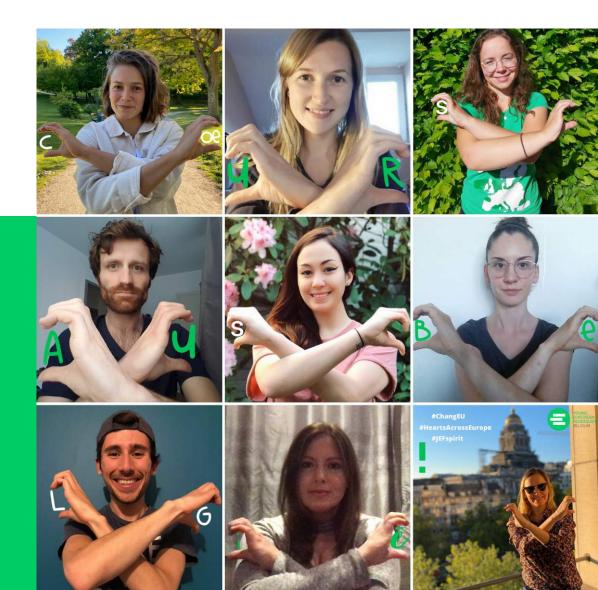


ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



OVERVIEW

Board Members 2020

- President: Anna-Lena Sender
- Secretary General: Elisa Löwe
- Treasurer: Elisa Löwe/Sophie Lemahieu
- International Officer: Lauren Mason
- Policy and Project Officer: Nicolas Hubert
- Communications Officer: Pauline Laloux
- Communications Officer: Gabriella Bestercy
- Membership Officer: Ine Tollenaers
- Board Member: Charles Coudoré
- Appointed Board Member: Bastien Deresteau

Local Sections 2020

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

Membership 2020

- 80 members of JEF Belgium in total
- Male: 43, Female: 34, Other: 3

Online Presence 2020

- Website: https://jefbelgium.eu/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/JEFersbelgium/
 2.860 followers [+6,3% compared to 2019]
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jef_belgium/
 1.009 followers [+20% compared to 2019]
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/JEFBelgium
 2.214 followers [+2,5% compared to 2019]
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/jef-belgium/
 144 followers [+39% compared to 2019]

BOARD MEETINGS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the national board met 1-2 times per month in Brussels or online; depending on the given restrictions.

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.



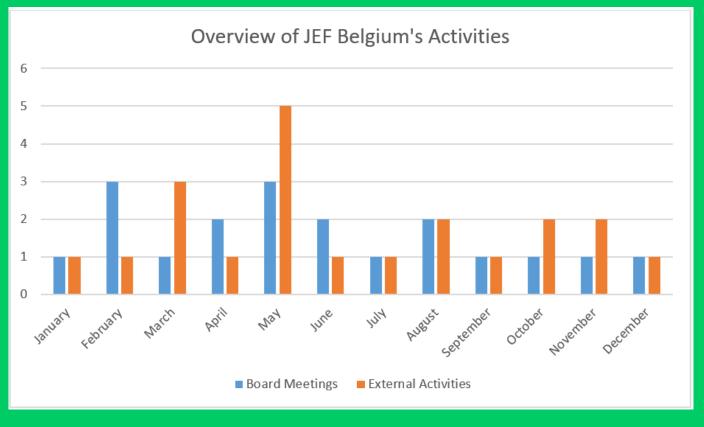


FIGURE 1. (TO THE LEFT)

Amount of board meetings from 2018 (11) over 2019 (25) to 2020 (19).

FIGURE 2. (BELOW)

The regular board meetings ensured the organisation of a relatively high level of external activities despite the pandemic.



EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES



- 01/20 JEF Belgium General Assembly 2020 in Brussels
- 02/20 Press release to Belgian MEPs and journalists on MFF negotiations
- 03/20 JEF Belgium Federal Committe Meeting in Brussels
- 03/20 Participation in the *Democracy under Pressure* campaign
- 03/20 Y-FED project online training, 1st part
- 04/20 Participation at the Spring Federal Committee online
- 05/20 Activities around Europe Day:
 - Joint letter with UEF Belgium to Belgian MEPs and MPs
 - Video contest "Celebrating Europe Day together"
 - Online seminar "What is the link between federalism and community?"
 - Participation in social media action #HeartsAcrossEurope
- 05/20 Y-FED project online training, 2nd part
- 06/20 Joint online seminar with JEF Germany "Imagining Federalism"
- 07/20 Federalist Summer (picnic with speaker) in Brussels
- 08/20 Participation at the JEF Europe FinFun Federal Committee
- 08/20 Joint social media action "Fly your flag against Vlaams Belang"
- 09/20 Y-FED Hackathon in Liège
- 10/20 JEF Belgium Federal Committee Meeting in Brussels/online
- 10/20 Participation at the Autumn Federal Committee online
- 11/20 Online event with the JEF CoE group on the US presidential election
- 11/20 "Europeaschool new directions" training & creation of a project group
- 12/20 JEF Belgium Training Days online

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE



As the entire national board has already been equipped with consistent email addresses (firstname.lastname@jefbelgium.eu) - flanked by several **functional email addresses** for president, secretary-general and treasurer; further addresses such as "membership@jefbelgium.eu" as well as the group address "board@jefbelgium.eu" - this was **extended to all local sections**.

In addition to personal email addresses, following the same principle, the board members of each local section are now equally working with a group email address, such as "brusselsejefbelgium.eu".

The same was implemented for the directly elected **Federal Committee** members of JEF Belgium: personal email addresses, complemented by the group address "fc@jefbelgium.eu", which combines the national board members, the directly elected FC members as well as 1-2 representatives of each local section.

Mirroring the new email structure, several **shared folders** have been established for the national board, the board of each local section as well as the Federal Committee members.







ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

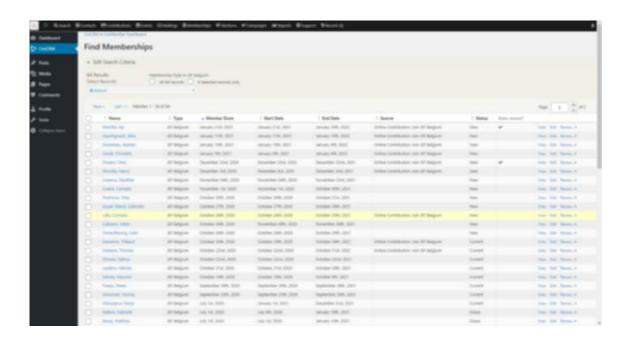


On top of that, we have collaborated closely with JEF Europe to pilot a **new membership management system**. Going hand in hand with the membership system is a handbook to explain all the basic features to new boards and local sections. Introductory videocalls will be scheduled with the new board and local sections.

The **benefits** in a nutshell:

- Previously, members joining in September 2021 would have had to renew in January 2022, only three months after joining. The new system will only ask members to rejoin 1 year
 after they have initially joined (September 2022 in this example).
- Membership confirmations and renewal reminders can be **automated**, reducing the burden on the treasurer/membership officer.
- Local sections have direct access to their membership data.
- Mailchimp has become redundant, as **newsletters** can be sent out through the system.
- No hassle with excel files any longer, membership data is safely kept in the GDPR compliant system.
- Members can opt to **automatically renew** their membership each year.

Once the pilot phase is finished, it will be rolled out to other JEF sections across Europe. JEF Belgium is truly taking the **#AGenerationAhead** motto at heart.

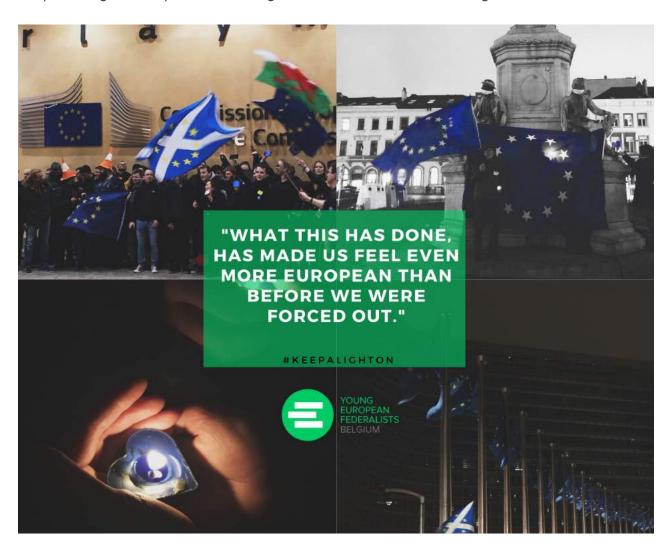


#KEEPALIGHTON



The mandate of the new national board started with the devastating political event of the United Kingdom officially leaving the EU as a member state on 31 January 2020. "The European project is something that we need to be a part of. Not because it's 'economically viable', but because we believe it's right. For education, for research, for peace and prosperity for the whole of Europe." – Powerful, moving words from a pro-EU British citizen at a gathering on the night of 31 January in front of the European Parliament, which was joined by several JEFers.

JEF Belgium international officer, Lauren Mason, together with JEF Europe Treasurer Chris Powers, and New Federalist Editor-in-chief Maddie Pitt penned an emotional letter to Michel Barnier pleading him to put citizens' rights at the heart of Brexit negotiations.



FIRST ADVOCACY ACTION



In reaction to the negotiations about the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027 of the European Union, JEF Belgium actively supported the **press release** prepared by JEF Europe – as a first advocacy action of the new national board – by translating it into French and Dutch with a Belgium–related addition, publishing it on JEF Belgium's website and social media channels as well as by sending via email it to:

- the Prime Minister, Sophie Wilmès, and her spokespersons
- the President of the European Council, Charles Michel
- the Belgian Members of the European Parliament
- a selection of Belgian journalists (EU correspondents)

In addition to this action, a general **distribution sheet** with relevant addressees of JEF Belgium's advocacy work was produced and made available to all members of JEF Belgium's Federal Committee for future activities; including contacts to the Belgian Youth Councils and youth sections of the Belgian political parties. The current list is open for further elaboration.



THE START OF THE PANDEMIC



On 30 March, in the Council of the EU, Belgium was the only of the 27 EU member states to abstain during a vote to approve the EU's 37 billion euro **investment in health care systems and economies** in response to the Coronavirus crisis. €37 million of the €37 billion is destined for Belgium: €16 million for Wallonia, €6.5 for Flanders, €4.3 for the Brussels Region and €9.6 million for the French Community. The Flemish nationalist party N-VA believes that this is unfair. Flanders did not accept the **distribution of the funding** and forced Belgium to abstain during the vote, since there was no agreement between the different entities of the country.

JEF Belgium published a statement, expressing its regret of the short-sightedness and lack of solidarity on the part of the Flemish nationalists. We condemned the selfish logic of 'the neighbour has more than I do'. The European Union has no losers; we are all winners provided we look beyond the cold logic of the simple European funding we receive. The extraordinary situation of the pandemic calls more than ever for more **European solidarity** for the good of all European citizens.



DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE 2020



- Wanneer machthebbers worden verleid door illiberalisme, kiezen wij voor de rechtstaat.
- Wanneer machthebbers verleid worden door autoritarisme, kiezen wij voor de democratie.
- Wanneer machthebbers verleid worden door nationalisme, kiezen wij voor Europa.
 Wij doorbreken de stilte voor diegene die het zwijgen wordt opgelegd!
- Quand ceux au pouvoir sont tentés par l'illibéralisme, choississons l'Etat de droit.
- Quand ceux au pouvoir sont tentés par l'autoritarisme, nous choisissons la démocratie.
- Quand ceux au pouvoir sont tentés par le populisme, nous choisissons l'Europe.
 Donnons de la voix pour ceux qui n'en ont pas!

DEMOCRACY
UNDER
PRESSURE
MARCH 16 - 22
2 0 2 0

#DEMOCRACYUNDERPRESSURE



SPRING FC







Prepared by the (still physical) meeting of the Belgian Federal Committee, JEF Belgium actively participated with one national delegate, Anna-Lena Sender, and a group of observers in the spring Federal Committee (FC) of JEF Europe online; jointly showing that the heart of our community beats louder than ever despite COVID-19.

On 4 and 5 April 2020, the biannual Federal Committee of JEF on European level was supposed to take place in Hamburg. However, facing the pandemic, the amazing JEF Europe secretariat made it possible – for the first time ever – to shift the gathering of over 100 JEFers to an online platform, where we discussed, amended and adopted several new political positions/ resolutions. A special shout-out goes to JEF Belgium's board member and former president, Ine Tollenaers, who successfully chaired the **Political Commission 3** (external affairs) with the adoption of two new resolutions on the EU's relations with Africa and the Western Balkans as a directly elected FC member!

A FEDERAL EUROPE WILL NOT BE PUT ON PAUSE.

#FConline2020 #SeparatedbutUnited



Y-FED PROJECT TRAININGS



The project 'Y-FED: Europe is what we make of it' contributed to bring the EU closer to its young citizens by developing a proposal for an improved institutional framework of the Union in line with the European Youth Goals.

First Training: 19-22 March 2020

Despite national confinement measures, organisers of the future "Shape Europe Hackathons" from Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Italy and Latvia gathered online to develop their skills in **nonformal education, inclusivity and project management**, and launch their respective national activities. The beginning of the most stimulating and ambitious project in 2020!



Second Training: 22-23 May 2020

After the theory, the practice! Participants discussed the **concrete implementation of the project**, presented their hackathon plans and got feedback from the trainers in order to improve them and above all had the opportunity to reflect together on how to adapt the activities to the COVID situation.

EUROPE DAY ACTIVITIES



Joint JEF Belgium and UEF Belgium letter

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, the so-called Europe Day, JEF Belgium partnered up with its national partner UEF Belgium to draft and send out a joint letter to the Prime Minister, Sophie Wilmès, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, the Belgian Members of the European Parliament as well as to the Belgian Members of Parliament; respectively in Dutch or French.

Attached to the letter, we shared the orientation paper with a **proposal for ten concrete measures**, which was jointly developed by JEF Europe and UEF Europe, to exit the Covid-19 crisis in unity, peace and good health.





Friday, 8 May 2020

Dear Mrs Prime Minister,

The European Union is facing its worst crisis since the end of the Second World War. The COVID-19 pandemic is feaving profound scars on our continent. Over 250,000 people lost their lives to the virus, while millions have been infected. Our country, Belgium, is also severely affected.

The first reply to this global tragedy was a nationalistic reflex: many European countries tried to find solutions that were first and foremost aimed at protecting their own citizens. Europe's solidarity and capacity to act have been the other great victims of this virus.

Today, ahead of a special "Europe Day" that marks this year the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, we call on you to revive the spirit of the declaration to build our Union "through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity." An orientation paper, attached to this letter, will provide you with a joint proposal by UEF and JEF for ten concrete measures, both urgent and with long-term effect, to exit the COVID-19 crisis in unity, peace, and good health.

It is high time to show that European solidarity exists and that it will not leave any people or places behind. You asked all clitzens to "demonstrate good clitzenship". We agree and add: it is equally important and a responsibility for all political levels to demonstrate European clitzenship as this is the real and only sustainable essence for transnational solidarity and cooperation.

This crisis requires that we leave the past "business as usual" approach behind us. We need bold answers:

- An ambitious European plan for recovery that will drive a just ecological transition, based on the European Green Deal, and a new digital agenda;
- A Recovery Fund that is based on European Recovery Bonds, issued by the European Union and guaranteed by the EU budget to support the European economy and cohesion among member states and citizens.

The real decision for the European Union today is whether it wishes to become a federal union with a genuine federal budget. In order to make it a reality, ambitious European countries should not shy away from reconsidering the unanimity rule and to move forward together if that is not possible.





A smaller group of member states could rightfully undertake the issuance of European Recovery Bonds and the mutualisation of interest rates together in full compliance with the EU Treaties. Belgium, as one of the European Union's founding member states, has always been committed to the unification project and we hope it will be among the countries pushing the Union even further.

With the "Conference on the Future of Europe" supposed to start on Europe Day, we must not let the momentum roll past to address the necessary reshaping of our Union. The profound scars on our continent, left by the COVID-19 pandemic, are not detached from Europe's institutional set-up. A consistent solidarity and a solid capacity to act in times of crises need to be anchored at the heart of Europe's institutional nature, now more than ever.

Therefore, we must rise to the challenge of opening up this institutional debate, involving citizens and all parts of our society. We call for a clear commitment and your best efforts to start the Conference in a timely manner and with the sincere ambition to identify the political will and the necessary process to achieve it.

As Altiero Spinelli wrote in the Manifesto of Ventotene, "the road to pursue is neither sure nor certain, but it has to be pursued and it will be".

We count on you and the Belgian government to relaunch the European project.

We wish you a Happy Europe Day!

Michele Ciavarini Azzi. President of UEF Belgium

Anna-Lena Sender, President of JEF Belgium

EUROPE DAY ACTIVITIES





THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE #COFOE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ITS OFFICIAL START ON 9 MAY.

THEN THE CORONA CRISIS
HIT AND
OVERTURNED ALL PLANS.

BUT: WE STILL WANT TO CELEBRATE OUR JOINT BIG HOLIDAY, SPATIALLY APART BUT UNITED AS EUROPEAN CITIZENS.

AND: WE NEED TO REVIVE THE MOMENTUM OF DISCUSSING NECESSARY REFORMS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

ALL TOGETHER,
WE WANT TO SPREAD THIS MESSAGE
ACROSS THE CONTINENT WITH YOU!





So, WHAT TO DO?

SEND A SHORT VIDEO OF YOURSELF
IN WHICH YOU CAN ...

... (PRETEND TO)
PLAY OR SING

THE EUROPEAN ANTHEM



... DANCE (OR GOOF AROUND)
TO THE FUROPEAN ANTHEM



... OR WAVE ANYTHING SYMBOLIC FOR EUROPE, LIKE THE EU FLAG





EUROPE DAY ACTIVITIES



The 9th of May is always a busy day for all those who care about Europe! Even more so in 2020, which marked the 70th anniversary of the Schuman declaration. JEF Belgium dedicated this special day a 3-fold programme:

1) JEF Belgium video contest

As our **celebration**, we invited young people from across Belgium to send us videos of them dancing, playing an instrument or goofing around to the tune of the European anthem. We were surprised and amazed to receive entries from Germany and Bulgaria, too. (Re-)watching the video is an absolute MUST:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=external&v=1146847255653800







YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS BELGIUM

Stay tuned!

JEF Belgium is dedicating an entire day to celebrate, reflect and discuss Europe & federalism.

EUROPE DAY ACTIVITIES



2) JEF Belgium online seminar

As our **reflection**, we hosted an online seminar, moderated by Lauren Mason, to explore the link between Federalism and Community. Community is an interesting concept that includes anything from our local networks, linguistic communities in Belgium, right up to the European Communities (now the EU). JEF Belgium is convinced that the next step for moving towards a federal Europe is to develop a supranational community!



Webinar: "Celebrating Europe Day together -What's the link between federalism and community?"

Prof. Yves Dejaeghere

Coordinator of the G1000 organization and political scientist at the University of Antwerp

Keynote Speaker



Saturday 9 May, 2-3 PM



Webinar: "Celebrating Europe Day together - What's the link between federalism and community?"

Victoria Martin De La Torre

Author of the book Europe, a leap into the unknown'

Keynote Speaker



Saturday 9 May , 2 - 3 PM

MORE INFO ON WWW.JEFBELGIUM.EU

EUROPE DAY ACTIVITIES



3) Joint JEF Europe and UEF Europe event

As our **discussion**, we joined in with JEF Europe and UEF's event **#RethinkingtheUnthinkable**. This event brought together EU activists, journalists, bloggers, Youtubers and Members of the European Parliament to discuss Europe's prospects after 70 years of integration. As the Coronavirus crisis has



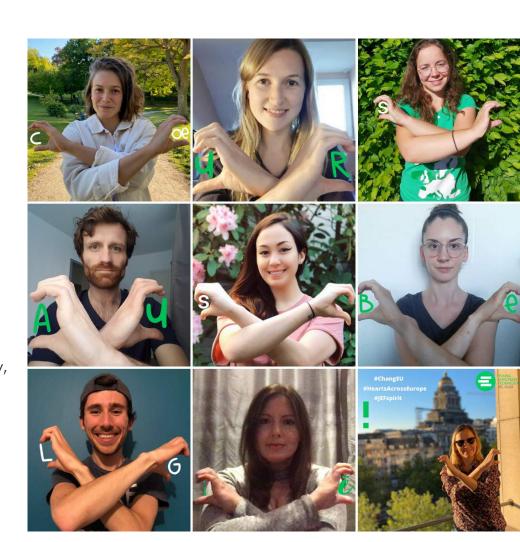
shown, Europe is facing a stark choice: a radical shift to a real political union, a federal union, or the risk of collapsing under the weight of opposing national egoism.

"Cœurs aus België"

In the run-up to Europe Day, the national board of JEF Belgium also took part in the social media campaign, run by JEF Germany under the hashtag

#HeartsAcrossEurope,

showing that we remain
European and that we still
believe in European Solidarity,
by forming a virtual chain of
hearts across the continent
- beautiful idea!



JOINT ONLINE SEMINAR



What kind of federal Europe is a realistic and goal to work towards for our future? To find out, we were joined by Junge Europäische Föderalisten – JEF Deutschland, Young European Federalists (JEF), and KU Leuven for our interactive webinar: "Imagining Federalism – From Germany and Belgium towards Europe".

With the expertise of our keynote speakers Sebastiano Putoto from JEF Europe, Laura Wanner from JEF Germany, and Karel Reybrouck from Belgium, we analysed and compared **two federalised states in the European Union**: Belgium and Germany.

After an enthusiastic discussion and open floor for Q&A, the big takeaway is that with so **many different types of federalism** that exist, still are **in development**, or have yet to be established, it's ultimately up to us to decide and shape the federal Europe we want for the future.















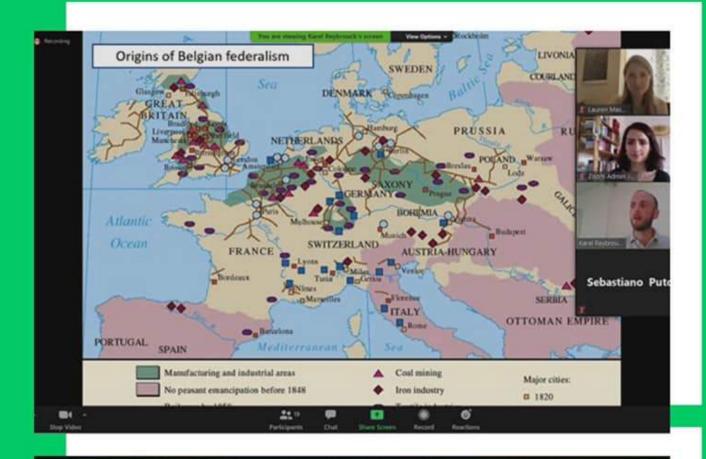






Citizenship and identity

- Citizenship: shared values give rise to a body of political rights, to be protected and exercised
- · Sense of belonging to and responsibility for a political community
- · Ability and right to influence the choice of solutions to common problems
- Democratic deficit: lack of influence of EU citizens over political choices at EU level & mismatch between problem and solution



The theory of Federalism

No.

YOUNG

- Federalism as a theory of government
 - > Previous presentations
 - > Architecture of European Federation
- · Federalism as a theory of international relations
 - > Solving conflicts by law, rather than force
- Federalism as a theory of Peace
 - Making war materially impossible
- Federalism as a political movement
 - > That's us!

FEDERALIST SUMMER



As an activity taken up from 2019, JEF Belgium organised a "Federalist Summer" picnic in Brussels. The concept? A **casual get-together** during sunny afternoons in the park, which are **open to everyone**, to discuss European federalism, how to make the EU Institutions more democratic and how to bring them closer to citizens in Belgium and all across Europe. The picnic starts with an input part from one **invited guest speaker**, followed by informal discussions and sun bathing. New proposals for picnics across Belgium wanted for 2021!



JOINT SOCIAL MEDIA ACTION





AGAINST VLAAMS BELANG



As the far-right party "Vlaams Belang" was planning a demonstration in Brussels – by car – to protest against the Vivaldi coalition* under the hashtag #nietmijnregering, JEF Belgium joint forces with several youth sections of political parties (liberals, greens, socialists and Christian democrats) for a counter-demonstration, standing up against this invasion of hate, the xenophobic and racist discourse of Vlaams Belang. To that end, JEF Belgium called on its members for wide support. How?

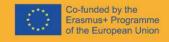
By hanging out as many Belgian flags as possible, taking pictures of it and posting them on social media under the hashtag "#KansvoorBelgie instead of #nietmijnregering".

EU, rainbow and JEF flags were equally welcomed to feature in the social media counter-action as they send an even stronger message against racism and separatism.

*Belgian term for the seven-party coalition that unites the Francophone and Flemish Liberal, Green, and Socialist parties, and the Flemish Christian Democrats











#BeTheChange #YouthifyTheEU

After several delays due to the virus and long hesitations, whether to do the two-day event physically or online, the "Youth Hacks Europe" hackathon in Liège was the culmination of several months of hard work. Yes: in the middle of a pandemic, we managed to gather 35 young people in a safe way to debate, share and change Europe with this challenge: create a structure or a solution that actively engages and empowers youth participation, incl. marginalised young people, in EU decision-making processes.

Europe is what we make of it

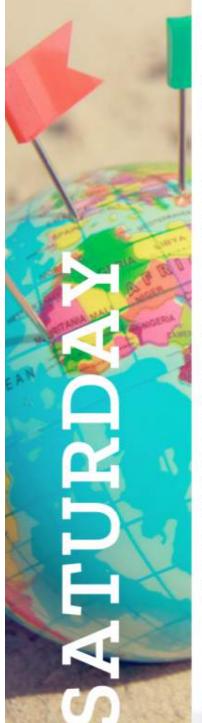












PROGRAM

Differentiated arrivals (per group of 8 participants) at 9 am. 9.00 AM 9.15 am, 9.30 am and 9.45 am

Welcome speech :

10.00 AM Surprise guest Organizers

Covid-19 measures explanation and first icebreaker games

11.00 AM Ice breaker games Challenge presentation

12.30 AM Lunch

Post-lunch energizer games

· Mrs. Saskia Bricmont, Member of the European Parliament

1.30 PM

 Mrs. Emma Farrugia, Vice-Président of JEF Europe (Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes)

· Mr. Marko Paunovic, Director of Out of the Box international

Start of the conceptualisation phase · Brainstorm on the challenges

3.00 PM

· Identification of sub-challenges

Group formation

Room distribution 4.00 PM

Coffee break with CIVIX (AsbI)

CIVIX.

5.00 PM

Conceptualisation phase

Teamwork

7.00 PM Dinner

8.00 PM

Conceptualisation phase

Teamwork

10.00 PM Fun evening













PROGRAM

Breakfast 7.30 AM Room departure

Energizer games

8.30 AM Presentation of the day

Concepting phase 9.00 AM Teamwork

10.45 AM Coffee break

11.00 AM Concepting phase

12.30 AM Lunch

Presentation/Pitching

- · Mrs. Maria Arena, Member of the European Parliament
- · Mrs. Charlotte Gugenheim, Acting head of the Representation of the European Commission in Belgium

1.30 PM

· Mr. Loic Perrin, Youth Delegate for the Structured Dialogue of the European Commission, Ambassador for "Forum des Jeunes*

Goodbye speech

· Forum des jeunes 3.30 PM

· Vlaamse Jeugdraad - to be confirmed

Celebration













These three fantastic facilitators accompanied and coached the participants during the two days of the hackathon in Liège on 26-27 September:





María is a young activist in the fields of gender equality, youth participation and inclusion & diversity. Coming from Spain, she speaks fluently English, French, Italian and Spanish. María graduated in Translation and Interpreting and Political Science, and is doing her masters on Interdisciplinary Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence.

She has been involved in different youth organisations for over 10 years, was Vice-President of AEGEE / European Students' Forum and is working at the moment as Project Officer at OBESSU and as freelance trainer, collaborating with different youth organisations such as JEF Europe and the Spanish Youth Council.





Sofia (also known as Sonja), originally from a small Estonian capital Tallinn, is a truly international citizen. After having lived in four different countries, from Russia to Switzerland, she is now residing in the heart of Europe – Brussels. Sonja holds a Master in Law Degree from the University of Zürich and KU Leuven, and has dedicated her professional and volunteering life to the EU and youth engagement.

Having witnessed the complexities of the EU decision-making during her traineeship at the European Commission and during several years working in JEF Europe Secretariat, she is now committed to bringing Europe and its policies closer to young people while working in the European Parliament.

She is also an elected member of JEF Europe Federal Committee and one of the trainers from JEF Europe's Pool of trainers.



Lieven Miguel Kandolo is an activist for topics as anti-racism, decolonisation, inclusivity and diversity. He is founder and chairman of Kolamela, a NPA for empowering young people with African descent in Vilvoorde.He is also board member of Hand in Hand tegen Racisme (Side by Side against Racism), an anti-racist NPA based in Antwerp.

He is also reporter at StampMedia since 2016. Some articles have reached bigger news media agencies like Het Nieuwsblad, VRT NWS,... In the year 2019, I had a column series with Moussa Don Pandzou, named « Yaya na Leki » (Translation: Big brother and little brother).





In order to inspire and give some food for thought to our participants, we welcomed four speakers:

- Saskia Bricmont, MEP from the French-speaking political party ECOLO/ European Greens,
 whom we had already interviewed during her candidacy for the European Elections in 2019
- Emma Farrugia, Vice-President of JEF Europe
- Alexandre Gonze & Clothilde Leonet, co-president & head of marketing of CIVIX



Following presentations from our speakers and brainstorming activities all together on how to **foster youth participation in EU politics**, participants split into 5 teams according to their interests to start the **teamwork** and designing of their solution. **C'est parti!**

















On Sunday afternoon, it was time for our participants to present their solutions to the expert jury:



Elitsa Hadzhieva

Project officer at JEF Europe Secretariat



Charlotte Gugenheim

Acting head of the Representation of the European Commission in Belgium



Academic Assistant in EU Law at UCLouvain



Loïc Perrin

Delegate for the European Youth Dialogue





After two intense days, the five teams came up with **5 creative proposals** to make Europe younger and more inclusive.





"E-you're-pe", a digital platform managed by young people for young people to centralize all existing European policies and opportunities targeting youth. Two young ambassadors per member state would act as a link between the platform, the European institutions and young European citizens.

An **obligatory quota** of young people on electoral lists for the European elections.





"YEUthopia", youth associations (JEF, ESN, the scouts, etc.), under the aegis of the European Youth Forum, would go to meet young people throughout Europe to collect their ideas to improve society. The ideas would be submitted to an online youth vote. The best ideas would then be presented at an exhibition in the European Parliament where young people themselves would present their proposals to Members of the European Parliament, EU officials and visitors.





An advisory assembly within the European Parliament composed of NGO representatives and citizens randomly selected that would advise the Parliament on issues of inclusiveness and exclusion in our society.

"YOUrope", a compulsory course in schools about Europe. This course would use the methods of non-formal education and would aim to give young people the tools to become informed, engaged and critical citizens and to engage with the European Union. The program would be managed by national Erasmus+ agencies which would send trainers to schools to train teachers.





















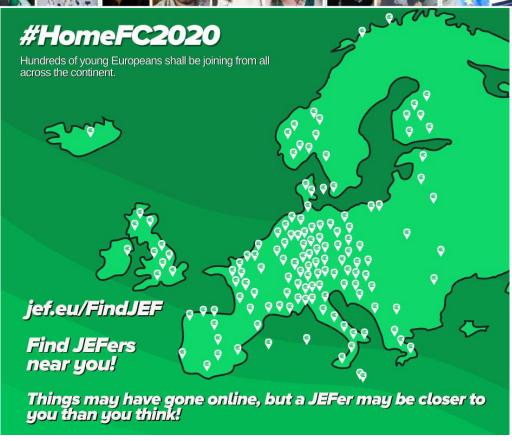
AUTUMN FC



JEF Belgium participated with one national delegate, Lauren Mason, and a group of observers in the autumn Federal Committee of JEF Europe online, from 23 –25 October.

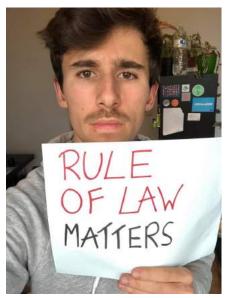
In early October, JEF Belgium organised a **hybrid Federal Committee meeting on national level** to align our positions on the resolutions being discussed – covering topics including the fight against organised crime, combating disinformation, a new electoral Act for Europe, safe food policies and EU-China relations.





FURTHER SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES











#RuleOfLawMatters

On the occasion of the European Day of Justice,
October 25th, JEF Belgium called upon the Council of
the European Union, the European Commission and
the Council of Europe to hold their respective member
states accountable in maintaining the Rule of Law.
That means that all members of society are equally
subject to the the law, and have the right to be heard
in independent courts. Special concern about the rule
of law situation in Europe was caused by the situation
in Hungary, Poland and Belarus.

#DemocracyUnderPressure

JEF BELGIUM & JEF COE JOINT ONLINE EVENT



The US presidential race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden has been the most divisive in generations. While this year's election is nation-defining for the US, it also has important effects on Europe. On 8 November, JEF Belgium hosted an online discussion about what the election results mean for Europe. From trade to the environment, security and beyond, can Europe and the US strike a common chord in the next four years? Will the US change, and if so, how? Should Europe change?

Coordinated by JEFers based at the College of Europe (CoE) in Bruges and Natolin, the panel discussion was moderated by Gabriella Bestercy (JEF Belgium) and Julia Wagner (JEF CoE) and joined by four guests:

- Lea Fanko, MA student in European Interdisciplinary Studies, CoE Natolin
- Chris Powers, Treasurer of the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe)
- Yana Brovdiy, Senior Academic Assistant in the MA Transatlantic Affairs programme, CoE Bruges
- Christian Gibbons-Smith, Global Affairs Editor of The New Federalist, 2019/20



EUROPE@SCHOOL NEW DIRECTIONS



The sanitary situation has made it complicated to carry out *Europe At School* activities this year. Nevertheless, our JEFers seized the opportunity to train themselves and attended **trainings** proposed by JEF Europe in the framework of the "Europe@School: New Directions" programme.

This project aimed at raising **youth leaders' and volunteers'** awareness about problems encountered by young people from minorities in their access to education. It also developed the skills of our members and empowered them to carry out Europe@School **activities with underprivileged young people** in the future.

- Gabrielle Goyer-Mevel (JEF Brussels) attended the training on young people with a migrant background
- Salima Slimani (**JEF Liège**) and Nicolas Hubert (**JEF Belgium**) attended the training on young people with disabilities

An **informal project group** has been created by Gabrielle and Nicolas to start school visits again when the situation allows it. A visit is already confirmed with the associtation Le Silex but the precise date remains yet to be determined, depending on the situation.













JEF BELGIUM TRAINING DAYS



All skilled up! On 4–5 December, JEF Belgium zoomed in for its annual Training Days. Keeping in the spirit of improving the skills of our members and young people, the event took place despite the pandemic – though only online and not for an entire weekend. 40 participants from across Belgium and beyond took part in 4 workshop sessions – partly with a choice of 2 different workshops, which were conducted by 12 amazing trainers in total. All topped off with a speed dating session with the Members of the European Parliament Saskia Bricmont (ECOLO/Greens) and Hilde Vautmans (VDL/Renew Europe).

(1) Who is JEF Belgium and how can you get involved?

(2) Federalism 101

Workshop topics:

(3A) Become a social media guru

(3B) Diversity training

(4A) Project management

(4B) Advocacy and activism



JEF BELGIUM TRAINING DAYS 2020

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 4/12

19:30-20:30 PM Game night

SATURDAY 5/12

10:00-10:30 AM Who is JEF Belgium and how you can

get involved?

10:30-11:30 AM Federalism 101

11:45-12:45 AM Become a social media guru

or Diversity training

14:00-15:00 PM Project management

or Advocacy and activism

15:15-16:30 PM MEP speed-dating

16:30 PM Group screenshot selfie



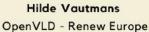


With the involvement of :



ASK YOUR QUESTIONS







Saskia Bricmont Ecolo - Greens/EFA

Would you like to gain new skills?

To talk with Members of the European Parliament?

This event is free, online, open to all

& live from your bed.

Registration form in the event description on Facebook!

JOIN US!



DUE TO THE PANDEMIC...



The **European Youth Event** at the European Parliament in Strasbourg (JEF Belgium had organised a delegation to the event) had to be cancelled as well as of the annual festivities around Europe Day: **Open EU Day, Iris Festival** and activities at the Roundabout Schuman. Further **Federalist Summer** picnics were cancelled, too...but they are to be continued in 2021!















JEF Belgium goes #EYE2020

29-50-05-20 | STRASHOURG | REGISTER BEFORE BY 20-02-20





WWW.JEFBELGIUM.EU

Also to be found on:









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The publication has not been formally edited by JEF Belgium.