

GYG Annual Progress Report 2020-2021



Authors:

Janmejai Tiwari (Secretary, India)

Liliane V. Pollmann (Treasurer, Germany)

Jung Lin (Regional coordinator Asia Pacific, Taiwan)

The report covers the time from June 2020 to December 2021.

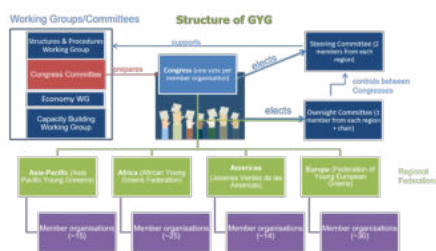
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1. Introduction

The Global Young Greens (GYG) is an emerging youth-led organisation 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 first report of the new Steering Committee after getting elected in 2020 online elections. The new steering committee has made progress in a number of areas. Starting 4 new working groups, organising a face to face steering committee meeting in Glasgow, regular webinars, workshops and Instagram live with young greens, etc. This report will map out the particular areas in which the SC has progressed, and also the challenges that it has faced.



Pic1: GYG organisational structure as of December 2021

The current Steering Committee consists of:

Janmejai Tiwari (Secretary, India)

Liliane V. Pollmann (Treasurer, Germany)

Salome Ginkoyo (Communications Officer, Kenya)

Fabiana Zanutti (Activities Coordinator, Argentina)

Jung Lin (Regional Coordinator Asia Pacific, Taiwan)

Ali Khademolhosseini (Regional Coordinator Europe, Germany)

Souleymane Oudragou (Regional Coordinator Africa, Burkina Faso)

Marco Rocco (Regional Coordinator, Brazil)

2. Report on progress

Key achievements

Collaboration with UNESCO for a programme

GYG collaborated with UNESCO to promote the "Future of Education: Learning to become" a new flagship initiative of UNESCO aiming to reimagine how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet.

The GYG steering committee organised focus group discussions in all four regions via its regional coordinators to understand what young greens from around the world are thinking about the future of education. All these reports of focus groups discussions were submitted to the team of UNESCO. The team of UNESCO specially customised links of surveys for Global Young Greens in four different languages and arranged a separate database for young greens results so that they also have an idea of what young greens around the world are thinking about the future of education also after the outset of COVID-19.

It was a nice experience working with the team of UNESCO in this initiative. The results of focus groups discussions helped them to understand the future of education from the perspective of youth and young greens and would be included in the next global report of UNESCO on the future of education.



Pic2: Graphic of the program of UNESCO

Participation at COP 26

In 2021 the Global Young Greens was admitted as the observer organization for COP 26 by UNFCCC. It was a long wait for GYG, the previous SC applied for the observer status in 2018 and after almost 3 years GYG got the opportunity to participate at COP 26. GYG was informed in late August about the observer status and had a very limited period of time to register its delegates for COP 26.

The Steering committee did a call out for the delegates and it was made clear from the very

beginning that young greens/activists from Global South would be prioritised. GYG had 12 delegates in total out of which 6 were from the Global South. Even after having the accreditation from UNFCCC it was difficult for young greens from Global South to be a part of COP 26 in Glasgow, UK because of several restrictions on travel, visa etc by the UK government.



Pic3: Protest inside the COP venue

The GYG delegation did an amazing work at COP 26. They were fairly active in following up with the ongoing negotiations at COP, raising their voices and GYG's aims through the media, questioning the leaders whenever given the opportunity. As this was GYG's first COP and also first for most of GYG delegates everyone had high expectations from it but being there everyone realised that there isn't much space for observer's and young activists. There was green washing all around and the presence of delegates associated with fossil fuels was alarming. The delegates took active participation in activism inside the blue zone (COP venue) to make their voices heard. Also, GYG was part of the march on 6th of November and marched along with all the greens from around the world in the green bloc. The delegates also participated in several protests that were staged for climate justice, indigenous rights, etc. outside the COP venue.



Pic4: March at Global day of action

GYG coordinated with the European Greens Party, the Greens/EFA, Global Greens, Scottish Greens for the "Green Hub" which was the meeting point for the Green family from across the world to network at Glasgow, attend events, meet other green actors, rest and recharge, there were hybrid events and an online element at the hub too. Many of the GYG delegates from global south were the speakers at the sessions of green hub. Also, together with Federation of Young Greens of Europe (FYEG) and Scottish Young Greens (SYG) GYG organised a "Youth hub" inside the green hub where several interesting sessions were organised by GYG . There were sessions on "How the Global North can support the Global South", "Young Greens in Parliament" with 2 MSP's, one MP from Rwanda, 1 senator from Australia, etc. The sessions had good participation physically and virtually. GYG also released a joint statement with FYEG on the outcome of COP which can be read [here](#).



Pic5: A session at green hub

MoU between GG and GYG

The clear definition for the relationship between Global Greens and Global Young Greens was long pending. Both Global Greens and Global Young Greens were trying to form a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both the organisations for better coordination and good relations. There have been efforts in the past but never reached a conclusion.

In 2020 Global Greens and Global Young Greens formed a working group to work on the MoU. The GYG SC nominated 4 people to represent the side of GYG and to achieve the best outcome for both the organisations. GG also had members from each of their federations in the working group. After months of work and discussions the working group came up with a draft which was then passed on to the Global Greens Coordination (GGC) and the GYG Steering Committee for the review and the approval. The MoU approved and signed by both GG and GYG. Although there are few points which the GYG SC couldn't sign on as the Congress is the highest decision making body for GYG, those points would be put in front of the GYG virtual congress in January 2022.

The MoU can be found [here](#).

Committees and Working Groups

Oversight committee

Overview

The [Oversight Committee](#) consists of one representative of each region and a chair. Its task is to hold the GYG Steering Committee accountable with the consideration of the [Organisational Principles](#), oversee and ensure complaints are dealt with fairly, organise GYG elections (as well as overseeing co-options). The current members of the Committee are:

- Ian Soutar (Chair, Canada);
- Sofía Durán (Member, Chile);
- Alice Hubbard (Member, UK);
- Brian Omenyi (Member, Kenya);
- *Vacant: Asia Pacific representative.*

Activities

The Oversight Committee has carried out the following activities:

- Provided two representatives to the Global Greens Working Group to facilitate the writing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Global Greens and Global

Young Greens.

- Organised and oversaw [elections](#) to fill two Steering Committee vacancies in the Africa and Asia Pacific regions.
- Supported the GYG Steering Committee in carrying out co-options to fill Oversight Committee vacancies for the position of Chair, and members from the Africa and Americas regions after members stepped down due to capacity reasons. The representative from the Asia Pacific region remains vacant and the committees are working closely to fill it.
- Dealt with 2 complaints, issued 2 warnings, provided consultation and mediation on 6 different occasions to GYG members, carried out 0 suspensions.
- Provided ongoing support and advice to the GYG Steering Committee, committing to the attendance of Steering Committee meetings at least once per quarter.
- Introduced a volunteer agreement system for all GYG volunteers, a contract for all GYG volunteers which includes information on rights and responsibilities, and confidentiality agreements.
- Worked closely with the Congress Committee to offer guidance and support for voting and policy related events for Congress.

Elections

The Oversight Committee organised elections for the Steering Committee membership for the regions of Africa and Asia Pacific in November 2020 after two Steering Committee members stepped down for capacity reasons. 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.

Congress Committee

The Congress Committee for the preparation of the 2021 GYG Congress was formed in spring 2020. The relationship between the CC and the Steering Committee is regulated by a memorandum of understanding between both committees.

The Congress Committee is facilitated by Ian Soutar (Canadian Young Greens) and consists of 16 members from all regions. Subgroups e.g. for finances, communications, or programmes were built.

Due to the developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic the congress first needed to be postponed to 2022. Later it was decided to switch it to a digital congress, as the risk emerging from uncertainties regarding the development of the pandemic was estimated as

too high to rely on an in-person congress.

The Congress Committee planned the programme and adjusted it to the restrictions of working with people spread across all time zones. It has developed procedures and covered the communications with the member organisations on the nomination of delegates, procedures during congress and other relevant information. It covered the preparation of the congress online promotion as well.

Economy Working Group

The Economy Working Group has been founded following the initiative of a Swedish Young Greens member, Adam Svenson, in 2019. It has a small number of members from three different federations, and holds monthly meetings.

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. On this groundwork they discussed policy ideas throughout the year, and finally melted them into a policy paper which they planned to present at congress.

But as GYG is currently lacking a place where policy proposals can go after adoption, they will be involved in the discussions on the creation of a policy platform for GYG at the congress in 2022 through presenting their work as an example.

Feminism Working Group

This Working Group was launched in June 2021 and has met regularly since then.

This working group deals with questions, issues and projects related to the broader topics of feminism and gender equality.

Due to the high sensitivity of this topic, it is one of the few working groups in GYG which has established a code of conduct to ensure a relatively respectful and aware environment for the work of this working group. This measure has been considered positive by the participants as an effort to reduce the reproduction of oppressing structure. This working group has successfully organized two internal sessions for exchanging experiences and knowledge of gender oppression and issues in different national contexts.

The working group organised a workshop at the Green Hub/ Youth Hub in Glasgow during COP26 dealing with the issue that women and gender minorities are more affected by the effects of the climate crisis but mostly left out in the negotiations. The workshop input was prepared from inside of the working group and followed with a discussion that had very good

engagement.

The working group also prepared a workshop for the GYG congress in January 2022 dealing with how the pandemic affects (gender) minorities.

Furthermore the working group discussed topics related to feminism that had some importance in the various countries of origin of the members. Volunteering members prepared a bit of input for this and the outcomes of the discussions were saved in notes afterwards.

The long term goal is to use this emerging knowledge base for policy initiatives, further webinars or statements.

It was very important for the members of this working group to build a safer space inside the working group which is why it gave itself rules for the facilitation of discussion and agreed on guidelines for participation.

Communication and Public relations WG

This working group was founded in March 2021 and meant to support the communications work of GYG especially concerning the social media channels. The group has been very active in the first half of 2021.

Since then it is on hold due to a lack of capacity within its members. For restarting the working group it would be recommended to issue a new call out and agree on a less demanding way of working within the working group to make it easier to stick to it. Generally, support in social media communication would be appreciated in the future.

COP26 working group

This working group was founded in March 2021 and meant to prepare the first COP participation of GYG as an official observer organisation and to work on the climate crisis issues from a global youth perspective.

The working group developed a [statement](#) that was leading the work of the first GYG delegation to COP26 and could also be used for raising the necessary funds. Furthermore, the Working Group prepared a timeline for the COP26 preparation and thought of different types of action during and pre-COP26.

The Working Group will also present the outcomes of GYG's participation in the COP26 in a session at the congress in 2022.

In the future, this Working Group is meant to be kept and transferred into a permanent body working on climate related issues and preparing the participation of GYG's delegations at COPs, considering that GYG is now accepted as a permanent observer of the UNFCCC.

Structure 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. There has been a time of less activity from the Working Group in the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021 due to capacity and time commitments of volunteers. Therefore, the Structures and Procedures Working Group has been reactivated in June 2021.

The main objective has been to work on the improvement of GYG's Organizational Principles, with the aim of ensuring the rules are more suitable for GYG as an active and constantly developing organisation, fit for the transnational challenges of its time. The Working Group did manage to progress on this. The areas that need to be updated most urgently have been identified and first amendments have been drafted. Some of them will already be presented to a vote at the Congress in 2022.

Fundraising Working Group

The Fundraising Working Group was brought to existence in June 2021 and has met regularly since then.

It is dedicated to develop a comprehensive long term strategy for fundraising for GYG causes which is not bound to event-specific fundraising alone anymore.

The group was involved in preparing the outlines of the fundraising for GYG's COP26 participation and helped in drafting the needed outreach documents.

It also created a strategy for fundraising through our social media channels which is planned to start at a later stage. Furthermore, it collected causes for donating to GYG and put them together in a document that can be used as a resource for future fundraising campaigns.

The goal is to achieve regular donations to increase the financial independence of the network and to be able to support events and projects also financially.

The group is planning to collect strategic input from partners experienced in international

fundraising, like FYEG for example, and use this to further develop the GYG approach to strategic fundraising.

Some challenges the working group already faced include the cooperation with other committees and working groups of GYG and the capacity of its members. To tackle these challenges it is important to establish regular exchange with the other committees and groups inside GYG to facilitate project-wise cooperation and mutual support in a much easier way. This would also help to combine resources and make better use of them.

Regional Networks

Africa

The language barrier continues to be an issue in the cooperation of GYG and its African member organisations as well as the access to the network.

We managed to be in communication with members from the region via a WhatsApp group which has kept us in touch in knowing what is happening all around in Africa. We also created a WhatsApp group for GYG's francophone members to facilitate the distribution of information to members who feel less comfortable with English.

All this has certainly made GYG more visible in the region which is evident from the active participation in working groups and the number of applications for GYG's COP26 delegation.

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.

America

In this region as well the language barrier remained an issue but we could partly solve it by seeking translators from within the Steering Committee who also offered translation into Spanish during GYG's webinars.

The ties between GYG and JVA (Young Greens of America) has been tightened this year, improving the communication between federations and MOs. The presence at the COP26 and the integration with other regions was very productive and important.

This region is still very well organised and generally responsive. Argentina and Chile have seen electoral successes also including young greens and we look forward to developing our

relationship with them further.

The future perspectives are to continue strengthening ties and the young greens from this region, offering more workshops and also support to political candidacies like it happened in Argentina and Chile.

We hope that we may be able to offer support in the future by bringing further global attention to the issues there. There are currently 14 GYG member organisations in the Americas.

Asia Pacific

The work between GYG and APYGN (Asia-Pacific Youth Network) has been further strengthened this year. GYG has a fixed representative (Regional Coordinator of Asia-Pacific region) regularly attending the monthly meetings of APYGN. GYG is in more regular contact with more member organizations in this region. Two networks also share experience of advocacy and political work between each other and support each other with advertising events through social media. During COP26, some members from MOs in the Asia-Pacific region have a physical unofficial gathering, which was a wonderful experience for the participants.

The perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region have been more received and valued in the work of GYG this year too. A subgroup advocating for more awareness of the injustice in climate crisis and climate politics, Youth transnational climate coalition (YTCC) is founded by several young activists from MOs of GYG, who by majority are from the Asia-Pacific region.

The future perspectives of the Asia-Pacific region will be the continuous effort in maintaining and widening GYG's connection to MOs and empowering the MOs in their engagement in the international network. It has been identified as challenges in APYGN and GYG that English as the major language for communication and a lack of capacity for strengthening the regional coordination work.

Europe

The cooperation between GYG and the European federation, FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens) has become closer in the past year. 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 joined activities/ campaigns, and apply for funding together.

For the COP26 GYG and FYEG cooperated in hosting the Youth Hub. That was a meeting point for young green activists coming to Glasgow for the COP26. It consisted of debate nights, workshops and social events, which were co-organised by GYG in cooperation with FYEG and the Scottish Young Greens. GYG was able to be part of the organisation of six workshops at the Youth Hub.

Additionally, GYG delegates joined sessions in the Green Hub (which the Youth Hub was part of) as speakers. The Green Hub was organised by the European Green Party, the Green Group in the European Parliament as well as the Green European Foundation.

A result of these contributions, these partners are willing to look into further cooperation with GYG.

The participation of GYG in the Green Hub and the Youth Hub increased the visibility of GYG significantly.

For future COPs it is recommended to continue to work closely with FYEG to bring more activists and young greens to the COPs as well as join resources in the organisation and preparation of these climate summits.

The visibility of GYG for European members was improved. This was partly happening through the presence at COP, partly through invitations to events. The treasurer of GYG was part of the FYEG GA presidency two times. The regional coordinator of Europe was visiting the General Assembly of the Dutch Young Greens and the treasurer of GYG was invited to the General Assembly of the Norwegian Young Greens. The latter also gave space for a greeting speech from GYG which was well received by their members.

To make the distribution of information easier, a Telegram group was created which consists of members of the GYG Steering Committee and the persons responsible for international work in the member organisations. This group is very active.

Members of FYEG were active participants in all GYG working groups and committees.

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 8 associate member organisations in Europe.

Financial Report

We continued to work with our current bank N26, but experienced some unforeseen trouble during the handover from the old to the new treasurer.

The security features are still very functional, two times unusual activity on the bank account could be detected and refunded quickly and without problems.

Due to the troubles recognised in the handover phase and an immoral approach of N26 towards its workers and their right to form unions we decided to switch the bank again. As we want to have a transferable account provided by an ethical bank we are still looking for a good solution that isn't charging too expensive fees for the maintenance of the account.

The treasurer gave regular financial updates in the SC meetings and also made the expenses overview accessible. As it was maintained thoroughly, it was easy to keep track of all financial activities and all expenses were communicated transparently.

The main expenses were for the maintenance of GYG resources such as the website or temporary licenses for video call software to host webinars or the online congress. The only bigger expense was spent on the costs for registering the two new legal representatives to the Belgian authorities in 2020 as Janmejai Tiwari as secretary and Liliane Pollmann as treasurer were newly elected. This process took almost a year in total.

Another expense came up due to misunderstandings in the process of the tax declaration which led to a fee. In a call with the financial bureau this could be solved and will be preventable in the future.

Furthermore, a moral code for donations and their acceptance was created and approved by the Steering Committee. This is now the groundwork for a more comprehensive fundraising strategy in the future.

We also tried to implement services facilitating online donations but due to legal and organisational barriers were not able to find a good solution yet. We tested Stripe and had to recognise that their requirements are not working with the international structure of the Steering Committee. To further enhance our fundraising work we will be looking into other services as well.

GYG still does not have a regular income. Our participation in the COP26 was therefore financed through funds raised from the European Green Party. To achieve this GYG provided the statement released before COP26 which summed up our goals and was

building the base for GYG's work at COP. As well we provided a detailed introduction of our delegates, a budget plan and the presentation of our motivation and aims in engaging in the COP process. This cooperation was working very well for both sides and builds a good starting point for further co-operations like these.

Date:	Credit:	Debit:	Total:	Notes:
			€3725,31	
14 January	€0.84			Casback
18 February		€15.59		Website fee
17 March		€6.00		New card fee
17 March	€0.02			Cashback
			3704,58	Handover SC
17 July		€7,28		Reimbursing FYEG for sending the new card to us
31 August		€13,78		Reimbursing Ali Khademolhosseini for buying the new GYG flag
22 September		€43,15		Reimbursing Ali Khademolhosseini for buying Elementor
6 October		€79,16		Reimbursing Ali Khademolhosseini for Website fee
12 October	€9,31			Donation from Ian Soutar via Stripe
24 October		€133,58		Payment for Registration
13 November		€12,70		Reimbursing Alice Hubbard for sending the registration documents
16 December		€16,93		Reimbursing Ali Khademolhosseini for Zoom
17 December	€0,21			PayPal Account Confirmation
19 December		€0,69		Stripe administrative fee
18 January		€16,93		Reimbursement Ali Khademolhosseini for Zoom
4 February		€7,20		Reimbursement Liliane Pollmann for sending registration documents
4 February		€15,59		Homepage Fee
8 February		€67,76		Zoom Subscription for 2021
			€3299,35	

Date:	Credit:	Debit:	Total:	Notes:
			€3299,35	
18 January		€16,93		Reimbursement Ali Khademolhosseini for Zoom
4 February		€7,20		Reimbursement Liliane Pollmann for sending registration documents
4 February		€15,59		Homepage Fee
8 February		€67,76		Zoom Subscription for 2021
6 June		€125		Tax Fine to Administration générale de la Fiscalité
31 August		€80,11		Website fee
8 September		€33		Reimbursement Ali for Elementor
15 November		€237,8		Reimbursement for Banner & Stickers COP26
			2823,44	

GYG communication platforms

GYG regularly engages members across a variety of platforms:

Social media

The social media pages now receive more regular updates using different modes of presentation (including e.g. videos and livestreams). The Social media work during the COP26 has been especially successful through the combination of a reasonable amount of content related to up to date discussions.

As a consequence, traffic to these pages has increased in followers and engagements on posts:

- 5.538 likes on our Facebook page and consistent positive reactions
- The GYG Instagram page has 1048 followers (+742 from spring 2020 = 242% increase)
- The GYG Twitter page has 3.131 followers (+755 from spring 2020 = 32% increase)

Suggested future goals for the social media outreach of GYG are:

- Developing a social media strategy to improve engagement across all channels
- More regular generation of social media content
- Participating in trending discussions on social media with own content

Newsletter

The [GYG newsletter](#) published on the monthly basis, containing news from young greens across the world and updates on internal developments from GYG committees and Working Groups.

The “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.

In the past one and a half years we have also used the platforms to send out GYG statements, callouts apart from the monthly newsletters which have increased the frequency and have helped to increase the reach. With over 1200 subscribers we have seen a constant increase in the reach of the newsletter on an average of +0.5% per month. The reach currently is over 1600 as per the platform, although reach is likely much greater than this as the newsletter is promoted on Facebook and Instagram channels also. There has also been

an increase in readers consistently opening the newsletter from 20% last year to 22.1% currently.

Website

During the reporting period, the website has been updated more regularly with new content, such as statements on political developments as well as statements regarding GYG's experience and demands at COP26.

The structure of the website has been further developed and updated to make it more suitable for current design habits.

3. Recommendations

- **Development of a Political Platform for GYG**

The increasing number of Working Groups dealing with certain political fields calls for a place collecting this output and creating a common understanding of GYG's political goals. This could be used as a resource for statements, events and should be updated regularly. As the process would take some time and would need to include as much input from member organisations as possible, it would make sense to use the momentum of the 2022 online congress to start the process.

- **Reactivating the Capacity Building Working Group**

Almost all committees and working groups of GYG struggle with the limited capacity of their volunteers at some point. To improve the situation and make these groups more resilient towards less activity from individual members it would be worth developing a long-term capacity building strategy.

The learnings would surely also be helpful for the member organisations and their own capacity building as well.

- **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 further intensify and professionalize the social media work of GYG will be helpful.

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

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

Europe <https://www.facebook.com/federationofyoungeuropeangreens/> and
<https://t.me/joinchat/BtGuZxnf2DKhZRQaH5ldtA>

