

Happy Holidays  
Everyone!

# NEWSLETTER

KOLPING YOUTH

12/2020



## Important topics:

Membership Meeting 2020

Kolping Youth in times of Corona

25 years of Kolping Youth Europe

New KYE office in Serbia

Kolping at the Economy of Francesco

News from countries





## Merry Christmas

Dear Readers,

What a year! I know, a tough one. It's sad that from our last Newsletters edition in April, not much has changed regarding the virus. However, I hope that you and your loved ones are still healthy and safe. This break in space and time is maybe what we needed. Life offered us a different perspective and opportunity to think about something different than usually. This battle can't be fought with weapons and violence. Instead, we will win only by being solidar, compassionate and responsible. The happiest time of the year is around the corner. Covid can't take away Christmas from us, just like it can't take away our care and love for each other. May this Christmas be blessed for you and your families and give you faith and strength in these challenging times.

On behalf of the Board and Kolping Youth across Europe, I wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy Corona Free New Year!

Grlica Golušin





our  
**new**  
*website*  
is now live

**Kolping Youth Europe has a new website!**  
You can find current news there as well  
as information about future events and much more.  
It is compatible with all devices and easy to use.  
Discover it via [www.kolpingyoutheuropa.com](http://www.kolpingyoutheuropa.com)

## SAVE THE DATE:

### **EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK 2021**

*July 19, 2021 – July 25, 2021*

*Novi Sad, Serbia*

The European Youth Week 2021 will take place in Novi Sad, Serbia. The Youth Week is the main annual event of Kolping Youth Europe and is designed for 30 to 40 participants from all over Europe. The event connects young Kolping members from many different countries and initiates an exchange about a specific topic.

*More information about the topic of the European Youth Week 2021 and a registration form will be published later. The event will be held respecting all the COVID-19 containment measures taken in Serbia and at the European level.*

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2021**

*October 1, 2021 – October 3, 2021*

*Ludbreg, Croatia*

Croatia will host the Membership Meeting 2021 of Kolping Youth Europe in Ludbreg, a small town close to the city of Varazdin. At the Membership Meeting, we will discuss current activities of Kolping Youth Europe and develop new ideas for the future. As in previous years, an exchange about Kolping Youth activities in all participating countries will also take place.

*More information about the Membership Meeting 2021 will be published in summer and sent to all national offices. From each country, two delegates can participate. The event will be held respecting all the COVID-19 containment measures taken in Croatia and at the European level.*

### **KOLPING EVENTS**

#### **ON EUROPEAN LEVEL**

#### **CONTINENTAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KOLPING SOCIETY OF EUROPE**

*April 9, 2021 - April 11, 2021  
Esztergom, Hungary*

#### **PEACE WALK**

*May 13, 2021—May 16, 2021  
Maribor, Slovenia*

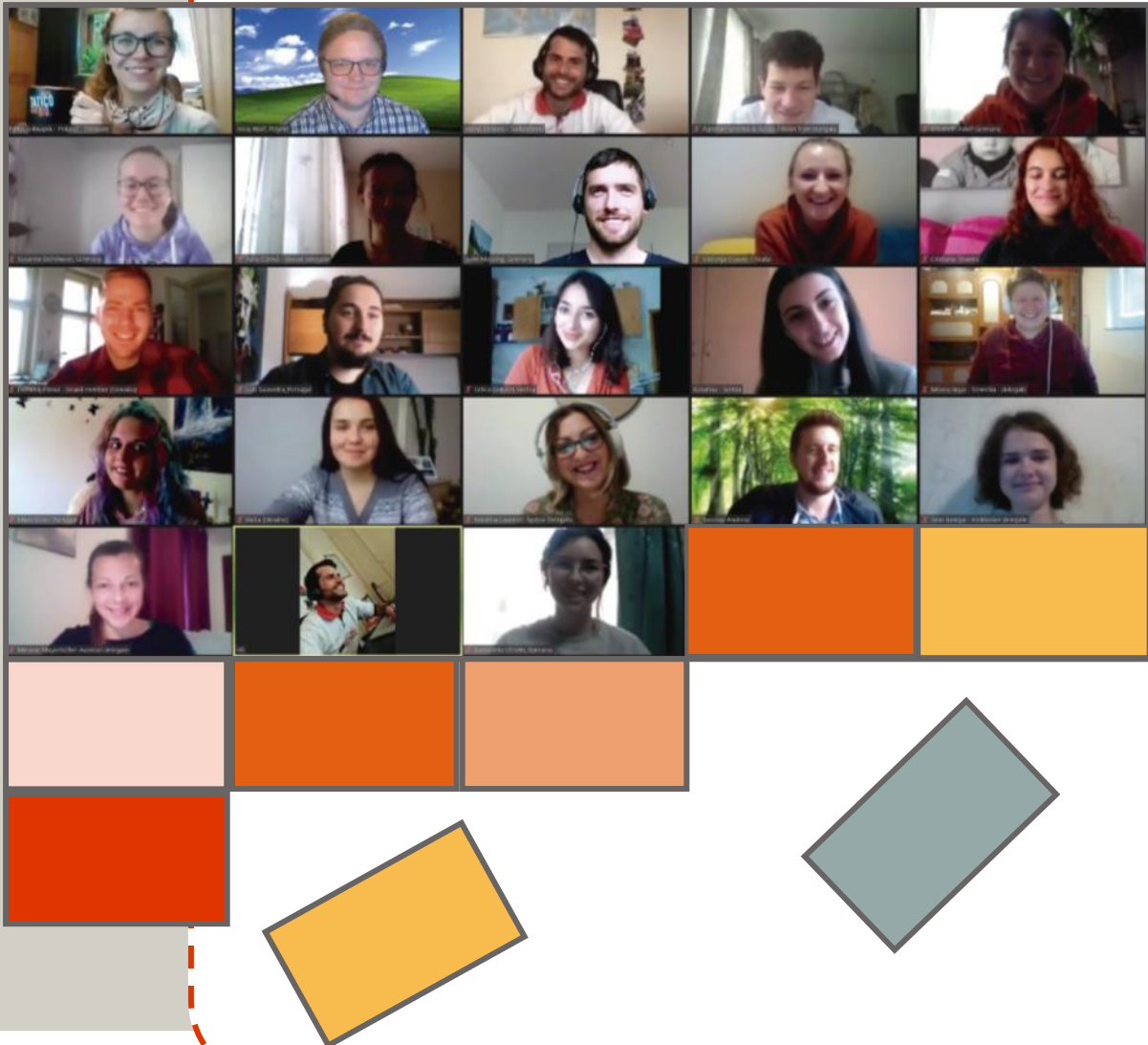


# Membership Meeting 2020

📍 online



As the whole world has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we all had to learn new ways how to adapt to the new situation. As a consequence, on 17th October 2020 Kolping Youth Europe held its annual Membership Meeting online for the first time in the history of the organization. 22 Kolping Youth members from 13 different countries joined.





The Membership Meeting started with an introductory game using photos that were sent by Kolping members from different countries about their activities during this year. This game allowed the delegates to get to know more about each other. Afterwards, the board of Kolping Youth Europe presented the achievements of the previous year. To improve public relations, a new website and an Instagram channel were created and the layout of the Facebook page was refreshed. Furthermore, two newsletters were published and a digital archive of Kolping Youth Europe was set up. An important change was also the opening of a new office in Serbia. Additionally, the board presented the results of a survey among the national Kolping Youth groups which is going to be an important basis for the work in the upcoming year.

After presenting the financial report, an interactive discussion about the future of Kolping Youth Europe was started. It turned out that the delegates were interested in having some online activities in addition to personal events. A voting via an online tool was used to prioritize which type of online meeting the delegates would be most interested in and to collect potential topics for such meetings. Furthermore, a first discussion about the Kolping Youth logo and its potential renewal took place.

It is also very important for Kolping Youth members from different countries during these kinds of events to associate with one another and to exchange their experiences. As the COVID-19 pandemic affected the activities of Kolping Youth not only at European level but also in each country, a workshop about „Youth work in times of Corona“ was organized. This was a great opportunity for Kolping members to share how they felt during the lock down, what they have experienced and how that situation affected their education and/or work and the activities of their youth groups.

In the evening, a fireside chat took place with alumni who were active in Kolping Youth Europe during the past 25 years. This discussion gave all delegates a small insight into the history of our organization.

*Nikolina Lazendić*

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



*The activities of Kolping Youth Europe are co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.*

## Kolping Youth in times of Corona

"I can't believe I forgot my mask again...!",

"When is this going to be over?",

"I feel like we're the first generation ever that didn't get to celebrate graduation.",

"I miss going out with my friends so much.",

"I think that I will go crazy if I apply for another webinar.",

"I live for the day to take my passport and go on holidays.",

"Okay, sorry, I will turn off my microphone."

**Do you find these statements familiar? Probably yes, just like many youngsters from different Kolping societies who joined the Membership Meeting 2020 that took place online on 17th October.**

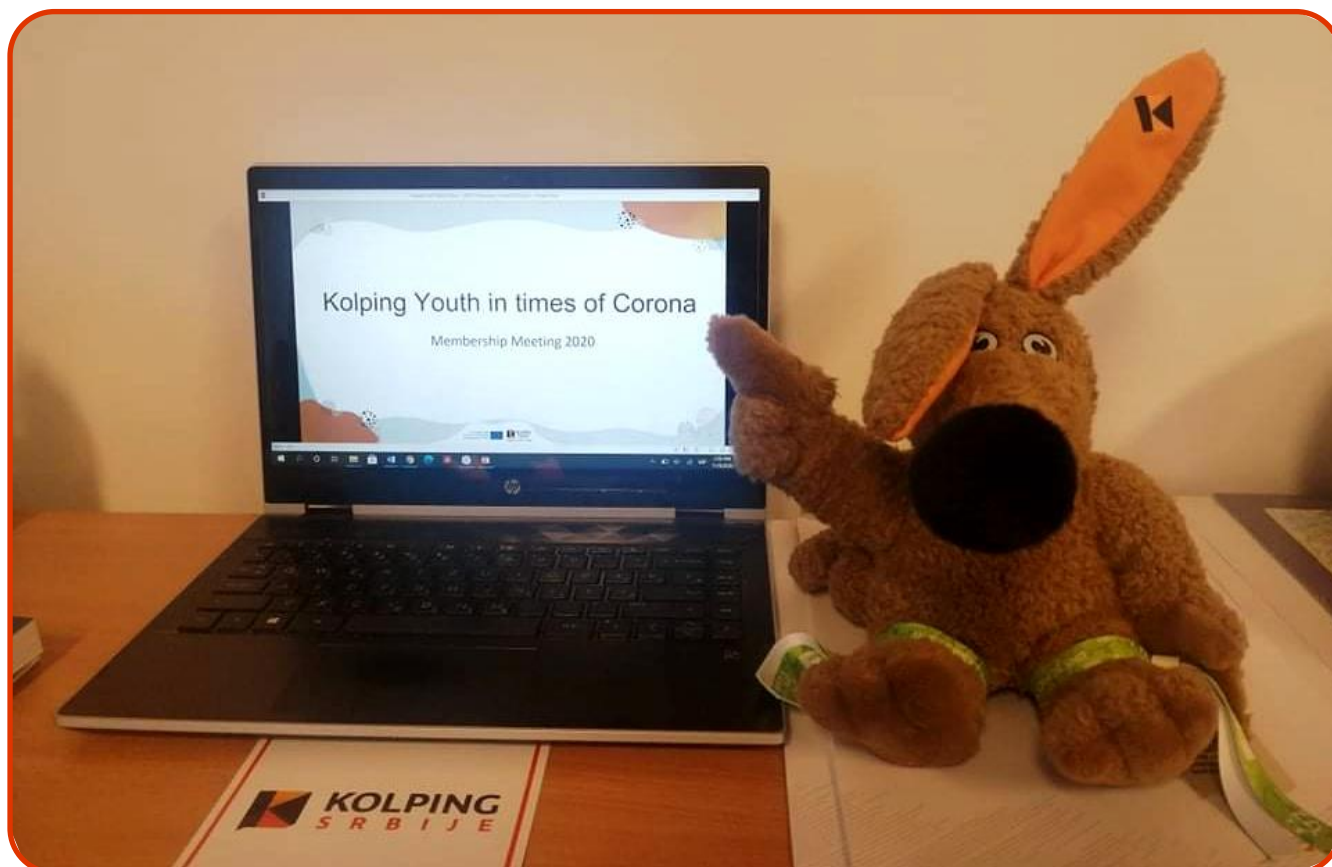
It is well known that COVID-19 is dangerous for everyone and that it affected all areas of our lives, but we wanted to look closer at what has changed in the lives of young people in Europe. For that reason, we had a look at the survey "Youth & COVID-19" conducted by the International Labour Organization that shows how the crisis affected young people's jobs, education, rights and mental well-being ([see link](#)).

Even before the pandemic has started, young people somewhat struggled to find decent **jobs**, especially when they

need to combine education and working. However, since the onset of the crisis 1 in 6 young people aged 18-29 has stopped working. Among those that were employed before the pandemic, an average decline of working hours by 23 per cent was reported which resulted in a lower income for 42 per cent.

Devastating is the fact that nearly one in eight (13 per cent) of young people saw their **education** and training come to a complete stop, with no courses, teaching or tests set since the pandemic began. Even when, to some extent, institutions managed to transition to distance delivery teachers, trainers and students may not have been adequately equipped to ensure continuity in learning (internet access, lack of IT equipment, lack of space...). But, youth wouldn't be youth





if it didn't find a way to adapt: 44 per cent of the young people surveyed had pursued new training courses since the start of the pandemic.

Young people – similarly to many vulnerable groups – have often had difficulty accessing their **rights**. As we experienced, countries around the world have taken decisive action in response to the pandemic, including the adoption of “stay-at-home” measures to slow its spread. This has had a severe impact on the rights of youth to leisure, to participate in public affairs and to practice their religion or beliefs.

All this greatly affected young people's **mental well-being**. Family stress, social isolation, risk of domestic abuse, disrupted education and uncertainty about the future are some of the channels through which COVID-19 has impacted the emotional development of youth.

Kolping Youth didn't let the crisis to take over. Although exchanges and multicultural meetings are very important for us and everyone enjoys them, the friendly atmosphere we cherish in

Kolping was present nevertheless. In the Membership Meeting we talked about some great practices and ways how to adapt our activities to new conditions. In Hungary there was a big music concert planned, but instead they created videos in their households and uploaded it on YouTube so they can still enjoy music. Similarly, an exchange between Kolping Youth groups in Ukraine and Germany that was supposed to take place in Nuremberg was moved online. Other events had to be postponed to next year, such as the Peace Walk in Maribor, Slovenia. However, also new ideas were developed as a response to the crisis: Kolping youth in Slovakia was busy making face masks and volunteers in Serbia in cooperation with the Red Cross worked on providing groceries to elderly population. Kolping youth truly lived up to one of our favorite Adolph Kolping's quotes: ***“The needs of the time will teach you what to do.”***

*Grlica Golušin*



## Fireside chat: 25 years of Kolping Youth Europe

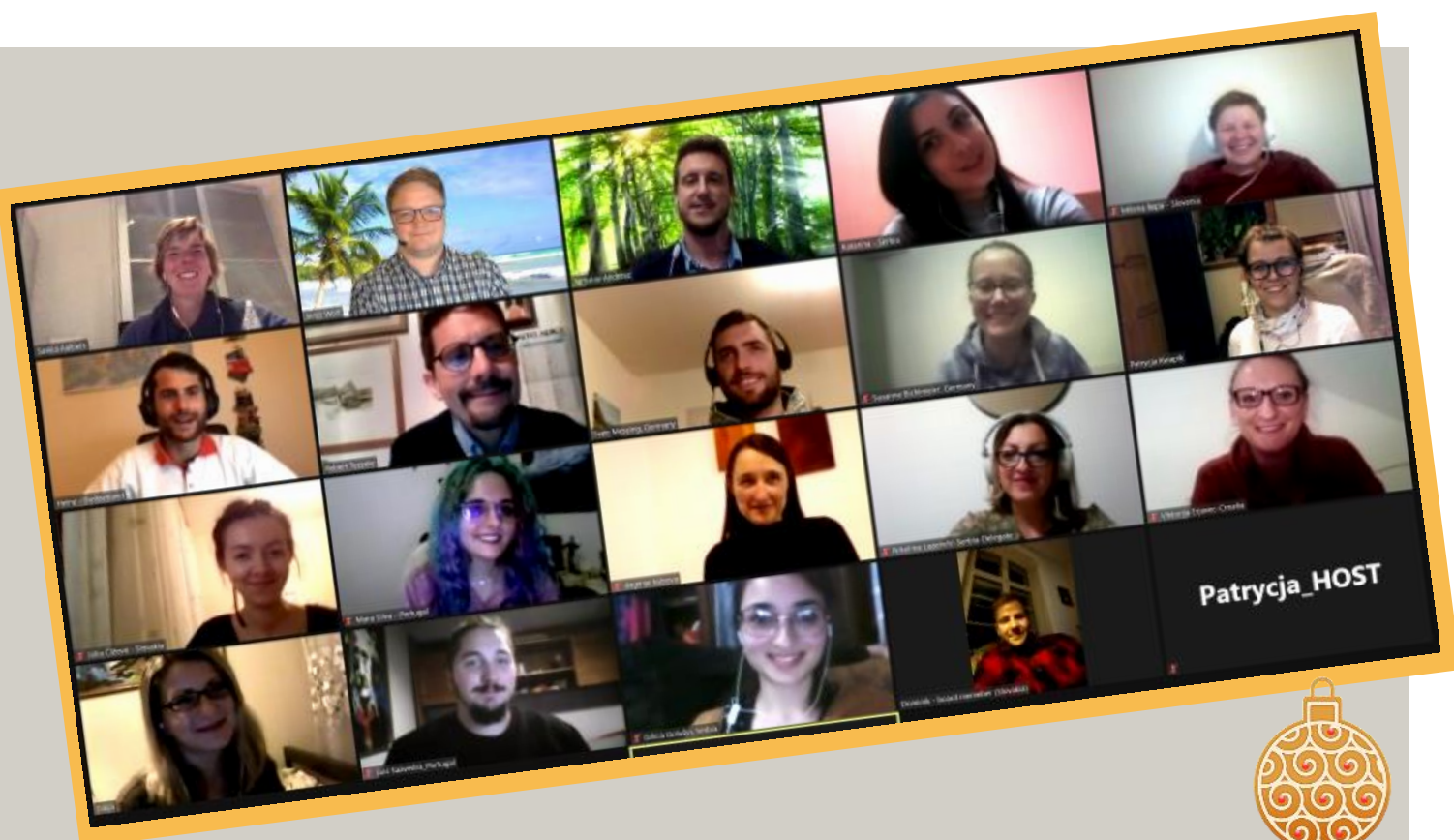
Founded in 1995, Kolping Youth Europe is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2020. To connect the different generations that were active during the past quarter of a century, the board of Kolping Youth Europe invited several people that were very active in the organisation's history. On October 17th, around 20 Kolping Youth members from all over Europe met six guests: Dagmar Kubova (Czech Republic), Saskia Aalbers-Hol (Netherlands), Robert Tezzele (South Tyrol), Galja Ieronima (Ukraine), Patrycja Kwapik (Poland), and Zdravko Isakov (Serbia).



### Fireside chat "25 years of Kolping Youth Europe"







The guests emphasized in the online meeting that the history of Kolping Youth Europe started just a couple of years after the fall of the Iron Curtain. In those times, young people on both sides of the wall did not know much about each other's countries and Kolping Youth Europe offered a unique opportunity to change that. Getting to know more about other parts of Europe was highly interesting for young people, especially because they could receive first-hand knowledge from people engaged in their local Kolping Societies.

Additionally, the guests shared their memories from specific international events, summer camps, and youth weeks in many different countries. Based on their experience, they recommended the current generation to focus on meaningful activities and the specific characteristics of Kolping. This was nicely put in words by one of the guests: *"Do something good, try it and don't stop!"*

*Heinz Strässle & Sven Messing*

An important goal of Kolping Youth Europe has always been to create a network of young Kolping members in Europe and to support the cooperation between national Kolping Societies. Furthermore, the offers of Kolping Youth Europe helped to increase the capacities of the youth in each country. The guests also reported that the activities of Kolping Youth Europe did not only have positive impacts on their work for Kolping, but also on their personal development.



**Find our birthday video  
on YOU TUBE:**

<https://youtu.be/eEo3A8rQZj0>

## Kolping Youth Europe opens new office

In September 2020, Kolping Youth Europe opened a new office in Novi Sad (Serbia) and hired Nikolina Lazendić as a new youth advisor. She cooperates with Patrycja Kwapik who is located in Kraków (Poland) and started to work for Kolping Youth Europe in 2013. Both youth advisors work part-time for Kolping Youth Europe and are additionally involved in current projects of their national Kolping Societies.

 *Patrycja*



**Patrycja's** journey with Kolping started 15 years ago in Krakow. Since then, she has visited many places where Kolping has built a community of engaged members. She was first active as a volunteer, then as a youth leader, and finally as a youth advisor and project coordinator. She prepared and implemented many international projects and activities dedicated to young people across Europe. Since 2013 Patrycja has supported the board of Kolping Youth Europe and advised youth leaders in the development of their ideas.





KOLPING YOUTH "Nikolina



**Nikolina** lives in Novi Sad, where Kolping Serbia has its office, and where she works as a Youth Leader for the Kolping Serbia Youth group. Nikolina joined the Kolping Society of Serbia as a youth volunteer four years ago. Since then, she has taken part in many different projects and educational events. She believes that helping young people to reach their full potential and improve their lives is a direct way of investing in a better future. Nikolina is actively engaged in the work of Kolping Serbia and passionate about youth work as well as social activism.

**CONTACT**

*If you have any questions or suggestions do not hesitate to contact our youth advisors via*

**[CONTACT@KOLPINGYOUTHEUROPE.COM](mailto:CONTACT@KOLPINGYOUTHEUROPE.COM)**

## Kolping at the Economy of Francesco



From 19.-21. November 2020, young people from 115 countries participated in the international online event “The Economy of Francesco” that was supposed to take place as a personal meeting in Assisi in spring. They were invited by Pope Francis in order to initiate a process of global economic change. Among the participants were two young Kolping members from Europe, Dominik Presul (Slovakia) and Sven Messing (Germany).

During the previous months, the participants of the Economy of Francesco had worked in twelve thematic villages such as “work and care”, “energy and poverty”, “women for economy” or “vocation and profit” in order to develop ideas for an

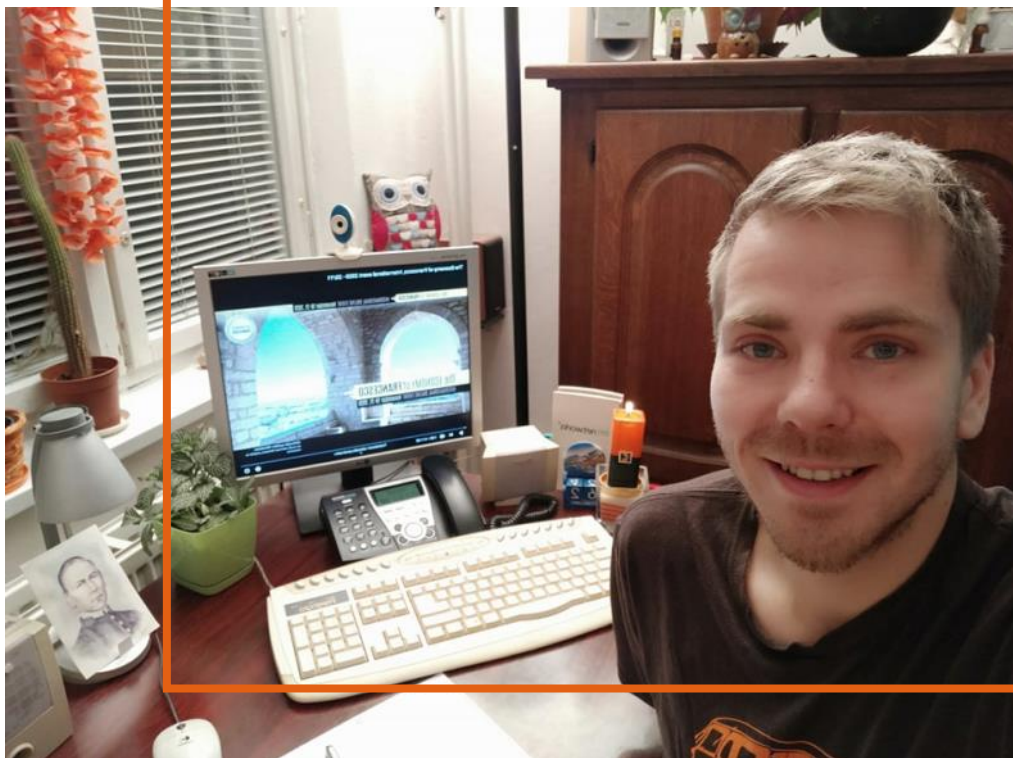
economy that safeguards the environment and ensures justice for the poor. Based on these ideas, the participants developed specific proposals that were presented to Pope Francis during the online event.

Besides this, high-level speakers such as Muhammad Yunus (Nobel Peace Prize winner 2006) discussed with young people from all over the world about different aspects of improving the economic system. The event concluded with a speech from Pope Francis who motivated the participants to be protagonists of the global economic change: *“You cannot absent yourselves from those places where the present and future are generated. You are either part of them or history will pass you by.”*

### Recordings

from the online event are available on the [Youtube channel “The Economy of Francesco”](#), more information can be accessed via [www.francescoeconomy.org](http://www.francescoeconomy.org)





The **ECONOMY of FRANCESCO** has been a great opportunity for Dominik Presul and Sven Messing, who are both board members of Kolping Youth Europe, to incorporate the experience they have gained in Kolping into a global process. Additionally, they created a network with economists and change makers from all over the world and demonstrated that Kolping is willing to support economic changes that are connected with social and ecological benefits.



## Prestigious October award for Kolping Serbia volunteers



Youth organizations and other civil volunteer organizations from Novi Sad (Serbia) were awarded the prestigious October Award that the City of Novi Sad gives every year to deserving individuals and institutions as social recognition for exceptional results in work, deeds, and the highest accomplishments achieved during one or more years, in the field of economy, social and other activities. This year all the volunteers of Novi Sad got awarded for their selfless act of help to ones in need during the state of emergency due to a Covid-19 pandemic. On October 23rd in front of the City Hall, youth members and volunteers of Kolping Society of Serbia alongside other representatives of awarded organizations attended the ceremony and celebrated the award.

The ceremony was held inside the City Hall, but due to epidemiological measures for the prevention of the virus, not all organization's representatives and interested volunteers could join inside. As previously agreed at the meeting between organizations that took part in the initiative, which was held after the announcement of the award winner, the oldest active volunteer in Novi Sad, Milan Dudić (also known as Grandpa Mića) was the one person who was delegated in front of all volunteers to take the award. Others waited for him in front of the City Hall building to cheer him and to celebrate together this great accomplishment.

Kolping Society of Serbia is very proud of being a part of this awarded group of exceptional people. As an organization that works with volunteers it was a great honor to be





part of this initiative . We are also very happy to see that our City recognized all the efforts and the contribution that people who volunteer give to our community. The award plaque will "spend" a week in the office of each awarded organization so they can enjoy it with their volunteers who well deserved it.

Grandpa Mića, who is 83 years old, showed us that age is just a number when it comes to volunteering. Every person who feels the need to contribute and to help is welcomed, especially during hard times such as pandemic when the

good organization and solidarity among people is well needed and appreciated.

Kolping Society of Serbia is very proud of all the volunteers across Novi Sad, not just our members. We thank them all for everything they do. To all of our fellow volunteers, congratulations and well done!

We will continue to take care of our community, and the needs of the time we live in will show us how to act. (*"The needs of the times will teach you what to do."*- **Adolph Kolping**)

*Nikolina Lazendić*

## International project wins German Kolping Youth Prize

**In September 2020, the 72 hours project of Kolping Youth Lauf (a small city in Bavaria, Germany) and Kolping Youth Serbia was awarded with the German Kolping Youth Prize at a virtual conference. The annual German Kolping Youth Prize honours the best three projects of the previous year that can serve as an example for other Kolping Youth groups.**

The 72 hours project took place in 2019 and improved 36 different places in the city of Lauf. The project was part of a bigger campaign where 160.000 young people organized many small projects in Germany which aimed to make the world a better place. During the 72 hours, the participants split into five groups to clean several playgrounds, install herb beds and boxes for deposit bottles at public places, create wild flower beds and to build interactive ashtrays. The participants from Serbia stayed at the houses and flats of the young Kolping members and also visited the city of Nuremberg.

The project aimed to implement Adolph Kolping's statement „The needs of the time will teach you what to do“ into practice. As a response to the climate crisis and environmental pollution, it is important to show that youth work can help to



make a city more ecological, sustainable and liveable. Furthermore, it was mainly based on the work of volunteers and strengthened the motivation of many youngsters who were involved as they could see direct results of their work and received very positive feedback. Additionally, the international project created many new connections between young Kolping members from two different countries and thus strengthened the international collaboration within Kolping.

*Sven Messing*

***A detailed presentation of the project can be found in Kolping Youth Europe's newsletter 2019-3.***

## News from countries: Activities of Kolping Youth groups around Europe



### Poland

*Pandemy stopped us from organizing some of our planned events for youth on national and intercontinental level, but we've focused on the support of our youth groups in Kolping Families on the local level.*

*In the picture, you can see one of our biggest groups, Kolping Family Lipnica Mała in Polish Mountains.*

*The youngsters used the summer time 2020 for soft skill workshops organized by Kolping Poland and for their music activities.*

### Ukraine

- *We made a nice video about washing hands in times of pandemic*
- *We published a video to celebrate Children's Day*
- *We implemented a common project with Kolping Youth Bamberg due to the pandemic we were meeting online via ZOOM*

### Hungary

*We organized a musical camp, a little one.*

*We were 2-week quarantine before this photo was taken, so that is why we do not have face masks on. Also, it is hard to sing wearing a mask because you do not hear the other person. The participants were 15-20 young people and some seniors, but we take hard measures to enter the camp. Sanitizers were everywhere!*

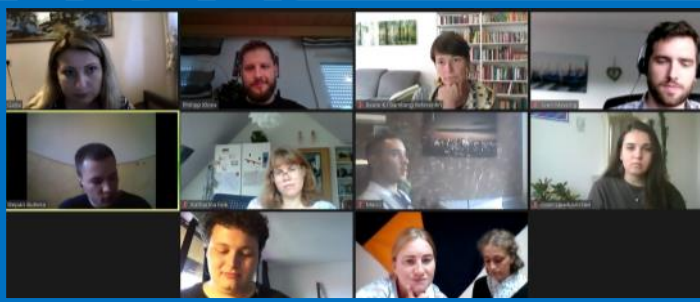






## Germany

*This group picture was taken at the beginning of September at an event called Lifehacks. It is an event that takes place a whole weekend and invites Kolping Youth members from all over Germany. We offer different workshops, which are helpful and useful in the field of work for participants who come from different regions. For example: working on social media, body language, how to create sketch notes, how to use gender-equitable language, how to organize a camp, etc. It was the second time it took place like this and again a whole success. It is great to come together (especially in these crazy times), to talk to other Kolping Youth members from other parts of Germany. A great way for us to connect and to exchange thoughts and ideas.*



### *Kolping Face Masks*

*During the spring phase of the pandemic Kolping Youth Slovakia members designed a new type of face masks. They created prototypes and together with elderly members of Kolping Slovakia, who offered to help, manufactured about 5000 face masks. It was a great activity for the elderly because they were the ones who suffered the most during the pandemic and felt useless in isolation. They were distributed mainly to Kolping Germany's families, who were interested in purchasing them. Members designed masks so that they reflect the Kolping identity, and our goal is to offer these masks to various companies, institutions, or anyone who needs them. If the need arises, the design can be changed. For example, it can also advertise the company's logo. Part of the profit goes to the Kolping families who can use this money for their own projects.*

## Slovakia







## Slovenia

*The photo was taken at the end of the general assembly of the Slovenian National Kolping Society in January 2020. At that time we still talked about the Peace walk that should happen in May, but most of the projects that we should have (on a national level) organized, were canceled and postponed (I hope) to next year.*

*As I look at this picture, I encourage myself, yes, We can do it!*

## Romania

*The young people of Kolping Banat attended two work camps over two weekends at Kolping House Rusca Montană where they marked mountain trails, improved and arranged the house, and spent some quality time together. In September, the consecration of the house took place. Here, young people of Kolping Moldova also participated. They came to relax after volunteering at the Kolping House in Oituz, but helped a lot during the event as more than 120 persons attended the inaugural ceremony in Rusca Montană. Although the global pandemic took a lot of things away from us, we still managed to overcome the barriers and continue our activity with responsibility and dedication.*





## Serbia

*Novi Sad is a city where many cultures and ethnicities meet. That is why our youth group in Novi Sad is very diverse, and we love it!*

*One of the fun activities that we do in our youth group is that every month we ask someone to cook one of their national cuisine meals and our youngsters are thrilled with that idea! This is a photo of Ivana (she is originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina) cooking for us her favorite Bosnian meal, PITA.*

*After she made it for us with lots of love (we helped her don't worry), we all tried it together and enjoyed it very much!*

*We can't wait for this corona situation to be over so that all of you can come to Serbia and try all the delicious meals that our youth members are preparing. We promise that at Youth Week in Serbia, next year, you will see what I am talking about!*

*You are all welcomed to Novi Sad, and we can't wait to be your hosts next year!*



## Croatia

*Few active volunteers continued with individual educational support to few interested elementary school children also in the year 2020. At least at the very beginning of the year 2020.*

*We did not photograph those activities due to a GDPR regulations. Few planned and almost realized parish activities for interaction of children and parish seniors were postponed already in February due to the appearance of Corona virus but later were definitely canceled due to a lockdown.*

*All activities were stopped for several months. Only in July there were few general parish activities were Kolping members were actively included and they supported those activities. No special plan was made in the autumn part due to a different conditions and instructions for behavior during this pandemic present that is being changed from week to week.*

*Youngsters are connected via social media and on the disposition to the others in need, paying attention to all epidemiological conditions.*

*May blessed A.Kolping help all in these challenging times!*



# Kolping Youth Europe



## Austria

*In cooperation with „Kolping Vorarlberg“ our youth leader, Josef (at the right side on the photo), collected 1.000 Euro by selling mouth-nose-protection masks. The masks got produced in-house for children during the time of the lockdown in spring 2020. The money went to socially disadvantaged children in Vorarlberg, a region in west Austria.*



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