

Winning the Federalist Battle:

**Political, United, Inspiring & Sustainable JEF
Four Years Strategy**

Political:

JEF Europe is known and recognised for its political work among many major institutional and civil society stakeholders. Especially in times of political turmoil, there are plenty of opportunities to raise JEF Europe's profile and to raise awareness about our political platform. In this respect, JEF's political work consists in its continuous long term work on political developments towards federalism through its Political Platform and through its resolutions. It also consists in our ability to react effectively and rapidly to new political developments through press releases and through communication on social and traditional media.

To this effect, JEF Europe needs to continuously seek new opportunities for political partnerships and for political impact through interaction with other civil society organisations and with institutions.

JEF also needs to keep building the political competences of its members at all levels to ensure our message is disseminated throughout Europe and to ensure our members can proactively take part in building our political message.

JEF also takes pride in its ability to foster transpartisan dialogue in Europe and should continue to do so in the future. Finally, our role as a political NGO is to provide a bridge between decision-makers and voters, younger ones in particular. Our continuous ambition to develop political and civic engagement among young people reflects this bridging role.

To achieve this, in the next four years, JEF Europe will strive to:

- Increase its level of activity and visibility on the political scene in Brussels, in particular as a partner of the European Youth Forum and interlocutor of the EP Youth Intergroup;
- Develop a strong and dynamic network of contacts within the European Parliament and the European Commission;
- Increase the political engagement of sections in defining our European strategy, in order to better represent our sections' views in Brussels;
- Participate actively in all cycles of the Structured Dialogue on youth;
- Strengthen its role as a youth think tank, in particular through the development of innovative and innovatively shaped policy ideas relevant for both JEF members and policy-makers;
- Increase the level of activity of its Political Commissions, and the engagement of volunteers within them;
- Implement and develop the Political Ambassador's Programme;
- Develop a strategy to better disseminate and use its political documents;

United:

JEF Europe is a network composed of very diverse members in size, activities, organisational cultures and political priorities. This diversity is equally a challenge and an

invaluable resource. The challenge lies in JEF Europe's ability to keep the network united, to foster exchange and communication between its members and to create a set of core common values, both in terms of political priorities and organisational culture.

The diversity of our network should be cherished as it also represents opportunities for exchange of good practices, for mutual support and for innovation.

To strengthen unity in our network, JEF Europe strives to develop engaging communication channels both horizontally and vertically, it promotes a bottom up approach in identifying and answering the needs of its members and develop the relevant tools to facilitate interaction and exchange among its members.

To achieve this, in the next four years, JEF Europe will strive to:

- Engage more strongly and more directly with its national and local sections;
- Increase the level of horizontal cooperation between sections through increased communication and exchange of good practices;
- Develop new tools and services (trainings, toolkits, workshops, etc.) with and for its sections and volunteers to ensure a smooth and sustainable running of all sections;
- Involve sections in developing this new relation between JEF Europe and its sections;
- Financially support sections and individuals coming from lower income countries to ensure their full and effective participation in JEF Europe's events and activities;
- Develop a regional cooperation strategy for its sections.

Inspiring

An inspiring network can only stem from strong and shared mission, vision and values. Based on these core principles, JEF seeks to create ownership of its future by its members, individuals and sections.

To this effect, JEF Europe ensures, by developing the right tools and by building the capacities of its members, that the experience of its volunteers at the local, national and European level is a rewarding learning experience, both personally fulfilling and professionally enriching. JEF Europe seeks to offer various opportunities to be engaged at the different level, according to one's own interest and competences. The opportunities for engagement within JEF should reflect the diversity of JEF's activities at all levels.

At the European level, JEF offers its volunteers a safe space to exercise important responsibilities and to develop a wide range of competences. These competences are not only important for the development of JEF, they are also crucial for the future civic engagement and professional development of our volunteers. Thus JEF helps its volunteers identify and develop these competences.

In order to foster strong commitment of its volunteers, JEF will seek to ensure all JEFers have a rewarding, safe and fun experience in the network.

By following these principles JEF aims to be recognised as a model for youth and political activists in Europe.

To achieve this, in the next four years, JEF Europe will strive to:

- Engage more individuals at the European level and create the condition for rewarding and inspiring volunteering experience for JEF Europe;

- Offer more opportunities for its individual members to be engaged at the European level with high level of responsibility;
- Increase the level of professionalism of its statutory meetings both logistics-wise and content-wise;
- Make JEF Europe and its sections a model for other political youth organisations and political young activists, in terms of governance and actions.

Sustainable:

In order to achieve its political goals, JEF Europe and its members must ensure their organisational sustainability.

The financial sustainability of JEF is of the utmost importance in order to maximise its impact. JEF should always proactively look for new and diverse source of fundings in order to cover its organisational expenses and to increase its level of activity. Similarly, it should support its members in looking for and diversifying their sources of funding.

However, for a pan-European network like JEF Europe, the concept of sustainability goes far beyond its sole financial aspect. In order to have dynamic sections active on the long run, JEF Europe should seek to enlarge and diversify its volunteer base and it should develop the right tools to retain its volunteers (cf. Inspiring).

At the section and European levels, JEF should develop strong knowledge transfer strategy and tools, should promote the implementation of good governance principles and should communicate clearly its strategic priorities and actions.

To achieve this, in the next four years, JEF Europe will strive to:

- Develop a clear fundraising strategy to diversify its funding sources and explore the opportunity to develop its own revenues;
- Expand the secretariat in order to strengthen its capacity in terms of grantwriting, European projects and network development;
- Explore the opportunity and feasibility of having a full-time fully covered board member in Brussels;
- Support a convergence in size and growth of all its sections;
- Increase its membership to 20.000 individual paying members;
- Strengthen its presence and activities in Central and Eastern European Regions;
- Reactivate *Friends of JEF*;
- Increase its participation as a leader and partner in EU-funded projects (Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Horizon 2020, etc.);
- Develop, promote and implement good governance principles at all levels of the network.