

Youth and Environment Europe
Annual Report
2010 – 2011

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 44 European youth organisations that study nature and/or are active in environmental protection. These member organisations come together from 27 countries. The aim of YEE is to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection and to provide a platform where these organisations can work together.

YEE derived in 1983 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, headquarters was moved to Utrecht in the Netherlands. Finally, the office was moved to Prague, the Czech Republic in 1998 to be more central and more accessible to the growing number of NGOs from Eastern part of the European continent. Now it is based in Ecological Center Toulcuv Dvur, 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 is linking activities of member organisation on international level. Another aim is to raise public awareness through international actions.

A large number of YEE activities are carried out on international, national or local level, by YEE Member Organisations and the Secretariat. These activities include information exchange through our publications, working meetings, youth exchanges, campaigns and training courses on topics our Member Organisations are dealing with.

YEE realizes 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 2011, the Executive Board of YEE will consist of six people - members of Member Organisations of YEE 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 2010-2011 YEE Executive Board was elected in August 2010 and has 7 members (as during the AM 2010, the previous YEE Statutes were still valid, according to which the Executive Board of YEE consists of five to eight members of Member Organisations of YEE from at least three different countries):

Chairperson	Nazineh Khalafyan	(FYCA, Armenia)
Vice-Chair & Member Organizations Officer (EU countries)	Jana Prochowski	(DJN, Germany)
Treasurer	Anna Yeliseyeva	(MELP, Ukraine)
Project Officer	Irena Oupicova	(Hnuti Brontosaurus, Czech Republic)
Member Organizations Officer (non-EU countries)	Gayane Muradova	(SAEM, Georgia)
Publications and Promotion Officer	Gemma Tracey	(LEWE, UK)
External Relations Officer	Kyrylo Ivliev	(MELP, Ukraine)

Due to the difficult financial situation YEE has been experiencing during the period of 2010-2011, the Executive Board had only one physical meeting right after the AM 2010 but instead it ran 8 virtual Skype meetings during the year. There will be one more physical board meeting, right before the AM 2011.

Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of paid employees who are appointed and guided by the Executive Board. The work of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Secretary General.

Secretary General: Adriána Harnúšková

Main Coordinator: Małgorzata Zubowicz

Projects Coordinator: Michal Švec

The Secretariat participated in the physical Board Meeting just after the AM 2010 and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in the period of 2010-2011.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EVS (European Voluntary Service) is a project within Action 2 of the European Commission's Programme "Youth in Action". 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 on Toulcův dvůr (ecological center where YEE office is located) and a personal project.

During the second half of the year 2010 YEE office hosted one volunteer (until February 2011). Since March 2011, YEE has hosted two EVS volunteers.

European volunteers hosted:

- Paulina Piasecka (Poland – until 02/2011)
- Mercedes Fioravanti Alvarez (Spain – since 03/2011)
- Mathieu Frediere (France – since 03/2011)

European volunteers sent:

- Jakub Cihelka (to Germany)

Development of the organisation

Internally

- New members of YEE accepted at the last Annual Meeting in 2010 has already contributed to the work of the federation by means of cooperation with old MOs and participation in YEE projects.
- YEE involved more Member Organisations in the work of the federation, now we have more active members participating in international actions.
- Despite of the difficult financial situation in 2010-2011, the Secretariat and the Executive Board have done their best to follow the Working Plan adopted by the General Assembly at the AM 2010: most of the planned projects have been carried out, for the others applications have been written and submitted for funding on time (waiting for results).
- Media tools: further improvement of the official YEE webpage; creation and development of official YEE page on facebook and other social networks.

Externally

In the period from September 2010 to July 2011 YEE has been represented in the following events:

- Info Day on Funding being held on 9 September 2010 in Brussels, Belgium – YEE was represented by Anna Yeliseyeva, Treasurer of YEE;
- The International Conference on EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) being held on 25 November 2010 in Brussels, Belgium – YEE was represented by Anne Kollien, International Coordinator of DJN;
- CEEweb for Biodiversity Annual Meeting being held on 2-5 November 2010 in Budapest, Hungary – YEE was represented by Michal Švec, Project Coordinator of YEE;
- Advisory Council on Youth meetings being held on 18-20 October 2010 in Budapest, Hungary and 14-16 March 2011 in Strasbourg, France – YEE was represented by Kyrlyo Ivliev, External Relations Officer of YEE;
- European Youth Forum General Assembly being held on 18-21 November 2010 in Kiev, Ukraine – YEE was represented by Nazineh Khalafyan, Chairperson of YEE and Kyrlyo Ivliev, External Relations Officer of YEE;
- Training Course for Facilitators (involved in projects in the frame of the European Youth Foundation) being held on 21-29 March 2011 in Budapest, Hungary – YEE was represented by Malgorzata Zubowicz (YEE Main Coordinator);

- European Youth Forum Council of Members being held on 5-7 May 2011 in Antwerp, Belgium – YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, External Relations Officer of YEE;
 - Belgian Youth Policy review being held on 10-16 April 2011 in Brussels, Antwerp, Eupen and other places in Belgium – YEE was represented by Kyrylo Ivliev, External Relations Officer of YEE;
 - European Youth Week (European Youth Award Ceremony 2011, Youth on the move: making it happen panel debate) being held on 15-18 May 2011 in Antwerp, Belgium – YEE was represented by Adriana Harnuskova (YEE Secretary General), Malgorzata Zubowicz (YEE Main Coordinator).
- **Contact with new organizations and making new partnerships**

During the year 2010-2011, YEE was in contact with the following organizations from outside the YEE-network:

- **Radi Vidi Pats** from Latvia, they were interested in joining YEE but had currently no capacities – they became partners and joined one YEE project (YE 'Learning from each other – methods of environmental education')
- **H2O** from Portugal, they were also interested in becoming a member (all the information was sent to them but the communication was a bit slow, we can try continue in next year) – they became partners and joined one YEE project (YE 'Learning from each other – methods of environmental education')
- **Active Ideas** from Bulgaria
- **Youth for Society** from Latvia

These organizations applied for membership (see 'applying organizations' for more details):

Full membership:

Ja Visapkart (Latvia)
FÖJ-Aktiv (Germany)

Associate membership:

Khazer (Armenia)
YCIDDP (Armenia)
Green Echoes Associaton (Romania)

Activities from the Working Plan 2009-2010

Next follow projects that were implemented in 2010-2011 but are still part of the 2009-2010 YEE Working Plan:

Training Courses (TC)

1/ Environmental Audit (Evaluation meeting, Publications, Local actions)

September 2010 – March 2011

The Environmental Audit project started in September 2010 with a training course, which was held in Bělá u Jevíčka, Czech Republic and involved 11 participants from 4 countries and a professional trainer. The main aim of the training course was to get familiar with environmental management systems (EMS) and the first steps of their implementation with eco-mapping method as a tool for identifying significant environmental aspects. The participants also discussed environmental situations and problems in their countries and environmental law issues.

After the training course, the period of local actions started. Their main aim was to spread the knowledge and information gained at the TC. The events took place in Germany (information event on EMS in Berlin), Albania (presentation of EMS at the annual meeting of Albanian NGOs, presentation at the university), Czech Republic (workshop about EMSs and eco-mapping, eco-mapping of Hradec Králové festival area) and Macedonia (meeting with local companies).

The project was concluded by the Evaluation Meeting, which took place 1st – 5th March 2011 in Toulcův Dvůr, Prague, and involved 16 participants from 4 countries and one trainer. During the meeting the participants evaluated the impact of local events they organized, discussed best environmental practices in NGOs, learned about the Internal Audit, the integral part of EMS, and prepared action plans for future activities.

The project publication *Environmental Management Systems*, written by German trainer and environmental consultant Jürgen Paeger, was translated into Albanian, Czech, German and Macedonian. It is available in printed copies, on the project CD and downloadable from YEE website (links were provided in YEE newsletter). The English version of the publication was also sent to all YEE MOs. The distribution of the brochure continues.

The project was funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Commission (Action 2 Measure 3). Due to the lower number of participants than expected the flat rate budget was proportionally reduced. Final report was sent at the end of May 2011 and approved.

Networking activities

1/ Experts networking

The aim of this low-cost project is to create a database of experts from our Members Organizations, YEE seniors and previous YEE projects, who could contribute with their knowledge to other Member Organizations' projects and activities and thus improve their work. By creating this database, we would like to establish and maintain contacts between organizations and external experts, help to increase the potential of organisations for other activities, and to gain expert knowledge which could be shared between organisations and used for common projects in the future.

We would like to unite all the necessary information about them. The information contained in the database will be obtained from a questionnaire. This online questionnaire was created as a Google Document spreadsheet and a link to the document was published in the internal section of YEE website. The questionnaire is ready and will be sent to all MOs and other parties after the YEE AM 2011. When the number of persons, who filled in the questionnaire, will reach 10, the online database in the registered section of the website will be created and regularly updated.

The project has been coordinated from the YEE office.

Campaigns

1/ Water – its importance in pictures

July – December 2010, Prague (Czech Republic), Tirana (Albania), Yerevan (Armenia)

The exhibition project aimed to raise awareness on the importance of water as one of the key natural resource and human rights connected with access to fresh drinking water and to motivate people to protect fresh water resources. From July to October 2010 YEE collected pictures of people drinking from fresh water sources as well as other photos of water.

YEE prepared a photo gallery of all the pictures and published them in the special sections dedicated to this project at the YEE and Sunny Campaign websites. 40 selected pictures were printed in big format and were displayed on physical exhibition in December 2010 in Prague, Yerevan and Tirane. Each exhibition was accompanied by description of water importance adapted to each country where the exhibition was installed. Exhibitions were opened by speeches given by experts on water. All three displays were visited by many people.

The pictures were also exhibited in the ecocentre CSOP Libosvary, Czech Republic, and will be displayed in Karavanseraj Travellers' Club, Prague in August 2011.

The text reviewing water situation in Albania, Armenia and the Czech Republic have been translated into all four project languages (including English) and published at Sunny Campaign website. It attracted hundred of visitors.

The project was applied for funding by YEE - it was funded by the Council of Europe – EYF Category B grant (4000 EUR) and by the donation of FotoŠkoda company. The final report was sent in February 2011 and it was fully approved.

Promo material:

1000 copies of the general project leaflet (in English) and 400 leaflets (350 in Armenian, 50 in English) connected with the exhibition in Yerevan were printed as part of the project. The general leaflet reviews the biggest water problems in the world and provides links to Millennium Assessments as well as the project websites.

Leaflets were disseminated during the openings and the whole duration of the exhibitions and also sent to all YEE member organisations.

2/ *Healthy Food Campaign [Title in the Working Plan 2009 – 2010: ‘Health risks and food safety’]*

August – December 2010, coordinated from YEE Secretariat in Prague

The motto of the campaign was ‘You can make the change every day – start from your plate’ and the project itself consisted of collecting materials in order to prepare the information campaign - a new section about the campaign was created as a part of the YEE website and promotional materials were prepared. In order to spread the word about the campaign, the following campaign materials (in English) were created and distributed in the whole YEE network (sent to all YEE member organizations): 300 copies of the campaign poster (the electronic version in PDF format is available for download on the YEE website – in the section Campaign - Healthy Food Campaign - <http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/healthy-food-campaign>), and 300 copies of the campaign sticker, both in English. The member organizations were encouraged to spread the information about the campaign further e.g. in their organizations, within their groups of volunteers, etc.

The aim of the online campaign was to inform wide public about healthy food. To show them why eating habits matter, we presented the benefits it has not only for people as individuals but in the larger scale as well. In our online campaign we encouraged people to change some eating habits by giving examples of how they can eat in a more healthy way (eating organic, local, vegetarian, and GMO-free food) and thus positively influence their natural surrounding at the same time. There have been more than 2000 readers of the website articles so far.

The project started in August and continued in the second half of 2010 as an information campaign. We would like to run this project as a long term

campaign, i.e. the content of the special section of the website dedicated to this campaign will be continuously updated (new articles, tips about healthy food, comments of the readers, etc.).

Activities from the Working Plan 2010-2011

Training Courses (TC)

1/ Tourism for Nature [Title in the Working Plan: “Sustainable Tourism”]

The project aims to strengthen the role and capacity of NGOs in promotion of sustainable use of tourism potentials. The international training course should take place in Ohrid, Macedonia. The proposed programme focuses on sharing good and bad practices in the field of tourism, learning about sustainable tourism indicators and their comparative measurement in selected areas.

The project attracted partners from YEE as well as other organisations. 34 participants from 7 countries should take part in the project.

Under the name “Tourism for Nature” the project had been applied to the November 1st deadline of the European Youth Foundation Category A and February 15th deadline of the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission. As the project did not fully match the priorities of either programme, neither of the applications was approved. As the project is generally very good, the content is well prepared and partners and trainers interested, it would be good to discuss it at the YEE AM 2011 and think about other funding possibilities and implementation of the project during 2011-12.

2/ TC for trainers ‘I can lead! I can facilitate!’ [Title in the working plan: “Basic skills facilitating”]

16/07 – 21/07/2011, Prague, Czech Republic

The TC was projected for young people who are leaders, coordinators, youth workers in their organisations and want to improve their skills in leading projects, actions, and managing groups. By this TC we want to help the participating organisations to have competent and autonomous volunteers and staff capable of facilitating training and education processes for the needs of their organizations.

During the training course, we want to inspire participants to organise more projects at the local, bilateral and international level and promote exchange between partner organisations. We plan to initiate the exchange of experience and in this way show various points of view, methods and practices.

30 young people from 16 youth organisations will meet in the Czech Republic to practice the skills of being a good leader and facilitator as we believe

that facilitating the learning process of participants involved in the project is a key skill of a good trainer and youth worker.

The training course will take place right before this year's Annual Meeting. The project was applied to Executive Agency of Youth in Action in Brussels by YEE on the September 1st deadline (18 334 EUR).

Seminars/Study sessions

1/ European Environmental Law and Youth Participation *March or April 2012 – Strasbourg, France*

The project was applied as a study session in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The main aim of the project is to raise awareness on environmental law among youth active in NGOs, to train young people to be able to advocate in this topic on the local level and to raise the capacity of YEE network, strengthen the cooperation and find new members.

YEE applied to the 1st April deadline, the project was approved and the study session should take place in March or April 2012. The project shall involve 25 participants from 15 countries.

Youth Exchanges (YE)

1/ Renewable Energies and Waste Management *25/07 – 01/08/2011, Porto, Portugal*

The aim of this project is exchange of knowledge and skills related to renewable energy and waste management. The basic idea of the YE is simple but very useful and practical: recover waste, use it to build rafts and then just by using physical strength to bring it down along the portuguese Douro river.

This project aims to promote the intercultural sharing of experiences among European youth volunteers, train them in leadership, project development, renewable energy and waste recovery practical skills, environmental awareness national campaigns, human and nature resources rights. The participants will also gain some practical skills on renewable energy in various workshops, such as solar cooking, along with short and ongoing activities about management, return and recovery of waste, including the construction and use of a new navigation device - raft - that came from garbage.

The project will involve 30 young people - 5 participants from each of the 6 partner organizations that work directly with youth and environmental issues - OPE (Portugal), Hnuti Brontosaurus (Czech Republic), DEM (Macedonia), SAEM (Georgia), SYC (Armenia) and Garapinillos (Spain).

The project was applied for funding by OPE to the Portuguese National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme – the application was not ready for the

deadline of the 1st November that is why it was applied on the 1st February deadline and was approved.

2/ Diversity [Title in the Working Plan “Biodiversity – Let’s go to the roots”]

April 2012, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

According to the working plan adopted at the AM 2010, the project should have been applied to 1st February YiA deadline. As problems with applying organisation occurred, it was decided to postpone the applying to 1st April EYF Category A and 1st June YiA 3.1 deadlines. It was also decided that YEE will become the applying organisation instead of MO applying to the National Agency. The project received funding from EYF (Category A – 11 500 EUR), it was applied also for co-funding on 1st June YiA 3.1 deadline.

As the priorities of EYF and YiA programmes are different than the original aim of the project, the organisation team agreed on changes in the project concept – the youth exchange will focus on different types of diversity with biodiversity as one of them. By learning from each other and intercultural learning methods the participants will learn about cultural, religious, social and biological diversity in Europe. National teams of participants will prepare interactive sessions for the others, which aim will be to share experience and knowledge about different cultures, religions and social groups their countries and compare it to other countries. Important parts of the youth exchange are study visits to Kecharis monastery, Lake Sevan and NGOs in Yerevan. The project main aim is to foster discussion how diversity and discrimination of particular groups negatively affects our lives and what are the options for solution.

Due to the postponing of the applying process, the YE will take place in April 2012 in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia. The project involves 6 partners from 6 different countries, 5 participants from each organisation.

3/ Learning from each other – methods of environmental education

15/04-22/04/2011, Strnadovsky mlyn, Czech Republic

The Youth Exchange 'Learning from each other - methods of environmental education' took place in April 2011 in the Czech Republic. It involved 7 different organizations which work in the field of environment and youth. 27 participants from Armenia, Finland, Macedonia, Latvia, Portugal, Ukraine and Czech Republic spent a whole week sharing their knowledge and tools in methods for environmental education.

Every day one of the participating organisations presented its best practices and the most effective methods they use in their work with youth. This was done through practical workshops and games, basically outdoors and always through 'learning by doing'. The aim was to transmit the most successful and inventive practices to other organizations and to improve and vary the everyday

work of the youth NGOs. All the methods and ideas shared during this youth exchange were gathered together in a booklet 'Discover Nature. Tools for environmental education' (published in June 2011) so many other organisations will have access to them as well.

The project was already the third round of the project cycle 'Learning from each other' (the first was organised by Konopa in July 2009 in Czech Republic, the second by OA PTTK in September 2010 in Poland).

The project was coordinated by Youth and Environment Europe and was funded by the EYF (category A) of the Council of Europe - 10000 EUR.

Networking projects

1/Environment and volunteerism [Title in the Working Plan "Together for environment"] (Partnership Building Activity - PBA) 20/05-25/05/2012, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia

The partnership building activity 'Volunteers for Environment' was designed to discuss current environmental issues and good practices of organizations in addressing them through promotion of volunteerism. It was planned to involve environmental organisations that could be potentially new partners and member organisations of YEE.

The project was applied by YEE to EACEA in Brussels for 1st February deadline but was not approved. It was reapplied on 1st June.

The project should take place in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia in May, 2012. The PBA will connect 18 youth organizations interested in and working on environmental issues with volunteers. 32 youth leaders, youth workers and young volunteers from 15 EU and Eastern European/Caucasian countries will meet to learn together more about the possibilities and priorities of the Youth in Action Programme, develop partnerships and create new environmental joint projects (based on voluntary work), as well as get new skills to assure effective projects in the future and the multiplying effect. Non-formal educational methods will be used throughout the PBA including interactive sessions and presentations, discussions, parallel workshops, artistic sessions, working groups, information sharing, etc. Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is the applying organization, Stepanavan Youth Center (SYC) will host the project.

2/ YEE Day

One day in October 2011, in each country of MOs

By celebrating the YEE day we would like to strengthen networking and the feeling of being part of the YEE network as well as to promote YEE. The idea is to organize the same actions in each country and exchange experience.

Year 2011 is declared the International Year of Forests therefore we would like our YEE day to be connected with forests as well. First we will gather and

clean forests nearby our offices. Then we will have picnic with organic food brought by participants. During this part we will create piece of art from materials found in forest (like music/land-art/sculpture etc.). We also plan to organize lectures or workshops with specialists invited.

CAMPAIGNS

1/ Information campaign 'Together for a Green Europe' [Title in the Working Plan: 'Schools go for green Europe']

January – June 2012

The project aims to activate young people in their local communities and show them the purpose of active citizenship. It should encourage young people to be active in the field of environmental education for young people and children and organise workshops of environmental education at schools.

Hnutí Brontosaurus applied to Czech National Agency of Youth in Action for 1st February deadline for a feasibility visit in order to prepare the project. Unfortunately, it was not approved. The project was applied by Youth and Environment Europe on the 1st April deadline to the European Youth Foundation (category B) of the Council of Europe and received funding - 9000 EUR.

'Together for a Green Europe' will be international information and education campaign focused on environmental education for children and youth. The campaign will consist of diverse local eco activities in international context encouraging children and youth to take care of European nature. The campaign will take place at primary and secondary schools as children don't have there any environmental education and will be run by young volunteers from environmental NGOs.

As all partner organisations are youth and deal with environmental protection and environmental education, the campaign will aim to encourage young people to be active in the field of environmental education for young people and children.

14 young people from 7 organisations from 7 countries (Czech Republic, Greece, Armenia, Romania, Latvia, Georgia, Russian Federation) will prepare the campaign and spread the international experience in the field of environmental education.

2/ Caring for the future? Caring for the forest! (international information and education campaign)

June – December 2011, Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Russia, UK

2011 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Forests, for this reason YEE decided to organise a forest campaign which will happen in 6 European countries during the second half of 2011. The

campaign will be coordinated by a group of young people from each of the participating countries (Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Russia and the United Kingdom). The aim of the campaign is to show the vital role that forests play in maintaining the stability of our climate, preserving biodiversity and offering us a healthy and enriching environment. The campaign aims to show the links between global and local issues on the topic of forests, to show young people the importance of preserving their local forests, and to empower them to 'care for the future by caring for the forest'.

The campaign will consist of: Report and online campaign (July-December 2011): 'Discover the forest' – each country team will gather information (from experts, reports, NGOs and websites) about the forest conditions in their country. The coordinating team will also gather key information about threats to forests globally; Campaign week (September/October 2011) with the following actions – direct actions: 'Care for the forests!' (rubbish clean-up, tree planting, forest guided tour, environmental games in the forest, etc.), lectures and discussions, movie-screening, etc.

The project is being coordinated by Youth and Environment Europe and has been funded by the European Youth Foundation (category B) of the Council of Europe - 8000 EUR.

3/ Sunny Campaign (web page update and upgrade) *Throughout the whole year 2010/2011*

The main aim of the update of the Sunny Campaign website was to increase the access to information on ecological products and services in various countries and regions of Europe. Since September 2010 the Green Catalogue and map are available online, but they have not been much updated.

In 2010 and 2011 the Sunny Campaign website served mostly as an information channel for the project 'Water – Its Importance in Pictures'. The project photos, texts and information about the exhibitions were published in a special section of the website.

Local projects and activities

1/ YEE in Toulcuv Dvur eco farm (YEE stand at Toulcuv Dvur activities)

- **Day of the Earth**
30/04/2011 – Toulcuv Dvur, Prague, Czech Republic

On Saturday 30th of April YEE participated in the Day of the Earth festival organised in Toulcuv Dvur ecological center, which YEE closely cooperates with, as the office is located there. Local actions coordinator and EVS volunteers prepared information stand, where YEE promotion materials and publications

were distributed. We also used the knowledge gained at the Youth Exchange ‘Learning from each other – methods of environmental education’ and presented the festival visitors the solar oven and how to construct it and use it.

▪ **Other actions**

YEE Secretariat staff and EVS volunteers working in the office helped Toulcův Dvůr also with organisation of other events such as Childrens’ Day or Midsummer Day, which both took place in June 2011. Because the target group of these events is different than YEE’s, we decided not to have our information stand there.

2/ World Water Monitoring Day

26/10/2010, Czech Karst, Czech Republic

As in the past years, YEE took part in the worldwide project called ‘World Water Monitoring Day’, which aims to raise awareness on protecting water resources all around the world and encourage people to do the basic water monitoring in their countries. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18, but the time for monitoring was extended from World Water Day (March 22) to the end of the year (December 31).

On 26th October 2010 the whole office team set off to the area of Czech Karst and did the monitoring of water quality in rivers and streams in this region, finding out the water sources being very clean. The collected data were submitted to the WWMD online database. The event was not only office teambuilding activity, but as results were published in an article on YEE website as well as sent by the electronic newsletter, we believe we contributed to raising awareness on the water protection and the project itself and maybe even attracted some people or organisations to take part in the world water monitoring.

3/ Working weekends – Brontosaurus Weekend

06/05-08/05/2011, Orlicke Mountains, Czech Republic

Another teambuilding and networking activity scheduled for the first half of 2011 was taking part in one of the YEE MO’s activities, concretely the working weekend of the Czech organisation Brontosaurus Movement (Hnutí Brontosaurus). As working weekends are the key activities of Brontosaurus, we found the participation in one of them as the best way how to get to know the member organisation better. With the help of YEE Projects Coordinator Irena Oupicova, who is a member of Brontosaurus Movement, we chose the working weekend in a small village in East Bohemia, which took place from 6th to 8th May 2011. All the members of the office team participated in the event. During the weekend we helped with repairing the old cemetery wall, cutting bushes on the graveyard and rebuilding the morgue roof. We also shortly presented YEE to all other participants of the weekend and explained them how they can get involved in YEE activities through their organisation.

4/ YEE promo at Fairs and Festivals

- **NGO market**

29/04/2011 - Prague

In April 2011 YEE took part in the biggest NGO festival in the Czech Republic called NGO Market, where more than 150 NGOs were presented. We prepared the information stand, distributed materials and informed everybody interested about YEE and its activities. The festival was very useful for getting to know other environmental NGOs working in the Czech Republic as well as discovering e.g. funding possibilities as different foundations were also present. Projects coordinator Michal Švec took part in the accompanying series of lectures about crises, financial and HR management of NGOs organized few days before the event and based on the gained knowledge prepared a learning day for the office team members.

- **United Islands of Prague music festival (June 2011)**

In June 2010 YEE participated with the information stand in the United Islands of Prague music festival. It was planned also for 2011, but the conception of the festival was changed and the presentation stand would not fit to the programme.

5/ Workshop for Czech Eco-Centers and Environmental NGOs

16/11/2010, Prague, Czech Republic

A workshop about YEE was organised in November 2010 in Toulcův Dvůr, Prague, together with the workshop about EMS and the eco-mapping method as a part of Environmental Audit project. The invitation for the workshop was sent to Czech environmental NGOs, environmental departments of children and youth centres and other organisations. However, due to the date right after the national holiday the workshop attracted only 7 participants. In the first part of the workshop we presented the activities of YEE and how people can be involved in them (contributing to publications, taking part in meetings and campaigns, EVS). The second part was focused on presentation of the environmental management systems and the practical workshop, eco-mapping of selected part of Toulcův Dvůr followed. The event was important also for networking with other environmental organisations in the Czech Republic as we collected contacts for YEE newsletter and further activities.

Publications

1/ *Y&E Magazine*

Each issue of Y&E Magazine aims to study one important environmental topic in a deeper way. Articles are gathered from young people that deal closely with the topic of the magazine. There are two issues published per year, the Magazine is printed and uploaded to YEE website as well. In 2010/2011 we decided to connect magazines with specific YEE projects and in this way spread the results of the projects.

- **‘Games from Nature – environmental education through the eyes of young people’** - October 2010 (from the YEE WP 2009-2010)

This booklet was focused on environmental education. It was done as a follow-up activity of the youth exchange 'Learning from each other - games from environmental education' (Poland – September 2010) as we believe that in this way the publication becomes more efficient and useful for our readers and it also increases the impact of the YE as its results reach more people. The booklet gathers many games used in environmental education and it inspires youth workers how to show nature to children. This publication made possible to spread the methods of work and activities concerning the environmental education used on daily basis in European youth environmental organizations.

It was financed as a follow-up project of the YE 'Learning from each other - games from environmental education'. 300 copies of the booklet were printed and sent to all YEE member organizations.

- **‘Discover Nature – tools for environmental education’**
June 2011

The second issue of the Magazine focused on environmental education as well. It is a follow-up project of the Youth Exchange ‘Learning from each other – methods of environmental education’ (Czech Republic – April 2011) where most of the methods were presented and collected. It is YEE’s second booklet connected with environmental education, it comprises of a selection of different methods and tools that can be used in environmental education. We hope that this booklet full of interesting and interactive methods will serve as a useful tool in many youth environmental NGOs which work with children and youth in and for nature.

It was financed as a follow-up project of the YE 'Learning from each other - methods of environmental education'. 500 copies of the Magazine were printed and sent to all YEE member organizations.

▪ **‘EVS for Environment‘**

November 2011

The booklet ‘EVS for Environment‘ will focus on describing the potential of voluntary projects (mainly EVS) to raise awareness about environment. It will allow to share with other organisations the ideas and reflections how EVS project can focus on environment and how voluntary work can be a tool to make people aware of environment.

The booklet will be published in November 2011, in 300 issues and spread through YEE network and to organizations involved into EVS program.

2/ YEE Newsletter

YEE Newsletter is a regular bimonthly publication that is published online on our website and sent by e-mail to our Member Organizations. In 2011 we changed the format to e-Newsletter. The following issues were published in 2010-2011:

- 3 Newsletters (Annual Meeting 2010, September/October 2010, November/December 2010)
- 2 e-Newsletters (March/April 2011, May/June 2011)

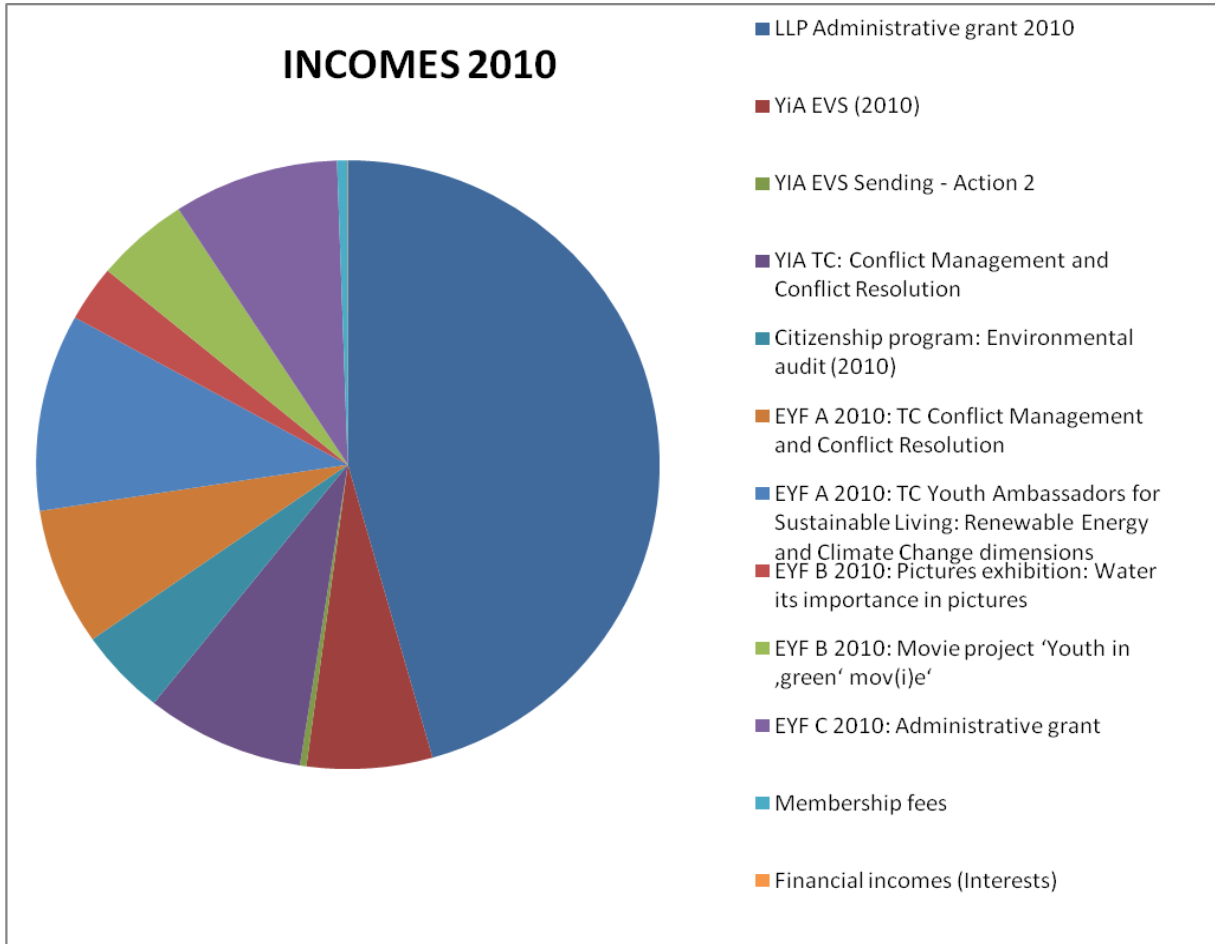
YEE Newsletter is for YEE members and other interested organizations to publish reports from activities they made, pictures from them, plans for future actions, calls for partners for different youth projects, articles about environmental topics, about issues that their organisations are dealing with and presentation of their organisation. The role of the YEE 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.

Website

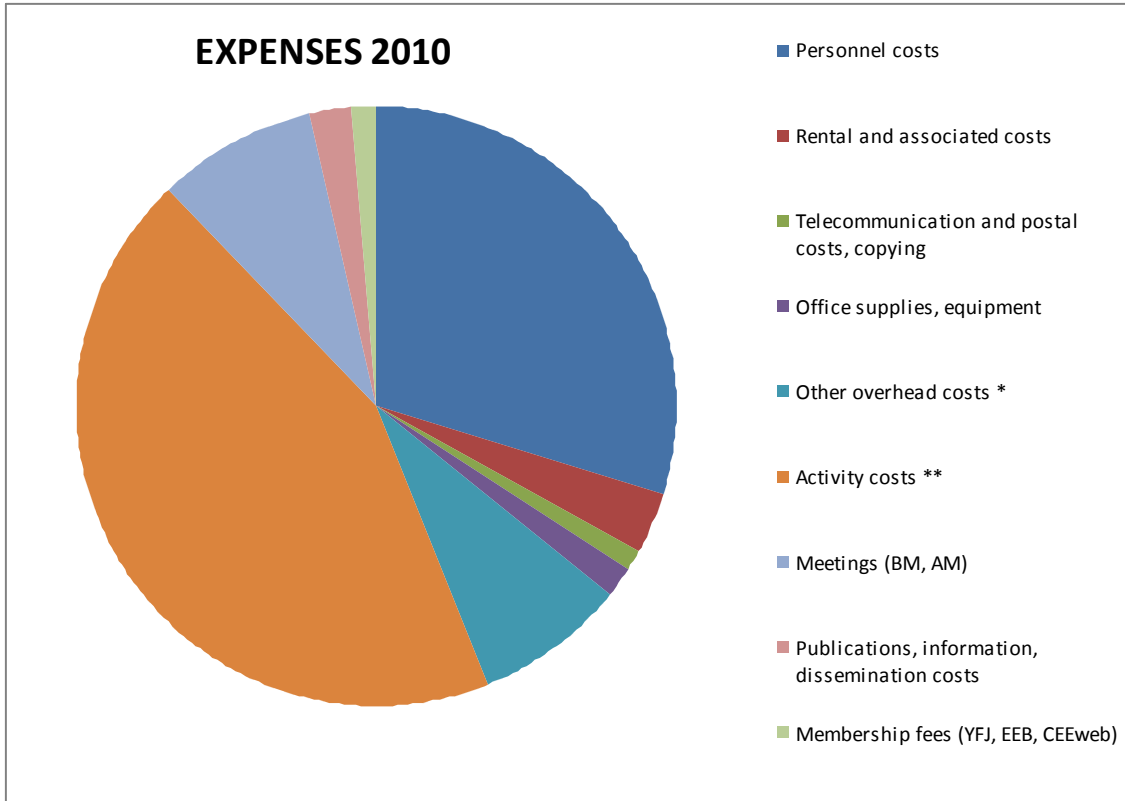
The interactive YEE website has been gradually improved in 2010/2011. Among other upgrades, a new section Campaigns was created – it provides information about the following YEE campaigns (Healthy Food Campaign, Sunny Campaign, Water – Its Importance in Pictures campaign, Forest Campaign).

Some other parts of the website have been more developed, for example the section EVS – the basic structure informing about the EVS programme and how to become an EVS volunteer was extended – Previous EVS in YEE where we gather all previous YEE EVS volunteers to write shortly about their experience in YEE; YEE Blog – this section is dedicated to and created by YEE EVS volunteers (sending and hosting) who are able to share their experiences and thoughts, describe their project, first impressions about the new country, etc.

YEE FINANCES



ITEM	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENT AGE
LLP Administrative grant 2010	61,043.86	45,62 %
YiA EVS	8,702.85	6,50 %
YIA EVS Sending - Action 2	450.00	0,34 %
YIA TC: Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution	11,009.60	8,23 %
Citizenship program: Environmental audit (2010)	6,139.45	4,59 %
EYF A 2010: TC Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution	9,755.00	7,29 %
EYF A 2010: TC Youth Ambassadors for Sustainable Living: Renewable Energy and Climate Change dimensions	14,000.00	10,46 %
EYF B 2010: Pictures exhibition: Water its importance in pictures	3,969.00	2,97 %
EYF B 2010: Movie project 'Youth in ,green' mov(i)e'	6,500.00	4,86 %
EYF C 2010: Administrative grant	11,496.00	8,59 %
Membership fees	697.50	0,52 %
Financial incomes (Interests)	40.30	0,03 %
TOTAL	133,803.56	100 %



ITEM	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENTAGE
Personnel costs	42,234.91	29,59 %
Rental and associated costs	4,765.68	3,34 %
Telecommunication and postal costs, copying	1,808.07	1,27 %
Office supplies, equipment	2,522.98	1,77 %
Other overhead costs *	11,418.35	8,00 %
Activity costs **	62,351.85	43,69 %
Meetings (BM, AM)	12,581.21	8,81 %
Publications, information, dissemination costs	2,993.34	2,10 %
Membership fees (YFJ, EEB, CEEweb)	2,053.00	1,44 %
TOTAL	142,729.39	100 %

* Other overhead costs include bank charges, difference in exchange rate and fees for the accountant

** Activity costs include costs for projects, EVS and other activities

Prevision 2011

ITEM	AMOUNT in EUR	PERCENT AGE
YiA Administrative Grant 2011	35,000.00	33,78%
YiA EVS	13,460.00	12,99%
YiA EVS - Sending	450.00	0,43%
YiA TC ,I can lead! I can facilitate!'	18,334.00	17,69%
Citizenship program: Environmental audit (2010)	8,086.19	7,80 %
EYF A 2011: Youth Exchange 'Learning from each other - methods of environmental education'	10,000.00	9,46%
EYF B 2011: Forest campaign	8,000.00	7,72%
EYF C 2011: Administrative grant	9,382.00	9,05%
Membership fees	900.00	0,87%
TOTAL	103,612.19	100,00%

Projects applied by member organisations and prepared by/together with YEE 2010

Name of the project	Amount granted (EUR)
YiA YE ,Renewable energies and waste management'	24,844.00
TOTAL	24,844.00

Grants approved for 2012

Name of the project	Amount granted (EUR)
EYF A 2012: YE Diversity	11,500.00
EYF B 2012: Together for a Green Europe	9,000.00
EYF C 2012: Administrative grant	10,000.00
TOTAL	30,500.00

Member Organizations of YEE in 2010 - 2011

Name of the organization	Country	Type of membership
EDEN Centre	Albania	Associated
Active Young citizenship initiative – AYCI	Armenia	Associated
Association for Sustainable Human Development – ASHD	Armenia	Associated
Stepanavan Youth Center – SYC	Armenia	Associated
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia – FYCA	Armenia	Associated
ONJ	Austria	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Youth Organisation for Nature and Environment – JNM	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
Ecosouthwest	Bulgaria	Associated
YEO Rhodope	Bulgaria	Full
Baobaby	Czech Republic	Associated
Konopa	Czech Republic	Associated
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Full
Natur Og Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement – GYEM	Georgia	Full
Alliance For Society Advancement – ASA	Georgia	Associated
Studio Re	Georgia	Associated
Bundjugend	Germany	Full
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung - DJN	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend – NAJU	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend im LBV	Germany	Full
WoesteLand	Holland	Full
Club of Young Naturalists – FTK	Hungary	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
Green Future	Lithuania	Associated
Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia – DEM	Macedonia	Full
Nature Trust Malta	Malta	Full
Organizacja Młodzieżowa Ligi Ochrony Przyrody - LOP	Poland	Full
Oddział Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK	Poland	Associated
GAIA	Portugal	Associated
O.P.E	Portugal	Associated
Eco Terra	Romania	Associated

EcoCenter Zapovedniks	Russia	Associated
LUGA Environmental Organisation (LEO)	Russia	Associated
Environmental Youth Club – EYC	Russia	Associated
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Full
Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde	Spain	Associated
Fälbiologerna	Sweden	Full
For the Earth!	Tajikistan	Associated
METU Nature club Turkey	Turkey	Associated
Look East Wild Earth (LEWE)	UK	Associated
Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia – MELP	Ukraine	Full

Organizations applying for membership in YEE

This year there are **five** organizations applying for membership in Youth and Environment Europe, **two** applying for full and **three** for associate membership.

Full membership:

- Ja Visapkart (Latvia)
- FÖJ-Aktiv (Germany)

Associate membership:

- Khazer (Armenia)
- YCIDDP (Armenia)
- Green Echoes Associaton (Romania)

1/ Ja Visapkart

Ja Visapkart is a Latvian organization that was founded in February 2010. It is based in Balvi and its activities have regional character.

Country:	Latvia
Apply for:	full membership
Number of members:	22
Age limit:	18-30
Aims:	To facilitate involvement of the society in preservation of natural and cultural values.
Activities:	Different projects, mostly outdoor – adventurous and at the same time educational events (tree planting, tidying up the environment, fun events).

Ja Visapkart applies for full membership. As they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organization, dealing with environmental topics), we recommend the General Assembly to accept them.

2/ FÖJ-Aktiv

FÖJ-Aktiv is a German organization that was founded in 2005. It is based in Hamburg and its activities have national character.

The *FÖJ (Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr)* is a voluntary service for youth between 16 and 27 years. The ca. 2500 adolescents participate in Germany and in foreign countries in the remits of environmental education with adults and children, public relations and event management belonging to topics like sustainability, active environmental protection, landscape and waters conservation, animal protection and development policy.

FÖJ-Aktiv is an organization for young people who have finished their FÖJ-year but want to remain active in the field of environmental protection.

Country:	Germany
Apply for:	full membership
Number of members:	110
Age limit:	no age limit
Aims:	support of youth welfare services, the education, professional education and environmental protection

Activities:

- Public relations for *FÖJ* such as events, information or advertising media.
- Support and active organisation of networking and cooperation between actual *FÖJ*-participants to support the realization of common projects for the *FÖJ*.
- Accomplishment or support of events, projects and actions for the increase of publicity of the *FÖJ*, environmental protection or educational work for sustainable development.
- Maintenance of a nationwide internet portal featuring mailing lists, the sending of information letters, etc.
- Lobby work and cooperation with the *FÖJ*-deployment locations, *FÖJ*-providers, the *FÖJ* responsible authorities and ministries and other institutions.
- Support of common activities between *FÖJ*-participants.

FÖJ-Aktiv applies for full membership. They fulfil the criteria. The only problem could be the age composition, since there is no age-limit in this organization. Currently, the average age-composition is 21, there are 4 members over 30 and youngest is 18. Hence, we recommend the General Assembly to accept them as a full member.

3/ “KHAZER” Ecological and Cultural Non-Governmental Organization

It is an Armenian NGO that was founded in December 1991. It's a public organization and its orientation is education and sustainable development in the area of environmental and cultural issues and heritage.

Country: Armenia
Apply for: associate membership
Number of members: 43
Age limit: no age limit – but there is a separate youth group. The average age of members of the NGO is 25-30 years.

Activities:

The NGO activities are built upon the principle according to which protection and careful attitude to nature are moral issues, which are interrelated with protection of cultural and spiritual heritage in general. The organization is especially engaged in identification of the linkage between environmental issues and human health.

“Khazer” is a member of different communities: Aarhus Center Board Expert on Environmental Education, member of Union of Ecological NGOs, member of Adults Education Association, Euro-Asian Association of Children Environmental Health and Woman in Europe for Common Future; a member of Commission on Sustainable Development, which contributes to developing an integrated education approach, providing a forum for all stakeholders and preparing training materials for trainers. They are actively involved in local and international cultural and ecological activities and organize their own ones publications, movies, different environmental events.

“KHAZER” Ecological and Cultural Non-Governmental Organization applies for associate membership. The organization responds to the criteria of YEE statutes - shall be organization with substantial youth membership, self-governing, democratic, and involved in youth work and environmental work, which take a substantial interest in the objectives and activities of the Federation. Hence we recommend the General Assembly to accept them as an associated member.

4/ Youth Club for Intercultural Dialogue, Democracy and Peace (YCIDDP)

Youth Club for Intercultural Dialogue, Democracy and Peace (YCIDDP) is an Armenian NGO that was founded in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia in 2010. Working sphere of the organization is intercultural dialogue, ecology, democracy, conflict prevention and peace building.

Country: Armenia
Apply for: associate membership

Number of members: 35
Age limit: 18 – 30
Activities:

Basic activities of the organization are dedicated to the problems of Armenian youth in the area of ethnic conflicts, intercultural dialogue and ecology and ways of their solutions through organizing international youth meetings, conferences and publications which aims are to increase youth participation in Armenia and to attract society to them.

Youth Club for Intercultural Dialogue, Democracy and Peace (YCIDDP) applies for associate membership. The main orientation of YCIDDP is: youth problems and ecology is just one of the aspects of their work, so the orientation of the organization is not quite corresponding to the requirements of YEE. Hence we would recommend postponing their acceptance till showing more ecological interest which they plan in the future.

5/ Green Echoes Association

Green Echoes Association is a Romanian NGO that was founded in March 2007. It is based in Cluj-Napoca, cultural capital of Transylvania and its activities have local character.

Country: Romania
Apply for: associate membership
Number of members: 55
Age limit: There is no age limit. Most of their members are under 30 years old. The members of the board are over 30.

Aims:

Sustainable development of the society by conserving biodiversity, by promoting responsible tourism and environmental education through the implementation of multi-disciplinary projects and the encouragement of ethical initiatives.

Activities:

Organizing camps, trips and other educational activities in the nature; responsible tourism activities to ensure the maintenance and preservation of natural monuments, flora and fauna; informative database and distribution of informative material; public presentation of movies and images; organizing maintenance and repair activities on marked mountain trails; involvement in research activities; publication activity (creation and editing of books, articles), etc.

The organization is member of several national as well as international networks – CERI (Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative), CEEWEB and also member of the Work Group for Tourism of the Carpathian Convention and of the Environmental Educators in the Carpathian Network.

Green Echoes Association applies for associate membership. The organization deals with environmental topics but they are not specifically youth organization (no age limit). We believe that associate membership is appropriate or collaboration without membership in YEE.

Cancellation and review of membership

We are providing you with a list of YEE Member Organizations whose membership rights should be reviewed in 2010. Next follow our suggestions together with a brief explanation of the decision:

Cancellation of membership:

Bundjugend (Germany)
Eco Terra (Romania)

They both asked for cancellation of their membership.

Changes in membership:

IVN became WoesteLand (Netherlands) – WoesteLand is the youth department of IVN
EDEN Center (Albania) – currently they are an associate member and they would like to become full member

Review of membership:

For the Earth (Tajikistan)
METU (Turkey)

We need to review their membership and possibly withdraw them from the list of our Member Organization, unless they are willing to become active, as one or more of the following occurred:

- they **did not pay their membership fee for the last 3 years (2009-2011) without explanation,**
- they **did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 2 years (2009-2010),**
- we did not have **any contact** from them.

A letter asking for explanation of the inactivity of the above mentioned organizations was sent to them. In case they do not respond to this call, the General Assembly will decide how to proceed with them during this year's Annual Meeting.