



YOUNG
EUROPEAN
FEDERALISTS
BELGIUM

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



OVERVIEW

Board Members 2019

- President: Ine Tollenaers
- Secretary General: Marco-Antonio Berti
- Treasurer: Elisa Löwe
- International Officer: Anna-Lena Sender
- Project Officer: Hélène Decottigny
- Board Member: Lorenz Remy
- Appointed Board Member: Thilo Buchholz
- Appointed Board Member: Francesco Violi

Local Sections 2019

- JEF Brussels
- JEF Liège
- JEF Louvain-La-Neuve
- JEF Leuven
- JEF Ghent [inactive]

Membership 2019

- 80 members of JEF Belgium in total
- Male: 49 (61%), Female: 31 (39%)

Online Presence 2019

- Website: <https://jefbelgium.eu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JEFersbelgium/>
2.690 followers
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jef_belgium/
841 followers
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JEFBelgium>
2.159 followers
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/jef-belgium/>
104 followers

BOARD MEETINGS



The board met roughly every two weeks in Brussels or online (via Discord). Every meeting was prepared with an agenda, available on the JEF Belgium shared folder (Google Drive) and documented with minutes and a to-do-list in the same online document.

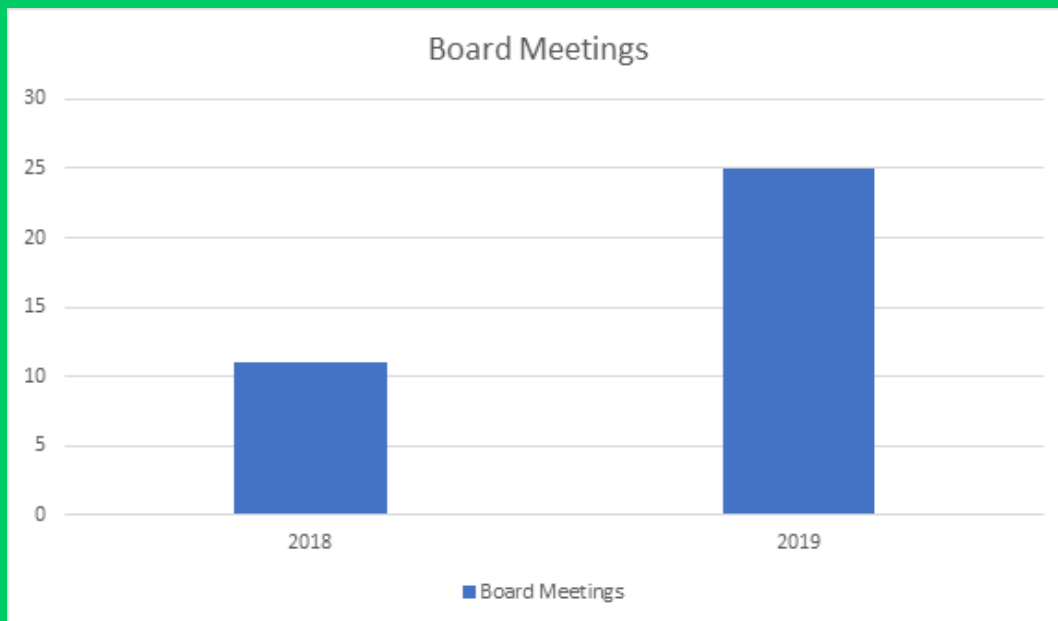
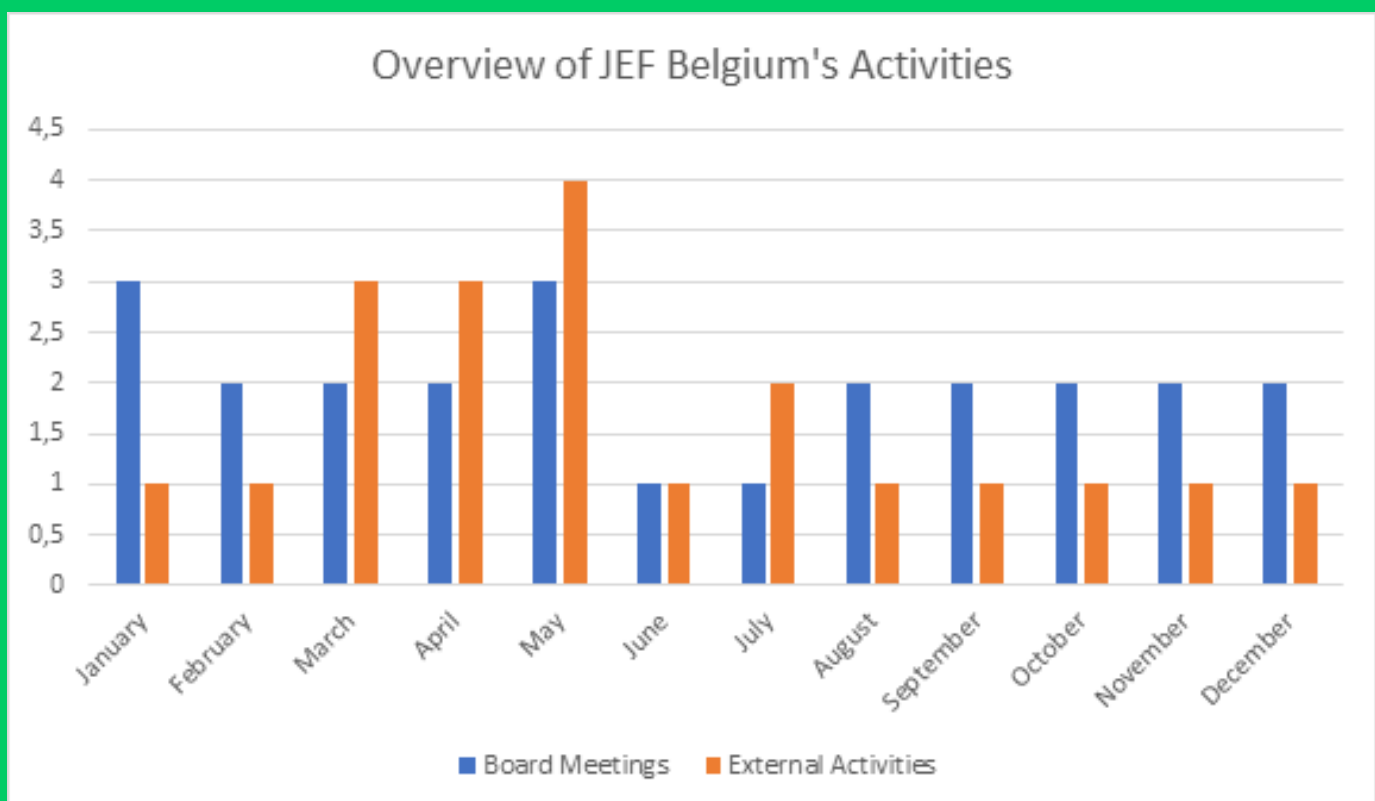


FIGURE 1. (TO THE LEFT)

There is a significant increase of board meetings from 11 in 2018 to 25 in 2019.

FIGURE 2. (BELOW)

The regular board meetings ensured a constant organisation of external activities.



EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES



- 01/19 - JEF Belgium General Assembly 2019
- 02/19 - EYT-RTF Training in Struga, North Macedonia
- 03/19 - Workshop at "EU for Youth" event at ULB > Carrière Jeunesse
- 03/19 - EYT-RTF Workshop at European Youth Exchange in Paris
- 03/19 - Participation at the Federal Committee in London
- 04/19 - European Elections Social Media Campaign
- 04/19 - Strategic Board Weekend in Coö
- 04/19 - Political debate with 5 EP candidates "Which Europe to choose?"
- 05/19 - Stand at "Open EU Day" at the European Commission
- 05/19 - Stand at Iris Festival in Brussels
- 05/19 - Participation at the European Election Night
- 06/19 - EYT-RTF Training for Trainers in Berlin
- 07-08/19 - Federalist Summer "picnics" in Brussels
- 09/19 - Workshop at Jubel Festival in Brussels
- 10/19 - JEF Belgium Federal Committee Meeting
- 10/19 - Participation at the European Congress in Paris
- 11/19 - JEF Belgium Training Days in Leuven
- 12/19 - Social Media Campaign for new board 2020

KICK-OFF SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



In order to present the newly elected board, to attract new followers on social media and to draw attention to the updated website, JEF Belgium launched a campaign on Facebook and Instagram. The campaign was also successfully used for a post on International Women's Day as well as to publish a call for a communication officer – a position, which has sadly not been filled in the board throughout the year 2019.



Ine
President



Marco - Antonio
Secretary - General



Elisa
Treasurer



Anna
International Officer



Hélène
Political Officer



Lorenz
Project & IT Officer



CARRIÈRE JEUNESSE



At the Jobday "Carrière de Jeunesse" at Université Libre de Bruxelles, JEF Belgium had a **stand** to inform about possibilities and benefits to get involved in JEF.

JEF Belgium also organised a **workshop** about professional opportunities for young people, funded by the European Union, to do an internship or voluntary service abroad. It was a tremendous success: over 90 registrations online and a full house during the workshop itself.



CARRIÈRE JEUNESSE 2019

EMPLOIS, STAGES,
ASSOCIATIONS, CARRIÈRES

AU PROGRAMME :

12:30-14:00

Conférence: La précarisation
de l'emploi et l'exploitation
des jeunes à Bruxelles

15:00-17:00

Workshops:

- 1) Opportunités professionnelles à l'étranger
- 2) Faire un stage dans une institution européenne - Bluebook, Schuman et au Conseil
- 3) L'importance de son réseau relationnel pour une recherche d'emploi
- 4) Faire une carrière européenne
- 5) Les élections européennes 2019 - This time I'm voting

14:00-18:00

Forum (Stands d'associations et de professionnels)

Plus d'informations sur Facebook: Carrière Jeunesse 2019

Bâtiment K
15 Mars 2019



EYES ON
EUROPE



FC LONDON



JEF Belgium participated with 1 national delegate and a group of observers in the spring Federal Committee (FC) of JEF Europe in London.

Generally, the FC meetings include debating and voting on resolutions, working in groups for task forces and political commissions. This time, there was also a debate with Sandro Gozi, the President of UEF, as well as a demonstration against Brexit.



I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



After a first **project-related training** in Struga from 2-9 February, JEF Belgium also participated in the **European Youth Exchange** from 13-17 March in Paris, where the campaign "I choose Europe" was officially launched. The Belgian delegation conducted two workshops.



Right afterwards, JEF Belgium launched its "I choose Europe" social media campaign on **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**.

The first part of the campaign portrayed Belgian candidates to the European Parliament, asking them four different questions in either Dutch or French:

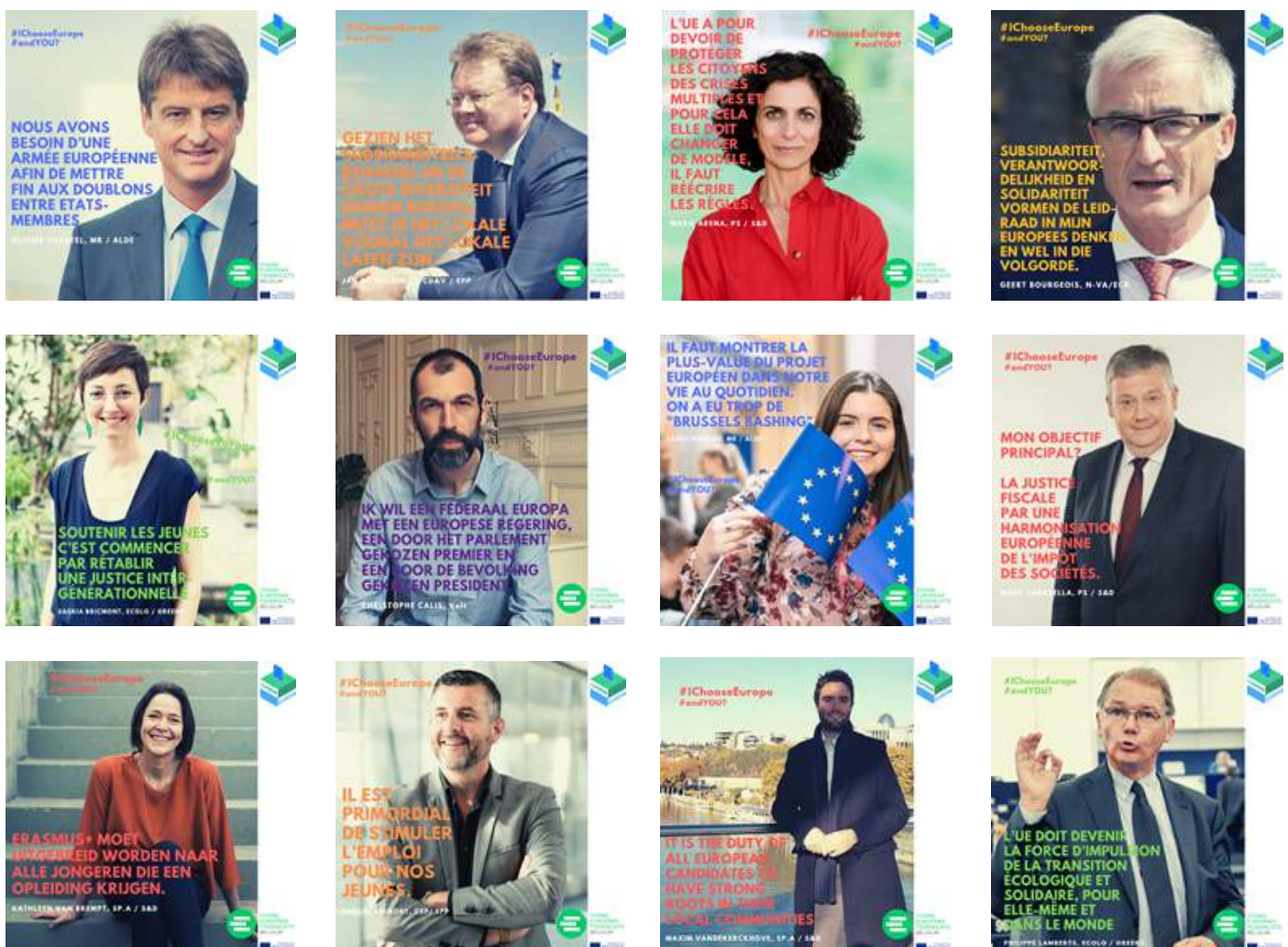
- 1) **Are you enthusiastic about European federalism - and why?**
- 2) **What is your main goal to achieve for European citizens as a future MEP?**
- 3) **How would you, at the European level, contribute to solving local issues?**
- 4) **How can we better support youth on EU level?**



I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



The first part of the social media campaign presented 14 candidates from 6 different political parties in Belgium.



Seven of them were elected as Members of the European Parliament, representing five different European groups (**EPP, Greens, Renew Europe, ECR and S&D**).

The second part of the social media campaign consisted of 14 posts, reflecting the final countdown of the last 14 days in the run-up to the European Elections on 26 May 2019. The posts were made in English, Dutch and French – based on the document “**14 Steps for a better Europe**” from the JEF Manifesto.

I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



The main event before the European Elections, organised by JEF Belgium, was the political debate with five different candidates about their vision and priorities for the future of Europe. The event took place when the I choose Europe bus tour had its final stop in Brussels.



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BELGIAN EP CANDIDATES DEBATE

WHICH EUROPE TO CHOOSE?

BRUSSELS | 30 APRIL | 6.30-8.00 PM

AGENDA:

- Introduction with latest Eurobarometer results
- Project presentation "I choose Europe"
- How to vote in Belgium (focus on first-time voters & newcomers)
- Debate with 5 EP candidates from 5 parties
- Questions from local sections & the audience
- Candidates signing the "I choose Europe" pledge

I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



Further pre-Elections activities by JEF Belgium took place in form of stands at the **Open EU Day** on 4 May at the European Commission, at the **Iris Festival** on 4 and 5 May as well as for **Europe Day** on 9 May at the Roundabout Schuman. On Europe Day, JEF Belgium also moderated a debate table at an event for first-time voters, organised by VUB and ULB, at the Belgian Parliament on 9 May.



I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



At the night of the European Elections, JEF Belgium joined the stand of JEF Europe and UEF in front of the European Parliament to be present among other important, European and Belgian civil society organisations, to join the Europe-wide digital exchange on the preliminary results of the Elections, sharing the perspective from Belgium, and finally, to celebrate the end of the campaign!



Seats by political group: 2019-2024

Belgium - Constitutive session

Political groups in the European Parliament	Number of seats
GUE/NGL	1
S&D	3
Greens/EFA	3
Renew Europe	4
EPP	4
ECR	3
ID	3

Political groups in the European Parliament

EPP - Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

S&D - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Renew Europe - Renew Europe group

GUE/NGL - Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left

Greens/EFA - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

ID - Identity and Democracy

NI - Non-attached Members

European Election Night Live!

Sunday 26 May 2019



choose your future



FEDERALIST SUMMER



For three summer afternoons, we met up in the park to discuss European federalism, among others on the Belgian National Day. What's the link? European Federalism is all about bringing the European institutions closer to citizens in Belgium and all across Europe, and making them more democratic. The "picnic" started with an input part from one invited guest speaker, followed by informal discussions and sun bathing.



I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



The second, **post-Election phase** of the I choose Europe project built on the momentum created to ensure a longer perspective on European-oriented youth participation.

Based on the immense learning experience from the **Training for Trainers** from 22-29 June at Werbellinsee (Berlin), JEF Belgium developed a workshop concept to train young people in **advocacy and federalism**. This concept was tested and adopted at the European Democracy Festival "Jubel", of which JEF Belgium was one of the partners.

The workshop "Game of Thrones - how to organise democracy" took place on 7 September.

jubel festival

- **NAME OF THE WORKSHOP:** "Game of Thrones - how to organise democracy"
- **DESCRIPTION:** This workshop introduces the participants to the notion of federalism in a playful way, starting with topics produced by the participants themselves (which are dear to their heart). The workshop will be held with a lot of flexibility and room for further inspiration regarding the results. The aim of the workshop is to equip the participants with the main idea of the political concept as a way for how the world can work better together, from the local to the global level.
- **WHO WILL CONDUCT THE WORKSHOP?**
Anna-Lena Sender, Policy officer of JEF Belgium & certified youth trainer
Lauren Mason, JEF Brussels (tbc)
- **WHO IS THE TARGET GROUP?**
People of all age groups and from all possible backgrounds with a general interest in Europe and politics, who want to make sense of the term "multi-level governance".
- **WHAT MATERIAL IS NEEDED?**
7 Flipchart sheets, 7 colourful paper cards, 3 tables or flipchart stands, a wall to pin flipcharts on, depending on final PAX number [30] chairs & colourful pens
- **WHAT IS THE FORMAT?**
Mix of world cafe, debate game & voting with your feet
- **SKETCH:**
 - 1) World Café/ around 3 tables with post-its (A: What do you love about Europe? B: What worries you about Europe? C: What do you wanna change in Europe?)
 - 2) Plenary: wrap-up & introduction of cards with current policies and transition to different policy levels for debate game (participants will be split into 4 groups)
 - 3) Moderated debate game about which policies to put on which policy level & voting with your feet.
 - 4) Conclusion & introduction of the term federalism
 - 5) Q&A



I CHOOSE EUROPE 2019



The main event of the second, **post-Election phase** of the I choose Europe project, organised by JEF Belgium, was the weekend from 8-10 November, when the "JEF Belgium **Training Days** 2019" took place in Leuven!

The event was definitely the annual highlight of JEF Belgium and a very rewarding experience with around 40 participants from across Belgium and beyond, 5 workshop sessions à 2 different workshops, conducted by 12 amazing trainers in total.

Workshop topics:

- (1A) Federalism? - "help me get started!"
- (1B) In-depth federalism - different understandings & perspectives¹
- (2A) Capacity building & membership outreach
- (2B) Advocacy & activism
- (3A) Why you hate newsletters but like the news and love a letter
- (3B) Raise and spend your first 1,000€
- (4A) ABC for Local Sections - Structures, Duties & Rights
- (4B) Let's do this ! The know-how of Successful Project Management
- (5A) Opportunities in JEF at the European level
- (5B) Hands-on federalism applied to current affairs: the case of Climate Change

The Trainings Days were framed by the idea of providing the opportunity, space and time for each participant to develop their own action - beginning with warm-up questions on Friday and finishing with a session on Sunday morning on how to write an **action plan**.





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TRAINING DAYS 2019

Leuven | November 8-10

www.jefbelgium.eu



EUROPEAN CONGRESS



JEF Belgium participated with 2 national delegates and a group of observers in the European Congress of JEF Europe in Paris; including the incoming and outgoing FC meetings. The European Congress, where the new FC and the board of JEF Europe are elected, only takes place every two years. The next one will be held in 2021 in Brussels.

At the Congress, the president of JEF Belgium of 2019, Ine Tollenaers, was successfully elected as member of the European Federal Committee. Her main task in this body is to chair the "Political Commission on External Affairs and Global Europe" (PC3).

JEF Belgium's international officer of 2019, Anna-Lena Sender, took over Ine's previous job on the national level as acting president of JEF Belgium for the rest of the term.





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