

MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2019 IN LUBORZYCA / POLAND



IMPORTANT TOPICS:

Time schedule
2020

Membership
Meeting 2019

25th anniversary
of Kolping Youth
Europe

My cup of Coffee -
Youth exchange in
Mexico

72 hours campaign

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE IN MEXICO



The Paradox of Our Age

by Dr. Bob Moorehead

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet to kill.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships.

These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition. We write more, but learn less; we plan more, but accomplish less.

We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals; we have more food, but less appeasement; we build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've done larger things, but not better things.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

It is a time when there is much in the show room and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology has brought this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to make a difference, or to just hit delete!!

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember to say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember to say "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it!!

A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for someday that person will not be there again.

Give time to love, give time to speak and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Dr. Bob Moorehead is former pastor of Seattle's Overlake Christian Church. He retired in 1998 after 29 years in that post. The essay appeared in 'Words Aptly Spoken,' Dr. Moorehead's 1995 collection of prayers, homilies, and monologues used in his sermons and radio broadcasts.

Interesting activities and events in 2020

- **KOLPING-SKIMEISTERSCHAFTEN** - LIENZ, Austria: 27. February – 01. March 2020
- **„THE ECONOMY OF FRANCESCO“** - ASSISI, Italy: 26.-28. March 2020
- **FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL** - KRAKÓW, Poland: 12.-19. May 2020
- **CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY OF KOLPING EUROPE** - ESZTERGOM, Hungary: 22.-24. May 2020
- **INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT** - ESEKVADERET, Hungary: End of May 2020
- **EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT (EYE 2020) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT** STRASSBURG, France: 29.-30. May 2020
- **KYE YOUTH WEEK 2020** (planned) Summer 2020
- **25th ANNIVERSARY OF KOLPING YOUTH EUROPE** Summer 2020
- **KYE MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2020** Autumn 2020

Peace Walk 2020 in Slovenia

Kolping Youth Slovenia warmly invites youngsters from whole Europe to join the Peace Walk 2020 that takes place in Maribor from 07.05.-10.05.2020. The Peace Walk is the biggest annual event of the Kolping Society of Europe and takes place for the 52nd time.

As the regular participation fee of the Peace Walk is quite high for youngsters, Kolping Slovenia offers to join the event as a volunteer. For up to 20 volunteers, the organizers offer to take care of the accommodation, meals and promotion material such as t-shirts and backpacks. As a volunteer, you are also welcomed to arrive one day before the event starts. This offer aims to give youngsters the opportunity to join the Peace Walk, to meet Kolping members from many European countries and to get to know Slovenia.

Maribor is the 2nd biggest city of Slovenia and is located in the north-east of the country. It is known for the World's oldest grapevine and for hosting the World Cup ski race named Golden Fox. If you are interested in joining the event as a volunteer or have any questions, please feel free to contact mladi.kolping@gmail.com.

The registration for volunteers is open until 31.03.2020.



Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe



Full of positive memories, we are looking back to the Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe in Luborzyca (near Krakow), which took place between the 22nd to 24th of November 2019. More than 30 young Kolping members from 15 different countries participated and shared our experience regarding youth work in their country. But let's start from the beginning...

With a Saturday full of meetings and workshops, some of us opted to arrive on Thursday evening to take the opportunity and discover a beautiful piece of Poland on Friday. Thus, everything started on Friday morning, when we headed toward the city center and decided to join a free walking tour around Krakow; the medieval city of old, but full of young people. Many of us haven't met before and it was amazing how a

group of strangers can walk around a foreign city and get along like they have known each other since forever! That is what the power of youth consists of! Even though it was cold, Jerry's humor – our tour guide – and a delicious cup of hot chocolate was able to warm us from inside. At the end of the tour, we were all convinced that the city was amazing and that we need something to eat, quickly! The help came in form of Zapiekanka, a

Polish pizza-bread, that gave us energy to take some group pictures and head back to the Kolping house. At 6 o'clock, everybody has arrived, sane and safe and was waiting for the evening to start. It always begins with games to get to know the new people, then continues with jokes to get comfortable around each other and ends up with simple and honest discussions, when everyone feels themselves welcome in the community and free as a bird to be themselves. Everybody has a story to share and everyone needs a story to feed their spirit.

Saturday morning came too quickly, and the official meetings began. The Board of Kolping Youth Europe represented by Gellért Szabó (former president) presented the activity report of the last years and the plans for the upcoming year. Patrycja Kwapik followed by showing us the report about the financial situation. Then all the participants had the opportunity to present the youth activities of their Kolping families, which gave us the opportunity to appreciate the diversity and the particularities of each association. It showed what Kolping means to each of us and there are so many different ways, how we can involve young people in volunteering activities.

Then, the time for the elections had come. Everyone had a chance to propose and to become a candidate for the new board of KYE, but only seven would be chosen. After a calm and safe election was held (I wish it could be like that in my country...) a new board was on its way to make the Kolping community even greater. The new members are **Edona Staka (Albania)**, **Grlica Golusin (Serbia)**, **Dominik Presul (Slovakia)**, **Heinz Strässle (Switzerland)**, **Luis Saavedra (Portugal)**, **Jerzy Wolf (Poland)** and **Sven Messing (Germany)** who was also unanimously voted president in the first board meeting that followed shortly thereafter. We are very grateful for the work of the previous board members who did not candidate again to give the opportunity to others: Viktorija Erjavec (Croatia), Marko Bojin (Serbia), Henrietta Blejan (Romania) and our former president Gellért Szabó (Hungary).



After the elections, an inspiring workshop about Erasmus+, led by NGO expert Magdalena Szczudło, reconfirmed that we have creative and amazing ideas for changing the world through good practices and how easily things could be done if the „elders” trusted us more. And why not? We have proved that we are the best agents of change, we are the leaders of the revolutions and at the



Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe



same time the peace ambassadors; we are the bridge-builders between communities. It is enough to light one candle and it will light thousands of others. Our time is not somewhere in the future, our time is the present! But before pretending to change the world, give us a chance! Give us the space, the means, and the time. We are hungry for changes, but we do not have the opportunities. We want you to engage us more seriously through honest competition and joint efforts!

In the evening, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Kolping Youth Europe. Everyone brought traditional dishes

and drinks from their countries: from homemade chocolate and sausages, to gingerbread and "laknur" – a mouthwatering delicacy from Albania! And after tasting everything the orange party began: we were dancing to all the traditional songs one by one, having group pictures and laughing out loud while enjoying the time together, because we are young and beautiful and also ready to be a role model in society.

On Sunday morning we all woke up, not realizing that this amazing event was about to end, and everyone had to go back to their home country. But we were sure that we keep the memories and motivation that this meeting gave us in our hearts to share it back home.

"Dziekuje bardzo" to our hosts from Kolping Poland for their hospitality, to our youth adviser Patrycja for her huge organizational support and to everyone who was there because youth is the answer!

Edona Staka



Kolping Youth Europe starts to celebrate 25th anniversary



Kolping Youth Europe connects active Kolping youngsters across the Europe and this aim is about to be fulfilled already 25 years.

Including all Kolping society guidelines and the heritage of blessed Adolph Kolping, Kolping youngsters are really important members of Kolping world, as well as of their local and national societies. They are one of the change holders, trying to discover and work on needs of a time they live and work in. Social awareness and inner wish to be a change in a world is common to all Kolping youngsters.

Throughout 25 years this connections among Kolping youngsters across the Europe have been growing and improving through different types of activities. Since the year 2013, Kolping Youth Europe has an official Youth officer and since then this fact has helped to make things in Kolping Youth world across the Europe better, bigger,

stronger, more recognizable, specific. Both Youth officer and Kolping Youth Europe Board have been working more since then on getting to know the situation in each European country where Kolping Youth is active. Aim to develop and implement different projects for European Kolping youngsters was so far supported from different European donors, including European Commission. This has been a strong input and possibility to connect youngsters "on the spot", where they were developing their different soft skills, project management skills, exchanging their experiences, activities, ideas, starting new connections and projects. Beside national societies and their support, Kolping Youth Europe as an organisation definitely helped to all countries but to some countries more with their advices, ideas and support too. This fact is being confirmed from the youngsters from those countries and an improvement of activities speaks for itself too. Sure that no improvement would be made if there would not be interested youngsters, ready to act. In general, perspective group of interested and motivated youngsters has been formed during the last 6 years and definitely this is a significant way of growing and improving of Adolph Kolping's way and endeavor. This incredible network of friendships and in many cases collaborative groups is being built and has its tendency of growth. Hopefully it will continue to grow and make new importance and recognition both on national levels and on European level, for many years more, not just for another 25 years.

Viktorija Erjavec



Kolping Bamberg meets Kolping Prague

A youth meeting of Kolping Bamberg and Kolping Prague took place in a project supported by the German-Czech Future Fonds in October 2019. During the four days of the youth meeting, the participants learned a lot about the history of Czech Republic during the Velvet Revolution in 1989, got to know each other's Kolping activities and met a former high-level politician.

Pavel Jajtner was already politically active during the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and met the participants of the project during a workshop in the Kolping House of Prague. He is the founding president of the Kolping Society of Czech Republic, was Member of the Czech Parliament in 1992 and represented his country later as an ambassador in Austria, Morocco and the Vatican. In his impressive

speech about his experience as an ambassador in Morocco, he stressed the need for global action against poverty and environmental degradation and motivated the participants to stand for Christian values in today's society.

During the exchange about each other's Kolping activities, Jana Zemanova provided insight into the activities of Prague's Kolping House that was founded by her more than 20 years ago. The Kolping House serves as a women's shelter and mainly targets mothers with their children, helps families that experience a crisis and supports their social integration. After the German participants asked plenty of questions concerning the Kolping House and other activities of Kolping in Czech Republic, Kolping Youth Bamberg shared their experience in youth work. Sven



Messing, former leader of Kolping Youth Bamberg and board member of Kolping Youth Europe, presented some successful projects from the previous years: The social campaign "Total sozial 2015" (awarded with the German Kolping Youth Prize), the European Youth Week 2017 in Nuremberg (with participants from 15 different countries) and the 72-hours-campaign 2019 (see other article in this newsletter).

Besides this intensive workshop and the intercultural exchange in the evenings, the German participants also had the occasion to learn about the history of Prague and the Czech Republic. Due to the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, this part of the history was of particular interest for the participants of the project. In September 1989, more than 4.000 refugees from Eastern Germany gathered in Prague in the Embassy of Western Germany. The announcement of the Western German Foreign Minister from the Embassy's balcony that they will be allowed to emigrate, was a key event

during the peaceful revolution in Germany. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, huge demonstrations in Prague led to an end of the communistic government in Czechoslovakia and resulted in the first democratic elections since several decades. As the participants of the youth meeting were born after or shortly before these events, this revision was very impressive and showed how closely the history of their both countries is related.

Sven Messing



Results of the PHOTO CONTEST

The winner of the Photo Contest of Kolping Youth Europe is **Vasyl Gasiy** from Ukraine. The picture was taken in Cologne, Germany on 23.07.2019 especially for the Photo Contest.

Vasyl described the picture:

- K** cooperation of people around the world
- O** open for everybody who wants to join our family
- L** love to the neighbor
- P** positive emotions which we share with others
- I** interesting events where we can get new experience
- N** new friends, new skills, new emotions
- G** generous for those who need help

Congratulation!



My cup of Coffee - youth exchange in Mexico



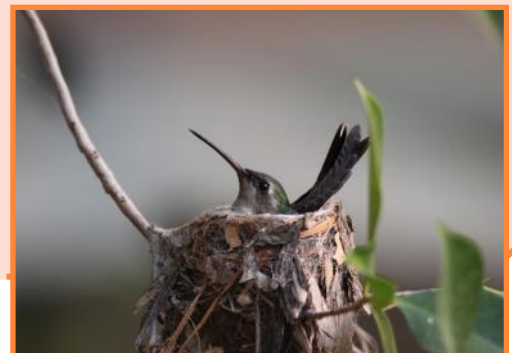
On August 19th -28th, 2019, the city of Mexico hosted a youth exchange between Poland, Romania, Germany and Mexico as part of the COFFEE-cooperation for fair economy & education (Erasmus +) project, whose leader is the Kolping Foundation in Poland.

The exchange entitled "My cup of COFFEE" began with the former Aztec ceremony *Los cuatro rumbos*. Young people participated in workshops, lectures and study visits related to four topics:

- solidarity economics
- fair trade
- youth activity
- international cooperation for global sustainable development goals.

There was also the intercultural education and visits to such important

places for the culture and history of Mexico as: Teotihuacan, Templo Mayor or the house of Frida Khalo. The event takes place at the headquarters of the Foundation of Kolping Mexico in Mexico City, where a young humming bird settled with the youth, which supposedly symbolizes the light from the new world. Let's hope that thanks to this exchange, young people will see the light in the One World idea and will want to implement it in future plans and projects.



After workshops we know that solidarity economy is an economy that respects such values as culture, human rights and the natural environment. Solidarity economy consists of three components: fair trade, responsible consumption, responsible finance. Thirdly, solidarity economy is a different way of thinking and acting, it is innovation, it is new solutions within the circular economy, it protects our planet.



Solidary economy, fair trade, the ecological cultivation of coffee and other products are extremely important in the context of climate change and economic crises. With this message, the youth left Mexico City and returned to their homes.



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Young people participated in the ceremony of graduation of the vocational course by Mexican youth and awarding diplomas.

Diary written by Magdalena Szczudło

**More about the youth exchange in Mexico you can find in th Youth Exchange Diary:
https://issuu.com/patrycjakwapik/docs/my_cup_of_coffee_youth_exchange_diary**

72 magic hours for Kolping Serbia and Kolping Lauf

In May 2019, Kolping Serbia and Kolping Lauf took part in the 72 hours campaign of the Alliance of the German Catholic Youth (BDKJ). All in all, 160.000 young people supported this campaign by organising many small projects that aimed to make the world a better place. In a recently published documentation of the international projects with partners from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the cooperation between Kolping Serbia and Kolping Lauf is presented.



The project in Lauf aimed to improve 36 different places in the city during 72 hours. In order to achieve this goal, the participants split into five groups:

- (1) The first group cleaned different playgrounds in the city, collected cigarette butts and fragments of broken bottles and even removed graffiti from the play equipment.
- (2) A second group built herb beds and installed them at public places in the city, next to the church and next to a popular beer garden.
- (3) Another group created wild flower beds in gardens of private houses and in an industrial area, that are supposed to help wild bees.
- (4) Group number four built interactive ashtrays that should motivate smokers to dispose their cigarette butts properly.
- (5) And the last group created boxes for deposit bottles. These boxes help to tackle the issue that deposit bottles are thrown into the regular trash or, even worse, on streets and playgrounds.

A documentation of all international projects during the 72 hours campaign can be found online in English and German : <https://bit.ly/2sngdqU>

Sven Messing



**KOLPING
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