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## **Report of the YEE External Relations Officer Zaruhi Stepanyan, Work year 2012-2013**

Dear Colleagues,

At the Annual Meeting of the 2012 I was elected as the External Relations Officer of Youth and Environment Europe.

During the working years 2012/2013, as a Board Member and the External Relations Officer I was engaged mostly with the representation of YEE. At the beginning of this year I had to get acquainted with our partner organizations, such as European Youth Forum, European Environmental Bureau and Taiga Rescue Network, to get to know the topics they work on and their working style, also to fill in the surveys initiated by the EEB and YFJ.

The first actual and practical work done by me as an ERO, in cooperation with the Chairperson and Secretary General, was collection of the documents, filling in the application form, ect, for the Accreditation within UNEP. I think this work was done quite smoothly and quickly, though we don't know still the results, however, we believe that very soon will be engaged with the activities within the United Nations Organization.

During the work in YEE, I had to attend three events for representation (General Assembly of the EEB, General Assembly of the YFJ and Council of Members of the YFJ). Unfortunately I had possibility to attend only two of them: the GA of the European Youth Forum held in Maribor, Slovenia in November 2012 and the COMEM of the European Youth Forum held in Brussels, Belgium in April 2013. As well I took part in the application procedures of the "Youth for Rivers" project, which is going to be applied in Latvia on 1st May. I also participated in all the Board meeting either Physical or Virtual ones.

Unfortunately, YEE was not represented at the GA of the EEB, as currently we don't have a pool of representatives.

I also initiated some statutory changes which we discussed during the Physical Board meeting and which also will be discussed during the Annual Meeting. As one of the most important things done, I have to mention the participation in the interviews for the Secretary General, on which depends the future of our federation.

Together with all the Board Members and the Office we created the agenda of the Annual Meeting 2013, divided the agenda into several parts and are now working on the sessions. Also took part in e-mail discussions in case if some problems needed salvation.

This working year was quite full of work to do I tried to do my best to fulfill as much points from the short term strategies and to outline a base and preconditions to fulfill the long term strategies.

This is the short description of the work I did this year in Youth and Environment Europe. I am very proud to be a part of this organization and having a small input in the work of YEE. I am grateful to the Board and Secretariat for their support and sharing the experience.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Zaruhi Stepanyan