

Bureau Member Report

Pau Castellví Canet, Capacity Building and Coordination Officer

Friday, 8th of March 2019

Dear delegates,

Thanks for taking a break from campaigning and working on resolutions to take a look at my report. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Brussels in April. As the Bureau Member in charge of capacity building, the Individual Member Section and improving the ways we organise as a political youth, my work often takes me to support our efforts in the training of our young leaders around Europe. I am also involved in the process of improving LYMEC's current structures and procedures with a view on effectiveness, efficiency, organisational memory and membership engagement. In this report, I would like to highlight some of the key issues I have been supporting in the last semester.

Capacity Building and training: first edition of the *Young Changemakers Academy (YCA)*

In the run-up to the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019, the LYMEC Bureau has invested substantial efforts in the training of some of our most promising young political leaders by organising training events and programmes. In this sense, I have been in charge of coordinating the first edition of the YCA, a new programme organised by LYMEC with the support of the European Liberal Forum (ELF), the Theodor Heuss Akademie (Germany) by the Friedrich Neumann Foundation (FNF), ALDE Party and Microsoft (on the issue of cybersecurity). The programme provided hands-on training to current or future politicians from our Member Organisations (MOs). All MOs were informed about this programme, its characteristics and the pertinent selection criteria, and were encouraged to submit one candidate for consideration. Many more applications were received than spots were available for this event (10 spots), which regrettably meant being unable to take in some great, very solid applicants. Selection was carried out by the LYMEC Bureau with support from our Secretariat, based on ability to attend all events, need and merit.

During a period of almost four months, three events were held, each spanning several days of training. The **first** event took place in Brussels and provided participants with training on personal branding, rhetoric, writing and delivering speeches and cybersecurity, among other areas. The **second** event also took place in Brussels but was much more practical, as participants were linked to specific MEPs working in their areas of interest. They each had to shadow an MEP for an entire day, with the aim of getting acquainted with the day-by-day of an MEP, in practice. They also received training on campaign fundraising. This event could not have been successful without the great contributions in time, knowledge and political capital by LYMEC Policy Officer Antoaneta Asenova. The **third** event took place at the Theodor Heuss Akademie in Gummersbach, Germany. In a period of three days, participants were provided with training on social media, campaign building, campaign team management, the use of data for campaigns, interviews, press relations and the use of voice and non-verbal communication when speaking in public.

As the feedback received from participants on this programme has been very positive so far, the LYMEC Bureau will be seriously considering the possibility of investing in a second edition of the YCA. Further evaluation will determine whether doing so is feasible and which format should be adopted in the future based on this first edition's lessons learned. Throughout the entire programme, the LYMEC Bureau and Secretariat have attempted to give each participant a personalised approach, resources allowing; this has meant both that it has been a relatively time-consuming programme for several Bureau members (not just myself) and our Secretary General, and an appropriate level of flexibility that has allowed the programme to meet all participants' desired learning outcomes. This and more will be taken into account in the evaluation process. With time, multiple participants to this programme have ended up running for the EP elections and now tell us that the content of the programme is being very useful to their campaigns. They have also provided us with tips for improvement, should we indeed decide to continue the programme in the future. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all participants, speakers and my colleagues in the LYMEC Bureau and Secretariat, especially Antoaneta Asenova, Danica Vihinen and Svenja Hahn, for their great contributions to this event.

In addition to coordinating this programme, I have also delivered a number of trainings to MOs in their home countries, to help them build capacity in their areas of need. Given our budget constraints, however, we have prioritised visiting organisations to this effect that have expressed specific needs often in the face of particularly strenuous circumstances. In all cases, we have spent money with austerity; delivering trainings following events that had to be attended on behalf of the Bureau.

Finally, we are now finalising discussions with FNF on what may end up being one of the largest training events we have ever carried out, as an organisation, in their excellent training facilities in Gummersbach (Germany): our own Policy Summer School. We will soon let you know more about the details.

LYMEC's engagement capacity

One of the reasons why I ran for the LYMEC Bureau back in 2018 relates to LYMEC's engagement capacity. I strongly believe an organisation with nearly 60 MOs spanning about 200.000 young liberals from all over Europe, needs to be able to reach out to as many of these as possible in its daily activity. We have a pool of talent, voices, character, and leadership potential at our avail that we have not tapped into.

As explained in my report prior to our Autumn 2018 Congress, the Bureau decided to focus our efforts of the first year of our mandate especially on issues surrounding the manifesto and the EP elections. For that reason, as explained there, we might be start approaching this point after the elections, by using the opportunity of the 2019 Policy Summer School with FNF in Gummersbach (July 2019) to start a pilot with participants. Furthermore, in the past few months I have led an attempt to study the possibility of using new technologies to bring the debates we (could) have in congresses closer to our membership, thereby exploring potential new partnerships with companies working with e-democracy. We hope to be able to report more news very soon.

Individual Member Section (IMS) reform

After the approval and successful implementation of the IMS reform, we now have two recently elected members of the new Steering Committee, designed to facilitate the internal organisation of the IMS: Benjamin Fievet and Marina Sedlo, both previously IMS delegates very involved in the design of this new organ. Simultaneously, three new IMS delegates to the LYMEC Congress were elected: Jordi Torres, Tiago Dias and Bálint Gyévai. We from the LYMEC Bureau would like to congratulate these new representatives of the IMS and will be working with them very closely to ensure the reform works out successfully, as intended.

Regional responsibilities

As noted in my report prior to the 2018 Autumn Congress in Vilnius, one of the priorities for LYMEC pertaining to my regional responsibilities has been to help our British MOs in this time of uncertainty following up the (first) Brexit referendum. For that purpose, I was present on behalf of the LYMEC Bureau in the Young Liberals' Summer Conference in Wales last August and was immensely proud to announce on LYMEC's behalf that London would be the location for our 2019 Autumn Congress. Now, it is with pleasure that I report that our efforts to bring Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland) back have been successful. Not only that, but their President and Vice-President will be joining us in our Brussels Congress. I would like to thank Ben Whitlock, International Officer of the Young Liberals, for his help in this process. We are still attempting to do the same with Gibraltar Liberal Youth, and will persevere in our attempts.

We have also been working closely with JLA (Andorra), as they are now going to be facing a relevant national election that will decide, among other things, what relationship model the country should have with the EU. For that reason, I will be visiting JLA by the end of March and delivering a training aiming to help them build capacity. Moreover, I have been in touch with representatives from Iniciativa Liberal (Portugal) in the past and remain at their disposal should they wish to finally launch a membership application in the near future.

At last, I would like to inform you, following up from my previous report for the 2018 Autumn Congress, that we are still working on closing an agreement with ALDE Party on using a license of their Individual Member data management software (NationBuilder).

Please, do not hesitate to let me know should you have any questions.

With best wishes,



Pau Castellví Canet

Summary of all events attended on behalf of LYMEC:

Dates	Place	Event/purpose	Organisation(s)
11-14 October 2018	Vilnius, Lithuania	LYMEC Congress	LYMEC
13 October 2018	Vilnius, Lithuania	In-person meeting with IMS delegates	LYMEC
14 October 2018	Vilnius, Lithuania	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
24 November 2018	Budapest, Hungary	Meeting with President Nagy Károly and the Momentum Tizen X Bureau	Momentum TizenX
24 November 2018	Budapest, Hungary	Facilitated training on recruitment and engagement of new members	Momentum TizenX
30 November - 2 December 2018	Brussels, Belgium	Coordinated <i>Young Changemakers Academy</i> (YCA), event I	LYMEC
2 December 2018	Brussels, Belgium	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
5 February 2019	Brussels, Belgium	Spoke at round table on youth participation by MLMS and the British Council in Brussels	MLMS / British Council
5-7 February 2019	Brussels, Belgium	Coordinated YCA, event II	LYMEC
9-10 February 2019	Berlin, Germany	ALDE Council & Campaign Launch	ALDE Party
10 February 2019	Berlin, Germany	In-person LYMEC Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
28 February - 3 March 2019	Gummersbach, Germany	Coordinated YCA, event III	LYMEC
17 March 2019	Reus, Catalonia	JNC Congress	JNC
29-30 March 2019 (tbc)	Andorra	National election event by JLA on European politics	JLA
30 March 2019 (tbc)	Andorra	Will facilitate training on grassroots campaigning	JLA