

Executive Summary of the Third European Strategy Meeting of By2020WeRiseUp

This is the Executive Summary of the Third European Strategy Meeting of By2020WeRiseUp. You'll find the [exhaustive minutes here](#).

Advisory on ending the first wave

- We don't necessarily have to announce the fact that there will be an ending.
 - Give the possibility for actions to keep going, be vague about the ending of the wave.
 - It might make sense to start putting forwards demands.
- Key narrative: We are only starting out, we will be coming back. Join us.
 - Doing/telling the narrative of the ending more for ourselves than for the media.
- Ideas for ending with action (can be combined!)
 - people's assemblies
 - gatherings/celebrations of the actions that have taken place
 - People/groups should be openly invited to gatherings/assemblies/celebrations to join us
 - coordinated actions in different countries after the EU-summit on the 17th/18th of October

Ideas on tactics and action forms

- Media catches on to mass actions, but they take a lot of resources. Ideally we'd find a way to organise mass actions that do not require massive logistics.
- It is not only mass action, but small group actions, not only media attention but economic damage. Also highlight actions from the recent past + learning from FFF + XR's capacity to capture the media.
- See the [website](#) and the [exhaustive minutes of the Third European strategy](#) meeting for action ideas

Exchanges about theories of change

- Idea: Back-casting; COP 26 is the place where unavoidable change is implemented, not where possibilities are discussed - How do we get to the best-case scenario? What would we need
- Breakout groups ideas:
 - Focus on people's interest: renewable jobs, education platforms, demand less hours of wage labor ... Talk more to the people themselves. Increase solidarity. Pressure on corporations.
 - Pressuring the decision-makers: making sure they have no choice but to act. Creating polarization between people and power. Creating popular anger.
 - Group dynamics: intersectional work. Grand narrative bringing together different groups.

Agreement on an advisory document on demands

- There will be no By2020-demands, but a working group has drafted an advisory document on what to consider on the topic of demands. The demand is structured as follows:
 - Research and inspiration: sketching scenario 1 of the IPCC (= staying below 1.5°C global warming) and listing examples for demands
 - Red lines and recommendations: what to consider in putting demands
 - Notes on radicality: how demands can serve to achieve change
- Notes from the plenary:
 - Demands need to be formulated on local level
 - Demands need to be vague but radical
 - Don't have a fixed set of demands that puts you into weaker negotiating position but adaptable demands
 - Don't have „leaders“ but different and spokespersons for press (don't need to be experts)
 - Demands should fight off false solutions (e.g. green capitalism)
 - The level of radicality should be high enough to inspire other demands and set a high standard

Agreement on internal communication

- By2020 will propose different tools (which are just a proposal)
 - Map of actions
 - Liveblog/Livefeed on website (visualizing and contextualizing different actions around Europe)
 - Tools should be open source (100%); Twitter as an exception. If not possible, getting back to groups during next European strategy call.
 - If there's no open source tool/ liveblog accessible, still use tool and communicate risks (90% agreement). If there's no option, we need to rediscuss (next European strategy call)
 - Neutral 2020 twitter account: to retweet what's happening
- We need contact points per country who give feedback to European level during waves
- Work needs to be dedicated to communication and cooperation by groups themselves!

Thoughts on the off-wave

- Idea: recovery work, working on structural problems, planning, care work, training and integrating more people. There's an existing working group.

Thoughts on intersectionality

- Definition:
 - originally used by women of colour → affected by different forms of oppression
 - pointing out common struggles between different movements
 - communities on the basis of common understanding

- There are only living-beings that are all oppressed by the system. Our goal is to make By2020 as big as possible by including as many people as possible in the movement **without appropriation**
- Groups to which outreach could be done:
 - There are different groups of society that need to be addressed in different ways to mobilize them: Active allies → Passive allies → Neutrals → Passive opposition → Active opposition
 - Unions → What's the role of unions in a degrowth society?
 - Journalist → useful to spread the word; also connect different groups publicly
 - Farmers → farming crucial for life; **NOT** part of the problem but also victims of the system
 - Wellness → burnout and anxiety part of the system and activist community (prevent burn-out-caretaking); positive approach
 - Artist collectives → useful to be in-your-face and creative approaches (activist collective)
 - Bigger public → help them create their own groups; educational material; fun and positivity
 - Counter oppression groups → need to connect struggles to climate justice
- Concrete ideas
 - Looking for ambassador persons to connect with other groups/movements (intersectional)
 - Language: we often talk about people to come here → how much are we in reciprocity
 - Need to be inviting in narrative and not draw frontlines/ play the blame game
 - Intersectionality must happen locally
 - Events to get to know each other (e.g. a picnic: food always appealing)
 - Provide help for other groups (of other movements), not making them having to support us (imposing this)
 - Skill shares with other groups, movements
 - Approaching people needs to be done face-to-face; can profit from people who are active in different groups; attend other events and build alliances; important not to „take over“ other events of other groups; need to mutually support each other (not only one way)

Thoughts on supporting one another

- How can groups support one another?
 - Ideas: tools, collecting contact lists, communication channels between groups, skillsharing
 - Actions: Coordinating different action forms in the same time frame
 - Agreeing on external communication
 - Solidarity actions / manifestations can enable more radical action forms
- How can countries support one another?
 - workable international calls for action + contact points / people + cross-country actions and transportation
- How can NGOs and grassroots groups support one another?
 - Help by making sure there is no co-optation happening.
 - Take care of organizing, second people/staff to grassroots activities, provide resources (e.g. training-wise, financial, expert resources and libraries) and coaching. Need lawyers (also for training and action planning)

- Help with media work or solidarity media work. Help organizing meetings.
- Practically establishing contact(s) is an essential part of tackling many of these challenges

First ideas for the second and third wave of actions

Second wave

- Overall theme: finance
- Timeframe of the second wave: mid-January to mid-February
- Preliminary structuring dates/ideas: World Economic Failure, targeting the World Economic Forum, 19th - 21st January, EIB, NGOs...
- Targets: Financial centers, lobby organizations, stock exchanges
- Narrative idea: There is a crisis because the current system is causing it – there are reasons behind the problem.
- Ending: big bang at the end, similar to the idea for the 1st wave remains an open question.

Third wave

- Overall thematic (wording to be refined) : the economy
- Timeframe: From beginning of April to beginning of June
- Preliminary structuring dates/ideas (Shell must fall, Swiss strikes, AGMs season, FFF Spring mobilization, 1st of April and 1st of May)
- The idea is to disrupt the economy, places of real economic function. So that the only politically viable option is to take the necessary radical steps to ensure a fair and livable future to all. When the third wave happens we should have built a narrative, and also of experience from the second wave, that makes the actions in the third wave necessary and justified in their radicality, also for the broader public. To disrupt the economy, we have to look for weak points, choke points.
- Narrative idea: We have to end this economic system and we will.
- Ending: big bang at the end, similar to the idea for the 1st wave remains an open question.

Agreement on external communication

- Results during the meeting:
 - Thoughts on communication strategy
 - Framework for communication packages to be shared during the wave
 - Updated core messaging
- Core messaging and communication packages will be finalised, additionally, general guidelines for press-work will hopefully be provided (if supporting groups have guidelines, please do share them!)
- People need to report their actions back to the European level/coordination! One tool to share actions will be a common hashtag

Preparations for the next meeting

- Meeting up after the first wave to debrief and think strategically about 2020
- Separating the debriefing and coordination/strategy parts of the conference.

- That means planning 2 weekends : For now, the idea is to have the first weekend in Munich (01.-03.11. and the second weekend either in Munich/ Vienna or Bratislava (08.-10.11.)
- Online conference and call for papers for youth and people who can't travel (only to be organized if necessary)
- If you can only make it for one weekend, just come for 2nd one! There will be other ways of giving feedback on the 1st wave (call for papers + online call options)

Mandate for By2020WeRiseUp

- Agreement from the plenary on the three mandates:
 - Working on demands (as in drafting an advisory)
 - Planning the November conference
 - Continuing work on external and internal communications

Concrete next steps

- To be able to make the first wave a success, it is critical for the platform to get **contacts per country**, people who will be in contact with the platform on a European level and be in charge of feeding information back to the common communication channels so that we can see that the wave is happening, that people are indeed rising up, and also so that we can have a good enough overview on what happened throughout the autumn to be able to work on the next waves during the November conference. If you feel like you can be a contact point for your country (or region, or group), please **write to us!** by2020we@riseup.net
- **Next calls:** depending on what makes sense for you, please make sure you attend the upcoming national calls, regional calls or European strategy call. Reach out to us if you want more info on this (specifying your region/ country and what you want to do)
- **November conference:** please book the first two weekends of November if you can (or only the second one if you can't book both)
- Please do some education work and **spread the word** about this coming uprising that we are building all together – you'll find a lot of materials on the [website](#) such as the [Beginner's guide](#), the [Call-out](#) or the [Narrative for the first wave](#), but also [mobilization materials](#). If you're unsure what to use for which purpose, don't hesitate to drop us a line! by2020we@riseup.net
- By2020WeRiseUp is a platform animated only by independent activists – and, as in many groups, we would really **need help** to fulfill our role of platform and keep on making this space for coordination and strategy a reality. Many working groups exist; don't hesitate to reach out, we'll find the perfect match for you!
- And, of course...

Join the first wave! On how to do that, you can : have a look at the minutes from this meeting, at the [minutes from previous meetings](#), at the [Call-out](#), at the [Beginner's guide](#) or at the [Narrative for the first wave](#). To make a long story short: plan actions and coordinate with other groups during the time frame of the first wave or, if you can't, plan solidarity actions, training, media work. Generally speaking, make sure that whatever you or others do is fed back to the platform so that we can all see how much is happening, feel empowered, learn, build bridges, compile information for the November conference and set the stage for drastic escalation in 2020.