

EB draft minutes

April 19th 2023, 8:00 pm CEST

Present: Flavia, Gergana, Christelle, Juuso, Knut, Judit, Antonio, Robin, Helena

Excused: -

Minutes: Juuso (review Knut)

1. Adoption of draft agenda
2. Adoption of draft minutes (05/04)
3. EurHope campaign
4. Secretariat update
5. Advocacy update
6. Democracy under Pressure evaluation and feedback
7. Membership statement and online Congress
8. United in Inclusion
9. JEF Georgia
10. Brussels event for promoting EurHope - May - Words of Europe
11. EYE
12. AOB
 - a. Workplan feedback
 - b. EU Youth Sounding Board
 - c. World Forum for Democracy: Call for Initiatives
 - d. Communication strategy update
 - e. EB meeting in Berlin
 - f. JEF Cyprus
 - g. Sofia seminar speaker
 - h. Pending tasks

1. Adoption of draft agenda	Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The agenda was adopted.
2. Adoption of draft minutes (05/04)	Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The minutes were adopted.
3. EurHope <i>Digital acquisition questionnaire</i> Erica is updating the list of sections that have answered the Digital acquisition questionnaire, through which sections can receive support for EurHope social media advertisements in their channels. Engagement from sections is crucial,	Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- EB members to urgently approach their sections which haven't yet filled out the Digital acquisition survey. The cut-off date for filling the survey is 30 April.- Call to join the online platform moderator team is to be shared in the next JEF Focus newsletter

because we can only promote sponsored content in a given country if the page originates from that country.

Content moderators for online platform

On the online platform we have with Make.org, we need content moderators for each language. To weed out hateful and inappropriate content, the content moderators check the submissions on the platform before they are made public. The moderators are remunerated. Willing JEFers have the opportunity to apply for the content moderation team.

Europe Day & EurHope campaign launch

For the op-ed (press article to herald the start of EurHope on 9 May), we still need signatures from various EU countries.

On 8 May, UEF will organise an event with the Spinelli Group: Antonio will present the EurHope during the event. On 9 May, they will arrange a sit-in outside the European Parliament before MEPs enter the building. UEF Germany has confirmed that they will run the EurHope campaign.

Antonio is in contact with European Movement International about activities for the weekend preceding Europe Day. More news to follow.

By Friday, we should have a list of the events arranged for Europe Day by JEF sections, so that we can share those with Make.org.

JEF Germany is planning its order of bicycle seat covers with the campaign visuals. All JEF sections have the possibility to add to the order, before JEF Germany makes a bulk purchase.

- **EB members to ask their sections to write to public figures from their countries to sign the letter. The list of contacts can be shared with the sections, but Make.org has to process the requests to access the sheet.**
- **EB members to confirm their sections' current Europe Day plans by Friday**
- **JEF-Europe will associate with the JEF-Brussels initiative for a 9 May Europe Day celebration, while being mindful that Secretariat staff resources aren't available for the event**

Erica is working on the registration of EurHope logo with Antonio: it will be cross checked by the pro bono lawyer of Make.org. Make.org and the JEF Secretariat are looking into registration of the EurHope domain names. The EurHope online platform will be launched on 5 May, and by 15 May, all language versions are to be available.

JEF Brussels wants to organise a Europe Day celebration in a bar, and asks if JEF Europe would like to be associated to the initiative.

Invitations to contribute to campaign manifestos

European Greens and Party of European Socialists have invited JEF to contribute ideas for their election campaign manifestos. Antonio will follow up.

4. Secretariat update

Office

Secretariat will move to the new office (moving 1 floor upwards) next week. The new office matches our expectations. Secretariat members are doing the migration in the next days. From May onwards, the open space at the office is open for use as an event venue for other organisations: the Secretariat is developing a price list for hiring out the venue.

We're still due to sign the rent contract. Judit is arguing for terms whereby the 3-year lease period begins from 1 March, when JEF moved to the building.

We have a sub-tenant: organisation of senior experts who volunteer their expertise pro

Decision:

- **EB members to respond to requests for contribution on the 2024 operating grant**

bono. The sub-tenant pays us €1,250/month. For the moment, we have two rooms that can be used as breakout rooms, but may be sub-let to further sub-tenants if we find suitable partners.

Operating grant 2024

The deadline to submit the operating grant will be 11 May, despite efforts to get a later deadline. Judit is incorporating the inputs given by the EB during its March in-person meeting.

Ideas coming from the Commission are strengthening the twinning programme, and a programme to fund sections' travels to Brussels. The latter could contribute to sections developing contacts with the new MEPs to be elected in 2024. Moreover, proposed ideas include increasing sections' involvement in JEF-Europe communications and a more united visual identity.

Other key elements we plan to include are Europe@School, and activities for participatory democracy. We're considering possibilities for reinforcing the Task Forces. Microgranting is due to continue in 2024, potentially with a focus on the EP elections and on sections' internal capacity-building.

A possible "nice to have" is gender mainstreaming, even if there might not be enough budget in the operating grant.

Judit will tag EB members on Google docs to provide input for the operating grant application.

For reporting on the 2023 operating grant, the reporting deadlines depend on the individual deliverables. Judit is sharing with the EB the deadlines.

<p><u>HR updates</u></p> <p>Mirjam will leave at the end of April. Recruitment for the Policy Officer is ongoing, and a Project Officer is to be hired soon. A recruitment process for the new trainee might also be coming up.</p> <p><u>Other matters</u></p> <p>Patrick, Emilia and Robin will be in Brussels on 13 - 14 May to conduct an internal audit.</p> <p>EB members should promote the sign-ups for the Online Congress: we need to meet the quorum.</p>	
<p>5. Advocacy update</p> <p>Antonio has taken holidays in the US in the past couple of weeks. He is working on the launch of the EurHope campaign.</p> <p>Antonio and Judit attended the conference of “Civil Society State of the Union”, a group that follows up on the work of the Civil Society Convention on the Future of Europe. Judit chairs the group. There are topic-specific working groups: green, digital, social, democracy. Each working group is chaired by a different NGO.</p> <p>Antonio is following the process about the European Parliament Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) Committee’s work for treaty change. News may come up in the July plenary of the EP.</p> <p>Antonio is monitoring the Defence of Democracy package, especially regarding any points about European electoral law.</p>	<p>Decision:</p> <p>-</p>
<p>6. Democracy under Pressure evaluation and feedback</p>	<p>Decision:</p> <p>- EB thanks the Democracy under</p>

<p>62 national, regional or local sections participated in the campaign in 2023, an increase from 48 in 2022.</p> <p>For next year, increasing the intensity of the activities is an objective.</p> <p>The FC happening during the start of the campaign presented challenges for local activism. Next year, the European elections campaign will overlap with the Democracy under Pressure campaign, which should be considered.</p> <p>JEF Europe funding for the campaign would be a point of development for next year.</p>	<p>Pressure team (Christelle, Flavia and Knut) for their work on the successful campaign</p>
<p>7. Membership statement and online Congress</p> <p><i>Membership statement</i> Robin gave an update on the membership statements. Membership statements status improved since the last EB meeting update. A few sections still have not presented their statements nor paid the fees.</p> <p><i>Online Congress</i> We are still missing registrations for the Online Congress.</p>	<p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EB members to consult with Robin and communicate with sections that haven't finished the membership statement process - EB members to promote the online Congress registrations to their sections
<p>8. United in Inclusion</p> <p>Materials prepared and toolkit finalised by Juuso and Erica. Email sent to sections on April 18 with the toolkit and social media materials folder.</p> <p>It would be too late to have the online capacity-building session on 29 April at this stage. We are looking at 20 May as a new proposed date.</p>	<p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening press release to be closed tomorrow - Juuso to contact the IMPACT sub-grantees directly with the campaign infokit

<p>Judit recommends contacting Nicolas, who is in the ENIL Youth Committee and who also has obtained sub-granting from IMPACT.</p> <p>Beyond the campaign week, JEF Germany may be interested in a training of trainers on the topic.</p>	
<p>9. JEF Georgia</p> <p>Our own group is not active anymore. We are in contact with two associations in Georgia that are interested in JEF-Europe.</p> <p>Umbrella is an established NGO in Georgia, which for example sends young people to European Solidarity Corps missions. It has wide outreach, and is accustomed to applying for grants. In case Umbrella joins JEF, one question is how to ensure that the structure is volunteer-led.</p> <p>Students for the European Future is an organisation that was created in September, and for example arranges demonstrations in Tbilisi. They have gathered traction on social media, and crowdfunded a field trip to Brussels which received local TV coverage. In case Students for the European Future joins JEF, one question is how to ensure the sustainability of the organisation.</p>	<p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juuso to continue discussions to assess their democratic structures and how much federalist they are
<p>10. Brussels event for promoting EurHope - May - Words of Europe</p> <p>For 29 May, Judit presented a proposal for a one-day, funded event in Brussels where JEFers active with the EurHope campaign and with the Words of Europe project would take part.</p> <p>The event would be hybrid.</p>	<p>Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EB to push sections to register of contact persons for the EurHope campaign - Judit to continue working on the proposal
<p>11. EYE 2023</p>	<p>Decision:</p>

EYE will take place in Strasbourg on 9 - 10 June. Inês follows EYE from the Secretariat. Inês, Andrew, Michela, Alex and Erica will go, while Judit is still reflecting.

At EYE, we will host several events:

- A permanent small tent
- A big tent where events are hosted
- Events inside the tent: 1 event on the first day, 2 events on the second day
- European Bench launch

JEF Estonia is working with JEF Europe to organise one of the panels during EYE. Due to miscommunication, the session was already published on the official EYE programme, without JEF-Estonia already knowing. However, the event is a great opportunity for JEF Estonia to gain international exposure and JEF Europe will assist in the preparation.

EB discussed which EB members can join EYE. Ideally, we would have 4 - 5 EB members, and through JEF Europe's grant for managing its activities at EYE, there's financing available. Knut, Christelle and Juuso have already said they will go, joined by Antonio and Gergana.

- **EB members to communicate as soon as possible whether they will join EYE**

12. AOB

a. Defence of Democracy package

As circulated by email, CSE is collecting signatures to address Von der Leyen requests about the Defence for Democracy package. In particular they ask:

- on the basis of the information published, the proposal for "a legal instrument introducing common transparency and accountability standards for interest representation

Decisions:

- a. Defence of Democracy package
- **Christelle will sign on behalf of JEF.**

services directed or paid for from outside the EU” should not be pursued;

- a fundamental rights impact assessment should be considered ahead of any legislative proposal; and
- an open and structured dialogue must be ensured with all stakeholders, in particular all proposals or review of legislation affecting civil society must be prepared in close dialogue with civil society.

b. Work Plan debrief

Judit and Christelle attended the Budapest seminar on civic space activism. Good work from Michela and Alex.

The demonstration on women under pressure was a success, a woman from Iran even joined the protest.

We had participants from different countries in which democracy is under pressure or attack, which raised the need for established guidelines on how to protect them rather than ad-hoc measures.

c. EU Youth Sounding Board

We have the chance to nominate candidate(s) for the EU Youth Sounding Board on EU external relations. Christian Wilmer from JEF Germany has taken the initiative to seek membership of the board. His profile has been shared with the EB members.

d. World Forum for Democracy: Call for Initiatives

The World Forum for Democracy will happen on 8 November. By 15 June, we can submit a

b. Work Plan debrief

- **Christelle to prepare guidelines to protect activists in JEF activities**

c. EU Youth Sounding Board

- **JEF Europe to support Christian’s application, Christelle will sign the letter of recommendation.**

d. World Forum for Democracy: Call for Initiatives

- **Christelle and the next Policy Officer to submit, in May/June, a proposal**

proposal for having a JEF initiative presented at the event.

e. Communication strategy update

The Communication Strategy has been sent to the EB for review and approval. The EB has also received an extensive analysis of social media statistics on JEF-Europe accounts.

JEF Europe's TikTok account is to be launched on 9 May.

We might revise visual identity during the summer.

f. EB meeting in Berlin

Travels can be booked for the meeting (2 - 4 June).

g. JEF Cyprus

Knut reported on JEF Cyprus's situation JEF Cyprus is asking for access to use the JEF logo and other basic resources, like an email address. Knut and Andrew will have a meeting with the team, and if the meeting goes well, we would give access to JEF Cyprus.

h. Sofia seminar speaker

Gergana gave an update about the JEF Bulgaria seminar. Themes for a JEF Europe intervention (Saturday morning) include EurHope, and CoFoE follow-up: we need a speaker.

i. Federalist Academy: European School on Memories

e. Communication strategy update

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f. EB meeting in Berlin

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g. JEF Cyprus

h. Sofia seminar speaker

- **Antonio will present EurHope.**

i. Federalist Academy: European School on Memories

- **EB members are encouraged to promote the seminar among their networks.**

So far, very few applications have been submitted for the seminar. Applications close on 25 April.

Juuso and Helena have agreed to read through the applications after the deadline.

j. Pending tasks

- Everyone: fill in the DuP report for your sections
- Christelle: find a participant for the YFJ academy
- Robin: EB travel Excel sheet
- Robin: update financial guidelines
- Robin/Judit: update fundraising strategy
- Judit: reflection questions for growth strategy

j. Pending tasks

The EB meeting closes at 22:56pm CEST.