

**Name: Jovana Mirjanić**  
**Position: Project Officer 2016-2017**

Dear Colleagues,

As I first came as a participant of the TC „Be(e) the Change“ and representative of Young Researchers of Serbia at the Annual Meeting to Prague, I had no idea or intentions of applying for a Board Position. But then, after I spent a great week with so many amazing and gifted people, I said to myself: I want to be part of this amazing network! Of course, some old BMs had a great impact on my decision, by encouraging and supporting me.

As the working year started, I had to get familiar with my work: Skype meetings with Office and Chairperson were to lead me in the right direction. Also, given the fact that I'm the youngest BM, I must admit I was a bit nervous about my performance. But after these first days, everything just came naturally to me. Sometimes it was challenging to keep up with everything, since I'm also studying (undergraduate of Ecology and Environmental Protection), but I think that the Board cooperated well and that we caught up with the work quick enough.

As for the projects, I decided I wanted to be part of the „Change Climate Change“ campaign, which was successfully run by the group during several months and finished in February 2017. Furthermore, after the AM, there was a project about eco-tourism proposed, which seemed very interesting to me, so I joined the project team. We decided to make it a training course – Uniting Youth for Eco-tourism. We applied for the Erasmus + February 2nd deadline and the project was approved, so we are now continuing with the work. Apart from that, I was also participating in „Water Campaign“ and „The Right to Be(e)“ campaign from the side of my organization.

One other unforgettable experience was YFJ General Assembly in Varna, Bulgaria, in November 2016. We agreed that I should also be one of YEE's delegates, because our ERO wasn't able to attend the event and I was relatively close and could come by land, since I live in Belgrade. I have never before attended such a big event and, although I later realized it was too political for me, I am very grateful for a chance to represent YEE there.

During the year, we had to keep in touch via Internet, which can be challenging, but I tried my best to attend all of our meetings and respond regularly. I find this part very important, since sometimes irregular communication can stop the work. Of course, I think that our psysical meetings were much more productive. As for our work groups, I chose to take part in three of them: Project Policy, AM Welcome Pack and EYF deadline. Work within these groups went very smoothly – it's a bit easier to work within smaller groups for me.

I must also add that I am grateful for every opportunity that I had during this year, especially the opportunity to attend the StS „Exploring Gender Equality in Environmental Projects“, but also for all the connections I had made. I hope that my contribution to the work of YEE was at least half of what YEE brought to me.

Should you have any questions, feel free to drop a line!

Best regards,  
Jovana Mirjanić