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Bureau Report

Kevin Tammearu – Digital Officer

May-October 2017

Dear delegates and liberal friends,

Now that we have that out of the way, let's focus on what the period after the congress had to offer. If you don't have much spare time on your hands, then the next sentence will give you the overview:

Preparing and running the LYMEC hackathon on youth unemployment in Andorra; moderating a discussion during Summer Academy; welcome summer with open hands; carve out an outline for the LYMEC blog Libertas.

LYMEC Hackathon

So we did it. LYMEC Hackathon on youth unemployment. We had some speakers, we had some participants, we had some sun, I grew a year older and it was all fun.

If you're still a bit lost on that unfamiliar word you keep hearing about, then here's a throwback to my last Bureau Report:

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"For those, that have used up their unlimited supply of Google for the day, a hackathon is in a way like a workshop... kind of. It is originally from the tech scene, where strangers from different disciplines (software developers, business developers, marketers etc.) come together to create new solutions to problems they've defined and validated ... and validated ... and validated. The core really is about thinking different. And that's something I we strive to push people in LYMEC to do. It's breaking mental barriers and imagining how things should be done instead of how they are done right now. It's neglecting legacy systems and creating new value."

We did it with some of our top notch members, got together, started it all on the coach from Barcelona to Andorra and had a blast. All-in-all, what we achieved was introduce a way of structuring your thoughts in a manner where testing is inevitable.

Imagine this. Some - or a lot - of you will be proposing resolutions for this Congress. You'll be outlining the context, the problem and your solutions. You'll hopefully do some research and make yourself an expert in that area. Ahead of and during congress, you promote your work, find allies and detect opponents.

Then comes your moment to shine, you present your precious to the people sitting in the audience with two outcomes - the resolution passes, or it doesn't (that is of course, if we even get to discussing that particular paper).

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If it doesn't pass - too bad, try again next time. However, if it does pass it becomes part of LYMEC's Policy Book, the official way of thought and point of reference for the Bureau. You'll enjoy your seat in the hall of fame and the problem will become obsolete - because you did a heck of a job smashing your keyboard and fencing off any argument countering your work. "My precious" you say while coming off stage triumphantly.

And we've gone through all of this just to confirm that we agree on some set of coherent [assumptions](#).

Because the cold hearted (I'm Estonian after all) truth is, that's mostly all they are. Assumptions. They're not validated. We don't know if they work and we don't do a lot to find out if they do. Assumption. Validation.

Here. Now we might have gotten somewhere.

A hackathon lets you make assumptions. And then it makes you validate.

Find proof. Test the market. See if it floats.

And if it doesn't, you go [Sparta](#) on it. And I mean killing your baby, not shouting "This is Spartaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" while you push a sad guy down what seems to be an uncomfortably deep hole...

Nah, actually that's not how it works in the market or at hackathons.

If you find flaws in your assumptions (through validation, cuz that's what you do with dem assumptions), you use that information to correct your initial guesswork and if necessary pivot and go through the process again.

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Now could you imagine if we did that with the resolutions that get passed during Congress? If we actually made it rolled up our sleeves, had a cup of coffee (because coffee is good) and worked on making it happen.

Life would be beautiful. And we all want to live a beautiful life.

Disclaimer: Many people believe their lives are beautiful already. The author of this report has no intention of taking that away.

That's enough poking the bear for one report.. Let's move on to the next topic:

Innovation, culture and people

I've been talking about this for a couple of events already and loving the questions during the time when questions are addressed. It's been a great ride.

However, the challenge still persists. How do we alter perception, behaviour and way of thought for it to benefit the collective cause better?

Last time I told you that culture is manifested in behaviour. The way we take the microphone during resolution debating during congress for instance. And if we go there bringing new argumentation to the table.

Or we simply say: "Yeah, the first person actually said everything I wanted to say, so I'll just say it once more but change 2 words".

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The point is, there's areas we can improve on. There always will be.

In the Bureau, we've decided to create a sub-focus in our Libertas blog.

It'll be all about improving our operations before, during and after events: practical, positive stories about how to make the most of Congress. How to have efficient delegation meetings.

How to create rapport with Bureau members (buy drinks). 6 ways to lobby for your resolution. 7 ways to have better arguments during a debate.

You catch my drift, right?. We're creating a loop of constant improvement. A base for veterans to sharpen their swords and a safety net for the fresh ones to learn the ropes.

And here's the Call to Action hidden at the very bottom of a report that get's read a thousand times - if you want to write about something. Or you'd like something to be written about. Or you know someone you'd like to read.

Then just let me know (or the Bureau). There will not be a committee summoned for the orchestration of this.

Below are the events I've been to. Packaged in a nice framework with the help of Marijn.

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Attended events:

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation
9-11 June 2017	Andorra la Vella Andorra	Hackathon	LYMEC
28-30 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	Summer Academy	LYMEC/Young Democrats
8-10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	Young Leader's Meeting	LYMEC
10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
16-17 September 2017	Athens Greece	Young liberals in election campaigns	ELF/FNF

Best wishes,

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