

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)

Working Plan 2013

Oucmanice, Czech Republic, July 28th 2012

“YEE aims 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.”

Mission Statement of YEE adopted in 2008

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international youth non-governmental organisation.

YEE is a federation of 45 member organizations in 26 countries and it aims to seek to organize and encourage all that might increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of nature and the awareness of environmental problems among young people throughout Europe in order to promote the commitment of youth to the principles of environmental conservation and to stimulate young people's voluntary action for the protection of nature, the enhancement of the environment and the sustainable use of the Earth's resources.

To fulfill its mission YEE federation planned various projects to realize in the year 2013. To improve the network short-term and long-term strategies were prepared. The separate document 'YEE Short-term strategies 2012-2013' was adopted by the General Assembly at the YEE Annual Meeting 2012.

1. YEE INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Executive Board

The executive board of YEE 2012 - 2013 has 6 members.

Chairperson: Kyryll Ivliev (EYC, Russia)

Treasurer: Girts Baranovskis (BALTA DABA, Latvia)

Project Officer: Christiane Klemm (FÖJ-Aktiv e.V., Germany)

Member Organizations Officer: Tijana Ljubenović (Young Researches of Serbia, Serbia)

External Relations Officer: Zaruhi Stepanyan (Khazer, Armenia)

Promotional and Publications Officer/Vice-chairperson: Tomasz Janiak (OA PTTK Kraków, Poland)

Internal Auditors

Pavel Pracný (Hnutí Brontosaurus, Czech Republic), Dagmara Pogorzelska (OA PTTK Kraków, Poland) were elected as internal auditors for YEE. They shall carry out the internal audit for the financial year 2012.

Secretariat

Secretary General: Mária 'Maggie' Dokupilová
Main Coordinator: Malgorzata 'Gosia' Zubowicz-Thull
EVS volunteer: Natalia Luchko
EVS volunteer: Cameron Murphy
EVS volunteer: pending (beginning of the project April 2013)
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The office of YEE is located in the ecological centre Toulcuv Dvur in Prague, Czech Republic. Most of the coordination work of YEE is carried out from there. The ecological center can be used for hosting international activities and meetings as well.

Volunteers

The Secretariat and the Executive Board are not meant to cover all the various YEE activities on local and international level. YEE projects and activities can be hosted by YEE as a federation or by one of its member organizations. Volunteers from YEE member organisations are encouraged to get involved in YEE and help actively with implementation of the Working Plan and the Short-Term Strategies and to develop their own ideas for bringing YEE forward. Volunteers are welcome to get in touch with the YEE Board and the Secretariat at any time during the year and get involved in tasks according to their interests.

2. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Projects and activities of YEE for the executive year 2012-2013 will include 11 projects ranging from training courses, youth exchanges, study sessions, networking projects, and campaigns.

YEE will continue to produce publications and the website will be updated and improved. During the previous years YEE has used “youth” and “environment” areas for funding and for setting up activities and will continue to apply for such funds for the activities in this Working Plan.

TRAINING COURSES

- **River restoration**

September 2013 - Armenia

This training course will try to change participant’s approach to rivers and give them practical skills on restoration techniques. Another aim of the project is to raise awareness of youth about the importance of the topic and train them in ecosystem restoration. Person in charge: Zaruhi Stepanyan (Khazer, Armenia)

- **Teaching people on sustainable living**

September 2013 – Macedonia

The aim of the training course is to teach people how to make and repair things instead of buying them. The participants will also learn how to use the resources from the environment without being harmful to it. There will be also be space to learn how to transfer the knowledge learnt during the training to other young people and children.

Person in charge: Federica Cardinali (Mine Vaganti, Italy)

- **Saving energy**

Sardinia, Italy

Aim of the project is raising the green capacities of young people in the energy sector. During the project trainers and experts in the energy sector will bring to the participants best practices and will transmit to the young people how to use less energy and to have a better life.

Person in charge: Maria Grazia Pirina (Mine Vaganti, Italy)

- **Women for planet**

2– 9. March 2013, Maribor, Slovenia

This TC aims to empower and train young women in order to increase their ability to act as community leaders while promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Person in charge: YEE Secretariat, Stefan Simoncic (Epeka, Slovenia)

STUDY SESSION

- **Youth participation**

2nd half 2013, Budapest, Hungary

The aim of the study session will be to assess the needs of young people concerning volunteering in environment, share best practices on youth involvement and discover the historical implications of the European youth environmental movement.

Person in charge: YEE Secretariat

YOUTH EXCHANGES

- **Environment and photography**

May 2013 - Armenia

The youth exchange is intended to gather young people from 8 different countries interested in environment and photography in order to exchange skills in environmental protection and photography. During the activity participants will practice their skills in photography, video making, usage of social media especially using it for emphasizing environmental problems.

Person in charge: Arsen Simonyan (SYC, Armenia)

CAMPAIGNS

- **Upcycling Campaign**

January-June 2013, Europe

The international campaign on Up-cycling will be prepared by 7 youth environmental organisations from various countries (Czech Republic, Albania, Armenia, Latvia, Portugal, Russia). It will raise environmental awareness by promoting in various ways the concept of up-cycling among European young people.

Up-cycling is taking waste and making it into something that has equal or greater use or value. In the frame of the campaign organisations will create videos with instructions on making up-cycling objects, a booklet with up-cycling ideas and local actions.

Person in charge: YEE Secretariat

- **Rivers Campaign**

Autum 2013 - 2014, Portugal/Europe

It shall be a long-term project in which each partner organisation will work on improving the quality of the rivers in their community. The project shall consist of 3 stages – seminar in Portugal aimed to equip participants with tools for water monitoring. After return to participant's home countries, second stage shall start with the activities like: river cleaning; riverside walks; reforestations; recovery mills; exhibitions (movie screening), presentations in schools, collection of short stories. Third stage should be the campaign celebration in Portugal, with an Ecological Music Festival and publication of booklet on

the conditions of rivers of each European partner country.
Person in charge: Ana Lopes, OPE, Portugal

▪ **Right to Bee**

Spring 2013, Europe

A flashmob of planting actions (flowers and trees) all over Europe, to make people aware of the problem of decreasing bee populations.

Person in charge: Christiane Klemm (FÖJ-Aktiv e.V., Germany)

▪ **Sunny Campaign (web page update and upgrade)**

All year

The project will focus on updating the Sunny Campaign webpage with inputs from different countries of Europe. Topics to cover: local, organic food, eco-clothes, housing, energy.

Person in charge: Natalia Luchko (YEE Secretariat)

▪ **Office cuisine (blog)**

All year

This project is an initiative of the YEE Secretariat since it has been using the method of everyday switching in the kitchen in sense one cooks for all. The Secretariat would like to promote this method in order to get it more spread to small-team offices as it is more sustainable way of lunching in these types of offices. It supports creativity and team spirit, supports the idea of healthier eating habits and of cost-efficiency. In international teams as it is the case of YEE, the intercultural learning becomes another benefit. The promo-campaign will be based on a blog <http://officecuisine.wordpress.com/>.

Person in charge: Maria Maggie Dokupilova (YEE Secretariat)

LOCAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

All year

World Water Monitoring Day

- YEE water monitoring team measuring the quality of water
- Spreading information about WWMD through YEE webpage
- Call for public to join water monitoring team

Day of Earth celebrations

- information maps at YEE webpage

Person in charge: YEE Secretariat, EVS volunteers

PUBLICATIONS

- Booklets

YEE booklets will be connected with concrete YEE projects.

- Upcycling
- Topic of the second booklet will be decided.

- YEE e-newsletters

6 issues per year

WEBSITE

- Improvement of the interactive YEE website
All year

3. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The growing dimension of global environmental problems calls for international teamwork by environmental activists to promote change and encourage solutions. YEE believes in such an effort and the potential it brings. That is why YEE is actively involved in several significant international organizations and networks by being a member or collaborating and participating in the activities and events of these organizations.

UNEP Tunza

On a global level, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is recognised by YEE as an important platform for youth activities and policy making. A global perspective is necessary in order for YEE to help promote a sustainable development. Tunza is the long-term strategy of UNEP on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental activities.

European Commission

The European Commission is undertaking an exercise to seek improved European governance, with emphasis on participatory democracy and capacity building in civil society organisations. YEE can play an important role in speaking out on environmental interests on behalf of European youth. YEE will be oriented on closer cooperation with the DG Environment next year, especial under implementation of The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

European Environment Bureau (EEB)

The European Environment Bureau is a network of environmental organisations including YEE. The EEB supervises the environmental issues more than anyone else as they arise in European policies and send information to its member organisations. The working groups of EEB are specific in expertise and in interest. YEE aims to explore the full potential of this membership by participating actively in working groups and activities organized by EEB. YEE member organizations will be encouraged to be involved in EEB in the name of YEE.

European Youth Forum (YFJ)

European Youth Forum is the biggest platform for international youth non-governmental organisations (IYNGOs) and National Youth Councils (NYCs) in Europe. Their role is to promote youth interests across the policies at European level. As a member of European Youth Forum, YEE is regularly represented in their various activities and statutory meetings and will continue to cooperate with YFJ to build capacity of youth work.

Taiga Rescue Network (TRN)

TRN works for the protection and conservation of the Taiga, the boreal forests in the world. YEE is a member of TRN and will support its activities and try to be involved in their important work.

Ocean 2012

This is a global campaign to reform current EU fishery policy towards a more environmentally stable model.

Other networks/entities

YEE will continue to explore the possibilities of cooperating with other networks and entities with common interests, in order to strengthen each other and get closer to reaching our mission.

4. MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

Member Organisations

After the Annual Meeting 2011, YEE has 45 member organizations (24 full members and 21 associate members) in 26 countries. YEE will do its best to keep close contact and collaborate with its members during the year, to inform them and to be informed about their local, regional and national activities.

Membership Fees

In order to be fair to the different member organizations and to ensure the stability of its economical situation, YEE will be strict about collecting the membership fees and to cancel the possibility to excuse the fee. The amount of the membership fee depends on the annual budget of the member organisation, see table below.

Member Organization's budget 2012/13	Membership fee for 2013 FULL MEMBERS	Membership fee for 2013 ASSOCIATED MEMBERS
EUR 0 – EUR 12.500	EUR 30	EUR 15
EUR 12.500 – EUR 25.000	EUR 45	EUR 22,5
EUR 25.000 – EUR 37.500	EUR 60	EUR 30
EUR 37.500 – EUR 62.500	EUR 75	EUR 37,5
EUR 62.500 – EUR 125.000	EUR 90	EUR 45
EUR 125.000 – EUR 250.000	EUR 105	EUR 52,5
EUR 250.001	EUR 120	EUR 60

The fee should be transferred to the bank account of YEE before the deadline set up by the Executive Board. In case the bank transfer is too expensive for a particular organisation, it can be brought in cash to one of the YEE meetings. The fee has to be paid before the official opening of the Annual Meeting takes place, otherwise the voting right of the organisation is suspended.

Membership Solidarity Fund

The Membership Solidarity Fund will receive donations that are meant to cover membership fees of the membership organisations.

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)

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