

YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

YEE
YOUTH AND
ENVIRONMENT
EUROPE

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Introduction

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 42 European youth organisations that study nature and/or are active in environmental protection. These member organisations come together from 26 countries. The mission of YEE is 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. 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 in 1998, as the Czech Republic was 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 links 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 exchange of information through our publications, training courses, youth exchanges, work-meetings and campaigns on topics our Member Organisations deal with.

YEE realises 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 2013, 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 2015-2016 YEE Executive Board was elected in July 2015 during the Annual Meeting:

Chairperson – Anja Wilken (FÖJ-Aktiv, Germany)

Vice-Chair & Project Officer – Zaruhi Stepanyan (Khazer, Armenia)

Treasurer – Janis Porietis (Balta Daba, Latvia)

External Relations Officer – Christiane Klemm (FÖJ-Aktiv, Germany)

Publications and Promotion Officer – Jessica Massucco (LEWE, UK)

Member Organisations Officer – Marieta Baricevic (Argonauta, Croatia)

During the period of 2015-2016, the Executive Board had two physical meetings – one right after the AM 2015, the second in autumn 2015 and the third one in March 2016. There will be one more physical board meeting, before the AM 2016. There were also 7 virtual Board meetings held during the business year 2015-2016. Additionally, there were working groups (formed by some members of the Board, Secretariat and MOs) dealing with different issues that met several times during 2015-2016.

Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of 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:	Mercedes Fioravanti Álvarez
Main Coordinator:	Natalia Luchko
Networking Coordinator:	Roxana Nica
Consultant:	Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull

The Secretariat participated in all the physical Board Meetings and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in 2015.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EVS (European Voluntary Service) is a project within the European Commission's Programme "Erasmus+". 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 at Toulcův Dvůr (the ecological centre where the YEE office is located) and on a personal project.

During 2015 YEE office hosted 4 EVS volunteers.

Volunteers hosted through the EVS programme:

- Kristina Huda (Albania – from 04/2014 until 04/2015)
- Roxana Nica (Romania – from 04/2014 until 04/2015)
- Judit Suveges (Hungary – from 04/2015 until 04/2016)
- Vladimir Jordanov (Macedonia – from 04/2015 until 04/2016)

Development of the organisation

Internally

- Several Working Groups focused on major developments of the network were created. They are composed of people from YEE Secretariat and Board and active representatives of the network. Examples of Work Groups are: News structure of Work Plan, creation of Human Resources Policy, new version of Project Policy, creation of Pool of Trainers, etc.
- During the Annual Meeting 2015 we presented a proposal for changing the structure of YEE Work Plan and it was well received by the member organisations. From 2016 we will have a Work Plan that will be composed of objectives and strategies and YEE projects will be created and proposed in order to fulfil the concrete strategies.
- YEE Board initiated the work on changing YEE policies and creating a new policy: Sustainability Policy. The draft versions have been created in 2015, now they are being finalised and they will be presented for approval during YEE Annual Meeting 2016.
- Two YEE Board Meetings included small trainings in the topics of “tasks management” and “communication and public speaking”. This helped in having Board and Secretariat members with more skills and motivation to contribute to the development of the network.
- YEE implemented the survey (and needs analysis based on it) among the member organisations on the topic of their needs as youth NGO and plans for development. The results of this survey were used for the planning of the project ‘Sustainability in NGOs’.
- YEE office employed a new person for a newly created position of Networking Coordinator. This way the Secretariat team grew bigger and increased its capacities.
- YEE office opened a position for internship for the first time. This position provided a new experience and a learning opportunity for a young person and had a positive contribution to the work of the Secretariat.
- Most of the Board members were already involved in the Board before so they did not need the extended training, introduction to YEE issues and adaptation time. Other Board members were actively involved in past YEE activities. They knew each other and worked together before so it helped them to cooperate efficiently.
- Internal meetings between each Board member and the Secretariat were held within the first month of the mandate and they helped define their role and tasks for the upcoming year.
- YEE succeeded in receiving 2-year operating grant from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. It will help YEE to keep financial stability and plan better its future and budget.
- Internal Audit was successfully carried out in June 2016. Recommendations from this Internal Audit and the one from the previous year had been taken into consideration and when possible adopted in the Secretariat and Board and when organising projects.

- IPAS Association (Albania), the new member of YEE accepted at the Annual Meeting 2015, has already contributed to the work of the federation by means of cooperation with other Member Organisations and participation in YEE projects.

Externally

In 2015 YEE has been represented in the following events:

- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum 2015 – 17-18 April 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- Training Course “Grow up your EVS 2” – 28-30 May 2015 in Prague, Czech Republic.
Natalia Luchko, Main Coordinator of YEE, attended the training.
- Communication Workshop of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) – 28-29 September 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Jessica Massucco, Promotion and Publications Officer of YEE.
- Climate Change Network meeting (European Youth Foundation) – 3-4 October 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, Project Officer of YEE.
- General Assembly and Conference of the European Environmental Bureau – 19-21 October 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Christiane Klemm, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- Info Day & Training on Funding of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) – 5-6 November 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Mercedes Fioravanti, Secretary General of YEE.
- Council of Members (COMEM) of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) – 27-28 November 2015 in Madrid, Spain.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, Project Officer of YEE.

Activities from the Work Plan 2015

Training Courses

Training Course – “Supporting youth creating green start-ups” (Part of the Project “Green Entrepreneurship”)

The training course "Supporting youth creating green start-ups" took place on 16-24 April 2015 in Valeri, Asturias, in the north of Spain. It gathered 22 participants from 9 partner organisations coming from 8 different countries (Czech Republic, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, Portugal, Romania, Hungary, Poland).

This TC aimed to train youth workers and coordinators to support young people in their organisations and communities who want to become entrepreneurs.

Participants were young entrepreneurs, youth workers and coordinators from the partner organisations. They trained their skills in promoting, coordinating and supporting young people in creating green start-ups. The methodology used followed principles of non-formal education (learning by doing and sharing, study visits, self-reflection, etc).

During the 8 days of the training course, participants took part in a green start-up simulation, experiencing the first steps to start a green business, possible moral questions, creative thinking and promotion and branding. They also discussed the need and future of green business, the difference between a business man/woman and an entrepreneur and possible way to green up a business. A study visit to an organic orchard and an organic egg farm was organised for participants to meet young green entrepreneurs in the area.

This training course was the first stage of the long term project "Green Entrepreneurship". During this TC, participants started planning the next stage of the project: local workshops linked to the topic of green start-ups for young people in their community or region.

The training course was organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with Biodiversa (Spain), the hosting organisation. YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/ye-e-completed-projects/1116-training-course-qsupporting-youth-creating-green-start-upsq>

<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/green-entrepreneurship>

Training Course – “How to be a green entrepreneur” (Part of the Project “Green Entrepreneurship”)

The training course "How to be a green entrepreneur" took place from 12 to 20 October 2015 in Toulcuv Dvur, Prague, Czech Republic. It gathered 23 participants from 11 partner organisations coming from 10 different countries (Czech Republic, Spain, Latvia, Croatia, Portugal, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Italy and Ireland).

The TC "How to be a green entrepreneur" was part of the long-term project "Green Entrepreneurship".

It aimed to train and inspire young people with green start-up ideas and help them start and develop their own green business.

The methodology used during the TC was non-formal education, learning from each other and learning by doing. This TC was not a business seminar with input provided unidirectionally by an expert. Two facilitators guided participants through their learning and we invited experts to join us for some sessions, but what participants learned and took out of this TC depended on them.

During the eight days of the training course, participants had the possibility to present and elaborate their green start-up ideas and receive feedback from other participants as well as experts. A big part of the training was the contribution from experienced entrepreneurs who presented their experience and offered their input. The main sessions focused on design thinking, lean canvas, risk analysis, different profiles of team members, sustainable finances, legal issues and funding. Another part of the training course was the study visits where participants got familiar with more successful green start-ups. Last but not least, the facilitators along with the participants planned a detailed follow-up.

The training course was organised by Youth and Environment Europe. YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yee-completed-projects/1178-training-course-qhow-to-be-a-green-entrepreneurq>

<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/green-entrepreneurship>

Training Course – “Environmental training for eco-trainers”

The training course "Environmental Training for Eco-Trainers" (ET4ET), took place in Wiek (Rügen), Germany from 20-28 March 2015, and gathered 35 youth workers or active members from youth and environmental organisations of 12 different countries (Albania, Armenia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Spain, United Kingdom) between 18-35 years.

The German organisation FÖJ-AKTIV e.V. applied for the project out of the needs for (1) a rise in number and quality of environmental projects on local and international level, and (2) supporting and educating youth workers within the network and its members in the development of skills, competences and attitudes, identified by other organisations from their network organisation Youth and Environment Europe (YEE).

The target group were participants with an environmental and/or educational backgrounds (through studies or work) and experiences in training courses and international projects who are actively involved in an environmental NGO and who want to become trainers.

The TC applied methods from non-formal education as well as learning-by-doing and experiential learning. The participants not only learned something new from the trainers but also prepared and ran a Trial Session as Eco-Trainers during the TC. Furthermore, they shall

implement a training activity locally within their organisation after the TC as a follow-up. Another follow-up will be the publication of a booklet containing a toolkit about methodologies and tools for planning and running Environmental Trainings.

As a follow up, the booklet “Eco-trainer Guide” was created:
<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1185-eco-trainer-guide>

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yeec-completed-projects/1124-training-course-qenvironmental-training-for-eco-trainersq>

Training Course – “Give international dimension to your projects”

The training course "Give international dimension to your projects" took place from 12 to 17 July 2015 in Toulcuv Dvur, Prague, Czech Republic. It gathered 30 young people from 15 different countries.

The training course was created for environmental youth organisations who work actively with their local communities and would like to transfer their successful local projects to international level. They are interested in organising international projects with other organisations and would like to build future partnerships during this training course.

During the training course the participants shared information about their organisations and successful projects they organised before. The participants also had the chance to look into the topic of quality of youth work and quality of project development. There were also sessions dedicated to project planning which allowed the participants to build new partnerships and develop project ideas together.

The training course was organised by Youth and Environment Europe. YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yeec-completed-projects/1156-training-course-qgive-international-dimension-to-your-projectq>

Youth Exchanges

Youth Exchange – “Three Rs for the environment”

The youth exchange “Three Rs for the environment” took place from 6 to 14 of June 2015 in Moldova.

The main aim of the youth exchange was to bring young people together to exchange experience and knowledge about waste management in various European countries and work on various methods of promoting sustainable lifestyle.

The idea of the youth exchange "Three Rs for the environment" came from Gutta-club (Moldova), one of YEE's member organisations. Gutta-club took inspiration from the campaign Upcycling which was run by YEE.

This project gathered 30 young people from 6 European countries. They had space for discussing together the general idea of a waste management, what is waste hierarchy. They also found out more about European policy on waste management. The second half of the youth exchange was dedicated to practice and sharing. The groups had to prepare a presentation about waste management situation in their country and then organise a workshop to teach other participants some creative way of dealing with waste. The participants practised different ideas of upcycling and created something together.

The training course was organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with Gutta Club (Moldova), the hosting organisation. YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yee-completed-projects/1053-youth-exchange-qthree-rs-for-the-environmentq>

Youth Exchange – “Art for Environment”

The youth exchange “Art for Environment” took place from 9 to 15 of November 2015 in Kapraluv Mlyn, Brno, Czech Republic.

The idea for the project came from YEE member organisations and it reflected the need for new creative ideas for workshops and actions aiming to raise environmental awareness. It was suggested to create a youth exchange about using art and creative ideas for environmental projects.

This project brought together 25 young people from five different countries. They had a chance to learn from each other by exchanging skills, knowledge and experiences in a non-formal setting. During the youth exchange the participants organised an environmental art workshops for each other - they shared different ideas and developed their creativity as well.

The aim of the youth exchange was to provide a space for participants to share and develop their creative skills in order to create environmental projects to support their organisations and communities.

As a follow-up, an online publication with ideas for workshops and activities (<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1318-yee-publication-art-for-the-environment>) and online blog about the project and the topic of environmental art were created (ecoartseurope.wordpress.com).

The training course was organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with LEWE (UK). YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yee-completed-projects/1209-youth-exchange-qart-for-the-environmentq>

Campaigns

International Campaign – “Green Entrepreneurship” (Part of the Project “Green Entrepreneurship”)

The campaign aimed to promote green businesses initiated by young people and to encourage and inspire more young people to start their green start-ups. It spread the concept of green youth entrepreneurship through good, positive and successful examples of green business throughout Europe.

The examples were presented through short video-interviews created by partner organisations of "Green Entrepreneurship". Eight video-interviews were created with young entrepreneurs from different countries.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/green-entrepreneurship/1193-international-campaign>

“The Right to Be(e)” international information and education campaign

The Right to Be(e) is YEE's grassroots campaign designed to help the survival of the bees. Ever since 2012, YEE invites people annually to plant bee-friendly flowers and help support these important insects. By bringing more attention to the disappearance of bees and the issue of their survival, we encourage people to take initiative and make their mark. The phrase "Thing globally, act locally" perfectly defines the ways in which every one of us can give his/her contribution.

In 2015 we focused on planting actions. We collected reports from 12 planting actions across Europe. All planting events that were done in many countries in 2015 are described here: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/the-right-to-bee/1158-events-2015>

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/the-right-to-bee>

Climate Campaign

The aim of the climate campaign was to address the impacts of climate change and make them visible in local communities. Furthermore, these actions brought the attention to the environmental problems which affect climate change or are being caused by climate change in each community.

Climate Campaign lasted for few months but majority of local actions took place during YEE Climate Week from 14 till 27 of September.

In the frame of the campaign, the online booklet 'The Climate Campaign Workshop Guidelines' was prepared.

8 partners from 5 countries organised local events. All reports and results of local events can be found here: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/1206-news-climate-campaign>

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/1100-climate-campaign>

Campaign “Future is clean”

The #FutureIsClean campaign aimed at spreading the message of Solar Impulse focusing on the introduction of Clean Technologies to people’s daily lives.

YEE, together with many other organisations worldwide, supported the campaign and helped to spread the word. Our goal to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection fitted with the vision of the #FutureIsClean campaign. In order to promote the campaign a special video was created.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/futureisclean>

Other projects

European Voluntary Service – Youth for Environment

YEE hosts EVS volunteers from 2002 and it’s considered as one of the best EVS projects in the Czech Republic. We set new objectives of the project each year and we make improvements based on the evaluation of previous volunteers.

The voluntary service in YEE is a unique possibility for young people from all around Europe to gather valuable experience in international NGO. The volunteers are offered a wide scale of activities, which are split in three main groups. First group includes the work in YEE, i.e. cooperation on YEE Campaigns, Training Courses, YEE web page, YEE publications, networking with YEE member organisations, representation of YEE on international events, etc. The second group consists of practical activities in the Ecological Centre Toulcuv Dvur, where YEE office is situated. The third group of activities is the volunteers’ own project.

Each EVS project is a unique experience for YEE office as well – it is important for us that EVS volunteers have a lot of learning opportunities. The office also learns and gains something new from each project.

YEE office in Prague hosted 4 EVS volunteers (Albania, Romania, Hungary and Macedonia) in 2015.

Volunteers took part in many types of activities and developed their competences. They also prepared their personal projects. More information can be found on EVS blog and on profiles of specific volunteers: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/evs/evs-blog>

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/evs>

Partnership in the project STEP (SocieTal and political Engagement of young People in environmental issues) – Horizon2020

The STEP project started on June 2015 and it will last until November 2017 (30 months).

The project addresses the need of public organisations to effectively open their decision-making procedures that have an environmental impact to young people. The overall

objective of the project is to develop and pilot test an eParticipation cloud platform, enhanced with web / social media mining, gamification, machine translation, and visualisation features, which will promote the societal and political participation of young people in the decision-making processes on environmental issues.

Five pilots in an operational environment have been selected for the deployment of STEP solution in 4 locations: Italy, Spain, Greece, and Turkey, with the participation of one regional authority, 3 municipalities, and an association of municipalities. The pilots are expected to involve testing by 8.200 young users and 85 policy makers.

The aim of the project is to develop and test an eParticipation cloud platform, which will promote the societal and political participation of young people in the decision-making processes on environmental issues.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/step>

Partnership in the Structured Dialogue project "European Rivers Parliament"

The Big Jump Challenge (BJC) is the European youth campaign for water conservation. The campaign supports youth in promoting water protection through creativity and celebration.

Over 68 river ambassadors and BJC coordinators from 16 countries participated in the Brussels week from 8-14 July 2015. During the week, participants presented their local river actions and listened to lectures about environmental activism at the European level, the Scheldt Youth River Parliament as well as the Save the Blue Heart of Europe Campaign. On 12 July (the Big Jump Day), all participants joined a Belgium Big Jump Team for the Big Jump in Oostende.

In addition, the Brussel participants formed three BJC groups during the week:

- 1) The Expo-group created an open-air expo for a Brussels park and for the Oostende Big Jump.
- 2) The Manifesto-group gathered all the experiences from local BJC teams along with the results of the first survey. On this basis, they drafted the Youth Manifesto for Water Protection 2015.
- 3) The Theatre group reflected on the local experience of local BJC teams so as to prepare an opening performance for the European Rivers Parliament.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/members/members-news/1126-big-jump-challenge-2015>

<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1212-european-river-parliament-presents-youth-water-manifesto>

International youth initiative "RIVER reMEMBERS"

This project was organised by YEE member organisations Balta Daba (Latvia) and OPE (Portugal) between March and November 2015.

The aim of the project was to encourage young people to become active citizens for protection of Europe's rivers. Main objectives were to exchange best practices on how to organise local river protection activities for young people, to find new innovative methods for youth work in river protection sector and to increase young people research skills and knowledge about river ecosystems.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/members/members-news/1225-river-remembers-project>

Local projects and activities

- **World Water Monitoring Day:** The YEE office team took part in the World Water Monitoring Day, the international event that aims to raise awareness towards the protection of water resources. YEE participates in the event every year and collects important data from different rivers and lakes in the Czech Republic. On 18 November 2015 we organised a trip to Kralupy nad Vltavou to test the water of rivers around the village. As WWMD is an international project where you can 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. <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1234-world-water-monitoring-day-2015>
- ❖ **Earth Hour:** On 28 March 2015, YEE office shared vegetarian snacks with the passers-by and raised awareness on climate change and energy consumption. <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1137-yee-celebrated-the-earth-hour>
- ❖ **Earth Day:** On 23 April 2015 YEE organised a documentary screening and a group discussion. <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1152-yee-celebrated-earth-day-2015>
- ❖ **Climate March:** On 29 November 2015, YEE office joined the march organised in Prague to support the need of an international climate agreement. <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1239-climate-march-in-prague>
- ❖ **Documentary screening:** In March 2015, one of the EVS volunteers of YEE office organised the screening of the documentary "Just do it", about climate activism. A debate was held after the documentary.
- ❖ **Volunteering day in the ecological farm "Toulcuv Dvur" (Prague):** YEE together with the NGO Tamjdem, organised a volunteering day in the eco-center where YEE office is located. A group of 20 young people helped with the spring work in the eco-center. <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1159-tamjdem-volunteering-day-at-toulcuv-dvur>.
- ❖ **Environmental Conference in Prague:** YEE attended this conference on 9 June 2015. <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1168-yee-at-environmental-conference>
- ❖ **Online posts and articles to promote world day celebrations:** e.g. World Environmental Day, International Vegetarian Week or International Volunteer Day.

Publications and Media

1. Booklets

❖ “Eco-trainer Guide” – July 2015

The publication “Eco-Trainer Guide” was created as a follow-up of the training course “Environmental Training for Eco-Trainers” which took place in March 2015 in Wiek, Germany. The booklet is for eco-trainers to explore competences and methodologies required to design and deliver learning experiences.

“Eco-trainer Guide” to download:

http://yeenet.eu/images/stories/PUBLICATIONS/Booklets/EcoTrainer_Guide/Eco-Trainer-Guide.pdf

❖ “Climate Campaign workshop guidelines” – July 2015

The publication “Climate Campaign workshop guidelines” was created within YEE Climate Campaign as tool to involve youth organisations and young people in general, encourage them and give them ideas to organise their own actions to create awareness on the issue of climate change.

“Climate Campaign workshop guidelines” can be downloaded for free here:
<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/1186-yees-climate-campaign-has-begun>

❖ “Youth involvement in river protection – methods” – November 2015

The publication was a result of the international youth initiative “RIVER reMEMBERS”. It provides concrete examples of methods on how young people can be involved in river protection activities and it can support environmental youth work.

The publication can be downloaded here:

[http://yeenet.eu/images/stories/PUBLICATIONS/Booklets/Youth_involvement_in_river_protection - methods/Booklet baltadaba ope.pdf](http://yeenet.eu/images/stories/PUBLICATIONS/Booklets/Youth_involvement_in_river_protection_-_methods/Booklet_baltadaba_ope.pdf)

2. E-Newsletter

YEE e-Newsletter is a regular bimonthly publication that is published online on our website and sent by e-mail to our Member Organisations. 6 newsletters have been published in 2015: February 2015, April 2015 and June 2015, Annual Meeting 2015, October 2015 and December 2015.

The YEE e-Newsletter is a tool for YEE members and other interested organisations to publish reports from activities they organised, 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.

In 2015, each issue of the YEE e-Newsletters was sent to around 800 subscribers.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/publications/yee-newsletter>

3. Website

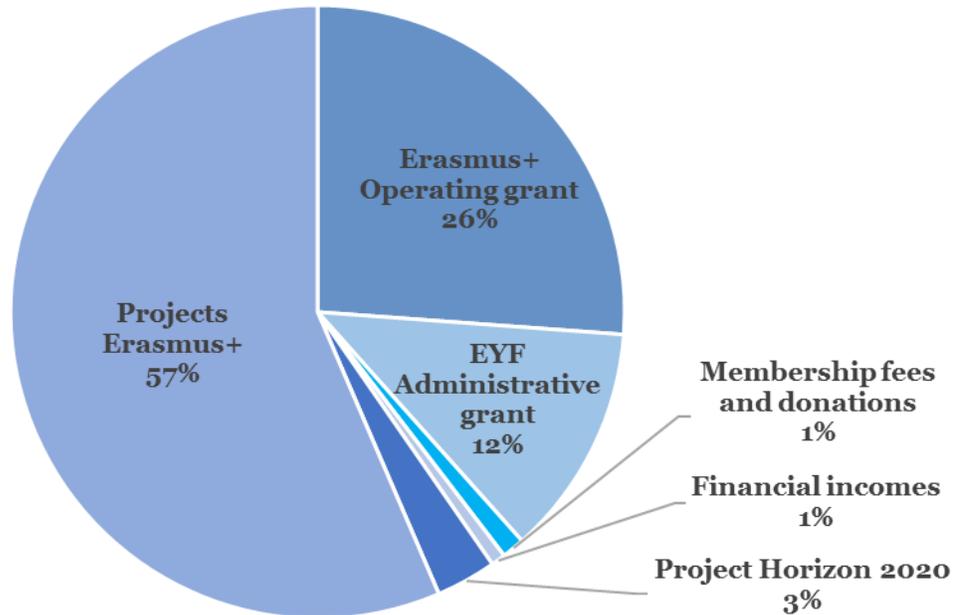
The interactive YEE website (www.yeenet.eu) has been gradually improved during this year. Several sections have been developed further, e.g. the new sections for long-term projects like “Green Entrepreneurship” and “STEP” (H-2020).

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.

In 2015 YEE website had an average of 1800 visits and 1200 visitors per month. High percentage of the visitors came from Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Russia, UK, US, Albania, Italy and Armenia.

Finances 2015

Income 2015

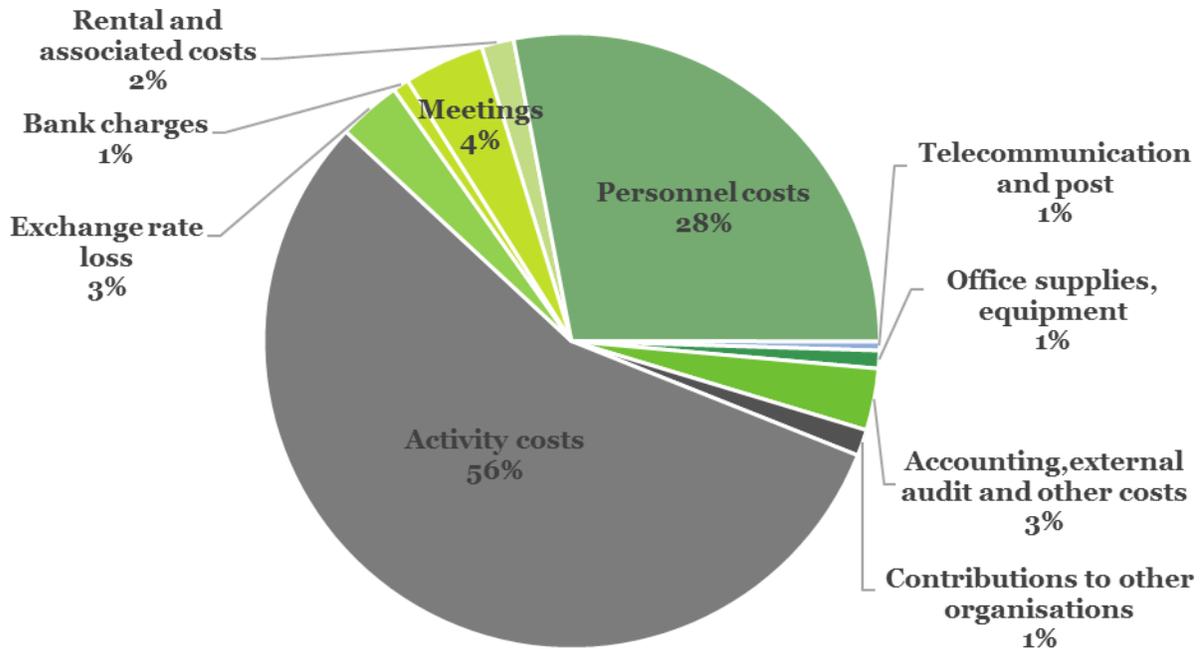


	AMOUNT in EUR
Erasmus+ Operating grant	35523
EYF Administrative grant	16600
European Voluntary Service (Erasmus+)	14476
Green Entrepreneurship (Erasmus+)	25987
YE Three Rs for the Environment (Erasmus+)	12531
TC Give international dimension [...] (Erasmus+)	15874
YE Art for the Environment (Erasmus+)	7767
STEP (Horizon 2020)	4322
Membership fees	1575
Donations	60
Financial incomes (Interests, exchange rate profit)	1023
TOTAL	135738

Note: YEE Secretariat and Board worked on the application and implementation of the following projects but they were grass-root projects or the funding did not go through YEE accountancy:

- *TC Environmental training for eco-trainers (Germany, March 2015)*
- *Campaign "The Right to Be(e)" (Spring 2015)*
- *Climate Campaign (Throughout 2015)*
- *Campaign "Future is Clean" (Throughout 2015)*

Expenses 2015



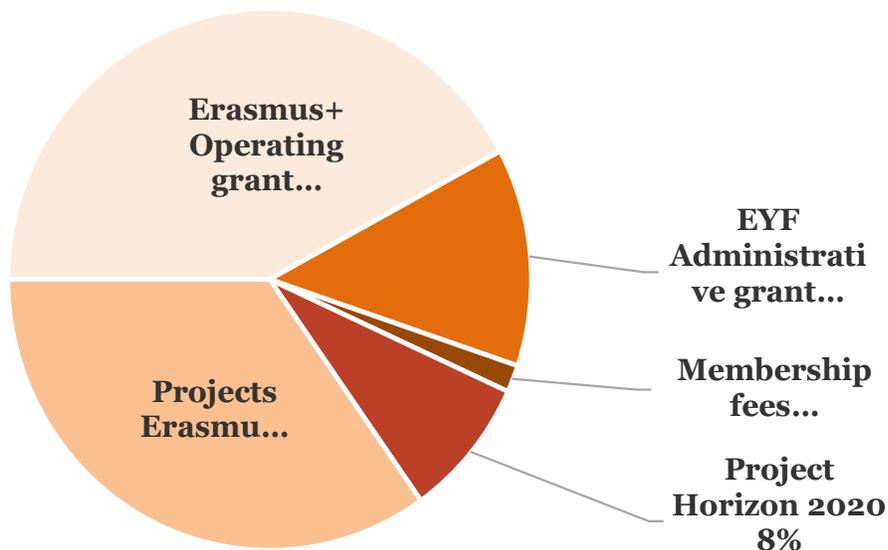
	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	38420
Rental and associated costs	2330
Telecommunication and postal costs	638
Office supplies, equipment	1282
Accounting and external audit	2797
Other costs	1650
Bank charges	1162
Contributions to other organisations	1890
Exchange rate loss	4527
Activity costs	76545
Meetings (Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Internal Audit)	5762
TOTAL	137003

RESULTS 2015

LOSS (Negative result)	-1265 EUR
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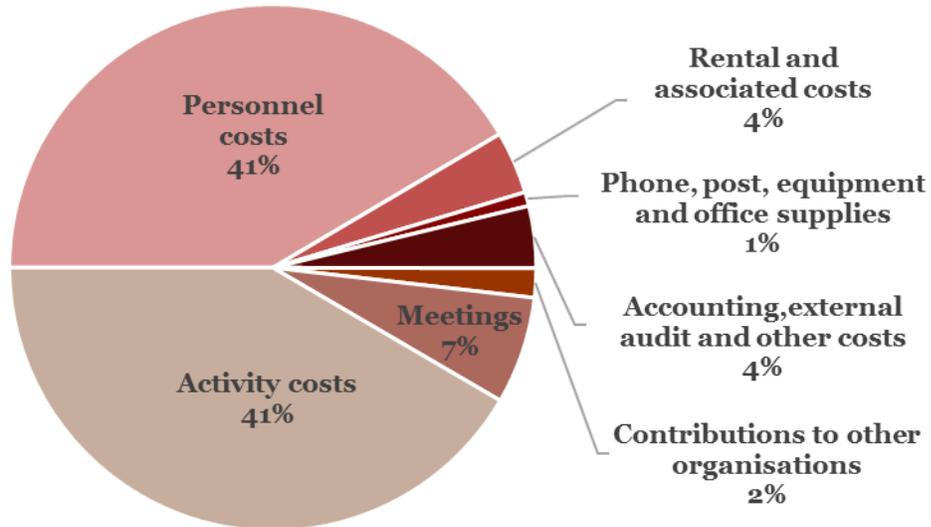
Budget prevision 2016

Expected income 2016



	AMOUNT in EUR
Erasmus+ Operating grant	46669.92
EYF Administrative grant	14410.5
EVS (Erasmus+)	15947.34
TC Be(e) the change (Erasmus+)	20090
SP Environmental Challenge Accepted (Erasmus+)	2500
STEP (Horizon 2020)	9300
Membership fees	1800
TOTAL	110717.76

Expected expenses 2016



	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	45975
Rental and associated costs	4260
Telecommunication and postal costs	624
Office supplies, equipment	321
Accounting and external audit	3200
Other costs	225.42
Bank charges	800
Contributions to other organisations	1975
Activity costs	46037.34
Meetings (Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Internal Audit)	7300
TOTAL	110717.76

Member Organisations of YEE in 2015 - 2016

Name of the organisation	Country	Type of membership
EDEN Centre	Albania	Full
EPER Center	Albania	Full
IPAS Association	Albania	Associate
Active Young Citizenship Initiative – AYCI	Armenia	Associate
Stepanavan Youth Center – SYC	Armenia	Associate
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia – FYCA	Armenia	Associate
Khazer	Armenia	Associate
Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO	Armenia	Full
Young Biologists Association	Armenia	Associate
Youth Without Borders	Armenia	Associate
ÖNJ - Die Österreichische Naturschutzjugend	Austria	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Youth Organisation for Nature and Environment – JNM	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
Argonauta	Croatia	Associate
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Full
Natur & Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement – SAEM	Georgia	Full
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung - DJN	Germany	Full
FÖJ-Aktiv	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend – NAJU	Germany	Full
Club of Young Naturalists – FTK	Hungary	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
Mine Vaganti NGO	Italy	Associate
Balta Daba	Latvia	Full
Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia – DEM	Macedonia	Full
Gutta-Club	Moldova	Full
WoesteLand	Netherlands	Full
Oddział Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK	Poland	Associate
O.P.E - Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubs	Portugal	Associate
Green Echoes Association	Romania	Associate
Regional non-governmental organization for development of volunteering - AYA	Russia	Associate
EcoCenter Zapovedniks	Russia	Associate
Environmental Youth Club –EYC	Russia	Associate
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Full
Association Biodiversa	Spain	Associate
Libertas International	Spain	Associate
Fälbiologerna	Sweden	Full
Look East Wild Earth (LEWE)	UK	Associate
InYouth Ukraine	Ukraine	Associate
Ipsa Jure	Ukraine	Associate

Organisations applying for membership in YEE

There are **four organisations applying for membership** in Youth and Environment Europe in 2016, two are applying for full membership and two for associate membership.

1. Association 7Arte

7arte is a cultural organisation, with offices in Mitrovica, which supports artists from Kosovo to develop and promote a common European culture.

Country: Republic of Kosovo

Applies for: Full membership

Website: <http://7-arte.org/>

Number of members: 50 members

Age limit: Any person can become a member regardless age. Activities are organised for the target group of people around 25 years of age.

Aims to: Support young Kosovar artists (especially filmmakers) to develop and promote a common European culture.

Activities:

- ❖ Seminars and workshops at local and international level
- ❖ Film festivals and script contests
- ❖ Supporting non formal education
- ❖ Publication and promotion of young artists
- ❖ Exhibitions of figurative and contemporary arts
- ❖ Performing on dramatic and music arts
- ❖ Green Youth Clubs
- ❖ Green & Crafts Fair
- ❖ Recycling art competition
- ❖ Contest “The best garden in Mitrovica”

“7Arte” applies for full membership. Their aims and activities focus on supporting young Kosovar artists (especially filmmakers) to develop and promote a common European culture. However, the organisation does include reference to raising awareness about environmental protection through various activities such as: Green Youth Clubs, Green & Crafts Fair, Recycling art competition and Contest “The best garden in Mitrovica”. As they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organisation, dealing with environmental topics) we recommend the General Assembly to accept their application for full membership.

2. Association for clean environment "Let's do it Macedonia"

"Let's do it Macedonia" joined the global action "Let's do it world" in 2012. "Let's Do It World" is an innovative, mass civil movement, started in 2008 when Estonia gathered 50,000 people who cleaned the country in just five hours. Now this movement has international groups working in 112 countries with over 13 million participants.

Country: Macedonia

Applies for: Full membership

Website: <http://ajdemakedonija.mk/mk/>

Number of members: 6 member organisations

Age limit: The organisation is mainly run by people aged from 16 to 32. Activities are targeted to people under 32.

Aims to: Their goal is to clean all of Macedonia illegally discarded waste and to keep Macedonia clean. They hope to create and support sustainable principles for waste management in Macedonia.

Activities:

- ❖ Educational and raising awareness activities
- ❖ Advocacy and creation of public policies
- ❖ Improvement and creation of innovative waste management systems
- ❖ Volunteering
- ❖ Networking and capacity building of environmental organisations

"Let's do it Macedonia" applies for full membership. As they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organisation, dealing with environmental topics) we recommend the General Assembly to accept their application for full membership.

3. Civil society Organization Eco Logic

Civil society Organization Eco Logic is non-governmental, non-profitable and non-political organisation dedicated to conservation and improvement of the environment, promotion of modern ecological practice, as well as following and promoting a sustainability principle. The organisation for conservation and improvement of the environment Eco Logic induces and supports positive changes of the environment, as well as any kind of such improvement and conservation.

Country: Macedonia

Applies for: Associate membership

Website: <http://ecologic.mk/>

Number of members: More than 40 members

Age limit: 18-35 years

Aims:

- ❖ Promoting of ecology as scientific field
- ❖ Promoting of the concept for cleaner manufacturing
- ❖ Conservation and improvement of the environment and nature
- ❖ Spreading the ecological knowledge and improving the ecological education
- ❖ Promoting of the sustainable development principle
- ❖ Openings of new “eco-friendly-green” workplaces
- ❖ Possibility of trainings for all interested citizens concerning fields of ecology and conservation of the environment

Activities:

- ❖ Promoting and leading scientific or applicable projects of the ecology and conservation of the environment fields
- ❖ Making of professional and scientific studies of estimating the nature significance and values and grading of the influence on the environment by means of project realizations as well as grading the influence of certain strategies, plans and programmes
- ❖ Providing professional help to governmental authorities and public institutions concerned with various problems arising from using the resources of the environment and socio-economic development
- ❖ Starting activities for resolving present ecological issues
- ❖ Creating or participation in forming strategies for sustainable usage of natural resources
- ❖ Aiding in improving the education in aspects of ecological fields considering all educational levels
- ❖ Educating the population about contaminants, the risk level of contaminants presence in the environment
- ❖ Publication of scientific, professional and popular issues
- ❖ Organisation of scientific and professional gatherings, debates, conference meetings and congresses
- ❖ Maintaining and conducting trainings in the fields of ecology and preservation of the environment
- ❖ Developing and maintaining connections of similar associations and unions in the country and abroad, as well as memberships in international unions, in consent with the approved laws and regulations of the country

Eco Logic applies for associate membership. As they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organisation, dealing with environmental topics) we recommend the General Assembly to accept their application for associate membership.

4. Armenian Regional Youth NGO

The non-governmental organisation “Armenian Regional Youth” is a non-governmental organisation established on the basis of the commonness of its members’ interests and their voluntary will, aimed at satisfying spiritual and other non-material needs. The main objectives of the organisation are the promotion of the involvement of regional youth in different spheres of social life and to support the development of social life in the regions of the Republic of Armenia.

Country: Republic of Armenia

Applies for: Associate membership

Website: Not available

Number of members: 20 members

Age limit: 16-35 years

Aims:

- ❖ Unify the efforts and potential of the members and supporters of the organisation to support the activation and development of social life in the regions of the Republic of Armenia
- ❖ Promote the involvement of regional youth in different spheres of social life
- ❖ Promote the regional youth’s concentration and support to solve the country’s most important social, political, and environmental issues
- ❖ Promote the participation of the regional youth in international projects, seminars, and conferences
- ❖ Promote the development of the environmental issues in the regions
- ❖ Make the organisation means of self-expression for the youth and a way of getting rid of stereotypes and complexes
- ❖ Present, develop and protect the educational, social, economic, as well as cultural interests and rights of the regional youth
- ❖ Contribute to strengthening cooperation between the youth of all Armenian regions, Nagorno-Karabakh and Diaspora
- ❖ Contribute to the development of non-formal education in the regions of the Republic of Armenia
- ❖ Convene students and youth conferences, conventions, scientific conferences, lectures, seminars, debates, thematic meetings and discussions among the regional youth

- ❖ Undertake various events aiming at raising the problems of the regional youth and finding ways of solution

Activities: The organisation has been recently founded. There is no reference to past activities. Future activities are being planned.

Armenian Regional Youth NGO applies for associate membership. As the association has been founded in June 2016 they did not have enough time to prove the focus on environment of their activities and aims, we recommend the General Assembly to postpone their acceptance as associate members until they take part in more activities and prove their environmental focus.

Review of membership

The following Member Organisations will be reviewed during Annual Meeting 2016:

- ❖ **EPER Center (Albania):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 2 years. YEE Secretariat and Board have used all possible means of contacting them but they could not reach them.
- ❖ **ÖNJ (Austria):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 7 years. YEE Secretariat and Board have used all possible means of contacting them but they could not reach them.
- ❖ **FTK - Club of Young Naturalists (Hungary):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 4 years. FTK informed YEE Secretariat about their wish to cancel membership in YEE due to the difficulties in finding engaged members and the lack of financial resources.
- ❖ **WoesteLand (The Netherlands):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for at least the last 5 years. WoesteLand informed YEE Secretariat about their wish to cancel membership in YEE due to the difficulties in finding engaged members.
- ❖ **DEM (Macedonia):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 3 years. YEE Secretariat and Board have used all possible means of contacting them but they could not reach them.
- ❖ **Hnutí Brontosaurus (Czech Republic):** HB is a full member since 1990. HB has officially requested to downgrade to associate membership.
- ❖ **Fältbiologerna (Sweden):** Fältbiologerna is a full member since 1983. Fältbiologerna has officially requested to downgrade to associate membership.

Funders

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Erasmus+, the European Commission.



European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.



European Youth Foundation, the Council of Europe.



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