

Interview with Vasyly Safka

Executive director of Kolping Ukraine

„I LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE. I HOPE THAT THE CIVILIZED WORLD WILL SUCCEED IN STOPPING PUTIN AND HIS ARMY”

Supportive foreword
from Marcus Demele
Executive director of Kolping
International



*Kolping
Youth Week* *Novi Sad
2022*



Invitation for
European Kolping
Youth Week in Serbia

Dear Kolping brothers and Kolping sisters of Kolping Youth Europe!

When I was asked to write the foreword for your newsletter I was a little bit afraid, because we do not live in times where it comes easy to write about a bright future and the happiness of life itself. My and even your generation, luckily enough, never experienced war in Europe. Of course many of us still remember the Yugoslav wars which started in 1991, but that a nuclear superpower like Russia is invading a neighbouring country on such a large scale, is definitely a new experience for all of us. Bombs, tears and deaths are a harsh reality for those who live in the Ukraine. For the rest of Europe, and even for our Kolping brothers and Kolping sisters in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who also experiencing the consequences of the war in rising food, fuel and energy prices.

So no hope in sight? After decades of peace, is this now the new area of war and military buildups? Hopefully not. When I was travelling to the Ukraine together with the member of the Kolping Youth Europe, Dominik Presul, I was also experiencing the enormous solidarity and the wish for peace which unites the majority of the Europeans. Dominik told me how he and many others served the refugees, especially in the first weeks and months of the war. In Cologne, we received more than 2 million Euros of donations to support the people in the Ukraine and to help those who help the refugees. Even when I talked to our Kolping brothers and Kolping sisters in the Ukraine and the internally displaced people there, everybody was assuring me that they are very much aware of the solidarity they experienced.

So perhaps in these times of darkness and war, it is also a time of a new international solidarity, a new time of fraternity, a new time of hope and mutual respect in which we learn to cherish the gift of peace and unity. I am happy that the activities of the Kolping Youth Europe are a loud and clear signal to everybody that international solidarity, that seeking the common good, and cooperating for international justice is at the very heart of your generation.

Keep up the good work! You are united with Kolping brothers and Kolping sisters in 60 countries all over the world.
TREU KOLPING,

Yours Markus Demele.



... just a few examples of Kolping solidarity:



INTERVIEW WITH VASYL SAVKA (KOLPING UKRAINE)

The Catholic radio station domradio.de has interviewed Vasyl Savka, Managing Director of the Kolping Society of Ukraine and President of our partner organization Kolping Europe. He is coordinating Kolping Ukraine's support for citizens that had to flee from eastern Ukraine. The interview was conducted in German and translated into English by Kolping Youth Europe.

DOMRADIO.DE: What is the current situation at you?

Vasyl Savka: Here in Chernivtsi, where the headquarters of the Ukrainian Kolping Society is located, the situation is still more or less stable and calm, if I may say so in this time. Since the beginning of the war, only twice a



stress and fear among people.

DOMRADIO.DE: You care for many refugees. How are they doing?

Vasyl Savka: Russia's invasion has resulted in more than half a million refugees that left Ukraine and at least 160,000 refugees within the country. In Chernivtsi, for example, more than 6,000 refugees have already arrived. This situation has created a deep crisis with regards to shelter and food.

siren was triggered because of an air raid and we – the citizens of Chernivtsi – had to go to the cellar.

Besides that, in the city life is going on more or less normal. However, due to the wartime there are curfews from 10 pm to 6 am. Of course, people are in stress, they are in an uncertainty because nobody can foresee what will happen next. And, of course, there is quite a lot of

Communities in all cities have mobilized very strongly and opened several points where refugees can get help. The citizens themselves collect food, clothes, bedding, all kinds of things and take care for these poor people who want to flee the war. The restaurants in Chernivtsi, for example, but also in other cities, feed refugees free of charge.

In different cities, places have been opened where refugees can get warm meals. We have a kitchen, where we can feed 50 to 100 people a day. In addition, the refugees receive other necessary things that are given to us by the municipality, by the government, and through donations and humanitarian aid from abroad.





DOMRADIO.DE: And where do the people come from?

Vasyl Savka: People come from different regions of the country: from Kyiv, from the east, from Kherson, from Mariupol. From all regions, where the war is now, where places are bombed, where rockets are launched, where shootings take place.

DOMRADIO.DE: What do you urgently need to help the refugees?

Vasyl Savka: Basically, everything is needed: warm clothes, quilts, diesel generators, food, power banks, batteries, flashlights – everything that can make life a little easier for the people here.

DOMRADIO.DE: And how can we support you? Is it the best to donate money to Kolping International?

Vasyl Savka: I have to say, the Kolping Societies all over Europe are so incredibly committed. They collect goods for humanitarian aid, coordinated

by Kolping International in close collaboration with the Kolping Society of Ukraine. In addition, many Kolping brothers and sisters in all EU countries where Kolping exists have agreed to take in refugees from Ukraine. Kolping International has started a fundraising campaign to support Ukraine since the very beginning of the war. Thanks to this help, more people can get the support that is currently so important.

DOMRADIO.DE: How do you see the future? Will you also leave the country – perhaps even have to leave? Or will you stay?

Vasyl Savka: I definitely will stay in my country. I will defend my country as much as I can. However, I look to the future with hope. I hope that the civilized world will succeed in stopping Putin and his army. I hope that the horror in Ukraine will stop and that our peaceful country, which did not provoke these aggressions and does not deserve them, can continue to build its future. I will stay in Ukraine. I will defend my country. This is how I see the future.



More information about the Ukraine Emergency Aid of Kolping International is available here. We would appreciate if you decide to support Ukraine with a donation. The interview was conducted by Katharina Geiger and published originally in German language on domradio.de. The text was translated into English by Dr. Sven Messing.

Personal experience of KYE board member Dominik Presul from the Slovakian-Ukrainian borders at the beginning of war.

This is Tanya and her 2 kids who left Kyiv after heavy bombing on 1st of March when also a dominant TV tower was under attack. They didn't want to leave, they were also helping in hospital kitchen, but the husband who serve in civil defence decided that it's enough and they need to go to safety in Slovakia to protect them and also to get rid of the worries about them. Through many levels of contacts they managed an accommodation in Trenčín, SK on a horse ranch.

After two days of exhausting and dangerous road by bus and train, where was not enough place to sit, they arrived on Slovakian border. In the same time I was right there on Thursday evening registering accommodations and delivering humanitarian stuff.



people start to be visible. These days I am experiencing exponentially more good, hospitable people than ever before. Big thanks need to be delivered also to the owners of the ranch Adela and Bičko who are the people with the hearts on right place.

After a few days they went to a big protest to our capital – Bratislava. They don't want just to sit and wait, they want to be visible and be changemakers. People of Ukraine really want just to stop a war and have a freedom to decide and lead their country on their own.

We all wish this situation will end up soon and all what will remain will be those new connections and friendships between the good people. Stay strong Ukraine!

Please feel free if you want to support Ukraine financially, don't hesitate and use our official Kolping International donation portal: www.kolping.net



They were right behind my back. I didn't think too much and gave them a ride across Slovakia. I saw that the road and experiences they went through left a visible signs of exhaustion on them. They didn't want anything, really anything even food or water, just to get to the final destination and have a rest in silence. The picture with them was taken next day when they felt much better.

Need to say that they are not just visibly colored like three suns but also in the hearts. From the time I met them my heart is more bright and will be always connected to them. The war is terrible, with nothing positive on it except one thing and it is that the invisible kind



A STATEMENT OF KOLPING YOUTH GERMANY

On March 3, Kolping Youth Germany published a political statement on the war in Ukraine. Kolping Youth Europe translated this statement into English to support its dissemination.

“Kolping Youth Germany is appalled by the attack on Ukraine that is contrary to international law. What we see and what is reported makes us stunned and makes clear that extensive sanctions against Russia are necessary to show that war must not be a means to enforce political interests. Furthermore, Ukraine deserves our full solidarity and active support.

For this reason, Kolping Youth Germany demands from the federal government of Germany, but also from the EU and NATO, united and active action against Russia and support for Ukraine. If necessary, national interests must be subordinated to the interests of Ukraine.

Kolping Youth Germany supports the sanctions adopted to date and demands the examination of further measures:

- We demand that the gas pipeline Nord Stream 2 will not be taken into operation in future. By taking the gas pipeline into operation, Germany would increase its dependency on Russia unnecessarily. The further operation of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline needs to be discussed openly from the perspectives of supply security and climate protection. Energy policy is an important component of European security policy.
- The exclusion of additional Russian banks from the SWIFT payment system should be examined. In case of doubt, Germany's economic interests have to move into the background.
- We call to ban all ships under Russian flag from entering German ports and using German waterways, analogous to the regulations in the United Kingdom, and for a similar ban to be promoted within the EU.



- We support the EU's foreign policy in not breaking off diplomatic relations with Russia completely. A solution to the conflict can only be found through negotiation. In this context, however, it needs to be stated that moving borders by acts of war is not an option.
- We demand to review the composition and structure of committees of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council.

Kolping Youth Germany welcomes measures of the Federal Government and the European Union to support Ukraine. Ukraine deserves our full solidarity, also beyond this conflict:

- We especially support the decision of the European Union to provide Ukraine with 500 million Euros for humanitarian aid.
- We call for Ukraine's European aspirations to be supported and for granting Ukraine the status of an "EU candidate country".
- We demand to support Ukraine's sovereign freedom of decision with regards to joining international organizations (NATO, OECD).
- We demand to support our EU and NATO partners at our external borders in the reception and distribution of refugees. We welcome the overwhelming willingness to help in Europe and advocate for a close coordination within the European Union to support refugees from Ukraine."



FREE VIDEO RECORDING/EDITING WEBINARS

Between May and July, Kolping Youth Europe organized a series of free webinars on video editing and recording, with no prior knowledge required to participate.

Jerzy Wolf, a member of the board of Kolping Youth Europe and an expert in audio- and video editing lead the three-part webinar. These webinars were designed to enable you to record and edit videos in a professional way, which will allow you to create videos to document or advertise activities of your Kolping Family (such as presentations, event and project summaries, and other types of videos).

The Software that was used during the webinar was DaVinci Resolve, a free yet powerful software that allows to create amazing videos from start to finish.

The focus of these web-series was on preparing audio and video-material for editing, getting to know the software, learning the basics to put together a video, adding elements like subtitles and watermarks, looking for sources of free images, music, and sound effects, improving the general quality of recorded materials, as well as tips and best practices regarding recording of videos related to lectures, interviews, and events.

The webinar was mostly aimed at entry-level participants, nevertheless Jerzy provided also advanced tips and tricks that are also helpful for more experienced users.

All three parts were recorded and they will be published on YouTube for future reference soon. We will share the information (including the lecture slides) via our Facebook profile so don't hesitate to like us and you will be notified when we put the material online.

Jerzy Wolf



CLOSE COLLABORATION OF KOLPING EUROPE AND KOLPING YOUTH EUROPE

From 20th to 22nd of May 2022, the board of Kolping Europe met in Esztergom/Hungary. To ensure a good collaboration with Kolping Youth Europe, Heinz Strässle and Sven Messing were invited as well.

The main topic of the meeting was the preparation of the Continental Assembly that will take place in Esztergom in September. The city is known as the "Hungarian Rome", and the largest church of the country is located in its centre. At the same weekend, Kolping Youth Europe will host its annual Membership Meeting in Esztergom to facilitate networking across different generations.

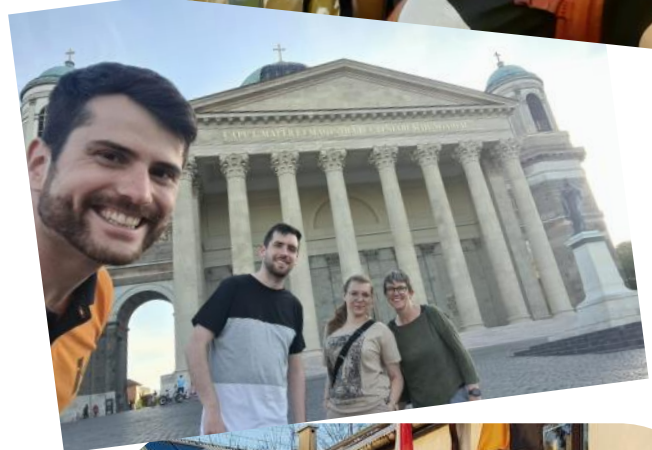
Further topics of common interest were public relations and the visual identity of both organisations. In addition, Kolping Europe ensured its ongoing support for youth work at European level, including financial support for this year's events.

We are glad that the collaboration with Kolping Europe is getting closer and closer, and look forward to the joint event in Esztergom later this year!

Sven Messing, Germany



**follow us on
SOCIAL MEDIA or
on our webpage**



Kolping Youth Europe invites you to join the campaign #KOLPINGgoesgreen that aims to collect inspiring examples from all over the continent. We are especially interested in initiatives of your Kolping group that raise awareness for climate action or protect the local environment. If you would like to join, please send us a photo of your initiative and a short explanation (3-5 sentences) to contact@kolpingyouthurope.com.

All initiatives will be published on our social media channels throughout the year 2022, connected via the hashtag #KOLPINGgoesgreen. Examples for initiatives could be local rubbish collection, the promotion of active mobility, workshops on environmental topics, or awareness-raising campaigns. However, the diversity of potentially interesting initiatives is unlimited, and we are looking forward to receiving your input.

#KOLPINGgoesgreen will be linked to Kolping International's campaign #KOLPINGworks that shows how our members contribute to making this world a better place, true to our role model Adolph Kolping. We are looking forward to learning more about green initiatives from your country, as they might inspire other youth groups to get active!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kolping Youth Slovenia warmly invites youngsters from whole Europe to join the Peace Walk 2022 that takes place in Maribor from 18.08.-20.08.2022 (21nd is optional). 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.

More information and applications will be published on an event website. Here is a link :

<http://friedenswanderung2020.kolping-zdruzenje.si/>

If you need additional information please write to mladi.kolping@gmail.com



YOUTH WEEK 2022: SAVE THE DATE

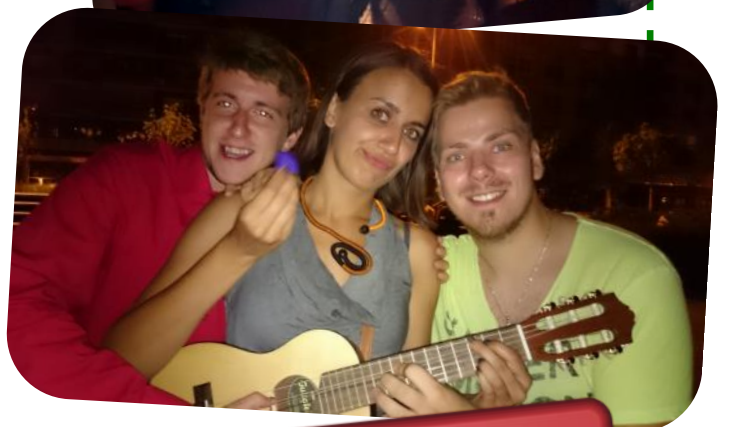


After two years of a global pandemic, Kolping Serbia will host the next European Youth Week from 7.-13. August 2022. The event will take place in Novi Sad and focus on the topic "Let's get digital! Innovation in digital youth work". The European Youth Week is the main event of Kolping Youth Europe that connects young people from Europe who learn and spend quality time together.

The world is slowly recovering from the difficulties we have faced in the past couple of years. However, many events are still held online. Even though nothing can substitute the in-person human experience, connecting with people online has its own perks. Therefore, Kolping Youth Europe deems that developing specific skills to deal with challenges in digital youth work is crucial for adapting to this new global work frame and making the most of internet access. Furthermore, promoting youth volunteering has always been a challenge; therefore, it is essential to learn to plan successful campaigns in the digital space to reach out to young people.

Besides many lectures by prestigious guest speakers, leisure-time activities such as sightseeing Novi Sad and Petrovaradin Fortress and spending time at the banks of the Danube will complete the program. The photos on the right side demonstrate the mood and activities from the previous Kolping Youth Week 2015

To apply, please hurry up, there are still couple of free places. To do so, please fill out the online form (<https://forms.gle/RCjft3bYBBTDQWaEg>) till 25nd of July. See you there!



Dear Kolping Youth of Europe!

We would like to kindly invite you to participate in the annual Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe which is going to take place in Esztergom, Hungary from 16th to 18th September 2022.

This time we are very happy to organize the event at the same time as the Continental Assembly of Kolping Europe, which gives us a great opportunity to collaborate on topics and spend time together.

Participants: Up to two representatives of the Kolping Youth society from each country

Language: English

Participation fee: Friday – Sunday 60 €

Please fill out the following Google form **until 16.08.2022:**

<https://forms.gle/VVhL1JAdbvcEmoe2A>

If you have any questions write to contact@kolpingyouth europe.com

Every delegate can candidate for a place in the board of Kolping Youth Europe. If you are interested in running for election, please send us a declaration of interest via the registration form (last question) or via email until the 09.09.2021. We are also happy to share more information about the tasks of a board member if you have any questions.

All participants are obliged to have a health insurance which is valid abroad for the duration of the meeting.

There are currently no COVID-19 related regulations in Hungary. Nevertheless, we recommend to be vaccinated against COVID, in case the situation would change. Kolping Youth Europe would develop a hygiene concept for the meeting to reduce the risk of infections in case it is necessary.



Elections 2022

Kolping Youth Europe



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Kolping Youth Europe

If you like our activities and want to support us also financially, please feel free to use our bank account to do so

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