



**REPORT
OF THE BOARD
2021/2022**

Dear friends of Kolping Youth Europe,

The year 2021/2022 meant a restart for youth work at European level. The Membership Meeting in Ludbreg/Croatia in October 2021 was the first in-person meeting after a break of two years. In 2022, the European Youth Week took place in Novi Sad/Serbia in August (the first one since 2017!). This was a great teamwork of the host countries and the board of Kolping Youth Europe.

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 tell us your suggestions and recommendations for the future. Also, there are plenty of opportunities how you can support Kolping Youth Europe as a volunteer. Please contact us if you are interested.

Success is guaranteed if we all work and grow together!

Best regards,

Your board of Kolping Youth Europe

1. Events

1.1 Membership Meeting 2021

Our last Membership Meeting was held in Ludbreg, Croatia from 1st to 3rd of October. 18 members from 9 different countries came together to learn and create nice memories, especially because it was the first in person meeting since the Membership Meeting 2019. The program was diverse. In addition to the statutory and educational parts, the participants were also able to see many important landmarks of Ludbreg during a guided walking tour.

You can find a detailed report about the last Membership Meeting on our website ([see link](#)).

1.2 Kolping Virtual Apéro

On December 13th, 2021, Kolping Youth Europe organized a Christmas Virtual Apéro. Participants were invited to make Christmas cookies and origami Christmas tree ornaments together with board members. It was nice to share the holiday spirit with Kolping Youth members around the world, discuss different Christmas customs and looking forward to meeting each other in person soon.

1.3 Free Video Recording and Editing Webinars

Between May and July 2022, 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 led the three-part webinar. The focus of these web-series was on preparing audio and video material for editing, getting to know the free editing software DaVinci Resolve, 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. You can watch the webinars online on the YouTube channel of Kolping Youth Europe: <https://www.youtube.com/@kolpingyouthurope2204>.

1.4 Youth Week

After a long break, a new European Youth Week could be organized, with participants from 11 European countries. The event took place from the 7th till 13th of August in Novi Sad, Serbia and was themed “Let’s get digital! Innovation in digital youth work”. Participants were able to learn about storytelling, creating content and how to use it to promote youth work. Everybody enjoyed sightseeing in Novi Sad, sharing their culture and making memories for life. You can find a detailed report about the Youth Week 2022 on our website ([see link](#)). In addition, we will publish videos that were created during the event on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@kolpingyouthurope2204>

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 300 people follow our news on it.

At the same time, our Facebook page is active with around 760 followers. In June last year, 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 can always support our social media channels, by sharing posts and inviting people to follow our activities.

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

2.2. Website.

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

In the last year, we published articles about:

- The European Youth Week 2022 (see 1.4)
- Statement of Kolping Germany on war in Ukraine and support to the refugees and an interview with Vasyl Savka from Kolping Society of Ukraine
- Invitations to the Youth Week 2022 and the Membership Meeting 2022.
- Invitation to join the KOLPINGgoesgreen campaign
- Dialogue with the Vice President of the European Commission.

We aim 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 and across our social media channels.

2.3 Newsletter

Kolping Youth Europe has published two newsletters since the previous Membership Meeting in 2021.

You can download them on our website ([see link](#)).

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



3. Internal Organization

3.1 Youth advisors

In the previous reporting period, Kolping Youth Europe received an annual operating grant from the European Union (Erasmus+) from the 1st of September 2020 to the 31st of August 2021. This grant allowed us to engage youth advisors in Poland (Patrycja Kwapik, 10 hours/week) and Serbia (Katarina Jeremić & Nikolina Lazendić, 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). The board of Kolping Youth Europe decided with accordance of the youth advisors not to continue their work agreements due to limited funding opportunities. In case of need, they are available for ad hoc support.

3.2 EU funding

In December 2021, Kolping Youth Europe submitted a funding proposal to the European Commission (call: ERASMUS-YOUTH-2022-CSC-OG, proposal number: 101075265). The proposal was prepared by Sven Messing and Heinz Strässle with support from Patrycja Kwapik (Kolping Poland) and Gregor Federhen (Kolping International) The project would have been named “Moving beyond the crisis: Climate action, creative digitalization and capacity building in youth work in post-covid Europe”. Even though the funding proposal achieved the necessary points to be eligible for the grant, other projects were selected instead.

3.3 Digital archive

In the previous reporting period, the board of Kolping Youth Europe created a digital archive on pCloud to allow future generations of board members to access and store important documents that will simplify their work. The digital archive was continued, and additional documents related to activities in 2021/2022 were stored.

4. Cooperation

4.1 National Kolping Societies

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 Kolping Serbia (Youth Week 2022), Kolping Croatia (Membership Meeting 2021) and Kolping Hungary (Membership Meeting 2022). We are also grateful for the effective communication with all other Kolping Societies, especially in the context of Kolping Youth Europe's events.

4.2 Kolping International

In 2021/2022, the exchange with Kolping International was mainly related to the potential participation of board members of Kolping Youth Europe at The Economy of Francesco (see 4.4).

4.3 Kolping Europe

A good cooperation with Kolping Europe is essential for Kolping Youth Europe, as both organizations have a similar focus and can benefit from close collaboration.

At the digital Continental Assembly in October 2021, a new board of Kolping Europe was elected:

- Vasyl Savka (Ukraine, President)
- Renate Draskovits (Austria, Vice-President)
- Istvan Gödri (Romania, European Praeses)
- Erich Reischmann (Switzerland, European Secretary)
- Klaudia Rudersdorf (Germany)
- Martina Messner (South Tyrol)
- Patrycja Kwapik (Poland)
- Anton Salesny (Austria, European Commissioner)

The logo for Kolping Youth Europe features a stylized 'K' composed of black and orange geometric shapes. To the right of the 'K', the words 'KOLPING' and 'YOUTH' are stacked in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Kolping Youth Europe' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

KOLPING YOUTH

Kolping Youth Europe

In January 2022, Sven Messing and Heinz Strässle scheduled a meeting with the newly elected President Vasyl Savka to set the basis for future collaboration. During this meeting, the idea for scheduling the Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe at the same place and date as the Kontinentalversammlung (Continental Assembly) of Kolping Europe was developed.

The newly elected board decided to invite Sven Messing and Heinz Strässle to board meetings in March (online) and May (in person) 2022. Additional meetings were scheduled on a case-by-case basis, whenever this was needed.

The in-person meeting took place in Esztergom/Hungary in May 2022 and had the main focus to prepare the Continental Assembly in September 2022. Further topics of common interest were public relations and the visual identity of both organizations. In addition, Kolping Europe ensured its ongoing support for youth work on a European level, including financial support for this year's events.



4.4 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 took place with Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for the European Green Deal ([see link](#)).



4.5 The Economy of Francesco

The Economy of Francesco is an initiative of Pope Francis with the aim to initiate a process of global economic change. An event with 2,000 selected participants was originally planned in Assisi/Italy in March 2020 but postponed to September 2022 due to the pandemic. Dominik Presul and Sven Messing were originally selected but – because of the change in date – will be unable to participate.

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 2022 | Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Youth Week 2022 | Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Public relations | |
| Website | Jerzy Wolf (PL) |
| Social Media | Luís Saavedra (PT) |
| Newsletter | Dominik Presul (SK) |
| Content manager | Sven Messing (DE) |
| Video creator | Jerzy Wolf (PL) |
| Internal organization | |
| Board meetings | Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Notetaker | Grlica Golušin (SRB) & Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Grant manager | Sven Messing (DE) & Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Data management | Jerzy Wolf (PL) & Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Finances | Heinz Strässle (CH) |
| Update of the Statute | Sven Messing (DE) |
| Update of the Logo | Luís Saavedra (PT) |
| 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) |
| Contact to National Kolping Societies | |
| 18 countries | Divided between all board members |

Impressum

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