
Annual Report 2011/2012
Kyrylo Ivliev, External Relations Officer

Esteemed Colleagues,

Another work year is slowly wrapping up and YEE Board and Secretariat, as usual, are happy to share with you the results achieved within it, as well as raise some points of concern in regard to the future of functioning of our Federation.

Therefore taking advantage of this opportunity, I would love to share with you some interesting, in my opinion, facts and information from the sphere of external representation I have been honored to be in charge of.

Thanks to a short-term strategies adopted by all of you at the last year General Assembly, me and my colleagues have had a clear vision towards the directions we shall drive YEE in.

Particularly, one of the ways we have jointly set out last year was to make YEE more influential organization on the high political level. In this regard, one of the main mechanisms which we have at our disposal is the Advisory Council on Youth (hereinafter referred to as AC on Youth) of the Council of Europe – an element of the system of co-management of the Youth Sector of the CoE, which, along with representatives of the Ministries of Youth of the respective CoE member states makes decision on the topical issues of the European youth. Through the AC on Youth, I have taken part in some important processes, foremost youth policy review in Belgium and reform of the European Youth Foundation – one of the main sources of money for YEE activities.

Youth policy review. Youth policy review has for a long while been a priority area in the intergovernmental cooperation sphere of the Council of Europe. 2010-2011 came the time for Belgium to be reviewed. International team comprising 3 members of AC on Youth, 3 members of CDEJ which is French abbreviation for Intergovernmental Committee, 1 member of the Council of Europe Secretariat, 3 rapporteurs (1 for each of the three Communities) and led by the head of review processes prof. Howard Williamson, came twice to Belgium on the request of the Belgian government with the purpose of collecting as much as possible information on the current state of youth policy development from governments, local authorities, youth organizations, national youth councils and representatives of services dealing with youth.

In September 2011 the second visit of the international team of the Council of Europe was carried out to Belgium with the aim of collecting information missing after the first visit in order to produce a comprehensive report containing both recommendations on improvements that might be made in the future and positive moments that might be in the future used as an example of best practices by the other states while developing their national youth policies.

After the first visit was successfully run in April 2010, when the team was furnished with the information Belgian stakeholders involved in the process deemed important

to get insight into national youth policy, the second visit was meant to fill the gaps that might have occurred in course of the first visit. Having conducted the second visit, the three rapporteurs were able to prepare report on international youth policy to be presented first to the Belgian government and then to the Joint Council– the body managing Youth Sector of the Council of Europe. I, on behalf of the AC on Youth, have participated in all the stages of the process.

Reform of the European Youth Foundation. The second significant process I became a part of was the reform of the European Youth Foundation – the funder of the Council of Europe YEE has been constantly cooperating with for a long while. The reform process resulted in a numerous changes in the principles of functioning of the Foundation, including merging some previous categories, e.g. category D and D “Pilot Projects” and emerging some new ones. The new regulations will come into force from 1-st January 2013.

Advisory Council on Youth. In November 2012 at the Council of Members of the European Youth Forum I had the honor of being reelected to the Advisory Council on Youth. As a member of AC on Youth, I participated in the following processes: preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Youth to be held in September 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; priorities of the AC on Youth for 2012-2013, where environmental education as a part of human rights education was added; priorities of the Youth Department of the CoE for 2013-2014, which will be finally adopted in November 2012 etc.

Programming Committee on Youth. At the first statutory meeting of the AC on Youth I was elected to the Programming Committee of the Council Europe – the structure in the system of the European Youth Foundation consisting of 16 members (8 from youth organizations and another 8 from governments) which is responsible for managing budget of both the European Youth Foundation and European Youth Centers in Budapest and Strasbourg. During its first meeting in June 2012 in Strasbourg, we adopted the program of activities for the upcoming half-year. The next meeting will take place in December 2012.

Representation at external events. Since the time I was elected to the Office, I represented YEE in the following meetings: 1) Statutory meeting of AC on Youth, held in Budapest in October 2011; 2) Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, held in Braga, Portugal, in November 2011; 3) Eye on Earth Summit, taking place in Abu-Dhabi, the UAE, in December 2011; 4) AC on Youth meeting in Budapest in March 2012; 5) Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, held in Brussels in April 2012; 6) Programming Committee on Youth statutory meeting, held in Strasbourg in June 2012. Apart from the above mentioned meetings, I was a part of the preparatory team of the study session “European Environmental Law and Youth Participation” to be organized by YEE in cooperation with the European Youth Center Strasbourg in March 2012 and also in the Physical YEE Board Meeting held in Toulcuv Dvur in April 2012.

Other activities. Beside the activities described above, I prepared some articles for YEE e-newsletter and partook in daily YEE management, including participation in e-mail discussions and Skype Board meetings.

That is a short description of activities I have been carrying out as YEE External Relations Officer in 2011-2012 work year. I look forward to receiving your comments and questions should you have any.

Yours sincerely,

Kyrylo Ivliev