IUSY is a youth-led NGO umbrella organisation that gathers socialist, social-democratic and labour youth organisations worldwide. Founded in 1907, it concentrates its efforts on support and capacity building for young people fighting for freedom, human rights, social justice, equality and democracy, international solidarity and political solutions. It is the biggest political youth organisation in the world: over 140 member organisations in over 90 countries. IUSY has a long tradition in being involved in different activities through regional committees, seminars, workshops, trainings, and study visits. Activities implemented by IUSY are based on its fundamental values those of socialism and social democracy: freedom, equality, and solidarity. In essence these three values can be summarised by the word “democracy”, as real democracy assumes and creates freedom, equality and solidarity at the same time. IUSY build bridges of dialogue and understanding, in which justice and intergenerational solidarity are present. It is essential to move to a paradigm in which the youth is not only accepted as subjects with legal rights, but also become important agents of social change in national, regional and global dimensions.

This report briefly presents the activities that have taken place between January-July 2020.
The crisis has mostly affected vulnerable people and groups in our societies and deepened already existing inequalities. Young people have been hit by the crisis too. Many of us have lost our jobs, many of us have not received any support or social protection. The pandemic also affected our educational process: schools, universities, youth centres were closed. Many of us faced interrupted or postponed volunteering or internship projects. Distance learning has been offered to many but many also left out from that process. Lack of internet, lack of computer or other devices did not allow many young people to follow the distance learning opportunities. Many young people with disabilities also were forgotten in this process. During our meetings, we have recorded concerns in increased housing insecurity, poverty, worsening of mental health. The crisis that made the issues that are deep in the system even more visible also showed the weakened democracies. Declared states of emergencies, nationwide lockdowns have been used to pass antidemocratic and discriminatory laws in many countries. This affected civic space putting it at risk. This crisis has also showcased how much the current economic system affects our environment and how we exploit our natural environment. As young people and youth organisations we have the opportunity to reflect and take steps towards protection of natural environment.

IUSY organised online activities and panel discussions to foster youth participation and international solidarity.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, IUSY has worked to ensure that activities planned were not left behind and that our member organisations do not lose the opportunities of meeting, learning and sharing. IUSY adapted to this new reality organising and engaging in different activities, meetings and solidarity actions. IUSY organised online activities and panel discussions where our members led the discussion and actions. In this time of uncertainty, we strongly believe that youth participation, empowerment and active political engagement is the way for system change.
Student Working Group Meeting took place 27-29 April on the theme of Students rights in the times of crisis. The aim of the three-day meeting was to learn on the implications of crisis situations on basic human rights and students’ rights and enhance student international solidarity. The meeting offered a platform to discuss how the situation has affected student life in the regions, give space to engage in a dialogue on common struggles and obstacles, and work together to come up with strategies to defend, advocate and campaign for students rights in crisis situations. The working group published a statement and agreed to have regular online meetings discussing students issues internationally.

Feminist Working Group Meeting took place 11-13 May. The theme of the meeting was Feminist Activism in the time of Emergencies. The three-day meeting gave our participants the opportunity to share how they are doing in this situation and what is happening in their realities from the feminist perspective. As a direct outcome, working group published a statement. The working group is also initiating a series of webinars on Intersectional Feminism. The first webinar on “Women* and Social Movements” took place 28 June. Feminist working group will continue the initiative in the upcoming months focusing on different topics.

Queer Working Group Meeting took place 27-29 May. This year’s QWG recapped on the work done in the past year and worked further on guidelines and policy proposals for adapting their online activism to the current online times. The working group published the 2nd edition of the Guidelines on How to be a Better Ally. Working group plans to organize an online meeting to present the guidelines as well as a workshop on allyship. At the end of September 2020, working group will organize a webinar on Labour market discrimination.
WORKING GROUP
FIGURES

3 WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

80 PARTICIPANTS & SPEAKERS

7 REGIONS
WORKING GROUP OUTCOME

1. GUIDELINE
2. STATEMENTS
4. FOLLOW UP INITIATIVES
REGIONAL COMMITTEES

IUSY Mediterranean and European Committees joint meeting took place on 3 April. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the recent situations on the regions, governmental responses to the emergency as well as to share the actions that youth organisations took to fight the pandemic in local and regional level.

Balkan Round Table Leadership Conference (BRT) took place 24-25 June under the topic Covid-19 and Future of Youth. During the meeting, participants focused on the concerns that young people and youth organisations have in the region. Participants shared their vision for the future of youth in the region. The Committee published a statement after the meeting.

Black Sea Area Cooperation Leadership Conference (BSAC) took place 1-2 July. The topic of this year's meeting was “Lessons learnt and Recover plan for the region”. The Committee focused on the lessons learnt from the crisis situation due to COVID-19. The issues that have been discussed focused on youth employment, social inclusion, education, health, systematic change for our economy, environmental sustainability. The Committee approved and published a statement after the meeting.
REGIONAL COMMITTEE FIGURES

ACTIVITIES
4

PARTICIPANTS & SPEAKERS
45

STATEMENTS
2
OTHER IUSY ACTIVITIES

- 21 March, Covid-19 and Global Solidarity (webinar)
- 22 March, IUSY Control Commission meeting
- 30 April, IUSY-ILFRY meeting
- 1 May, International Choir on the occasion of Workers day
- 19 May, OPC-CIS-IUSY-IFLRY Steering group meeting Global Youth Programme
- 14 June, Presidium Call
- 17 June, OPC-CIS-IUSY-IFLRY Steering group meeting Global Youth Programme
- 28 June, Women* and Social Movements (webinar)
The struggle for equality: A toolkit for the feminist fight, January 2020
IUSY and YES Statement on Trump’s “Peace Plan”, February 2020
IUSY Statement on the Situation in El Salvador, February 2020
IUSY Statement on the Situation in the Dominican Republic, February 2020
IUSY Statement on the Situation in the Dominican Republic, February 2020
IUSY Statement on Hungarian Coronavirus Act, April 2020
IUSY Presidium Statement on Covid-19 Situation, April 2020
The Pandemic and the Palestinian people: A Matter of Human Rights, April 2020
IUSY 1st of May Statement, May 2020
IUSY Says no to Israels annexation and announces measures to fulfil the human and national rights of the Palestinian people!, May 2020
IUSY Queer Working Group Guidelines on How to be an Ally (2nd edition), June 2020
IUSY Feminist Working Group Statement and Call for Action, June 2020
Statement regarding the recent attacks by the Turkish state in Northern Syria and South Kurdistan/Northern Iraq, July 2020
Balkan Round Table Committee 2002 Statement, July 2020
Black Sea Area Committee 2020 Statement, July 2020
Student Working Group Statement, July 2020
OVERALL FIGURES

14 ACTIVITIES
200 PARTICIPANTS
15 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

IUSY, JULY 2020
9 May, What is the European Dream? - FEPS Future of Europe debate series
6 June, Online Extraordinary General Assembly of European Youth Forum
29 May, PES Women meeting
10 June, FEPS Call to Europe
15-21 June, Youth Forum Academy of the European Youth Forum
26 June, FEPS General Assembly
28 June, Online discussion- A new world after Corona Virus, GD Italy
3 July, Training on online activities, Olof Plame International Centre
The activities described in this report would have not been possible without the support of our partners. The organisations and foundations that support IUSY’s work are presented below in the form of their logos.
All published documents and information about our activities can be found in our webpage:

www.iusy.org

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