

Report of YEE Chairperson 2017/2018 Stefan Rudel

This business year, after being External Relations Officer in 2016/2017, I was Chairperson for the first time – and to be honest: I won't be for another time. I realized that this – for my type of person and personality – is not the right position to be in, and I'm neither helping the organisation nor myself with it in the longrun. So to whomever is thinking of „leading“ the Board and guiding it together: think about it, we need a good new Chairperson in YEE!

This mandate was full of changes and, after sustainable years of personnel in the office, a new Secretary General joined the office team and Mercedes slowly, but surely left the office. This was one of the main points I will remember from that time in the Board, with the whole and not easy (because all applicants could be the best person, and it's not easy to find out how to decide on a person) selection process, interviews, virtual and physical meetings. I am very satisfied with the decision we made and Masha, our new Secretary General, is already very active and bringing the organisation forward.

We will also have a new Main Coordinator soon and already have another selection process going on for that – and with Natalia leaving, and the new Main Coordinator coming in, we will have a whole new office team in September when also the new EVS volunteers arrived to the office.

Going back to the beginning of my mandate, we as a newly elected Board had our first meeting in July in Finland, and in the weeks after that I made sure to have personal Skype meetings with every Board member and Secretariat, to receive the work plan of each Board member, and to bring Board and office together for the first Board meetings. Throughout the year we tried to have Board meetings at least once a month, and for almost all months we made that happen – mostly virtually, and also three times physically.

At the Physical Board Meeting in the end of autumn we came together and, in YEE office in Prague, had productive and intensive days. We also founded some new Working Groups (WG) which consist of Office and Board members (whoever volunteers) and in which WG members worked on their topic during the year. Some of them finished their work, some of them are still active and will hopefully still be active in the next months.

One of the main ones currently is the Fundraising Working Group, for which I – at external meetings – always asked for suggestions and ideas from other NGO and youth workers. I hope YEE manages to find more sustainable funds to also bring Office and Board work to a calmer and more relaxed level on which stable work for next years can be done and staff can be paid a fairer (higher) salary.

Next to my tasks and duties as Chairperson, I also still kept our membership in EEB (European Environmental Bureau) active and participated in all of their Board Meetings, at their Annual Event in November in Edinburgh and also joined a newly founded Working Group on and about Economic Transition. My wish is to, after having been member of the Board, still keep my connection with EEB active and participate in Working Groups more actively, to also bring that back to YEE's work.

Due to a more extensive workload on my personal level and also in my German organisation which is a member of YEE, I didn't get to fulfil all the points I put in my work plan in the beginning of the year. There are the appraisal interviews with each Office member that I didn't do and a Chairperson can also generally do better on supporting and following reflection processes to make cooperation between Office and Board more fruitful.

I always depends on people, and we are all there as Board members on a voluntary base – I see that activeness and communication and discussion could be more and deeper, which has also been a wish by Office members during the year. I tried to make sure to have all Board members included in discussions and get responses to the most urgent and relevant topics.

For next year's Chairperson and whole Board and Office I offer my support throughout the year and will be there as time and energy allows. I like the opportunities YEE offers and believe in the importance of us as that big network organisation for environmental youth organisations.

If you have questions about my ending mandate or want to reflect together, please get in touch with me! I want you to be critical about our work since we do that for all of us, and we need people there with fresh ideas, happiness and believe in what we are there for is right and, especially for next people and future generations, is a loot important!

With all best wishes and big big thanks to all people in the Board, in the Office and around us who keep YEE active and make sure that needed steps are taken,

Stefan Rudel