



**REPORT
OF THE BOARD
2020/2021**

Dear friends of Kolping Youth Europe,

The last Membership Meeting 2020 had to be organized online because of the worldwide pandemic. Even though this pandemic made many things more complicated, it did not prevent us to organize many small events and continue our work as best as possible. After another year as a board members, we would like to give you an overview about the work we have done and some of our ideas for the next year.

In this report, you can find information about the following topics:

1. EVENTS

2: PUBLIC RELATIONS

3. INTERNAL ORGANISATION

4. COOPERATION

5. ORGANISATION OF THE BOARD

All your ideas on how we can improve our work are more than welcome. Feel free to give us your suggestions and recommendations for the future. Also, there are plenty of opportunities how you can support Kolping Youth Europe as a volunteer. For example, you can share news about your local or national Kolping activities (on social media accounts or website), organize a youth event or promote Kolping Youth in your country!

Success is guaranteed if we all work and grow together!

Best regards,

Your board of Kolping Youth Europe

1. Events

1.1 Membership Meeting 2020

Our last Membership Meeting was held online in October 2020. It was the first online Membership Meeting in the history of the organization, and we put our effort to organize it professionally. 22 members from 13 different countries joined this online meeting, and we provided them a diverse program including introductory games, a presentation of news from the board of Kolping Youth Europe, an interactive discussion, and a fireside chat with alumni.

You can find a detailed report about the last Membership Meeting via the following link:

<https://kolpingyouth europe.com/index.php/2020/11/01/membership-meeting-2020>

A report on the topic of the Membership Meeting's workshop "Kolping Youth in times of Corona" is available here:

<http://kolpingyouth europe.com/index.php/2020/11/20/kolping-youth-in-times-of-corona/>

If you would like to read more about the fireside chat regarding the 25th anniversary of Kolping Youth Europe, please follow this link:

<http://kolpingyouth europe.com/index.php/2020/11/27/fireside-chat-25-years-of-kolping-youth-europe/>

1.2 Kolping Talk

As international youth meetings were not possible in person in the previous year, we launched a new series of online events named Kolping Talk that aims to initiate an exchange about different topics and projects that are relevant for young Kolping members. Each time, interesting guests shared their knowledge about a specific topic and answered the questions of other Kolping members from all over the world. Up to now, four different Kolping Talks were organized about the following topics:

- Kolping Youth Activities in Africa (February, guests: Alain Serge Baba from Cameroon, Paulinus Ezechukqu Kanu from Nigeria, and Elisabeth Adolf from Germany)
- TATICO – Fairtrade Coffee from Honduras (March, guests: Magdalena Szczudlo and Patrycja Kwapik from Poland)
- Kolping Youth Community Services (May, guest: Annette Fuchs from Germany)
- Digital Youth Work (June, guests: Mladen Ilic and Stefan Strbac from Serbia)

Articles with detailed reports about each Kolping Talk are available on our website:

<http://kolpingyouth europe.com>

1.3 Kolping Virtual Apéro

Another type of event that we launched to facilitate the connection between Kolping Youth members across countries is the Kolping Virtual Apéro. So far, we have organized four Virtual Apéros where our members enjoyed talking to each other about different topics in a relaxed atmosphere. We were happy to see our members having fun during these online events.

1.4 Youth Week

The Youth Week is usually the biggest event of Kolping Youth Europe during the year, where around 40 young Kolping members from many different countries meet and work on a specific topic. For 2021, Serbia was selected as a host country and a team of six motivated youngsters started to plan an attractive program for this week. In exchange with the board of Kolping Youth Europe, the Serbian team chose “Digital Youth Work” as a topic for the event as it is a very important topic in the current situation.

Unfortunately, this event could not take place in 2021, because of difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as budgetary restraints. Nevertheless, we have gained important experience for the future, and we have prepared a program that can be used in the future. We hope that future situation regarding the pandemic will improve and a different approach to the funding will enable us to organize a Youth Week in Serbia in summer 2022.



2. Public Relations

2.1 Social Media

Kolping Youth Europe has its own social media profiles – the Instagram page is active since March 2020 and more than 250 people follow our news on it.

At the same time, our Facebook page is active with around 760 followers. In June, we renamed our Facebook page from German (“Kolpingjugend Europa”) to English (“Kolping Youth Europe”), in order to be consistent across all our media channels, including our website.

You always can support our social media channels, by sharing posts and inviting people to follow our work.

We will continue to simultaneously share posts on Instagram and Facebook to reach as many members as possible.

2.2. Website

Kolping Youth Europe has launched its own website with a new design and updated information in autumn 2020.

On the website, you can find different sections such as news, about us, events, newsletter, and our contact information.

In the last year, we usually published articles about:

- The Membership Meeting 2020, the workshop “Kolping Youth in times of Corona” and the Fireside Chat with Alumni (see 1.1).
- All four Kolping Talks (see 1.2).
- Invitations to the Youth Week 2021 (see 1.4) and the Membership Meeting 2021.
- The Economy of Francesco (see 4.4).
- 5 ways for young people to change the world from their home.

We are trying to add some diversity to our content, and we are inviting you to help us with that: Share with us your news from your national Kolping Societies and we will be happy to publish them on our website.

2.3 Newsletter

Kolping Youth Europe has published two newsletters since the previous Membership Meeting. You can download them here <http://kolpingyouth europe.com/index.php/newsletters/>

On this website, you can also subscribe to our mailing list in order to receive every newsletter as soon as it's published.



3. Internal Organization

3.1 EU Funding

Financial sources for Kolping Youth Europe are the cornerstone to allow us to organize different events and to employ Youth Advisors who support the Kolping Youth Europe Board in the different activities.

The financial sources of Kolping Youth Europe consist of grants, donations, and participation fees. In the previous year, the largest part of the funding came from the annual operating grant 2020 that was implemented in the period from the 1st of September 2020 to the 31st of August 2021.

The grant allowed us to engage several people to support us during the year. At the office of Kolping Poland in Kraków, Patrycja Kwapik worked for 10 hours/week for Kolping Youth Europe during the full period and helped to create structures and documents for a sustainable youthwork in the future.

We also had the opportunity to hire two youth advisors in the office of Kolping Serbia. On the one hand Nikolina Lazendić who worked 20 hours/week for the full year and on the other hand Katarina Jeremić who worked since March 2021 with a pensum of 20 hours/week.

As the Erasmus+ program changed their system and their funding opportunities, it was not possible to retain the annual operating grant (which was exchanged with other programs) and the Board of Kolping Youth Europe decided with accordance of the Youth advisors to continue the work agreement with Katarina Jeremić with a pensum of 16 hours/week for the future, while Patrycja Kwapik and Nikolina Lazendić are available for ad hoc support in case of need.



Erasmus+



3.2 Digital archive

With the increased digitalization of workstreams, Kolping Youth Europe wanted to modernize its data archives. In the past, most of the documents and communications were mainly available in a local archive in the office of Kolping Poland in Kraków.

With the opening of the second office in Novi Sad, innovation was required to allow seamless collaborations between the offices and a common place for storage of templates, applications, and other essential documents.

While several solutions were in place in the past (Dropbox, G-drive, local copies, and Slack files), the creation of a digital archive on pCloud will allow us a cost-effective and simple organization in the future. pCloud provides a cloud storage option that multiple users can access without any monthly/annual subscription. This investment will allow future generations of board members to access and store important documents that will simplify their work.

Because of the availability of this comprehensive Digital Archive, the other solutions were discontinued.



4. Cooperation

4.1 National Kolping Societies

In summer 2020, Kolping Youth Europe conducted a survey among the national Kolping Societies to prioritize the tasks of the organization and to receive feedback on several topics. The survey was answered by representatives of 15 countries with the results being presented at the Membership Meeting 2020. Key results were:

- Organizing an annual Youth Week has a very high priority for the national Kolping Societies.
- Cooperation with Kolping International and Kolping Europe is of major importance.
- Exchange of information & experiences between the different countries should be a priority.
- Keeping contact via (social) media is appreciated and important.
- Provision of additional educational events is interesting, however does not need to be the main focus of Kolping Youth Europe when resources are limited.
- Also, political representation of interests is good, but has a lower priority compared to other tasks of Kolping Youth Europe.

In addition, another survey was conducted in Germany among the youth advisors who work for Kolping at the regional and diocesan level. In autumn 2020, 26 youth advisors participated in this survey. Key results were:

- Most Youth Advisors have not informed themselves actively about Kolping Youth Europe in the past. However, more than half of them were aware of Kolping Youth Europe's main events (Youth Week and Membership Meeting).
- Instagram, Website and Newsletter are important communication channels to reach the youth advisors in Germany, followed by Facebook.
- Almost half of them would be happy to receive additional information in German.
- Regular reports at meetings, information through the communication channels of Kolping Youth Germany and (digital) offers that attract attention are important.
- Regarding in-person events, participating in European youth encounters and networking of youth groups would be most interesting
- For digital events, an exchange about specific topics and Kolping projects would be most relevant for them, including intercultural exchange.

In order to implement the results of the German youth advisor survey and to improve the communication, the leading team of Kolping Youth Germany decided to include a section about Kolping Youth Europe into their internal bi-monthly newsletter (“BL-news”). Furthermore, Kolping Youth Europe supported the creation of an Instagram video dealing with the topic “What does Europe mean to you?” (<https://www.instagram.com/p/COurRb-DcWJ/>).

For Kolping Youth Europe it is important to have a good communication with all national Kolping Societies. In particular, an intensive cooperation took place with the Kolping Society of Serbia (new office of Kolping Youth Europe, host country of the Youth Week 2021/2022) and members of the Kolping Society of Croatia (host country of the Membership Meeting 2021). We are also grateful for the good communication with all other Kolping Societies, especially in the context of Kolping Youth Europe’s events.

4.2 Kolping International and Kolping Europe

A good cooperation with Kolping International and Kolping Europe is essential for Kolping Youth Europe, as both organizations are active at international level and have a lot of expertise. Consequently, the board of Kolping Youth Europe was in touch with representatives of both organizations. Meetings were scheduled on a case-by-case basis, whenever this was needed.

A main topic in the exchange with Kolping International was the organization of in-person events during the pandemic, especially with regards to the Youth Week that was planned for summer 2021 (see 1.4). Besides that, Kolping International was very interested in Kolping Youth Europe’s participation in The Economy of Francesco (see 4.4), as the initial contact with this project was made through Kolping International.

The communication with Kolping Europe focused on the possibility of approving a common statute, as a lot of effort had been put into this topic by both organizations in the past. In October 2020, Sven Messing met with Ulrich Vollmer and Josef Holtkotte (board members of Kolping Europe) in Frankfurt to find out more about previous activities on this topic. After a careful examination, the board of Kolping Youth Europe decided to invest more time into this topic and to check in detail whether a common statute could be beneficial. In this context, Heinz Straessle and Sven Messing met Ulrich Vollmer and Dr. Karl Weber (Union of Catholic-Social Educational Institutions in Germany, AKSB) to discuss potential benefits and pitfalls of a common statute. At the Membership Meeting 2021, we will provide a detailed overview about the current discussion and decide together what needs to be considered in this process.

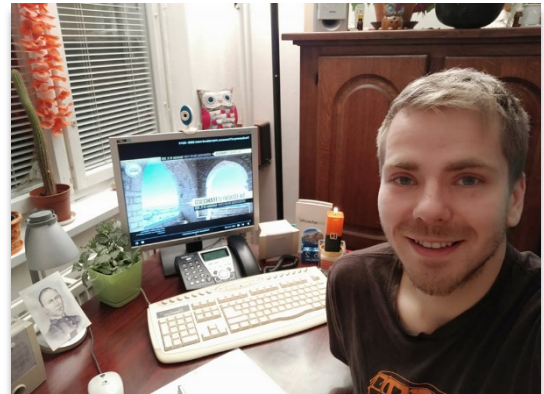
4.3 COMECE Youth Platform

The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) set up a Youth Platform to facilitate the exchange between Catholic youth organizations and to plan common activities. In October 2021, a dialogue session will take place with Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the European Green Deal.

4.4 The Economy of Francesco

In November 2020, around 2.000 young people from 115 countries participated in the international online event "The Economy of Francesco". They were invited by Pope Francis in order to initiate a process of global economic change. Dominik Presul and Sven Messing participated in this event, where high-level speakers such as Muhammad Yunus (Nobel Peace Prize winner 2006) discussed with the participants.

A detailed report is available on the website of Kolping International:
<https://www.kolping.net/en/news/kolping-at-the-economy-of-francesco/>



5. Organization of the board

All board members have monthly online meetings to ensure regular communication and continuous work on the different tasks. Responsibilities among all volunteers and youth advisors were divided in the following way:

Events	Main responsible Person(s)
Membership Meeting 2020	Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
Youth Week 2021	Nikolina Lazendić (SRB) & Katarina Jeremić (SRB)
Public relations	
Website	Jerzy Wolf (PL)
Social Media	Luís Saavedra (PT) & Katarina Jeremić (SRB)
Newsletter	Patrycja Kwapik (PL)
Content manager	Sven Messing (DE)
Video creator	Jerzy Wolf (PL)
Internal organization	
Board meetings	Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
Notetaker	Grlica Golušin (SRB)
Grant manager	Patrycja Kwapik (PL)
Data management	Jerzy Wolf (PL) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
Finances	Heinz Strässle (CH)
Update of the Statute	Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
Representation and cooperation	
Kolping Europa	Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
Kolping International	Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH)
COMECE Youth Platform	Dominik Presul (SK) & Sven Messing (DE)
The Economy of Francesco	Dominik Presul (SK) & Sven Messing (DE)
Contact to National Kolping Societies	
18 countries	Divided between all board members
Survey among National Kolping Societies	Grlica Golušin (SRB) & Heinz Strässle (CH)

Impressum

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