting rights from Africa registered a voting representative, 10 out of 13 from the Americas, 12 out of 13 from Asia-Pacific and 14 out of 30 from Europe. The voter turnout was therefore 36% for the region Africa, 69% for the Americas, 77% for Asia-Pacific and 40% for Europe.

The results and documentation of the elections can be found [here](#).

### Complaints

During the past year, one complaint was submitted to GYG. The complaint was investigated and responded to in detail by the GYG Oversight Committee and in cooperation with the GYG Steering Committee. Whilst there was not sufficient evidence to take further action, GYG took mitigation actions and also invited the complainant to discuss their complaint in more detail via a mediated dialogue, this invitation was not accepted however.

## Congress Committee (CC)

The [Congress Committee](#) for the preparation of the 2021 GYG Congress was formed in spring 2020. It is facilitated by Ian Soutar (Canadian YGs) and consists of 16 members from all regions. Sub-groups e.g. for finances, communications, or programme, were founded. While the CC waits on final confirmation of

the dates and venue, the team has been planning things like theme, programme, technology and outreach.

Over the coming months the CC will be starting to share its vision with the Global Young Greens as they continue to develop the Congress.

A [memorandum of understanding](#) between CC and Steering Committee regulates the relationship between both Committees.

## Structures and Procedures Working Group

The [Structures and Procedures Working Group](#) was founded in 2017, and has since produced some valuable work and analysis of GYG Structures and Procedures. This includes a [report](#) looking into key mechanisms to increase participation and engagement, transfer of knowledge from stronger to weaker parties, improve online voting mechanisms and promote the introduction of new committees and working groups to GYG. Whilst there has been less activity from the Structures and Procedures Working group in 2018-2019 period due to capacity and time commitments of volunteers, clear progress has been made in the organisation as a whole in terms of developing key structures as set out in the 2017 report (many of which are highlighted in the key achievements section). Looking forward, the Structures and Procedures Working Group plans to work on redrafting the GYG Organisational Principles to present at the upcoming 2021 Congress, with the aim of ensuring rules are more suitable for GYG as an active and constantly developing organisation, fit for the transnational challenges of its time.

## Economy Working Group

The [Economy Working Group](#) of GYG has been founded following the initiative of a Swedish Young Greens member, Adam Svensson, in 2019, and now has a small group of very active members from three different federations. The group has held monthly meetings since October 2019. During the first 6 months, the group discussed ideological fundamentals of where to begin with the development of a green economic program. After reviewing issues such as green growth, absolute decoupling, rebound-effects and more they settled on the position that the arguments for a green-growth approach are lacking and a fundamental systemic shift where a constantly growing economy is warranted. Moving forward, the working group will deal with policy ideas and prepare a workshop for the upcoming GYG Congress 2021.

## Capacity Building Working Group

The Capacity Building Working Group welcomed new members in the past year. The group has been working on terms of reference document to solidify the key aims and direction of the working group. Upon completion, these terms of reference will be uploaded to the GYG website and further recruitment of volunteers will take place to help facilitate the group aims.

## Regional Networks

### Africa

The cooperation between GYG and Africa young greens has been strengthened due to tackling the language barrier. It was difficult at first, but we managed to tackle the situation by being able to collect a database of contacts from all African young greens, and managed to seek interpreters among us, with the help of some of our Steering Committee members who have been helpful in translation. The African network has grown, due to activities in their respective countries, e.g. ecologistes du Senegal (Senegal young greens) went to increase public awareness or zero plastic at the river, Kenya young greens (GCK) joined other partners to create environmental awareness, climate change, and tree planting activities. Zambia young greens did individual, volunteer work in tree planting exercise. All these activities from different African countries have shown self commitment to the green agenda, policies and objectives. This shows potential growth in the coming years in the region. We managed to be in communication with members from the region via the creation of a whatsapp group for African Young Greens, which has kept us in touch in knowing what is happening all around Africa. All this has certainly made GYG more visible in the region, which is very evident from the active participation in the current GYG SC elections as Africa had the highest number of candidates among all regions (6).

More work needs to be done in increasing the reach of GYG in Africa through social media, newsletter and constant communication and engaging online to create more awareness. GYG currently has 23 member organisations in Africa.

### Americas

There are 14 GYG member organisations in the Americas.

The relationship between GYG and the JVA/FPVA has been challenging at times, caused primarily by a misunderstanding of the structure of GYG and the role of the Federations, as well as the membership process for GYG. Nonetheless, we have seen great efforts from individuals across the region to be engaged and involved with GYG.

We are very pleased to have managed to complete our membership database for this region. Despite some of the issues, this region is still well organized and generally quite responsive, given ideal contexts. Colombia has seen electoral success with young greens locally and we look forward to developing our relationship with them further.

Unrest in areas of South America has made participation in GYG difficult for many MOs. We hope that we may be able to offer support in the future by bringing further global attention to the issues there. We have had particular support from members who have been excellent reporters and shed a lot of light on the troubles in the region.

## Asia Pacific

The relation between GYG and the Asia Pacific Young Greens Network (APYGN) has been strengthened. In the initial stages it was challenging as there was no established APYGN and we struggled to get the contacts of young green representatives from Member Organisations (MOs). In 2018, the GYG Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator assisted the APYGN team in establishing their network and working closely with them. A Facebook page for the APYGN was set up as a consequence and it's reach has increased significantly.

In the last year, the GYG Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator has regularly attended Asia Pacific Green Federation (APGF) meetings as well as meetings with the APYGN coordination in striving to improve the relationship between the adult Federation and corresponding youth network. With combined efforts, the APYGN has become functional and meets regularly, with assistance and facilitation from the GYG Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator and supported by the APGF secretariat. Now the APYGN has young greens members from almost 11-12 MO's with one primary and one alternate, the team is active and enthusiastic. We hope they will be able to develop their organisational structure in the coming months.

The above process has made GYG more visible in the region which is evident from the active participation in the current GYG Steering Committee elections as Asia Pacific has the second highest number of candidates (5) after Africa (6). There has been no joint work or project as such as APYGN is newly established but it can certainly be done in the near future. Another point of recommendation would be to further promote the GYG newsletter to MOs in the region for members to be able to make contributions and engage with global young green activities. Many of the "[Young Greens Standing Up](#)" series feature Young Greens from Asia Pacific region and the region has potential to grow with young and work together cohesively and harmoniously. Currently, GYG has 13 permanent member organisations and 7 associate member organisations in Asia Pacific.

## Europe

The **cooperation** between GYG and the European federation, FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens), has become closer in the past year. Communication of the Regional Coordinator with the person responsible for GYG within the FYEG Executive Committee was regular and productive. FYEG being a registered UNFCCC observer organisation, we organised a common FYEG-GYG delegation for COP25 to increase the presence of non-Europeans at the UN Climate Summit. We selected candidates and fundraised together, and consider this cooperation a success. Both sides agreed that GYG and FYEG could profit from **more cooperation in the future**, e.g. it is possible to organise joint webinars or other joint activities/campaigns, and to apply for funding together. The future FYEG-GYG cooperation for COPs could become more strategic, to send more activists and young greens to these conferences. We also cooperated for organising GYG Steering Committee elections in spring 2020. Initially, FYEG was supposed to elect the European representatives at their General Assembly, but due to COVID-19 the assembly was postponed. Therefore, European representatives were elected online with the rest of the federations. FYEG supported GYG in this by e.g. sharing our call-out in their communication channels.



It is recommended to increase GYG presence at FYEG events in the future to encourage more knowledge exchange and increase GYG visibility even more.

The **visibility** of GYG for European members was improved. The [GYG introduction video](#) was shown at the General Assemblies of FYEG and of CDN (Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe). This video was a helpful tool in the cases when the regional coordinator herself couldn't attend these assemblies to promote GYG, and we would recommend sending such a video even to MOs to be used at their assemblies in the future. At the beginning of her mandate, the Regional Coordinator introduced herself to all international coordinators of the European MOs by email, which already prompted some interactions. As a recommendation to the incoming Regional Coordinator, an even more engaging way would be holding a small zoom GYG introduction open for all international coordinators in the region. Members of FYEG were active participants in all GYG working groups and committees, and also came up with their own initiatives (such as the Economy Working Group) or sent news of their activities. This reflects the status of the European federation as a well-established one with the largest membership of all GYG federations. Currently, GYG has 30 member organisations and 4 associate member organisations in Europe.

## Financial Report

This is the first complete year using our new bank, N26. It has been a bit of a learning process but having completed one year with them we are very pleased with the ease of access and security features. There appeared to be unusual activity on the account in a couple of instances, but the "refund" feature on the app is as simple as clicking, then the funds are returned within three days.

For reporting and accountability, we have decided that it is ideal for the Treasurer to show the account balance through screen-share at SC meetings. Presently the account card is with Alice Hubbard, while access to the app is restricted to just the current Treasurer, Ian Soutar. This is another convenient security feature - most transactions can require approval from the app (primary access tool), so purchases can be easily monitored and controlled.

Our only major expense for the year was sending a delegate to COP in Madrid. Otherwise the only expenses have been managing other GYG resources (website, reimbursements for mail, etc).

As GYG has no regular income, fundraising is key to make activities possible. When it was decided that GYG would send a delegation to COP25 in Chile in cooperation with FYEG, we managed to raise all the necessary funds from the Heinrich Böll Foundation regional office in Colombia, and the Greens in the European Parliament. A good project description including objectives, a clear budget, and expected output, was key. We also learned that many organisations (e.g. Heinrich Böll Foundation) plan their budgets far ahead, so a lesson learnt is that it is best to contact a potential funder already in the year before an activity. Finally, when COP25 was moved to Madrid, the financial responsibility was transferred to FYEG. Nevertheless, this successful fundraising is an experience that can be built upon for GYG Congress 2021 and future COPs.

[See Financial Report here](#) and below.

Date:	Credit:	Debit:	Total:	Notes:
<b>2019</b>				
21 Feb:			€0.00	Account opened
28 May:	€4,514.04		€4,514.04	Transfer from old account
29 May:	€146.71		€4,687.75	Transfer from old account
30 May:			€4,687.75	
		€6.95		Reimbursing Caroline for postage
17 July		€20.00		Reimbursing Eva Pfannerstill for Extrait intégral légalisé fee
31 October		€11.75		Reimbursing Alice for face-to-face GYGSC/GGC meeting Taipei
31 October		€79.16		Website fee
27 November		€413.77		Plane ticket for delegate to COP
27 November	€413.77			WINGO suspected fraud, refunded
29 November		€0.91		Service charge
29 November		€844.66		Plane ticket for delegate to COP
9 December	€0.91			Reimbursed service charge
17 December	€0.08			Cashback
<b>2020</b>				
14 January	€0.84			Casback
18 February		€15.59		Website fee
17 March		€6.00		New card fee
17 March	€0.02			Cashback
			3,704.58	

## GYG Communications platforms

GYG regularly engages members across a wide variety of platforms:

### Social media

The Facebook page and website now receive more regular updates. As a consequence, traffic to these pages has increased and there has been a steady increase in followers and engagements on posts.

Including:

- 5,600 likes on our [Facebook page](#) (+600 from summer 2019 = 12% increase) and consistent positive engagements and social media impressions.
- The GYG [Instagram page](#) has 306 followers (+91 from summer 2019 = 42% increase);
- and the GYG [Twitter page](#) has 2,376 followers (+204 from summer 2019 = 9% increase).

Suggested future goals for the social media outreach of GYG are

- Developing a social media strategy to improve engagement across all channels
- Developing a GYG design identity to be used across all social media platforms
- More regular generation of social media content
- Continuation/re-launch of the GYG Vlog series.

## Website

During this past year, the website has been updated more regularly with new content, such as [videos](#) (which are among the most frequently viewed website posts), [a report from COP25](#), or [articles about the Corona crisis](#). An interactive [world map of member organisations](#) has been added to make our global network more visible and accessible to our members, and contact details of MOs have been updated (last in 05/2020). A [privacy policy](#) statement has been added to the website. Last but not least, the website structure has been improved and made more user friendly at the end of this SC's term.

## Newsletter

The [GYG Newsletter](#) is published on a monthly basis, containing news from young greens across the world and updates on internal developments regarding GYG Committees and Working Groups.

Over 1200 people are subscribed to the GYG newsletter, with 20% of readers consistently opening the newsletter, although reach is likely much greater than this as the newsletter is promoted on Facebook and Instagram channels also.

The new "News from the Steering Committee" section aims to make communications more transparent by providing regular updates to showcase work that may not normally be so visible to members. The section covers important internal structural and procedural development of GYG, including updates on what is covered in Steering Committee meetings.

According to a membership survey conducted in 2017, 74.5% of the 56 participants agreed that GYG's priority was to function as a news network. The GYG newsletter has been consistently published on a monthly basis since 2017 and allows Member Organisations to participate in sharing their own news and help them to achieve global reach in their activities.

## 3. Recommendations

- **GYG Congress 2021 - Seoul, South Korea**

The upcoming GYG Congress will take place in Seoul, South Korea and is GYG's most significant event. The congress will have a robust online element, to ensure as wider participation as possible in congress activities. The GYG Congress Committee is already working hard to ensure that this is our most successful congress yet, including a rebranding of the GYG logo especially for the event. The GYG Congress should be the main goal of the organisation in the coming year and should include input from all GYG Committees and Working groups.

- **Membership Outreach and Comms**

Outreach to members continues to be key to help GYG to function as an active network. Close contact with Member Organisations on an individual and regional level is integral together with presence and activities at Federation or other events. Development of content for social media and website channels should also be good quality and regular to increase engagement and followers across the world. Efforts to intensify and professionalize the social media work of GYG will be helpful.

- **Structural and Procedural Internal Development**

During 2017-2020 the Steering Committee have extensively developed internal structures and procedures (including an active network of committees and working groups, tools to facilitate online elections, privacy and confidentiality policies etc.). It is highly recommended that this development continues as GYG evolves and grows as an organisation. Some recommendations for future work include regular checks and balances for financial security and investing in better infrastructure to host GYG data/information e.g. a comprehensive membership database, tools to host online congresses/webinars/elections.

- **Introduction of a Climate Working Group**

It is recommended that GYG introduces a Climate Working Group, focused on climate change, developments in climate change policy at the transnational level, as well as youth orientated policy. The group could also serve to assist in preparing GYG content for COP conferences and facilitating links with YOUNGO (UN Youth Climate movement), which is a very active community that regularly interacts via mailing lists, videoconferences and a Facebook group. Participation of GYG representatives in these communications and YOUNGO structures would be beneficial for GYG.

- **UNFCCC Observer Status**

Having applied for observer status with the UNFCCC, GYG hopes to be able to send delegates to COP conferences on a yearly basis. This is a really valuable opportunity for GYG to grow as an organisation, network with others fighting the climate crisis and will mean additional educational and fundraising efforts for GYG and its members. Close cooperation with the Federation of Young European Greens is recommended to profit from their experience and resources and to make COP attendance less eurocentric.

- **Updating the GYG Organisational Principles**

In practice it is clear that there is a need to update the GYG Organisational Principles. With Congress on the horizon, it is recommended that the Structures and Procedures Working Group work towards redrafting the GYG Organisational Principles to be presented at the 2021 GYG Congress.

- **Increasing Fundraising Activities**

Enhanced fundraising activities will be necessary for Congress. For potential joint activities /campaigns, FYEG offered a joint application for funding. For the long-term perspective of GYG's work, GYG should aim at some regular income, e.g. by getting Green parliamentarians to become "friends of GYG" and donate a fixed amount on a yearly/regular basis.

## 4. Supporting information

### GYG Communications Platforms

[GYG Facebook](#)

[GYG Newsletter Archive](#)

[Subscribe to the GYG newsletter](#)

[GYG Twitter](#)

[GYG Instagram](#)

[GYG Youtube Channel](#)

### Federation Groups

Africa <https://www.facebook.com/groups/705838786448340/>

Americas [https://www.facebook.com/jovenesverdesdeamericas/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/jovenesverdesdeamericas/?ref=br_rs)

Asia Pacific <https://www.facebook.com/apygng/>

Europe <https://www.facebook.com/federationofyoungeuropeangreens/>