



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS

JEF Europe | Young European Federalists

Budapest, 10 November 2024

Internal resolution: A solidarity travel fund to support the participation of JEFers to statutory events

Submitted by the Executive Board of JEF-Europe

In the context of a continuous effort to promote the accessibility and inclusiveness of the statutory events of JEF Europe, and taking into account the social responsibility of JEF Europe as an organisation of young people, the solidarity travel fund has been established. Its goal is to mitigate the difficulty of some members and some sections to be actively involved in the procedures of the statutory events of JEF Europe.

JEF-Europe,

- Recalling that JEF Europe has had a Solidarity Travel Fund since 2018, in order to provide participants with fewer opportunities a partial or total reimbursement of the travel costs needed to attend JEF Europe statutory events;
- Noting that the Solidarity Travel Fund has become a widely used tool and a JEF tradition, as participants from all regions of Europe have consistently been applying for support in big numbers and as many of our most active members have been motivated for their JEF engagement through their participation at statutory events that they joined thanks to it;
- Emphasising that fair chances for the full participation of all our members, individual and sections, in the democratic structures and network activities of JEF Europe is of crucial importance for the development, strength and sustainability of our movement;
- Noting that before the adoption of the Solidarity Travel Fund several sections were persistently unable to participate at JEF Europe statutory events due to financial reasons, and that the Solidarity Travel Fund has resulted to a major improvement of this situation ever since;

- Considering the high socio-economic disparity in Europe as well as among individual JEF Europe members, but also the disparity of financial resources and of number of members among the JEF sections;
- Considering the fluctuating travel costs that occur for the participation of members in the statutory events of JEF Europe due to the constant change of place where they are organised;
- Taking into account that participation at statutory events of JEF Europe is an important part of the JEF experience and has often been a factor that increased the motivation of volunteers on the local, regional, national, and European level;
- Taking note of the solidarity mechanisms introduced by other youth organisations, such as the European Youth Forum, LYMEC, the Erasmus Student Network or AEGEE;

JEF Europe therefore:

1. Welcomes the continued operation of the Solidarity Travel Fund by the Executive Board, financed through the annual budget of JEF Europe;
2. Supports the Solidarity Travel Fund as a tool to safeguard a wider participation from all over Europe to its statutory events, by striving to increase their accessibility and inclusiveness;
3. Calls on the Executive Board to continue the effort to finance the Solidarity Fund with contributions from private donors in the future;
4. Requests that the Executive Board reports on the execution of the Solidarity Fund and the application of its governance rules during the statutory meeting in which it reports on the accounts of JEF Europe;
5. Notes the guidelines outlined in Art. 6 as the basis for allocating Solidarity Travel Fund monies, which establish in a transparent manner how JEFers and sections can ask for support and how requests are evaluated by the Executive Board and Secretariat;

GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE SOLIDARITY TRAVEL FUND

6. The allocation of the Solidarity Fund must be done with the following procedure, rules and principles:
 - a. The Executive Board is to be setting up a selection committee for the Solidarity Travel Fund in time prior to the relevant statutory event; the selection committee must be composed of the secretary general, the treasurer and one EB member.
 - b. The number of people supported by the Solidarity Travel Fund will depend on the financial state of the budget of JEF Europe: allover JEF Europe aims to cover 8-12 people per statutory event. In case of a budget in deficit or planned to be in deficit or in a situation of decreasing equity, the Executive Board could decide to decrease the number of spots allocated, while in case of a good or steadily improving financial situation, the Executive Board could increase the number of spots allocated.
 - c. The selection committee shall always appoint at least one runner-up, and inform them about their position as runner-up.
 - d. The selection committee will be able to allocate monies only to members who have applied before the deadline. Later applications can only be accepted in rare and exceptional cases and under the condition that the selection process has not finished yet.
 - e. The selection committee will allocate the places taking into consideration the geographic and cultural diversity of the organization. This means that delegates from countries with low income are to be prioritised, that delegates from sections that have repeatedly not been represented recently in statutory events are to be prioritised, and that the delegates are to be chosen in a way that assures the participation of members from diverse regions of Europe in the statutory event;
 - f. The selection committee will allocate the funds taking into consideration the promotion of gender equality and of social inclusion in the organization, therefore delegates who come from particularly disadvantaged backgrounds are to be prioritised;
 - g. Delegates who applied and got an approval for the Solidarity Travel Fund in the recent past, but did not submit the documents for their travel reimbursement, therefore leading to an unused spot, are to be deprioritised in following calls – any exceptions to this must be well justified.
 - h. All statements made in the application for the Solidarity Fund are confidential, not shared with anyone not involved in the procedure, and to be trusted as truthful without request of proof for someone's financial state. Should the Selection Committee need a clarification or should a

statement appear possibly unrealistic, it is possible to ask a follow-up question and take the reply into consideration for the decision.

- i. In the case of a yearly budget with an exceptionally high equity, namely above 30.000€, firstly, an even higher number of places may be allocated, as well as, secondly, the Solidarity Fund may be expanded to non-statutory events, on a case-by-case basis.
7. Requests that the Executive Board further explore the means to ensure a sustainable financial framework concerning statutory meetings, with a long-term aim of providing travel reimbursement to all delegates.
 8. Calls on sections to consider adopting similar strategies and creating similar tools on their respective level and asks the Executive Board of JEF Europe to be at the disposal of sections in need of guidance to learn more about the good practice of the Solidarity Travel Fund on a European level.