

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)

Working Plan 2015

Adopted by the General Assembly, in Baili, Valmiera, Latvia, August 17th 2014

“YEE aims to unite environmental youth non-profit organisations 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 44 member organisations in 27 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 realise in the year 2015. To improve the network short-term strategies were prepared. In the year 2015, YEE Short-term strategies shall be implemented to achieve the following:

- 1/ To reduce the negative impact on the environment
- 2/ To improve the representation of YEE in external relations
- 3/ To improve communication
- 4/ To ensure financial stability of YEE
- 5/ To make YEE more visible towards Member Organisations, public and media

The separate document ‘YEE Short-term strategies 2014-2015’ was adopted by the General Assembly at the YEE Annual Meeting 2014. The document “YEE long-term strategies 2013-2016” was adopted by the General Assembly at the YEE Annual Meeting 2013.

1. YEE INTERNAL STRUCTURE

Executive Board

The executive board of YEE 2014 - 2015 has 6 members.

Chairperson: Anja Wilken (Germany)

Treasurer: Vasily Bashutkin (Russia)

External Relations Officer/Vice-chairperson: Zaruhi Stepanyan (Armenia)

Project Officer: Bianca Badea (Romania)

Member Organisations Officer: Lira Hakani (Albania)

Promotional and Publications Officer: Christiane Klemm (Germany)

Internal Auditors

Kyrylo Ivliev and Tim Meinecke were elected as Internal Auditors for YEE. They shall carry out the Internal Audit for the financial years 2014, 2015.

Secretariat

Secretary General: Mercedes Fioravanti Alvarez

Main Coordinator: Natalia Luchko

EVS volunteer: Roxana Nica

EVS volunteer: Kristina Huda

EVS volunteer: pending (beginning of the project April 2015)

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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

YEE is a voluntary base organisation. All projects and tasks are planned and organised by volunteers from Member Organisations. 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 organisations. 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 2014-2015 will include a number of youth exchanges, campaigns, training courses, other projects and local activities. YEE will continue to create 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.

YOUTH EXCHANGES

- **Discover the soul of the Carpathian mountains**
Spring 2015, Romania

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of young people on environmental protection and also promoting ecotourism in Carpathian region. Participants of the youth exchange will be involved in marking and creating touristic paths, creating and placing information boards as well as learning about protected species, safety, and eco-friendly behavior in mountains.

Person in charge: Bianca Badea (Green Echoes Association, Romania)

- **International Eco-school Partnership**
Autumn 2015, Italy

This Youth Exchange aims to raise awareness of young people on environmental issues, to create a space for young people to share and analyse different experiences regarding environmental awareness in formal education and to spread good practices and examples in local schools of the partner countries like Italy, Latvia and other.

Person in charge: Carlo Massei (Mine Vaganti, Italy)

- **Art for Environment**
Autumn 2015, UK

The arts can be used to raise awareness and support for environmental issues. The Youth Exchange will target young people with skills and experience with the arts but with fewer opportunities. They will explore ways to engage and educate their communities about environmental issues using artwork.

Person in charge: Jessica Massucco (Look East Wild Earth, UK)

TRAININGS AND OTHER PROJECTS

- **Green Entrepreneurship**
Throughout 2015, Czech Republic and partner countries

This project focuses on young people around Europe that face the problem of unemployment but are willing to develop their own green business. The stages of the project include a Training Course, Study Visits, an International Campaign, local workshops and other activities. The project aims to provide necessary tools and skills to young entrepreneurs,

inspire them to have an innovative thinking and encourage them to start eco-friendly businesses.

Person in charge: Mercedes Fioravanti (YEE, Czech Republic)

- **Environmental training for eco-trainers**

March 2015, Germany

The core of this project is a Training Course that aims at educating youth workers to competently prepare, run and evaluate environmentally-friendly activities. The training is designed for participants with an environmental or educational background who have participated already in several trainings or international projects. By using non-formal education as well as learning-by-doing and coaching, participants will be provided with an overview of skills and competences required as future trainers and will plan and facilitate trial sessions.

Person in charge: Anja Wilken (FÖJ-Aktiv e.V., Germany)

- **The impact of the conflicts on the environment**

June – December 2015, Armenia and partner countries

The aim of this project is to draw attention, raise awareness and give possible solutions concerning environmental risks produced in times of conflict actions. This project is focused on countries, which were/are still in some conflicting zone with noticeable environmental consequences during/after the conflict. The project will consist of a Youth Exchange and an International Campaign.

Person in charge: Knyaz Saroyan (FYCA, Armenia)

- **Partnership in the Big Jump Challenge**

Summer 2015, Europe

The Big Jump Challenge is the Youth Campaign of the European River Swimming Day and is coordinated by Getidos – a social-ecological platform researching sustainable solutions, Deutsche Umwelthilfe, Grüne Liga, Global Nature Fund (GNF) and the European Rivers Network (ERN). It supports youth and young adults in promoting water conservation in Europe through creativity and celebration. Partner teams composed of members from different EU countries take up the international challenge of promoting solidarity for water conservation with their European neighbors.

Person in charge: Christiane Klemm (on behalf of YEE)

- **Partnership in the project STEP**

Throughout 2015, Greece and other partner countries

The project will be coordinated by DRAXIS – Environmental Technologies (Greece). The scope of the proposal is to develop and pilot test an ICT (Information and Communications Technology) platform that stimulates the societal and political participation of young people in the decision making process in the environmental sector.

Person in charge: Anja Wilken (FÖJ- Aktiv e.V., Germany)

CAMPAIGNS

- **Climate Campaign**

Autumn 2014 – autumn 2015, Moldova and partner countries

The aim of the Climate Campaign is to address the impact and consequences of climate change and make them visible in local communities. Furthermore, the actions will bring the attention to environmental problems which affect climate change or are caused by climate change in each community.

Person in charge: Elisaveta Gutu (Gutta-Club, Moldova)

- **The Right to Be(e)**

Spring 2015, Europe

A grass root campaign managed by the office of YEE aims to raise the awareness about the problem of bee colony collapse disorder. After the success of the “Bee competition” organised during 2014, the office will search for new ideas and activities for 2015 to promote the campaign further.

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

- **Insecta rules**

August 2014 – August 2015, Portugal and partner countries

The aim of this Campaign is to raise the awareness on biodiversity issues through theatre and storytelling. It will also point out simple solutions to support specific species.

Person in charge: Ana Lopes (OPE, Portugal)

LOCAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2015

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

World Days celebrations

- Information campaigns at YEE website

Person in charge: YEE Secretariat, EVS volunteers

PUBLICATIONS

- Booklets

2015 - two issues per year - The topics will be decided

- YEE e-newsletters
2015 - 6 issues per year

WEBSITE

Throughout 2015

- Improvement of the interactive YEE website

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 organisations and networks by being a member or collaborating and participating in the activities and events of these organisations.

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.

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 organisations 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.

United Nations Environmental Program UNEP

UNEP is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable

development of the global environment. The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. The aim of YEE in UNEP is to get involved in the discussions of environmental problems worldwide and explore more possibilities for cooperation with different organisations.

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 2014, YEE has 44 member organisations (24 full members and 20 associate members) in 27 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 Member Organisations 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.

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.

| Member Organization's budget 2014/15 | Membership fee for 2015 FULL MEMBERS | Membership fee for 2015 ASSOCIATED MEMBERS |
|---|---|---|
| EUR 0 - EUR 12.500 | EUR 40 | EUR 20 |
| EUR 12.501 - EUR 25.000 | EUR 60 | EUR 30 |
| EUR 25.001 - EUR 37.500 | EUR 80 | EUR 40 |
| EUR 37.501 - EUR 62.500 | EUR 100 | EUR 50 |
| EUR 62.501 - EUR 125.000 | EUR 120 | EUR 60 |
| EUR 125.001 - EUR 250.000 | EUR 140 | EUR 70 |
| EUR 250.001 | EUR 160 | EUR 80 |

5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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