



Work Plan of
the European Youth Forum
2007 - 2008

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Vilnius (Lithuania)*

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EDUCATION

Aim:

1. Non-Formal Education (NFE) will be valued as a dynamic and inclusive educational method

Objectives:

- 1.1. The inclusion of NFE in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the support of Member Organisations in their efforts to include NFE in national qualifications frameworks

Actions:

- To promote the use and implementation of the common European principles on identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning
- To advocate for the NFE dimension as stated in the EQF to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- To support MOs in their efforts to include NFE in national QF that will enhance the transfer, transparency and recognition of qualifications as learning outcomes, and to advocate for a consultation process with NYCs during processes to assess the qualifications and learning outcomes at national level
- To promote broader definitions of learning outcomes in the development and implementation of national qualification systems

- 1.2. The recognition of Youth NGOs as key stakeholders and main providers of NFE

Actions:

- To promote the recognition of YNGOs as main providers of NFE by social and institutional partners as well as by employers
- To advocate for on-going consultation mechanisms involving YNGOs and for their inclusion in decision making processes on issues related to education, job opportunities, social responsibility and intercultural understanding

Activities:

- To follow up on the inaugural dialogue meeting on non-formal education
- To publish a report collecting experiences and best practice from MOs, for further work on the impact and the recognition of NFE

- 1.3. The development of quality guidelines in the provision of NFE

Actions:

- To ensure the follow-up and contribution to the development and evaluation of the European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders as well as to the YOUTHPASS. To promote the use of both initiatives among Member Organisations
- To contribute to the implementation of the Council resolution on the values of non-formal and informal learning, especially regarding the aspect of complementarities with the formal education system
- To uphold cooperation and contribute to analysis and research processes on the impact and the visibility of NFE within all relevant institutional spaces
- To develop a policy paper on NFE quality indicators

- 1.4. The widespread recognition of the value of NFE in promoting active youth citizenship

Action:

- To promote citizenship education and volunteering towards social and institutional partners
- To promote "self recognition" of non-formal education - the recognition of the competences gained through non-formal education by young people themselves

1.5. The enhancement of knowledge regarding the impact of NFE for the individual and society

Action:

- To contribute to the on-going processes of the EU-CoE Partnership

Aim:

2. Equal access to quality, Life Long Learning (LLL) opportunities

Objectives:

2.1. Ensure the provision of quality NFE as an integral part of LLL

Actions:

- Advocate for the integration of a youth dimension within the *Europass*
- Advocate for the added value of NFE in vocational training
- Lobby for the NFE dimension as stated in the LLL programme to be further taken into account in an effective and concrete manner
- Lobby for non-formal education related activities to be taken into account in a broader learning context (lifelong and life-wide)

2.2. Be a key stakeholder in the recognition of the real competencies of the young person

Actions:

- Promote the recognition of real competences, including their integration in the definitions of learning outcomes, to institutions and key stakeholders
- Use existing dialogue spaces to focus on the integration of real competences in the definition of further learning outcomes

2.3. Contribute to the elimination of all barriers limiting the educational opportunities, as well as the discrimination, within the formal learning structures

Actions:

- Advocate for the recognition of the competences of disadvantaged young people in education activities
- Advocate for the democratisation of student mobility programmes, the standardisation of their quality and of certificates
- Advocate for multiple entry and exit points in formal education systems that recognise prior learning experiences

Activities:

- Develop the framework for a consultation system on the specific question of school students' mobility, to be established with key stakeholders and, where relevant, develop joint actions in this regard

2.4. Encourage greater support for marginalised groups of young people

Actions:

- Promote the development of adequate support mechanisms for young people with special needs to access education spaces

- Advocate for the greater consideration of, and accessibility to quality education for young people with special needs
- Produce a policy paper on drop-outs and early school-/university-leavers in Europe, including an action plan on how to address this problem

Activity:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day with MOs on how to better support young people with special needs in regards to equal access to quality and life long learning opportunities

Aim:

3. Youth mobility and exchanges as an integral step for developing intercultural awareness and understanding

Objectives:

- 3.1. The widespread use of global education to foster the understanding of global interdependence and to contribute to a culture of peace

Actions:

- To develop a Policy Paper on Global Education
- To increase recognition by other civil society actors of the role of youth organisations in work on Global Education
- To advocate for Global Education to become part of educational programmes and curricula
- To contribute and engage actively in the educational dimension (or programme) of the University on Youth and Development, and, where relevant, with the University on Citizenship, together with the Latin-American Youth Forum, and other similar spaces
- To pursue efforts towards the greater mobility of young people worldwide as one of the main contributions to Global Education processes
- To coordinate the development of a Global Education Policy Paper, and activities, with the work carried out in the framework of Global Youth Work Development

Activities:

- Organise a seminar on Global Education with different regional partners, institutions, civil society actors and other stakeholders in the field of Global Education
- To organise sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers focusing on Global Education

- 3.2. Provide spaces for intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, and learning through interaction

Actions:

- To develop the capacity and promote the work done by the Faith based Expert Group
- Support and assist initiatives of MO's in the field of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure, where relevant, the full contribution of the YFJ to institutional processes on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue
- To ensure the full participation of the YFJ and its MOs in the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Contribute to the development of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue

Activities:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth exchanges in intercultural learning and inter-religious dialogue, during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Facilitate the work of YFJ Faith Based Expert Group

3.3. Promote learning through engagement in mobility and exchange programmes

Actions:

- Lobby for vocational school students' accessibility to exchange programmes
- Lobby for better accessibility for marginalised young people to long term exchange programmes

3.4. Promote mobility in education as a learning method and tool for developing better understanding, cultural interaction and open minded society

Actions:

- To advocate for initiation and introduction of national educational mobility programmes

Aim:

4. A holistic approach to education in Europe

Objectives:

4.1. The opening up of the formal education system to other learning providers such as YNGOs and to NFE methodologies

Actions:

- Advocate for competence tests in educational systems that take a holistic approach to education, contesting narrow tests such as the PISA study
- Advocate for the introduction of methods of, and approaches to, learning from the non-formal sector into the formal education system
- Promote the development of educational systems that take due regard of the complex and comprehensive nature of and needs for learning and development
- Contribute to the greater recognition of social, cultural, artistic and ethical competences in wider learning frameworks

4.2. Advocate for the integration of education for sustainable development into formal education at all levels

Action :

- Use the UN decade for education for sustainable development as leverage to advocate for the inclusion of environmental awareness in school curricula

YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

Aim:

1. The continuous development of civil society, in particular of Youth NGOs

Objectives:

1.1. Facilitate the creation of peer support networks

Actions:

- Support the development of knowledge resources in different regions of Europe
- Raise awareness on the benefits of solidarity in peer support
- Facilitate cooperation and support networks within the membership of the European Youth Forum

Activity:

- Facilitate the organisation and establishment of regional knowledge and capacity building pools for YFJ MOs

1.2. The active promotion of democratic youth initiatives and structures

Actions:

- Lobby governments and institutions to provide framework support for YNGO development
- Organise meeting spaces for different stakeholders and institutions aimed at increasing the institutional recognition and support of our partners in other regions of the World
- Support initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy and the role of civil society in Europe and other regions of the World

Activities:

- Conduct study visits and meetings to build knowledge on the situation of youth work in different countries in Europe

1.3. Encourage recognition of the value and role of YNGOs

Actions:

- Organise a consultation process on the value and role of youth work among YFJ MOs
- Advocate for the recognition of YNGOs as key actors in society

1.4. Increased solidarity among YNGOs and mutual support for their development

Action:

- Collect and disseminate good examples of mutual support work
- Encourage bilateral and multilateral partnerships among YFJ MOs

1.5. The integration of a strong youth dimension in EU Neighbourhood policies

Action:

- Advocate for a strong youth dimension in the neighbourhood policy, bilateral agreements and Northern dimension policy of the EU and look for possible links with EU programmes

1.6. Promote systems of good governance that involve young people

Aim:

2. Membership development of the European Youth Forum

Objectives:

2.1. Strengthen the Member Organisations (MOs) and the structure of the YFJ

Actions:

- Develop an annual membership survey, as a tool aimed at facilitating access to information on Member Organisations
- Monitor changes within the YFJ membership and initiate the start of a full membership review

2.2. Strengthen MOs through the provision of training and spaces for the exchange of knowledge and good practice

Actions:

- Establish a Working Group on Youth Work Development

- Build expertise on youth work development and national youth policy in different countries and regions of Europe
- Disseminate information on a regular basis to MOs, on resources and training related to youth work
- Support MOs in developing their Training Policies and their Training capacity, *inter alia* their Pools of Trainers
- Facilitate networking and the exchange of good practice amongst MOs regarding training, youth work, and national youth policy

Activities:

- Organise thematic trainings for MOs on strengthening youth work
- Adopt a Policy Paper on Training
- Organise, over a mandate of two years, three meetings of the Pool of Trainers, and sub-group meetings of the Pool of Trainers on different policy areas

2.3. Provide effective tools for communication and information sharing

Actions:

- Set up necessary communication and information sharing mechanisms

2.4. Increase cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation

Action:

- Encourage the development and improvement of cooperation and mutual support tools among YFJ MOs

Aim:

3. Youth NGOs to become even more representative of the needs of young people

Objectives:

3.1. Advocate for appropriate financial and political support tools that provide opportunities for youth organisations to reach and engage more young people

Action:

- Develop and implement information strategies to encourage greater youth involvement and participation
- Promote volunteering as a crucial value of youth work

3.2. Promote the development of open, inclusive, membership-based, independent, democratic, representative and accountable Youth NGOs

Actions:

- Encourage Member Organisations to reflect on their internal structures in order to better involve young people from different backgrounds in their activities and organisation
- Support the development of Regional Youth Platforms and International coordination initiatives that follow these principles

Activity:

- Organise a consultation activity on addressing challenges to the openness and inclusiveness of YNGOs

3.3 Implement mechanisms for more diverse representation within and greater accessibility to the YFJ by all young people in Europe

Actions:

- Advocate institutional support to strengthen the capacity of YNGOs to be as representative as possible of youth at large

- Explore and consider the possibility of using other languages, in particular for the translation of policy papers and other documents of the YFJ. If member organisations are willing to provide the translation of activities into other European languages, this in particular should be welcomed and supported by the YFJ.

Aim:

4. Greater means for the sustainability of youth organisations and youth councils

Objectives:

- 4.1. Work towards achieving clear and effective legal structures which facilitate youth organisations to function at all levels

Actions:

- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks
- Lobby the EU for the adoption of a Statute for a European Association
- Monitor and influence change in legislation hindering the work of youth NGOs

- 4.2. Fair multi-annual funding

Actions:

- In the framework of the Youth in Action programme, ensure the accessibility of multi-year framework agreements for INGYO operating grants, as well as the transparency, fairness and user-friendliness of procedures for both annual and multi-year agreements
- Advocate for the introduction of multi-year youth sector funding packages at all levels
- Advocate for clear political and financial commitments from governments to YNGOs and Youth Policy through multi-year administrative funding mechanisms
- Broaden information on the possibilities for different sources of funding

Activities:

- Establish a database for Member Organisations on funding possibilities through projects, programmes or foundations
- Organise an Information and Networking Day on funding for INGYOs

- 4.3. Provide tailored organisational support to MOs

Actions:

- Provide constant support to new Member Organisations
- Provide *ad-hoc* expertise upon request
- Offer capacity building expertise on specific needs related to youth work or NYP development
- Analyse needs and offer tailored lobby or action strategies to MOs
- Promote cooperation, networking, and the exchange of good practice and expertise amongst NYCs and new regional platforms

Activities:

- Conduct support visits to Member Organisations, upon identification of needs and/or upon request

- 4.4. Provide support and advocate for greater resources to ensure the full independence of young NGO's to counter-act external interference in their autonomy and work

Actions:

- Develop support tools to prevent and react to possible violations of YNGO independence
- Develop a policy on support and response to violations and infringements of YNGO independence

- 4.5. Support the continuous partnership of YNGOs with governments, institutions and other stakeholders in the youth field

Actions:

- Lobby national governments and institutional partners for the development of strategic partnerships between states and YNGOs
- Advocate for the strengthening of a research pillar in NYP development
- Lobby for the recognition of the value, experience and impact of YNGOs in policy making at national and local levels
- Advocate for an increase in state accountability to youth and YNGOs in the provision of services
- Advocate for the establishment of co-management systems between YNGOs and states at all levels

- 4.6. Advocate for political and financial commitments from governmental and inter-governmental authorities at all levels to YNGOs

Aim:

5. The consolidation of Youth NGOs, especially in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Objectives:

- 5.1. Contribute to the creation of National Youth Councils (NYCs) in all member states of the Council of Europe (CoE)

Actions:

- Support national initiatives and coalitions aimed at the consolidation of national youth work
- Advocate for the recognition and support of national coordination structures by governments
- Provide policy and knowledge transfer to NYC initiatives on all aspects of organisational and political sustainability

- 5.2. Promote the development and recognition of youth work in Central Europe (CE), Eastern Europe (EE) and South East Europe (SEE)

- 5.3. Facilitate networking and joint actions in response to the common needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Actions:

- Support and promote National Youth Councils and youth work development in the three regions
- Advocate state and other stakeholders to recognise and partner NYCs and national structures in the field of youth
- Support the development of adequate legal frameworks that allow for inclusive coordination structures
- Identify needs and lobby for training opportunities for YNGO development in these regions
- Facilitate MOs YWD networking in these regions

Activity:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day, with a regional focus, on developing capacity and ensuring continuity in youth work

- 5.4. Lobby for support mechanisms responding to the specific needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Actions:

- Advocate institutional partners to prioritise youth on the political agenda, especially in bilateral and regional policy approaches
- Lobby for the increase in the role of YFJ MOs and other YNGOs in the framework of intergovernmental regional cooperation processes
- Lobby for the establishment of fostering mechanisms, and legal and financial provisions, as well as widening spaces for YNGO exchange in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and other relevant programmes or instruments, primarily in EEC and SEE
- Participate as a key stakeholder in youth policy initiatives
- Develop coordination with other civil society actors working to strengthen NGOs in CEEC and SEE
- Strengthen coherence in the involvement of YFJ institutional partners in CEEC and SEE

Aim:

6. Strong regional and global youth co-ordination structures, initiatives and partnerships as fundamental for global cooperation

Objectives:

6.1. Promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation

Actions:

- Lobby the EU and support Member Organisations lobby work with their own governments for the full implementation of the World Programme for Action for Youth (WPAY), the Millennium Development Goals, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the plan of implementation adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Develop and share methods and information for the member organisations to work actively towards the implementation of MDG's
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners working in the field of democracy building and sustainable development.
- Support coordination among Member Organisations and partners promoting the implementation of the WPAY
- Establish a Working Unit on Global Affairs for Development and Cooperation, aimed at contributing to the global work of the European Youth Forum and making it more relevant for MOs
- Actively explore the possibilities for engagement in global cooperation initiatives together with our global partners, such as the World Youth Festival and other events with a genuine global outreach especially those promoting democracy and human rights

Activities:

- Organise training and networking day to exchange experiences on how youth organisations can work on Sustainable Development both through advocacy work and awareness raising
- Actively contribute to the University on Youth and Development partnership development, joint programme, and educational, training and networking dimensions.

6.2. Contribute to strengthening the role, institutional recognition and the development of democratic structures within other regional platforms, through the Global Co-operation Co-ordination Committee (GCCC) and International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)

Actions:

- Support, through the 1% Solidarity Fund, concrete development and solidarity projects
- Contribute to the development of ICMYO
- Support the development of regional platforms as partners in global processes
- Facilitate the involvement of MOs, as well as their regional partners, in the development and activities of regional youth platforms
- Facilitate information flow and support relations between MOs, the members of regional platforms, and ICMYO

Activities:

- Contribute to the organisation of an ICMYO meeting in the 2007-2008 period
- Convene annual meetings of the GCCC, linked to the ICMYO annual meetings, and maintain an ongoing dialogue within the GCCC

6.3. Participate in partnerships for the full realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth

Action:

- Cooperate with the Global Call for Action Against Poverty, the Millennium Campaign, *Concord* and other civil society actors working on development policy, environmental sustainability, the MDGs, and the WPAY

Activity:

- Organise a training for MOs on the Millennium Development Goals and WPAY

6.4. Sustain and facilitate political co-operation processes at the regional and sub-regional levels, with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels

The YFJ will consider Africa and the Euro-med as priority regions for cooperation in 2007-08.

Activities:

Europe:

- follow the work of governmental and non-governmental initiatives (i.e. Central European Initiative, GUAM, etc) and advocate for the better inclusion of youth on their agenda

Africa:

- Support the development of African youth organisations and promote dialogue between European and African youth organisations
- Engage and cooperate with the ICMYO members and YFJ MOs active in the region
- Further develop partnerships with African regional youth platforms
- Follow-up the engagement of the African regional youth platforms with the African Union in order to strengthen youth work on the continent
- Engage in the possible organisation of a Euro-African Youth Summit
- Develop a policy paper on the European policy of development co-operation in Africa
- Advocate for more respect for the needs of young people in the ACP-policy of the EU

Latin-America:

- Continue the organisation of the Euro-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT), together with FLAJ
- Support the physical extension of the FEULAT process to the Latin-American region
- Contribute, together with FLAJ, to the University on Youth and Citizenship and Participation
- Support dialogue with relevant institutions in the region, such as the OIJ and OEA, in order to provide input into Euro-Latin American youth cooperation processes

- Engage, together with FLAJ, in the Associative Platforms Gathering and similar events, organised by the OIJ and its Member States

Asia:

- Engage in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Youth Forum and the Asia-Europe Foundation
- Engage in the implementation and promotion of the Tianjin Declaration
- Actively participate in the revitalization of the Asia-Europe Youth Forum
- Follow-up the Asia-Europe Meeting and provide input to the process in coordination with our regional and global partners
- Support the interaction of regional Asian youth platforms with ASEF and other relevant international institutions
- Actively contribute to the organisation of the young political leaders' summit and ASEF events with a relevant Euro-Asian youth dimension

Euro-Med and Middle-East:

- Monitor and contribute to the implementation of the new phase of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Programme
- Support the development of a strategy on youth policies in the Mediterranean region, based on the outcomes of the Euro-Med Seminar on Youth Policies and Youth Participation
- Support, together with MOs, the development of youth coordination structures in the region, based on the principles for global cooperation
- Follow-up the results of the Steering Group and continue work on the Middle-East Youth Initiative, in order to develop strategies to support youth work and a culture of peace in the MEDA region
- Engage, together with the relevant actors working in the Euro-Med context, in the promotion of dialogue initiatives
- Participate in the Steering Committee of the Euro-Med Youth platform, in order to promote the development of truly representative youth structures and networks in the region
- Foment and promote the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum for youth organisations from both regions
- Promote the creation of the Euro Mediterranean Youth Forum and assure the active involvement of YFJ MOs
- To continuously engage in building partnerships with youth organisations in the region
- To promote the consolidation of national youth structures in the region

Aim:

7. To facilitate greater youth mobility

Objectives:

- 7.1. An end to visa requirements for young people participating in youth activities within CoE member states

Actions:

- Lobby for the development of a EU-CoE common agenda on mobility
- Continue implementing the GET VISABLE campaign, highlighting the necessity to remove obstacles to youth mobility within visa procedures

Activities:

- Organise an Information and Networking Day on the removal of visa obstacles
- 7.2. The development of a globally recognised visa for young people participating in all mobility exercises in Europe, such as youth exchange programmes, internships, seminars, trainings and conferences

Action:

- Raise debate at the European level on the visa problems facing young people
- Advocate for the recognition of youth work in EU visa policy, especially in the Community Code on Visas and different visa agreements between the EU and non-EU states, and support MOs in their work in this regard
- Advocate for a Volunteer visa status, that facilitates mobility
- Lobby the UN system and its member states to facilitate and support the development of a youth work visa
- Inform the European public about human rights violations in connection with visa applications
- Target embassies, and in partnership, develop programs to improve visa procedures
- Advocate to end human rights violations and allow for visa application procedures which respect individual dignity

7.3 Recognition of the benefits of youth mobility and of periods spent abroad in the wider European area, with regards to personal development, civil society development and educational development

Actions:

- Advocate obstacle free youth mobility to the wider public and EU decision makers
- Lobby for decreasing the costs of visas for young people involved in youth work

7.4. Support the development of quality mobility programmes for all groups of young people

Actions:

- Advocate and monitor the development and implementation of Individual Pupil Mobility Scheme under the new Life Long Learning programme (Comenius sub programme)

Aim:

8. To support youth organisations to empower and address the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged young people

Objectives:

8.1. Development and consolidation of tools to assist MOs in effectively increasing outreach work

Actions:

- Ensure the full internal implementation of a Code of Conduct on inclusive youth organisations

8.2. Encourage the activities of organisations representing marginalised and disadvantaged youth

Actions:

- Monitor the work done by YFJ MOs working for and with young people with fewer opportunities
- Develop relevant partnerships with other civil society organisations working for and with marginalised and disadvantaged people, in order to strengthen and support the work of MOs
- Advocate for the integration of a strong youth dimension in the social inclusion policies of institutional and civil society partners

PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICY MAINSTREAMING

Aim:

1. To promote cross-sectoral youth policy

Objectives:

- 1.1. Strive for a cross-sectoral, cross-institutional and multi level approach to youth policy

Actions:

- Advocate the mainstreaming of youth issues within institutional partners as well as within public authorities at all levels
- Encourage Member Organisations to use different tools and processes in order to strengthen youth policy, at all levels
- Facilitate the development of participatory structures, allowing youth organisations and young people to be actively involved on policies affecting them
- Lobby for the recognition of the role of youth organisations in development cooperation and advocate for more support for their activities
- Review how national and EU development cooperation targets and includes youth
- Advocate for the development and implementation of measurable National Youth Policy indicators
- Use the WPAY as a framework to develop national youth policies
- Follow the development of the UN Youth Development Indicators and promote them in Europe

Activities:

- A seminar on the implementation of youth mainstreaming at all levels
- Produce a report on how young people are integrated in development cooperation and policies

- 1.2. The continuous development, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy in Europe

Actions:

- Evaluate and influence the implementation of the Common Objectives at all levels and support MOs in their activities related to EU cooperation in the youth field
- Develop partnerships with organisations of local and regional authorities to strengthen implementation of European youth policy frameworks at local and regional level
- Advocate and lobby for the full implementation of the commitments arising from the Open Method of Coordination in the youth field and the EU White Paper process
- Use the European Youth Pact as a basis for youth mainstreaming and an important tool in the development of youth policy
- Contribute to and advocate for the development of a framework Convention on youth policy within the Council of Europe and contribute to other CoE youth policy related relevant processes
- Promote and monitor the World Programme for Action for Youth as a useful tool to develop youth policy at the national level

Activities:

- Organise activities, e.g. Information and Networking Days, for Member Organisations, on relevant topics on youth policy development

- 1.3. Develop and enhance partnerships with other civil society actors

Actions:

- Build up and reinforce YFJ contributions to European Platforms such as the Social Platform and the Civil Society Contact Group in order to promote mainstreaming of youth issues in their policies
- Seek for strategic partnerships with the European Youth Card Association, the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency, the European Youth Researchers Networks, and the European Centre on Volunteering

1.4. Provide policy responses to the needs of youth, which lead to their greater autonomy

Actions:

- Defining the transition periods which characterise youth, namely the transition between childhood and youth and youth and adulthood in order to better define what is understood by youth
- Develop a YFJ approach to child policy, ensuring greater coherence in the framework of policies on youth
- Propose a YFJ approach on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the emerging Convention on the Rights of Youth in order to ensure its implementation

Aim:

2. To promote participation and active citizenship

Objectives:

2.1. Promote and advocate for 'a culture of youth participation' in Europe

Actions:

- Promote the use of different existing tools and processes, such as the CoE Charter on Youth Participation in local and regional life, and the EU Common Objectives in the field of youth participation, by decision-makers as part of our work to promote and enhance youth participation
- Promote the participation of young people to our institutional partners
- Support the capacity and institutional recognition of YFJ regional and global partners

Activities:

- Organise follow up to the participation seminar *Participation works!!!* enhancing the opportunities to strengthen different aspects of youth participation

2.2. Ensure the availability of and access to Youth Information enabling greater youth participation

2.3. Work with relevant partners for the realisation of the active participation of young people

Actions:

- Initiate strong collaboration with the EU Committee of the Regions and the Congress of local and regional authorities, as well as organisations of local and regional authorities, in order to establish the full and active participation of young people at the local and regional levels, and to improve youth policy at these levels
- Encourage and support Member Organisations to initiate similar partnerships at the local and regional levels

2.4. Advocate for greater youth participation in formal decision-making

Actions:

- Lobby on lowering the electoral age to 16 as a key element in the active participation of young people

- Lobby for structured dialogue with the EU as a participative tool and as a means to implement youth mainstreaming
- Build up partnerships at the regional and local levels to develop participative structures for young people
- Offer training on lobbying and influencing decision-making processes in youth related policy fields
- Lobby for a European wide campaign encouraging young people to participate in the 2009 European Parliament Elections, with a specific focus on lowering the electoral age to 16
- Promote good governance in the management of formal education institutions

Activities:

- Provide information, support and facilitate Member Organisations in their efforts to lobby for the lowering of the electoral age to 16
- Provide opportunities for MOs to exchange expertise on participation issues

2.5. Advocate for co-management structures

Actions:

- In the framework of the development of national youth policy, support National Youth Councils which want to set up co-management structures at the national and/or local level
- Ensure the co-management system within Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe reflects the core principle of representativity
- Promote co-management at all levels of governance of the EU-CoE Partnership
- Gather and share knowledge about co-management structures, in the perspective of the better participation of young people
- Make available to Member Organisations examples of good practice on the establishment of co-management systems

2.6. Develop lobby strategies and co-ordinate actions of MO's for lowering of the electoral age to 16

Actions:

- Lobby for the development of Europe wide research on lowering the voting age
- Promote lowering the electoral age in all contributions to youth and participation policies of institutional partners
- Facilitate co-operation of MO's that will examine the possibilities of working with lowering the electoral to 16

Activities:

- Prepare and co-ordinate a visibility-media action on lowering the electoral age

Aim:

3. To be the leading voice of young people in debates on the Future of Europe

Objectives:

3.1. Communicate the Future of Europe debate to young people

Actions:

- Monitor debates on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution and provide regular information for Member Organisations
- Stimulate and facilitate debate on the Future of Europe and the EU Constitution amongst Member Organisations

- Follow up the results of the European Youth Convention, while initiating discussion on the Future of Europe on the European and national level
- Provide a virtual space for MOs and other young people to exchange views on the Future of Europe

Activities:

- Engage in the possible realisation of European Youth Convention follow up events
- Facilitate the co-operation of Member Organisations actively engaging in the debate on the Future of Europe, as a follow up to the work done by the contact group established for the European Youth Convention
- Engage in activities related to the celebrations of the Treaty of Rome anniversary

3.2. Facilitate debate on European integration among young people

Actions:

- Develop a YFJ position and contribute to the debate on the Future of Europe, based on a broad consultation of Member Organisations and ensure the active participation of youth organisations in the debate at EU and Member State level
- Develop a YFJ position highlighting the youth vision on the future of the European Social Model with the extensive involvement of the MOs

3.3. Promote a Europe without dividing lines and with equal opportunities for all young people

Action:

- Promote greater partnership between different international institutions (i.e. follow up to the Juncker report)

Aim:

4. Promote volunteering

Objectives:

4.1. The adoption and implementation of policies and measures to support, promote and facilitate volunteering by young people as part of Life Long Learning

Actions:

- Initiate a process to compile information on the status of volunteering/volunteers
- Engage a dialogue at the European level with other NGOs/platforms working on the recognition of and status for volunteers
- Promote special contribution to society and the development of young people , of volunteering in a participatory organisation

Activities:

- Advocate and contribute to the development of a European campaign to promote volunteering
- Contribute to the work of the informal inter-group on volunteering within the European Parliament
- Develop a contribution to the adoption and implementation of the European Quality Charter for Mobility

4.2. Advocate for the recognition and valuing of the benefits of volunteering, both to the individual and to society, as well as of the skills, competences and attitudes gained through volunteering

Actions:

- Promote the value of youth volunteering
- Raise the profile of volunteering towards institutions and the private sector
- Promote the non-formal educational dimension of volunteering

- Promote the recognition of the personal and societal benefits of volunteering

HUMAN RIGHTS

Aim:

1. To promote greater equality, gender equality and tackle discrimination

Objectives:

- 1.1. To promote the development of diversity plans by public authorities and public administrations

Actions:

- In the framework of the *All different, All equal* campaign, advocate for the development and full implementation of diversity plans in close collaboration with civil society - including youth organisations. Diversity plans should allow an equal representation of all groups present in society within all public bodies

- 1.2. Develop YFJ responses to address multiple-discrimination

Actions:

- In 2007, develop a Position Paper on 'multiple discrimination as it affects young people'
- Facilitate and coordinate the participation of the YFJ and its Member Organisations in the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All
- Advocate for the inclusion of multiple discrimination in the 2007 European year of Equal Opportunities for All and the Council of Europe Campaign *All different - All equal*
- Develop a policy paper on the effects of migration on young people

Activities:

- Organise a seminar on multiple discrimination in 2007
- Convene an Expert Group on Migration

- 1.3. Advocate for more gender sensitive youth policies aiming at equal opportunities and to support MO's in their work developing programmes and activities that are more gender sensitive

Actions:

- Lobby the European Union for the full implementation of the EU roadmap for gender equality 2006-2010
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the European Pact for Gender Equality and promote concrete actions
- Monitor and contribute to the UN Beijing Platform for Action on gender equality
- Establish a working group on gender that will:
 - a) develop guidelines for how the YFJ should internally ensure gender equality in all fields and levels;
 - b) develop a policy paper on gender;
 - c) ensure and control that the YFJ includes gender aspects in all policies and implements methods ensuring gender equality
- Disseminate briefings on non-discriminatory language use in English and French
- Engage in the CoE campaign to combat violence against women
- Regard gender equality as a mainstream issue whose aspects are included into every activity and policy of the YFJ

- 1.4. A Europe valuing the abilities of the individual and celebrating diversity

Actions:

- Take a full role in the Council of Europe Campaign *All different-All equal* and the European Union Campaign *For diversity - against discrimination*
- Monitor European Institution developments when working on issues related to young refugees and asylum-seekers
- Follow up the joint declaration with the European Disability Forum and work with AGE on intergenerational dialogue
- Compile a report on 'Young People and Racism Today'
- Develop an YFJ Action Plan on equality

Aim:

1.5. To increase participation of marginalised and disadvantaged young people in EU programmes

Action:

- Provide the MOs with information about EU programmes that are accessible for YNGOs such as the progress programme, the research framework programme, the European Social Funds and the Integrated Life Long learning Programme

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1. More and better employment for young people

Objectives:

1.1. An increase in employment opportunities and decent working conditions for all

Actions:

- Lobby for the full implementation of the ILO concept of "decent work" and the revised European Social Charter
- Lobby and follow up the materialisation of the National Reform Programmes for the implementation of the European Youth Pact
- Engage in actions aimed at the reduction of youth unemployment and against the prevalence of precarious work, particularly the lobby of the EU institutions especially DG Employment
- Contribute to UN initiatives related to youth employment such as the Youth Employment Network and the Alliance of Civilisations
- Lobby for a more favourable legislation for those in precarious working conditions.
- Develop a Policy Paper on youth employment

Activities:

- Convene a Working Group on youth employment who will organise a symposium on youth employment as a visibility event to lobby EU institutions and Member States
- Develop and publish a periodical checklist on the implementation of National Reform Programmes and the European Youth Pact

1.2. Advocate for more favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and self-employment

Actions:

- Lobby for the promotion of funding resources at the European and national level to assure adequate standards for self-employment.
- Establish contacts with young employers' organisations at the European level
- Examine the obstacles/problems that young entrepreneurs and young people who want to employ themselves face.
- Advocate for simplification of legal frameworks for entrepreneurial activities of young people, while ensuring equal access to social security

- 1.3. Guide the emergence of a climate where the competences of young people are recognised and valued

Actions:

- Lobby for the full implementation of the EU 'Employment Equality' directive and fight against all forms of discrimination borne by young people in the labour market, notably age discrimination
- Promote the recognition by the labour market, of the competences acquired through NFE systems and related activities, and other previously acquired learning outcomes

- 1.4. Ensure that Youth NGOs are recognised as partners in the dialogue between civil society and governmental actors at a local and national level and the YFJ is recognised at a European level

Actions:

- Promote the active participation of youth NGOs in different spaces and arenas for social partnership

Aim:

2. To increase the health, safety and well being of young people

Objectives:

- 2.1. Promote healthy lifestyles through non-formal education and within policies affecting the lives of young people (i.e. drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, sexual health, mental illness, HIV/AIDS)

Actions:

- Highlight the World Program of Action for Youth and the importance of involving youth organisations when working on healthier lifestyles and HIV/AIDS, drugs and other health-related issues
- Promote youth organisations as key partners in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Linked to the work done on social inclusion, continue the partnership with *Eurocare* to promote a youth response to alcohol-related harm

Activity:

- Organise a seminar on the role of youth NGOs in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic

- 2.2. Advocate for a better work/life balance and the eradication of poverty as key factors in improved mental and physical health

Actions:

- Support initiatives by MOs and other relevant actors to address health, mental illness, and lifestyle issues
- Develop a policy paper on the health and well-being of young people
- Explore the impact of the social environment on the health situation of young people

Activity:

- Linked to the work on social inclusion, organise a Networking day on best practice when working on the health and well being of young people, that will also feed into the policy paper on the topic

- 2.3. Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the determination and implementation of health policies affecting young people

Actions:

- Promote the greater access of young people to high quality health systems

- Promote the participation of youth NGOs in the development of health policies

2.4. Promote sustainable development

Action:

- Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

Aim:

3. To promote Youth Autonomy

Objectives:

- 3.1. Promote policies that respond to demographic changes while encouraging greater youth autonomy

Actions:

- Closely monitor and take positions on the ongoing work of the European Union concerning demographic change issues as well as the future of the European Social Model
- Advocate for a proper follow-up of the Youth Autonomy chapter of the EU White Paper on Youth and promote a reinforced follow-up process
- Develop links between policy responses to demographic changes, policies promoting sustainable development, and young peoples' priorities for youth autonomy

- 3.2. Advocate for housing, transport and infrastructure that respond to the real needs of young people

Actions:

- Promote greater use of the concept of youth autonomy in other processes such as the European Youth Pact and the OMC on Social Inclusion and Social Protection
- Youth autonomy being the responsibility of local and national policy makers above all, allow MOs to exchange experiences and best practice on youth autonomy
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practice on youth autonomy issues between MOs

Activities:

- Organise Information and Networking Days on policies and best practice for youth autonomy

Aim

4. Environmental Protection

Objective:

- Promote policies that put an end to the destruction of environment and to climate change

Actions:

- Lobby the European Union to develop environmental policies, try to be an active actor in environmental debates
- Support initiatives from Member organisations and other relevant actions dealing with environment and climate change
- Incorporate environment mainstreaming in all aspects of the work of the YFJ
- Promote the role of youth in sustainable development.

TOOLS

1. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

European Union (EU)

- Follow up to the White Paper on youth policy of the European Union, while aiming to further consolidate the efforts of the EU to ensure greater progress and co-ordination of youth policy matters

Actions:

- Monitor, progress and influence the OMC in the youth field
- Advocate for the European Commission and the Member States to begin to implement the horizontal aspects pillar of the 2002 Council Resolution, as well as of the youth autonomy chapter of the White Paper on Youth
- Establishing a continuous structured dialogue between the European Youth Forum and the EU

Actions:

- Ensure, support and coordinate a system of structured dialogue between youth organisations and public authorities at the European, national and local level
- Strengthening the European Youth Forum's engagement with the EU institutions

Actions:

- Strengthen YFJ advocacy capacity and presence *vis-à-vis* EU institutions
- Consolidate the position of the YFJ as the main interlocutor of the EU Institutions in the Youth field and ensure recognition of the YFJ as *the* representative stakeholder and key interlocutor on all EU policies affecting youth
- Maintain regular contact with relevant institutions and bodies of the EU, primarily the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- Maintain regular contact with the consecutive EU Presidencies, in close cooperation with the Member NYCs in the countries holding the Presidency
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the EU institutions and EU member states, improving their capacity to contribute to EU policy processes and programmes
- Ensuring the European Youth Forum's involvement in the main EU policy processes affecting youth, including the Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact and any subsequent initiatives

Actions:

- Ensure that a broadened Treaty Basis for EU action in the field of youth, as formulated in the draft EU Constitution, is retained in any future changes to the Treaty Establishing the European Community
- In the framework of the Lisbon Strategy, monitor the follow-up of the Strategy and continue advocacy work for the consistent follow-up of the European Youth Pact that includes concrete measures to reach the Pact's objectives, with clear reporting on progress
- Making use of the framework provided by the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, prepare dialogues between youth organisations and governments to provide input on sustainable development issues of interest for young people, in cooperation with the EU Presidencies
- Follow-up the implications of the Bologna Process for youth organisations

Activities:

- Organise annual hearings on youth issues at the European Parliament
 - Support the establishment of a youth affairs inter-group in the European Parliament for the legislative period 2009 - 2013
 - Organise activities on a regular basis to raise the overall visibility of the YFJ in EU institutions
- Monitoring and contributing to bilateral agreements between the EU and Third Countries, which cover the youth field
 - Ensuring the necessary support for the implementation of the Youth in Action programme and other programmes relevant to youth

Actions:

- Contribute to the work of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in designing the call for proposals
 - Follow the revision of the Youth in Action Programme Guide
 - Ensure regular contact with the National Agencies
 - Advocate for the participation of National Youth Councils in the National Agency management board and in particular, in the committee selecting the projects
 - Ensure the participation of the YFJ in the programme committee
 - regularly update Member Organisations on the evolution of the Youth in Action programme
 - Follow-up the development and implementation of the *Youthpass*
 - Monitor and influence the implementation of the individual pupil mobility scheme under the new Lifelong learning programme.
- Promoting youth mainstreaming within EU institutions and policies

Actions:

- Develop relationships with relevant services of the European Commission, Committees of the European Parliament and EU Council compositions to promote the mainstreaming of youth issues in EU policies
 - Define an agenda for the structured dialogue between youth organisations and the EU, which encompasses all policy fields affecting youth
- Monitor and influence EU legislation and policies affecting youth activities and the work of youth NGOs

Council of Europe (CoE)

- Continuously supporting the co-management system and the structures of the Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sports

Actions:

- Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the Directorate of Youth and Sports (DYS)
- Promote the European Youth Foundation as a key instrument to support the development and sustainability of YNGOS
- Promote the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the Member States on the role of NYCs in youth policy development
- Promote existing instruments of the Council of Europe on youth participation and youth policy
- Promote Council of Europe policies and manuals on Human Rights Education
- Promote the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation

Activities:

- In cooperation with the DYS of the Council of Europe, organise a Youth Event parallel to the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, to be held in Ukraine in 2008
 - Compile a report on alternative ways and sources to increase the funds of the European Youth Foundation
- Actively contributing to the development, monitoring and evaluation of priorities, programmes and policies of the DYS and promote existing CoE tools, programmes and methodologies relevant for youth work and youth policy

Actions:

- Participate in the meeting of experts in the youth field
- Participate in meetings aimed at preparing key seminars, training courses and other events of the Directorate of Youth and Sport
- Contribute to the follow up of the *Europe youth and globalization* event

Activities:

- In the framework of the European Youth Campaign *All Different - All Equal*, organise a closing Round Table involving Member Organisations that were active in the Campaign, to celebrate, evaluate and plan the follow-up to the Campaign
 - In the framework of the European Youth Campaign *All Different - All Equal*, develop and publish a YFJ report on the Campaign;
 - Evaluate the last two DYS triennial programmes and develop proposals for the 2009-2011 programme
- Sustaining good and structured co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe

Actions:

- Organise annual coordination meetings with the DYS Secretariat, on the fields of training, research, publications, field activities and the work of the European Youth Foundation
 - Cooperate with the Directorate of Education and Culture, in particular in the field of Citizenship through Education;
 - Follow-up the work of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sports, Youth and the Environment
 - Promote the development of a Council of Europe youth strategy on sustainable development
 - Organise an annual meeting with representatives of the PACE Sub-Committee on Youth and Sports and of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)
- Supporting the greater implementation of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life

Actions:

- Strengthen cooperation with the CLRAE
 - Support the organisation of trainings with local authority representatives at national level through the NYCs
- Contributing to the development of the youth programmes of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC)

Action:

- Participate in meetings of the statutory bodies of the North South Centre and support youth programme development and the mainstreaming of youth in NSC programmes and activities

European Union and Council of Europe Partnership

- Actively participating in the definition, development and evaluation of the Partnership projects and activities

Actions:

- Produce a yearly contribution from the European Youth Forum to the Partnership activities and contribute to the working units and governing structure of the Partnership
- Advocate for better governance and greater transparency within the Partnership Management
- Disseminate information from the Partnership to YFJ MOs and ensure their involvement in Partnership activities

Activities:

- Ensure the regular participation of YFJ representatives in all Covenant meetings
 - Promote European Youth Forum policies in the European Knowledge Centre database
- Supporting innovative initiatives, notably on European Citizenship - ensuring the impact and necessary outreach to Youth Organisations

Actions:

- Advocate and contribute to a curriculum of European Citizenship Education reaching out to as many youth organisations as possible
 - Support innovative initiatives, notably in the field of European Citizenship Education
- Aiming to further enhance synergies between the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy and youth work development.

Actions:

- Advocate for the strengthening of the youth policy aspects shared by the European Union and the Council of Europe, such as participation, the autonomy of young people, and education
- Lobby for the creation of a 'Youth policy' pillar in the Covenant to develop a common approach on youth policy, taking into account the actors of youth policy: young people, youth researchers, decision-makers and, where relevant, social partners

United Nations (UN) System

- Contributing to the achievement of the MDGs and promoting global partnership to combat poverty
- Encouraging greater implementation of the WPAY and further exploring its links to the realisation of the MDGs
- Facilitating and coordinating the representation of youth organisations at the UNGA and other relevant events
- Contributing to UN and UN Agencies' (ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank) initiatives involving youth and advocating for greater co-ordination among those UN agencies dealing with youth issues
- Advocating for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Actions:

- Maintain regular contact with the relevant institutions and bodies of the UN system
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the UN agencies, improving their capacity to contribute to UN policy processes and programmes

- Advocate for the implementation of the WPAY and the MDG's by EU and COE Member States
- Advocate for better coordination on youth issues by UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Promote the GCCC and the ICMYO to UN member states and UN agencies, funds and programmes
- Advocate for the Western Sahara cause based in the resolutions previously approved by the YFJ

Activities:

- Organise annual coordination meetings between the YFJ and European youth representatives to the UN
- Attend the meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Attend the UNGA and, if appropriate, organise side events on topics relating to the WPAY

External Communication and partnerships

The European Youth Forum will increase the outreach and visibility of youth organisations and youth work by adapting its external communication tools and elaborating new ones to reach out to a greater number of stakeholders and young people. It will also build alliances with other NGO platforms that will contribute to achieving the YFJ's strategic aims and objectives.

Actions:

- Create and update annually the YFJ Communication Strategy based on the Strategic Priorities and Work Plan
- Elaborate on establishing communication services that would be more attractive to young people in general and other stakeholders
- Create a Partnerships System with other NGOs and civil society organisations, research institutes, and actors in the field of youth
- Develop a set of aims for each specific document type in order to define them - position papers, resolutions, declarations, etc.
- Manage and develop work with European media to ensure a clear YFJ image in the eyes of the institutions and other partners, and to communicate YFJ messages efficiently
- Continue production of the *e-Youth Opinion* newsletter every two months
- Publish the *Youth Opinion* magazine twice a year
- Publish the Annual Report
- Maintain and upgrade the European Youth Forum website
- Collaborate with the Youth Portal of the European Commission: monitor its discussion forum and have an advisory role on its Steering Committee
- Attend and organise PR events with stakeholders
- Engage in campaigns that affect young people

Activity:

- Organise an annual Open Doors day

2. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is a knowledge-based organisation which will continue to ground its competences in the field of youth policy development on existing data and policy evidence gathered through the engagement and diversity of its members.

The development of research should be based on direct correspondence with the organisation's priorities and should be of the highest quality, thus enhancing the credibility of the YFJ and emphasising its role as a credible partner in youth policy and youth work development in Europe and beyond.

- Gather and systematise information from the membership on the issues that need to be addressed through specific policy
- Strengthen existing tools for the monitoring of youth policy
- Establish permanent procedures for the monitoring of youth policy development in European countries
- Ensure that YFJ publications and external communication are organised so as to reflect existing knowledge within the platform
- Actively participate in relevant research networks and promote the implementation of such networks at the national level in cooperation with NYCs
- Support and contribute to the development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The European Youth Forum is an organisation that continues to grow and learn, and as it enters its adolescence, some structural enhancements are needed. Organisational structures and communication channels have to be permanently adapted so as to best support the work of the membership. The knowledge developed, information gained and results achieved through the organisation's lobby and advocacy work, have to be accessible to MOs and to the current and on-going working structures of the Forum - with the aim to smoothen knowledge exchange and management.

The European Youth Forum has already developed a set of valuable tools for communication with its MOs. All represent a huge potential for information flow within and to the Member Organisations. The international and complex dimension of the European Youth Forum demands highly effective and transparent communication within its structure. Member Organisations should furthermore be provided with clear and sustainable channels through which they can provide input to the different policy positions of the organisation, ensuring greater consultation and accountability.

Diversified funds for the daily work of the European Youth Forum are essential for independent and unbiased work. Therefore it is fundamental to strive for the diversification of the Forum's income using a clear strategy, guided by ethical and environmentally sustainable considerations.

Actions:

- Set up a YFJ alumni database
- Create a well-structured online archive of Bureau updates and reports, briefing notes for policy areas or explaining the context of policy documents
- Keep the Internal Communication Plan up to date, based on the annual communication survey, and adapt it to the needs of the MOs and working structures
- Set up a content management system to enable MOs to update independently their contact details and organisational information on the YFJ website
- Elaborate options to create spaces for the interaction of MOs' members that would take place outside the formal agenda of the YFJ (Festival, Summer Camp, Summer University etc.)
- Continue issuing the weekly European Youth Forum *Courier*, communicating all current YFJ information for MOs
- Maintain and update the intranet
- Have an analytical reflection on the landscape of youth organisations in Europe, while further promoting our values of democratic representation, membership-based organisations, and outreach to as many young people as possible
- Organise an assessment of the capacity of the YFJ to respond to and work in the best interests of MOs, as the membership continues to grow
- Develop a clear strategic guideline on how the membership of the YFJ can be developed in the future
- Develop a clear and transparent process for deciding and selecting the location of YFJ events, meetings and activities. This would include all statutory meetings such

as GAs, COMEMs, Bureau meetings and others such as EUACOM, COEACOM, training courses and seminars.

- Develop clear aims, objectives, responsibilities and working methods for all permanent and non-permanent YFJ working structures, in easy and straightforward language and make them accessible to all MO's via the YFJ intranet
- Organise a strategic assessment of the size of the working structures of the YFJ and envisage smaller and more flexible structures allowing Member Organisations to nominate experts in the different working fields
- Assess the need for policy development seminars based on the work priorities
- Renew the Pool of Trainers, and initiate a partial annual refreshment to engage new trainers
- Ensure the development of the Pool of Trainers, and facilitate its use by MOs
- Develop a clear concept and define distinct target groups for the Information and Networking Days
- To raise awareness on the mobility obstacles that young people face, as well as on the promotion of a visa for young people in all relevant activities of the YFJ

Activities:

- Hold a Press and Communications Meeting gathering those responsible for press relations within MOs, to enable the creation of a network for cooperation and the exchange of relevant information and best practice