

Youth and Environment Europe

Annual Report

2011 – 2012

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 45 European youth organisations that study nature and/or are active in environmental protection. These member organisations come together from 28 countries. The mission of YEE is to unite environmental youth non-profit organizations in Europe in order to enhance international cooperation, increase knowledge about nature, raise awareness of environmental problems and to strengthen participation of youth in environmental decision-making. We aim to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection and to provide a platform where these organisations can work together.

In 1983 YEE derived from the European branch of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) which was founded in 1956 under the sponsorship of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). After the first Annual Meeting in 1983 YEE office was settled in Denmark. Then in 1990, the headquarters was moved to Utrecht in the Netherlands. Finally, the office was moved to Prague, Czech Republic in 1998 to be more central and more accessible to the growing number of NGOs from Eastern part of the European continent. Now it is based in the Ecological Centre 'Toulcův Dvůr', what provides a big advantage in organising joint events, campaigns and trainings.

Our objective is to offer young people the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and experiences, and to learn more about the protection of nature. For this, YEE is linking activities of member organisations on international level. Another aim is to raise public awareness on environmental problems through international actions.

A large number of YEE activities are carried out on international, national or local level, by YEE Member Organisations and the YEE Secretariat. These activities include information exchange through our publications, training courses, youth exchanges, working meetings and campaigns on topics our Member Organisations deal with.

YEE realizes that taking care of the environment means taking care of our future. Young people that YEE works with are the future and in YEE they have the voice. That is why thanks to YEE they can work together for a better future.

Structure

Executive Board

According to the YEE Statutes valid since 2011, the Executive Board of YEE consists of six people – members of the YEE Member Organisations representing at least four different countries. The Board is made up from volunteers, being elected every summer during the Annual Meeting by the General Assembly and is entitled to follow the decisions of the General Assembly.

The 2011-2012 the YEE Executive Board was elected in July 2011 during the Annual Meeting:

Chairperson	Irena Oupicova	(Hnuti Brontosaurus, Czech Republic)
Vice-Chair & Projects Officer	Monika Kotulak	(OA PTTK, Poland)
Treasurer	Sona Grigoryan	(SYC, Armenia)
External Relations Officer	Kyrylo Ivliev	(EYC, Russia)
Publications and Promotion Officer	Tomas Protivinsky	(Hnuti Brontosaurus, Czech Republic)
Member Organizations Officer - dismissed	Endrit Shima	(EDEN Center, Albania)

During the period of 2011-2012, the Executive Board had two physical meetings - one right after the AM 2011 and the second in April 2012 in Prague. There will be one more physical board meeting, right before the AM 2012. There were also 8 virtual Skype meetings held during the year 2011-2012.

Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of paid employees who are appointed and guided by the Executive Board and of the EVS volunteers. The work of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Secretary General.

Secretary General: Adriána Harnúšková
Main Coordinator: Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull

The Secretariat participated in both physical Board Meetings and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in the period of 2011-2012.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EVS (European Voluntary Service) is a project within Action 2 of the European Commission's Programme "Youth in Action". The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their

personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU.

The EVS project in YEE consist of three parts: work in the YEE office, work on Toulcův dvůr (the ecological centre where the YEE office is located) and a personal project.

During the second half of the year 2011 YEE office hosted two volunteers (until February 2012). Since March 2012, YEE has hosted one volunteer and since May 2012 two EVS volunteers.

European volunteers hosted:

- Mercedes Fioravanti Alvarez (Spain - until 02/2012)
- Mathieu Frediere (France - until 02/2012)
- Cameron Murphy (Ireland - since 03/2012)
- Natalia Luchko (Russia - since 05/2012)

Development of the organisation

Internally

- New members of YEE accepted at the Annual Meeting 2011 have already contributed to the work of the federation by means of cooperation with old Member Organisations and participation in YEE projects.
- YEE involved more Member Organisations in the work of the federation, now we have more active members participating in international actions – 21 MOs participated in at least one YEE project in 2011-2012.
- Media tools: further improvements of the official YEE webpage; development of the official YEE page on Facebook and other social networks; implementation of the Social Media strategy.
- The guidelines for Internal Audit were created and the Internal Audit 2011/2012 was conducted in June 2012.

Externally

In the period from September 2011 to July 2012 YEE has been represented in the following events:

- Training and Information Day - Meeting of bodies active at European level in the field of Youth being held on 28 September 2011 in Brussels – YEE was represented by Adriána Harnůšková, Secretary General of YEE;
- Statutory meeting of Advisory Council on Youth, held in Budapest in October 2011 – YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, External Relations Officer of YEE;
- EEB Annual Conference being held on 21 October 2011 in Brussels – YEE was represented by Bert Van der Auwermeulen, a member of our Belgian MO JNM;
- CEEweb for Biodiversity Annual Meeting being held on 25-26 October 2011 in Dobogókő, Hungary – YEE was represented by Endrit Shima, YEE Member Organizations Officer 2011/2012;
- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, held in Braga, Portugal, in November 2011 - YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE External Relations Officer 2011/2012;
- Eye on Earth Summit, taking place in Abu-Dhabi, the UAE, in December 2011 - YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE External Relations Officer 2011/2012;
- Advisory Council on Youth meeting in Budapest in March 2012 – YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE External Relations Officer 2011/2012;

- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, held in Brussels in April 2012 – YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE External Relations Officer 2011/2012;
- Programming Committee on Youth statutory meeting, held in Strasbourg in June 2012 - YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE External Relations Officer 2011/2012.

Contact with new organizations and making new partnerships

During the year 2011-2012, YEE was in contact with the following organizations from outside of the YEE-network:

- **R.E.E.s. Rare Earth Elements - Terre Rare** from Italy, they have been partners of the international campaign ‘Together for a Green Europe’ and expressed interest in further cooperation in the future.
- **Nuestro Mundo** from Greece, they were interested in becoming members of YEE but finally they decided to become more involved in YEE actions in the upcoming year, get to know each other, and then they will reconsider the possibility of applying for membership in 2013.
- Many organisations from outside of the network participated in YEE projects and got to know YEE closer (Study Session ‘European Environmental Law and Youth Participation’ – 11 organisations, PBA ‘Volunteers for Environment’ – 14 organisations).

Activities from the Working Plan 2010-2011

Next follow projects that were implemented in 2011-2012 but are still part of the 2010-2011 YEE Working Plan:

Campaigns

1/ *Caring for the future? Caring for the forest! (international information and education campaign)*

June – December 2011, Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Russia, UK

2011 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Forests. For this reason YEE decided to organise a forest campaign in 6 European countries during the second half of 2011. The campaign was coordinated by a group of young people from each of the participating countries (Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Russia and the United Kingdom). Through this campaign we aimed to show the vital role that forests play in maintaining the stability of our climate, preserving biodiversity and offering us a healthy and enriching environment. The campaign aimed to show the links between global and local issues on the topic of forests, to show young people the importance of preserving their local forests, and to empower them to 'care for the future by caring for the forest'.

The campaign consisted of an online campaign - a special section on the YEE website was created in order to promote the campaign - <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/548>. It was continuously updated throughout the campaign with information about local events in each country, pictures and news. It also includes 'discover more' section with different links to other websites, articles and movies related to the topic of the forest and its preservation; direct actions 'Care for the forests!': rubbish clean-up, tree planting, forest guided tour, environmental games in the forest, planting of symbolic trees to mark the campaign and the creation of 'land art' in the forest; lectures, discussions, and movie-screenings. The aim of the direct actions was to actively involve young people in caring for their local forest.

An online report 'Discover the forest' about the status of the world's forests was published. Each country team gathered information about the forest conditions in their country. The coordinating team prepared a short insight about the different forest types, the forest management practices and the main threats forests currently have to face. The report is accessible on the dedicated section of the YEE website: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/forest-campaign/557>.

The project was coordinated by Youth and Environment Europe and received funding from the European Youth Foundation (category B) of the Council of Europe - 8000 EUR, several local grants were used as co-funding.

Networking activities

1/Volunteers for Environment [Title in the Working Plan “Together for environment”] (Partnership Building Activity - PBA)

20/05-25/05/2012, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

The PBA connected 18 youth organizations interested in and working on environmental issues with volunteers. 32 youth leaders, youth workers and young volunteers from 13 EU and Eastern European/Caucasian countries met to discuss current environmental issues and the good practices of their organizations in addressing them through promotion of volunteerism. They learnt together more about the possibilities and priorities of the Youth in Action Programme, developed partnerships and created new environmental joint projects (based on voluntary work). They also got new skills to assure effective projects in the future and the multiplying effect. Aims of the project were to connect youth organizations interested and involved in environmental activities and working with volunteers and to improve environmental projects based on volunteers' involvement. Non-formal educational methods were used throughout the PBA including interactive sessions and presentations, discussions, parallel workshops, artistic sessions, working groups, information sharing, etc.

The project was organised by Stepanavan Youth Center together with Youth and Environment Europe. It was funded by the Youth in Action Programme – 21317 EUR (the final amount will be known after submitting the final report).

Activities from the Working Plan 2011-2012

Training Courses (TC)

1/ TC Mystical Sustainable Village [Title in the Working Plan “Eco-sustainability”]

12/07 - 18/07/2012, Quintandona, Penafiel, Portugal

The aim of this TC is to provide young people with knowledge and skills about sustainability on daily village routines, like milking the cows, making bread, taking sheeps to graze, farming, studying hemp cycle, together with traditional cultural activities, like bagpipe, basketry, theatre and find more about blacksmith and carpenter arts. The goal will be also the continuous link to the nowadays sustainability concepts. It will take place in a typical old Portuguese village with very little population – Quintandona.

The project will involve 18 participants – 2 participants from each of the 9 partner organizations that work directly with youth and environmental issues - OPE (Portugal), MELP (Ukraine), Environment Organization Rhodope

(Bulgaria), Balta Daba (Latvia), SYC (Armenia), Alliance for Society Advancement (Georgia), o. s. Konopa and Hnuti Brontosaurus (Czech Republic) and EDEN Center (Albania).

The TC is organised by OPE, it received funding from the Portuguese National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme – 18000 EUR.

2/ Media, communication and nature

20-26 July 2012 - Oucmanice, Czech Republic

The training course Media, Communication & Nature is intended for leaders, workers and volunteers from environmental organizations to support them in increasing their impact through training communication skills with media and public. 29 young people from 14 youth organizations (from 12 different countries) will meet in the EcoCenter Paleta Oucmanice in the Czech Republic in July 2012 for 6 days to improve their communication and promotional competences and to get new knowledge about media.

The TC addresses the needs of the environmental organizations to improve their competences in communication with public and media in order to increase the public awareness about environmental problems. We will focus on basic journalistic skills, using of new media, potential difficulties in environmental communication and developing of critical thinking. We will support participants to share their experience in the field of promotion of environmental issues and to take an advantage of international collaboration in future promotional projects.

The project is organised by Hnuti Brontosaurus. It was applied for funding to the Czech National Agency on 1st November deadline. Due to formal mistake it was rejected. It was reapplied on the 1st February deadline and received funding of 18 850 EUR.

3/ Nature building from straw and clay

Not realized and postponed to 2013 - Czech Republic

The aim of this international TC was to increase the theoretical knowledge and practical skills in natural building techniques among young people and to discuss about and promote alternative and eco-friendly ways of living. The practical part was supposed to be done through the construction of a new straw bale house. The theoretical part was supposed to be led by experienced trainers with space for sharing knowledge in other environmental topics.

YEE stayed in contact with the president of Bababy, the main organizer, to inform in details about various funding possibilities for the project, help to find partners, to motivate and help with application writing. However, because of lack of time and other activities, Baobaby decided not to organise the project this year and to move it to 2013.

4/ Be a leader in an environmental organization [Title and type of project in the working plan “Leadership skills”]

5-12 October 2012 - Czech Republic

The project was firstly applied as a study session to the EYC in Budapest on 1/10 deadline. As the project was not approved, it was reapplied in a form of a TC to the Youth in Action Programme (EACEA, Brussels).

The training course ‘Be a leader in an environmental organisation’ is projected for young people who are leaders, coordinators, youth workers in their organisations and want to improve their skills in leading projects and managing groups. 25 young people from 11 youth organisations from 10 countries (from Latvia, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Albania, Serbia, Armenia, Macedonia, Italy and Czech Republic) will meet in the Czech Republic in October 2012 for 6 days to practice the skills of being a good leader in environmental projects.

The TC addresses the need of youth organisations to have competent, experienced and skilled volunteers and workers that will know well how to use the potential and energy of young people involved in the organisation. We will focus especially on young people working in the field of environmental protection and non-formal education so that they could pass their knowledge in the topic well, involve in their projects many people and give the biggest possible impact to their activities.

During the training course, we will train participants on how to organise better quality projects at local and international level (especially cooperation EU countries - neighbouring partner countries) and to promote exchange between partner organisations. We will try to initiate the exchange of experience and in this way show various points of view, methods and practices in leading and facilitating projects.

The project is organised by Youth and Environment Europe and received funding from the Youth in Action Programme – 14341 EUR.

Study sessions

1/ European Environmental Law and Youth Participation

4-11 March 2012 - European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France

The aim of the study session was to increase the participants' competences in the field of environmental law and to foster organizations' capacity in using that knowledge to advocate for environmental protection.

During the study session 29 participants from 16 countries discussed about environmental law and youth participation. They got to know existing European environmental laws and how young people can use them for protecting environment. Several different topics were addressed during the event - e.g. nature protection, human rights for clean environment. Strong emphasis was also put on young organizations' involvement in decision making process. Youth

active in environmental protection discovered together and raised awareness on the necessary knowledge and tools to actively advocate for their rights and involvement in process of creating, implementation and intervention in the field of environmental law.

Participants of the project were able to: raise awareness on human rights connected with the environment; increase youth participation in environmental law creating and implementation process; and improve skills on making advocacy on local level in the field of environmental protection

The project was organised by Youth and Environment Europe and funded by the Council of Europe.

Youth Exchanges (YE)

1/ Eco-tourism development

Not realized - Albania

The main goal of the project 'Eco-tourism development' was to share experience and raise awareness on sustainable use of tourism potentials and also give the participants chance to directly implement their ideas in practice by developing eco-tourism facilities in a small Albanian village. The youth exchange was supposed to take place in June 2012 and gather young people who want to gain insight into sustainable tourism specifics in different countries in order to raise awareness on nature protection in the frames of their organisations. There were 7 partner organizations from 7 countries, in total 35 participants were supposed to join the YE.

The project was applied to the EYF of the Council of Europe on the 1st October deadline but was not approved as the topic of eco-tourism did not fit into the Council of Europe's priorities in the youth field. It was reapplied for funding on 1st February deadline through EO Rhodope to the Bulgarian National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission. It was rejected for formal reasons. As the main coordinator of the project, Endrit Shima, left the EDEN Center in the meantime and was dismissed from his position in the YEE Executive Board, the EDEN Center did not have capacities to carry on with this project and it was decided not to reapply with it on another deadline.

2/ Birds

Not realized - Czech Republic

During this youth exchange participants were supposed to share their experience and knowledge about protecting birds, caring about species, observing and discovering them. They should have learnt about different methods they can use to teach other young people about birds and about ways how to protect them in non-formal education principles.

The YE 'Birds' which was planned to be organized this year, was not prepared successfully. The process of preparing the project ended after finding partners. There was not enough time to decide about the program of the project and preparations of the application form. There was also problem with the Czech preparation team, which was not complete and hence able to organize the activity. The suggestion is to revise this project at the upcoming AM 2012 and decide whether to find more partners from YEE for the project / postpone it for 2013 / dismiss it from the YEE Working Plan).

3/ Give pedestrians their city back

16-23 September 2012 - Tirana, Albania

The Youth Exchange 'Give pedestrians their city back' aims to share experiences and best practices about the concept and various actions on green cities and also to develop cooperation and common awareness raising actions (campaign) that will be afterwards implemented in several European countries. The project will gather 35 young people who want to share knowledge on urban planning and community involvement and participation, make green changes in their cities by influencing decision makers and raise community awareness.

It will last 8 days and a one day direct action is included as well - it will be on 22nd of September 2012 on the occasion of World Car Free Day.

The project is organized by the EDEN Center together with Youth and Environment Europe. It received funding from the European Youth Foundation (category A) of the Council of Europe - 16000EUR and co-funding from the Youth in Action Program of the European Commission - 9375 EUR (the final amounts will be known after submitting the final report).

4/ Diversity

26-31 May 2012 - Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

The aim of this youth exchange was to develop intercultural dialogue and tolerance among participants in the field of cultural, social, religious and other type of diversity as well as to foster discussion how diversity and discrimination of particular groups negatively affects our lives and what are the options for solution.

During the youth exchange 'Diversity' 22 participants from 6 different countries (Albania, Armenia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Sweden, Ukraine) shared their own experience, examples of good and bad practices, and raised awareness on different types of diversity (cultural, social, religious and biological) pointing out that the diversity is an integral part of our everyday lives. Through non-formal education and interactive discussions tolerance was raised among participants regarding different religions, different perceptions of social, cultural diversities, as well as discussions were held about biodiversity and environmental protection.

The project was organized by FYCA and Youth and Environment Europe. It was funded by the EYF (category A) of the Council of Europe – 11500 EUR and 3850 EUR from the Armenian Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs (the final amounts will be known after submitting the final report).

Networking projects

1/ Experts networking

The aim of this low-cost project is to create a database of experts from YEE Members Organizations, YEE seniors and previous YEE projects, who could contribute with their knowledge to other Member Organizations' projects and activities and thus improve their work. By creating this database, we would like to establish and maintain contacts between organizations and external experts, help to increase the potential of organisations for other activities, and to gain expert knowledge which could be shared between organisations and used for common projects in the future. The information contained in the database should be obtained from an online questionnaire. The questionnaire is ready and shall be sent to all MOs and other parties.

The idea of this project and creating a database of experts who might potentially be involved in YEE projects was initiated a long time ago. However, there was nobody specifically responsible and coordinating the promotion and development of this project. Thus the Executive Board 2011/2012 took the decision to ask participants of the AM 2012 if they feel interested in continuing this initiative and based on that decide how to proceed with this project.

2/ YEE Day

One day in Autumn 2011, in each country of MOs

By celebrating the YEE Day we aimed to strengthen networking and the feeling of being part of the YEE network as well as to promote YEE. The idea was to organize the same actions in each country and exchange experience.

As year 2011 was declared the International Year of the Forests by the UN, we made our YEE Day connected with forests as well, especially with the activities of the YEE Forest Campaign. Member organisations that were involved in the Forest Campaign, as part of their local activities, organised also the YEE Day. The activities included forest clean-up, land-art from materials found in forest, etc. Fewer organisations got involved in organising the YEE Day than planned. For this year, we plan to work on better promotion of the event.

CAMPAIGNS

1/ *Changing fisheries policy* *Throughout the year 2011-2012*

Ocean 2012 is a global campaign with member organisations located across three continents. In order to implement the 'Changing fisheries policy' campaign YEE became member of Ocean 2012. The aim of the campaign is to: reform the EU Common Fisheries Policy to stop overfishing; end destructive fishing practices; deliver fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks for future generations. The EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) changes only every 10th year hence the aim is to make it environmentally stronger than it has been since the start in 1983. Through the YEE campaign we aim to inform the wide public and the parliamentarians of the EU about overfishing and to raise awareness of young people on the EU policy making and how they can have an impact on it.

The YEE campaign consists of writing articles to the YEE e-newsletter and creating a special section on the YEE website containing a list of links and information about getting involved, potential activities to raise awareness, videos to inform on the current situation and email address to help apply pressure where it is needed.

2/ *Sunny Campaign (web page update and upgrade)* *Throughout the whole year 2011-2012*

The main aim of the update of the Sunny Campaign website was to increase the access to information on ecological products and services in various countries and regions of Europe. Since September 2010 the Green Catalogue and map are available online, but they have not been much updated.

Nobody has been taking care of it for a long while already. If it is expected to be continued, there shall be somebody expressing interest in taking care of it. Apart from that, the campaign needs appropriate financial support and promotion to be really useful. The YEE Executive Board 2011/2012 decided to bring up the issue during the AM 2012 and ask participants if there is someone who would be willing to take over the campaign as a separate mini project.

3/ Information campaign 'Together for a Green Europe' [Title in the Working Plan: 'Schools go for green Europe'] January – June 2012

The international information and education campaign was run from January till June 2012 in 6 European countries and consisted of diverse local eco activities encouraging children and youth to take care of European nature – their living environment. Through the campaign we aimed to activate young people in their local communities and show them the purpose of active citizenship. We also

wanted to encourage youth to be active in the field of environmental education for other young people and children.

Young volunteers from 6 countries (Czech Republic, Italy, Armenia, Romania, Latvia, Georgia) organized a set of workshops about different environmental topics (ecosystem, biodiversity, nature conservation, wildlife, recycling, fresh water and health, food chain, etc.) at primary and secondary schools and excursions to nature.

As a follow-up of the campaign, electronic guidebook consisting of some of the methods used during the campaign in all the partner countries was created. Each country team chose and described those methods that they found the most interesting and successful while implementing the campaign in their country. Hence these guidelines represent a set of best practices used during the campaign. They will be soon available in English and all the 6 national languages of the partner countries (i.e. Armenian, Czech, Georgia, Italian, Latvian and Romanian).

The project was coordinated by Youth and Environment Europe and received funding from the European Youth Foundation (category B) of the Council of Europe - 9000 EUR (the final amount will be known after submitting the final report).

Feasibility visit

1/ Women Leadership Program 27-30 April 2012 - Ohrid, Macedonia

This feasibility visit provided an opportunity for young people from a variety of different communities to come together with the objective of discussing the situation and position of women in their organisations and local areas as well as brainstorming ideas for how to empower and support women. From this cross cultural examination of role of women in our societies, participants collaborated in order to discuss and produce project ideas with the aim of improving the status of women in leadership positions in their countries.

There were 20 participants from 11 different countries present at the feasibility visit. The project was organized by Youth and Environment Europe and hosted by DEM in Macedonia. It was funded by the Youth in Action Program of the European Commission – 9195 EUR.

Local projects and activities

1/ World Water Monitoring Day 10/11/2011 - Konopiste, Czech Republic

As in the past years, YEE took part in the worldwide project called ‘World Water Monitoring Day’, which aims to raise awareness on protecting water

resources all around the world and encourage people to do the basic water monitoring in their countries. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18, but the time for monitoring was extended from World Water Day (March 22) to the end of the year (December 31).

The YEE office team travelled on 10th November 2011 to the area of Konopiste castle in order to measure the quality of water in rivers, streams and lakes in this region. As WWMD is an international project where it is possible to share the results with participating communities around the world through the website, after the measurements, we uploaded the results we obtained on the WWMD website: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org.

2/ World Days Celebrations

October 2011 – Prague, Czech Republic, online

As part of our online campaign and in order to spread information about the most important environmental World Days celebrations (e.g. World Forest Day, Earth Day, International Youth Day, World Water Monitoring Day, World Car-Free Day, International Volunteer Day, etc.) and to raise awareness about environmental topics, we decided to include several articles into the 'News' section of YEE website as well as an article dedicated specifically to this topic 'World Days Celebration' which was part of the October 2011 issue of YEE e-Newsletter: <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/publications/yee-newsletter/601-world-days-celebration>.

As many other important 'world days' take place along the year, we included them in the YEE calendar which is available on YEE website: <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/calendar/youth.and.environment.europe>.

3/ YEE in Toulcův Dvůr eco farm

▪ **Day of the Earth**

21/04/2012 - Toulcův Dvůr, Prague, Czech Republic

Day of the Earth is an annual event held worldwide in more than 175 countries every year. The aim of which is to increase awareness and appreciation of the Earth's various natural environments. This year's event held in Toulcův Dvůr was attended by many families with young children. YEE set up a small installation in the middle of the cherry orchard.

Gathering inspiration from 'Games for Nature', YEE team encouraged children to interact with nature and play games of environmental education. It was also possible to download Czech version of the booklet 'Games for Nature'.

- **Volunteering weekend in Toulcův Dvůr**
26 May 2012 - Toulcův Dvůr, Prague, Czech Republic

On the 26th of May a group of 9 volunteers met for the annual Tamjdem event in Toulcův Dvůr (Tamjdem – an informal way to volunteer without the need for long term commitment; set up in 2007, volunteers meet up for a weekend of helping, socializing and fun).

The main task was to restore the model medieval house. In this yearly weekend volunteering project YEE contributes to the work of the ecological farm where the office is located. It also informs volunteers about the work of YEE.

3/ YEE promo

- **EVS Market at the ‘European Volunteering Tour’**
03 November 2011 - Prague

The main goal of this market of sending and hosting organisations was promotion of volunteering. YEE office team had the opportunity to present its activities, especially those that EVS volunteers are involved in. In our info stand we prepared several workshops (wallets from recycled materials, monitoring of the quality of water, YEE quiz and collage from pieces of autumn nature), we distributed our publications and information materials. EVS volunteers prepared pictures with descriptions of the activities they joined and organised during their project. Our activities attracted the attention and encouraged people to know more about YEE. We also exchanged experience with other organisations involved in EVS. For YEE team it was a nice occasion to present our activities in a creative way.

Publications

1/ Magazine/Booklet

As part of the YEE Short-term strategies 2011-2012, it was decided that the Magazine will be renamed 'booklet' since we have moved away from the magazine model. YEE booklets are now connected with concrete projects from the working plan – they document the results of projects but are still open for other contributors from MOs. In this way YEE can spread more the results of projects.

There are two issues published per year, the booklet is usually printed, uploaded to the YEE website and distributed in electronic version.

- **‘EVS for Environment’**
December 2011

As YEE has been hosting EVS volunteers since 2001 and 2011 was the European Year of Volunteering, we decided to dedicate the second issue of our

booklet in 2012 to the topic of volunteering for environment and share our experience gathered during the 10 year of hosting EVS volunteers.

In the booklet 'EVS for Environment' we presented different ways how EVS volunteers can be active for the environment. It describes EVS in general, experience of EVS volunteers in YEE, and various activities which can be done for the environment.

The booklet 'EVS for Environment' focused on describing the potential of voluntary projects to raise awareness about environment. It allowed to share with other organisations the ideas and reflections how EVS project can focus on environment and how voluntary work can be a tool to make people aware of environment.

300 copies of the booklet were printed and sent to all YEE member organisations and the youth environmental organisations involved in EVS programme around Europe.

- **'Discover the forest'**

December 2011

As part of the YEE Forest Campaign 'Caring for the future? Caring for the forest!' an online report about the status of the world's forests was published.

Each country team gathered information about the forest conditions in their country. The coordinating team prepared a short insight about the different forest types, the forest management practices and the main threats forests currently have to face. The report was done in electronic version and is accessible on the dedicated section of the YEE website:

<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/forest-campaign/557>.

- **'Environmental law'**

July 2012

The online booklet on environmental law and youth participation was created based on the results and materials gathered during the study session 'European Environmental Law and Youth Participation'. All participants of the project participated in the creation of the booklet and the content was created through group brainstorming during the project.

It is possible to download the booklet (from July on) from the YEE website: <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/publications/yee-general-publications>

To be done in the second half of 2012: 'Media, communication and nature' and 'How to be a leader in an environmental organization' (both connected with the TCs).

2/ YEE Newsletter

YEE e-Newsletter is a regular bimonthly publication that is published online on our website and sent to our Member Organizations and other followers. The following issues were published in 2011-2012:

- 6 e-Newsletters (Annual Meeting 2011, September/October 2011, December 2011, January/February 2012, April 2012, May/June 2012)

YEE e-Newsletter is for YEE members and other interested organizations to publish reports from activities they made, pictures from them, plans for future actions, calls for partners for different youth projects, articles about environmental topics, about issues that their organisations are dealing with and presentation of their organisation. The role of the YEE e-Newsletter is also to inform about the European community activities in the field of environment and youth, and to invite young people to training courses, seminars, conferences and other events.

Website

The YEE website has been gradually improved in 2011/2012. Several sections have been more developed, e.g.:

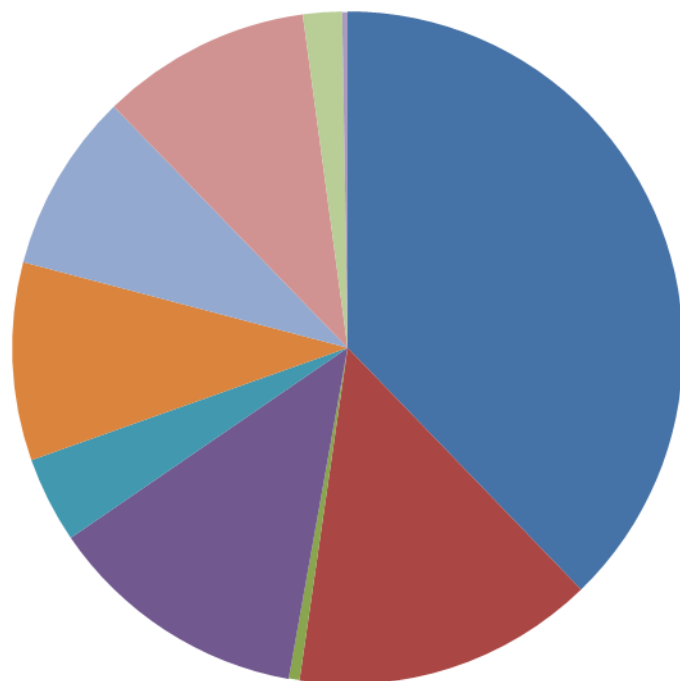
- Campaigns - providing information about the previous and current YEE campaigns (especially the Forest Campaign, Eco-Campaign and Ocean 2012 sub-sections have been developed);
- EVS section - section informing about the EVS programme and how to become an EVS volunteer was extended: EVS Blog section was initiated and developed, it is dedicated to and created by YEE EVS volunteers (sending and hosting) who share their experience and thoughts, describe their projects, first impressions about the new country, etc.; EVS Radio section was created - in this section you can listen to how EVS volunteers describe their project in YEE (life in the YEE office, projects they developed/participated in with YEE, activities in Toulcův Dvůr, free time activities).

Some sections have been reorganized e.g. Projects, Publications, YEE board and office, YEE official documents.

The website is interactive – the content is gained from young volunteers from all around Europe, who can provide their experience and views on environmental protection in their country. It serves to exchange information among them and by sharing the experience it provides a valuable knowledge pool.

YEE FINANCES

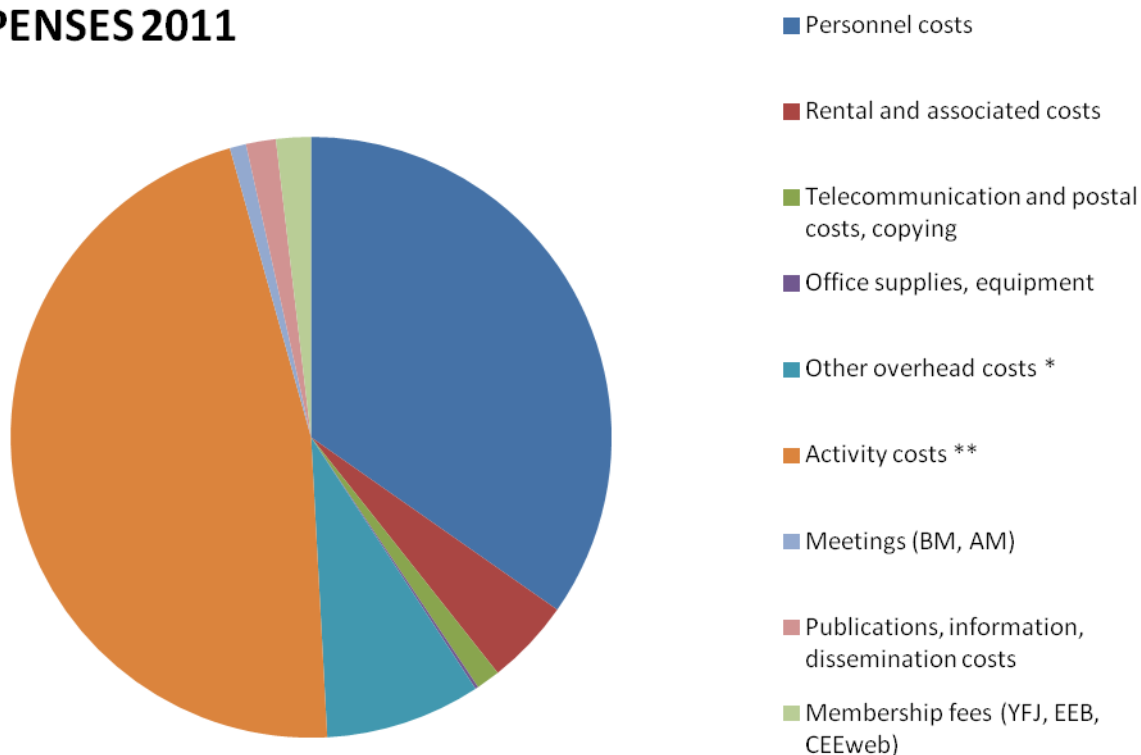
INCOMES 2011



- YiA Operating grant
- YiA EVS (2011)
- YiA EVS Sending - Action 2
- YiA TC: I can lead! I can facilitate!
- Citizenship program: Environmental audit (2011)
- EYF A 2011: YE Learning from each other - methods of environmental education
- EYF B 2011: Forest campaign
- EYF C 2011: Administrative grant
- Membership fees
- Financial incomes (Interests, exchange rate profit)

	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENTAGE
YiA Operating grant	35,000.00	37.77%
YiA EVS (2011)	13,456.60	14.52%
YiA EVS Sending - Action 2	480.00	0.52%
YiA TC: I can lead! I can facilitate!	11,697.00	12.62%
Citizenship program: Environmental audit (2011)	3,834.00	4.14%
EYF A 2011: YE Learning from each other - methods of environmental education	8,831.00	9.53%
EYF B 2011: Forest campaign	8,000.00	8.63%
EYF C 2011: Administrative grant	9,382.00	10.13%
Membership fees	1,732.50	1.87%
Financial incomes (Interests, exchange rate profit)	245.11	0.26%
TOTAL	92,658.21	100.00%

EXPENSES 2011



	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENTAGE
Personnel costs	34,489.56	34.65%
Rental and associated costs	4,612.85	4.63%
Telecommunication and postal costs, copying	1,060.87	1.07%
Office supplies, equipment	161.73	0.16%
Other overhead costs *	8,378.05	8.42%
Activity costs **	46,459.72	46.68%
Meetings (BM, AM)	878.30	0.88%
Publications, information, dissemination costs	1,605.80	1.61%
Membership fees (YFJ, EEB, CEEweb)	1,877.00	1.89%
TOTAL	99,523.88	100.00%

* Other overhead costs include bank charges, fees for the accountant, external audit, representation of YEE, exchange rate loss, etc.

** Activity costs include costs for projects, EVS and other activities

Prevision 2012

ITEM	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENTAGE
YiA Administrative Grant 2012	35,000.00	27.67%
YiA EVS 2012	12,360.00	9.77%
YiA EVS - Sending	400.00	0.32%
YiA FV ‚Women Leadership Program‘	9,194.80	7.27%
YiA TC ‚Be a leader in an environmental organisation‘	14,341.00	11.34%
YiA 2012: YE ‚Give Pedestrians Their City Back‘	9,375.00	7.41%
EYF A 2012: YE ‚Diversity‘	11,500.00	9.09%
EYF A 2012: YE ‚Give Pedestrians Their City Back‘	16,000.00	12.65%
EYF B 2012: ‚Together for a Green Europe‘ campaign	9,000.00	7.12%
EYF C 2012: Administrative grant	8,413.00	6.65%
Membership fees 2012	900.00	0.71%
TOTAL	126,483.80	100.00%

Projects applied by member organizations and prepared together with YEE 2011-2012

Name of the project	Amount granted (EUR)
YiA TC ‚Media, communication and nature‘	18,850.00
TOTAL	18,850.00

Grants approved for 2013

Name of the project	Amount granted (EUR)
EYF A 2013: TC ‚Women for the planet‘	16,000.00
EYF B 2013: Campaign on up-cycling	3,500.00
TOTAL	19,500.00

Member Organizations of YEE in 2011 - 2012

Name of the organization	Country	Type of membership
EDEN Centre	Albania	Full
Active Young citizenship initiative – AYCI	Armenia	Associate
Association for Sustainable Human Development – ASHD	Armenia	Associate
Stepanavan Youth Center – SYC	Armenia	Associate
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia – FYCA	Armenia	Associate
Khazer	Armenia	Associate
ONJ	Austria	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Youth Organisation for Nature and Environment – JNM	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
Ecosouthwest	Bulgaria	Associate
YEO Rhodope	Bulgaria	Full
Baobaby	Czech Republic	Associate
Konopa	Czech Republic	Associate
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Full
Natur Og Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement – GYEM	Georgia	Full
Alliance For Society Advancement – ASA	Georgia	Associate
Studio Re	Georgia	Associate
FÖJ-Aktiv	Germany	Full
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung - DJN	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend – NAJU	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend im LBV	Germany	Full
Club of Young Naturalists – FTK	Hungary	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
BALTA DABA	Latvia	Full
Green Future	Lithuania	Associate
Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia – DEM	Macedonia	Full
Nature Trust Malta	Malta	Full
WoesteLand	Netherlands	Full
Organizacja Młodzieżowa Ligi Ochrony Przyrody - LOP	Poland	Full
Oddział Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK	Poland	Associate
GAIA	Portugal	Associate
O.P.E	Portugal	Associate

Green Echoes Association	Romania	Associate
EcoCenter Zapovedniks	Russia	Associate
LUGA Environmental Organisation (LEO)	Russia	Associate
Environmental Youth Club –EYC	Russia	Associate
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Full
Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde	Spain	Associate
Fälbiologerna	Sweden	Full
Little Earth	Tajikistan	Associate
Look East Wild Earth (LEWE)	UK	Associate
Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia – MELP	Ukraine	Full

Organizations applying for membership in YEE

This year there are **ten** organizations applying for membership in Youth and Environment Europe, **two** applying for full and **eight** for associate membership.

Full membership:

- EPER Center - Environmental Center for Protection, Education and Rehabilitation (Albania)
- Republican Center for Children and Youth GUTTA-CLUB (Moldova)

Associate membership:

- Young Biologists Association (Armenia)
- Azerbaijan Youth for Peace (Azerbaijan)
- Merkuri (Georgia)
- Mine Vaganti European Youth Group (Italy)
- AYA (Russia)
- LIBERTAS INTERNATIONAL (Spain)
- Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Ukraine)
- Ipso Jure (Ukraine)

1/ EPER Center (Environmental Center for Protection, Education and Rehabilitation)

Country:	Albania
Year of foundation:	2009
Area of work:	national
Apply for:	full membership
Number of members:	42
Age limit:	Members of the Board, Executive Director, administrative staff and volunteers belong to the group aged from 16 to 29. Important part of the center

is a voluntary group which belongs to age group 16 - 25 years old. No age limit.

Aim: The main aim is to contribute to a cohesive society through environmental initiatives.

Activities: Capacity building; environmental education of children, youth and community civic groups; ecotourism development around priority areas; research, assessment, monitoring, development plans, surveys and other forms of this type, which are the subject of environmental field, locally, nationally and internationally; awareness campaigns, forums, debates; organizing exhibitions, films and documentary scripts, special publications; etc.

The organization has been involved in national and 6 international projects, youth participation related to the recycling business, active young healthy city, the youth volunteering in the field of environment, and related capacity building young people for environment awareness, lobbying, advocating for youth global and local environmental problems. At this moment they are realizing an international project within 3.1 of the program Youth in Action entitled 'Environmental watchdog'. They have participated in YEE Study Session in 2012.

Opinion on membership: According to the application form and the statutes, the EPER Center seems to focus on environmental activities and works with young people. Their main aims are connected with the environmental issues. As they fulfil the necessary criteria (youth organization, dealing with environmental topics), we recommend the General Assembly **to accept them as a full member.**

2/ Republican Center for Children and Youth GUTTA-CLUB

Country: Moldova
Year of foundation: 1996
Area of work: national
Apply for: full membership
Number of members: 200
Age limit: There is no age limit, although GUTTA-CLUB's main target are children and youth, it is also working with grown-ups, particularly teachers to achieve their environmental education objectives.

Aim: The main aim is the ecological education of children and young people, as well as developing active civil society, social protection of children and youth, development of the third sector, solution of issues on educational and cultural dissemination, ecological training of children and youth, formation of ecological vision, involvement of children and youth in tourism and scouting.

Activities:

- Hands-on workshops, trainings, youth exchanges.

- Summer schools and summer camps.
- Environmental actions and campaigns.
- Communication and advocacy towards the authorities and decision-makers with the view to advance environmental education in schools, involve the state sector in environmental activities.
- Lectures in schools.
- Creative writing, photography and painting competitions.
- Publications of school textbooks, periodical environmental magazine for children and youth, energy efficiency guidelines, public information material for environmental education of children and youth and wider public.

Opinion on membership: The GUTTA-CLUB implements a lot of ecological activities and educational programmes for children but also works with teachers. As there is no age limit and the organisation is not strictly youth, we recommend the General Assembly **to accept them as an associate member.**

3/Young Biologists Association

Country:	Armenia
Year of foundation:	2009
Area of work:	national
Apply for:	associate membership
Number of members:	140
Age limit:	Under 35 years old - no age limit but many members are students.

Aim: Adoption of modern educational and research technologies, development and their application in the Republic of Armenia.

Activities: They organize periodical publications and programs for the purpose of publication research, various forums (Round tables, seminars, scientific conferences, etc.), e.g.:

- International Students Conference on Life Science
- “Darwin Now” Joint Program
- International Biodiversity Day: Photo Exhibition 2010 and 2011
- Earth Day 2010 Armenia Campaign
- Seminar on “How to Live Green and Stop Climate Change” and announcement of results of petition in support of Green Lifestyle in Armenia
- Earth Day 2010 Armenia: Tree Planting Day
- Discussion on Climate Change “The Time to Speak Up”
- “Live Green” Painting Competition
- Environmental Education Program: Fungal and Plants Biodiversity, Conservation and Ecotourism Development in Armenia
- Young Environmentalists Directory dedicated to the International Year of Forests 2011

Opinion on membership: Based on the documentation provided, the organization implements many different environmental activities targeted at young people hence responds to the criteria of YEE for associate member - *“shall be organization with substantial youth membership, self-governing, democratic, and involved in youth work and environmental work, which take a substantial interest in the objectives and activities of the Federation”*. We recommend the General Assembly **to accept them as an associate member**.

4/ Azerbaijan Youth for Peace

Country: Azerbaijan
Year of foundation: 2008
Area of work: national
Apply for: associate membership
Number of members: 60
Age limit: 18-35 - there is no upper age limit

Aims:

- To develop leaders who are committed to peace, democracy and solidarity
- To be represented in international youth NGOs functioning in European level
- To implement exchange programs with different international and national youth organizations functioning in USA and European countries.
- To promote the better understanding of the diversity of the common cultures, supporting the fight against racism, discrimination and promoting equality at all levels of society
- To promote human rights, democracy, peace and solidarity in Azerbaijan
- To support the peaceful and nonviolent process of transformation of the conflicts in Azerbaijan

Activities: There is a strong emphasis on youth work mainly centred around peace building, anti racism, integration and international relations.

Main activities of the organization are: organizing seminars, conferences, discussions, work-camps, youth exchanges, forums on subjects: youth, ecology, voluntarism, peace, gender, human rights and media.

Opinion on membership: Their strong emphasis on youth work and international co-operation could be beneficial to the YEE network. However, as for their interest and involvement in environmental activities, it does not seem to be much present. In their application they say they have taken part in “Ecology” activities, but do not provide any other details. This is the only mention of work to do with the environment. Hence we recommend **not accepting them this year and postponing their acceptance till showing more ecological interest**.

5/ Merkuri

Country:	Georgia
Year of foundation:	2007
Area of work:	national
Apply for:	associate membership
Number of members:	23
Age limit:	no age limit - the age of the current members varies between 16 and 45

Aims and activities:

- To develop small business as well as women's business
- Education of women and care of public health
- To improve the conditions of large families
- Protection of women's rights
- Creation of psychological assistance service for women
- To help unprotected people

The organisation is mostly concerned with the rights of women and children but also express an interest in the general development of civil society.

Opinion on membership: While working with youth, it is mostly in the context of the family unit, they do not seem to offer any independent support for youth themselves, though they have taken part in some actions/programs, mainly *European Youth Parliament 2011*. In regards to environmental issues, nowhere in the statute of aims and activities does it mention an interest in environmental issues, though it is worth mentioning that they have taken part in the following activities recently which could be construed as an interest in the topic: *Ecological conference of students 2010, Actions against climate change 2010*.

The orientation of the organization is not quite corresponding to the requirements of YEE and we believe that we do not share enough common interests. Hence **we do not recommend accepting them as associate members.**

6/ Mine Vaganti European Youth Group

Country:	Italy
Year of foundation:	2009 (informally), 2011 (formally)
Area of work:	local
Apply for:	associate membership
Number of members:	10 active
Age limit:	Currently between 16-35, there is no age limit.

Aims and activities:

- Personal development of members
- Acquiring new skills and abilities
- Promote social inclusion using sport, nature and art
- Create links with European youth associations

- Develop youth movement across Europe promoting informal education methods

Activities: The organisation is mainly interested in making use of the YiA program in Italy with specific interest within the region of Sardinia. Their main focus is on mobilising youth and preparing them for job through informal education in many areas such as sport, green skills and social issues such as discrimination, unemployment and racism. They also mention an interest in helping those with disabilities.

They implement many activities in the field of non-formal and in-formal education, informing and communication (youth exchanges, training course, study sessions); activities for youth: volunteering projects in local communities, sportive activities as an healthy lifestyle, sport as a tool for inclusion, eco projects of free expression for young people; popularization of the Youth In Action program, etc.

Opinion on membership:

Although the environment is not their key focus, their past actions and activities show a strong commitment to both youth and the environment, for example they took part in the YEE Study Session in Strasbourg on European Environmental Law. They have also singlehandedly organised a youth exchange on Nature and Ecology. They have a proven track record as being capable and dependable collaborators and we recommend the General Assembly **to accept them as an associate member.**

7/ Regional non-governmental organisation for development of volunteering AYA

Country:	Russia
Year of foundation:	2011
Area of work:	national
Apply for:	associate membership
Number of members:	cca 30
Age limit:	No age limit (currently the oldest member is 33)
Aim:	To facilitate the voluntarism development.

Activities:

- Organizing voluntary expeditions for the intercultural exchange
- Informational, material, financial, technical, organizational and educating support of social initiatives of citizens and non-profit organizations
- Lecturing and educating activity
- Attracting the attention of the public to the volunteering and charity, to its own activity and activity of the supported organizations
- Publishing
- Carrying out charity events

- Participating in voluntary movement
- Organizing cultural leisure time and entertainment

Example of activities: Volunteer projects (2 weeks long) with international participants; local events (weekend) in Moscow - clean-ups, tree planting, volunteer help at different events, different workshops on recycling, e-volunteering/translating brochures, etc.

Opinion on membership: While their statutes do not mention anything about either youth or environmental issues specifically, their previous activities do seem to be VERY environmentally orientated having participated in Clean up, Tree planting, workshops on recycling and having helped YEE translate brochures in the past. They seem active and interested in the environment without specifically mentioning it in the Statutes. The coordinators who established the organisation come from EcoCenter Zapovedniks, another Russian YEE MO and with who YEE cooperated with closely on previous projects (e.g. YEE Forest Campaign 2011). Hence we recommend **accepting the organization as an associate member based on a proven track record of environmental activity but on the condition that they will provide a better and more detailed description of their environmental activities.**

8/ LIBERTAS INTERNATIONAL

Country: Spain
Year of foundation: 2010
Area of work: international
Apply for: associate membership
Number of members: 231
Age limit: No age limit - but they give priority to young people between 12 and 35 years old.

Aims: To create social awareness among citizens of the world through campaigns, projects and activities; to promote mobility in Europe where young people can experience and develop some cultural dialogue with young people from other countries; defence and promotion of the Declaration of the Declaration of Human Rights of United Nations; defence and promotion of the Convention of rights of children of United Nations; defence and development of women in the world; to support rural areas, to create environmental awareness among citizens to fight against the climate change, to protect the natural resources of the Mother Earth; etc.

Activities:

In Spain:

- work with young people with fewer opportunities, offer counselling in studies, scholarships, grants etc.

- work with high schools - every month session for debating and learning about the world,
- organizing environmental volunteer work camps in summer and sport outdoor activities in weekends with non-formal and informal education,
- the organization's specialist works on a project related to ecological agriculture with the help of volunteers.

In Moscow: hosting EVS organization, volunteers teach languages at school. They plan to organize an EVS project in Spain at two national parks related to promotion of eco-tourism.

Opinion on membership: The organization is not focused only on environment and it even seems that they work more on other subjects such as social inclusion. At the same time they aim at working with young people and organize environmental work camps (although it is not clear what kind of work exactly they do there). They have no publications so far. Their aims include raising environmental awareness among other things. Overall the organisation seems to be not environmentally orientated. However, they work with young people and have some ecological projects. According to the YEE Statutes, the associate member *shall be organization with substantial youth membership, self-governing, democratic, and involved in youth work and environmental work, which take a substantial interest in the objectives and activities of the Federation*". For this reason, we recommend **accepting the organization as an associate member only if they can give better explanation of their environmental activities**. Otherwise we recommend **postponing their acceptance till showing more ecological interest**.

9/Institute of Ukrainian Studies

Country: Ukraine
Year of foundation: 2005
Area of work: local
Apply for: associate membership (for the 3rd time)
Number of members: around 30
Age limit: 15-30 years old - students, recent graduates, high school students. No age limit.

Aim: The main aim is to help young leaders by involving them into socially important activities. Other aims include distribution of information about Ukraine, attracting attention to the issues concerning Ukrainian society, organization of cultural and sport events, trainings, etc.

Activities: They organise projects aimed at increasing cooperation with local youth, ensuring active participation of young people in local life. They cooperate with the Department of the Youth, Family and Sports in organizing various youth activities including youth seminars, conferences, trainings, etc. Main projects:

- All-Ukrainian Charitable Marathon "Race for Children" - raising money

- for maternity hospitals
- Lvov Regional Session of the European Youth Parliament (2007-2009)
 - International Youth Convention of the International network Youth for Exchange and Understanding
 - International School of Ukrainian Studies (Youth in Action)
 - Local projects (human rights, sustainable development, youth employment)

Opinion on membership: The Institute of Ukrainian Studies applies for associate membership for the third time already. The reason why the organisation was not accepted the previous two times is that there were not many activities related to environmental issues. After analyzing the application form and statutes again this year, there does not seem to be any change concerning the environmental activities. The organisation focuses on working with young people, but in social and active citizenship areas - mostly capacity building of youngsters in Ukrainian region of Lvov. Hence we believe that it is appropriate **to continue the collaboration without membership as it has already happened in the previous years.**

10/ Ipsso Jure

Country:	Ukraine
Year of foundation:	2011
Area of work:	local
Apply for:	associate membership
Number of members:	47
Age limit:	Most of the current members are between 14 and 35. The minimum age is 14 and there is no maximum age.

Aims: To conduct scientific research and carry out the elucidative activity in the field of international law with the purpose of protection of rights and interests of citizens of Ukraine, foreigners, persons without citizenship at both national and international level; To conduct scientific research in the sphere of environmental law with the purpose of environmental protection; To promote cultural diversity and values of intercultural dialogue; etc.

Activities: Scientific research, lectures, seminars, consultations, other measures aimed at analyzing and elucidating existent problems in the field of international law, international cooperation, application of norms of international legislation to the norms of national legislation, protection of public rights and interests at international level, environmental protection, development of culture and promotion of cultural values. They run exhibitions, trainings, scientific seminars, projects, other public measures, in particular with the active engagement of citizens of Ukraine, foreigners, persons without citizenship, international and national youth organizations.

Environmental activities: Study of problems of international law and in this context they are engaged in problems of ecology as well. They organize conferences on the following topics (amongst others): international ecological law, global ecological problems and similarly problems of ecology in Ukraine.

Opinion on membership: Ipso Jure applies for associate membership. They fulfil the basic criteria for becoming associate member - substantial youth membership, involved in youth work and environmental work. However they mention that the yearly budget of the organization is 300 EUR so it is difficult to imagine how all the projects are organised. For this reason, **the financial situation should be further examined during the procedure and we recommend accepting the organization as an associate member only if they can give a better explanation of functioning of their organisation and funding of their activities.**

Cancellation and review of membership

We are providing you with a list of YEE Member Organizations whose membership rights should be reviewed in 2012. Next follow our suggestions together with a brief explanation of the decision:

Cancellation of membership:

- *ASHD (Armenia)*
Membership fee unpaid for 3 years (2010-2012), problems with communication.
- *Ecosouthwest (Bulgaria)*
Membership fee unpaid for 3 years (2010-2012), no young people in the organisation who could participate in YEE activities.
- *Green Future (Lithuania)*
Membership fee unpaid for 4 years (2009-2012), problems with communication.

Review of membership:

- *Konopa (Czech Republic)*
They asked for suspension of membership as currently there is no one who could actively participate in the YEE activities.
- *Natuur 2000 (Belgium)*
- *Nature Trust Malta (Malta)*
- *Naturschutzjugend im LBV (Germany)*
- *LOP (Poland)*
- *Little Earth (Tajikistan)*

We need to review their membership and possibly withdraw them from the list of our Member Organization, unless they are willing to become active, as one or more of the following occurred:

- they **did not pay their membership fee for the last 4 years (2009-2012) without explanation,**
- they **did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 3 years (2009-2011),**
- we did not have **any contact** from them.

A letter asking for explanation of the inactivity of the above mentioned organizations was already sent and will be resent to them. In case they will not respond to this call, the General Assembly will decide how to proceed with them during this year's Annual Meeting.