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intro

Bold steps for youth participation in Europe

Words by Tine Radinja - President

Youth work, Youth participation and Youth Policy in Europe in 2010 made courageous steps forward: we have a functioning Structured Dialogue, a European Parliament Intergroup on Youth and new National Youth Councils.

This was possible thanks to the strong commitment of the Platform and of our partners, always bringing youth issues to the spotlight of decision makers, drafting better solutions and campaigning for youthful decisions. As result of such developments, the next step is to make these policy tools effective to change young people's lives for

the better.

What was done by the European Youth Forum was achieved thanks to the profound motivation of volunteers, the unrivalled professionalism of the Secretariat and, first and foremost, thanks to the contributions, ideas and energy of the Members.

As result of the lobby action relating to the

new EU Youth Strategy in 2009, the Forum took the lead of the European Steering Group of the Structured Dialogue, and shaped the EU Presidency Youth Conferences.

Moreover, 2010 definitely marked the mainstreaming of youth issues at a higher level, in a way which was never heard of before. With the launch of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Youth Forum raised its voice to ensure a central role for young people in this important process. We made sure that youth-related policies will continue to be fully integrated in the Policy of the Union, and that youth organisations will have the instruments in place to strengthen their role.

The European Youth Forum contributed, in particular, to the flagship initiative “Youth on the Move”. It shaped the proposal to ensure its coherence, and called upon the institutions to build upon the existing successful schemes on mobility, on support to youth organisations and on education. While the initiative tries to address the reform of higher education, of the mobility of young people and of the general socio-economic situation of youth, it does not offer solutions for all young people within its remit. It does not give a deserved attention to youth participation.

In another institutional field, the Forum continued to advocate for the adoption of a European Convention on the Rights of Young People and plunged into the interesting debates around it. After raising awareness on youth rights at the Council of Europe and beyond, we are now certain of where we stand. We now know how to further develop

this process for the benefit of all young people in Europe.

2010 was also the International Year of Youth. 25 years after the previous one. In this context, the Forum continued its commitment to strengthen institutional relations with the United Nations and the coordination of its global work with the UN Programme on Youth. Remarkably, the Youth Forum took an active part in the World Youth Conference in Mexico. It kept its commitment, together with other youth partners, to deliver an efficient and participatory NGOs Forum prior to the Governmental Conference.

Youth work developed this year and so did youth platforms, in Europe and beyond. Building democratic structures means building the civil society that can contribute to a coherent, social and fair environment. The Forum also developed internally. The result of a two year statutory change process shaped our platform to be more inclusive, more representative and to simply function better.

Read and Discover much more in the next pages about the endeavours we undertook in 2010 in striving for the rights of young people at all levels and in responding to the challenges of European and Global youth work and youth policy.

Education

Education is indispensable in supporting young people's active participation in all spheres of society. This, in 2010 the European Youth Forum, together with its Member Organisations, dedicated considerable resources and time to this area. It built the completely new field of Quality Assurance in non-formal education, worked on youth involvement in policy making on vocational education and training, and positioned non-formal education providers at the heart of lifelong learning cooperation.

Quality of Non-Formal Education

The quality of Non-Formal Education (NFE) can be difficult to work on. In 2009 however, the Forum started a pilot project on Quality Assurance, which ran throughout 2010 as well. This project gathered six Member Organisations to test a European scheme that would allow them to further develop the quality of their non-formal education programmes and projects. Equally important, it gives them a framework through which parents, institutions, schools, and others can become more aware of non-formal education and the opportunities it creates for young people. The result is an updated Quality Assurance mechanism that works in practice and that helps youth organisations 'ask the right questions' when running NFE programmes. The second phase will focus on setting a European network of youth organisations that provide Quality Assurance.

Coordinating educational stakeholders

Our society is developing, slowly but surely, into a lifelong learning society. This means that learners need to adapt and learn to steer their own educational pathway. It also means that educational providers are more and more dependent on each other and need to cooperate to ensure that each can build upon the education programmes of other providers. The European Youth Forum believes that youth organisations, as providers of non-formal education, need to strategically place the field in the centre of the lifelong learning discussions by taking the lead in this cooperation. In 2010, the European Youth Forum started an informal group of education stakeholders to work together on the upcoming new Lifelong Learning Programme. This work bore fruit and the Forum was invited to organise two big stakeholder fora for the World Bank and the European Commission.

Vocational Education and Training

The Youth Forum continued the process of building a European educational policy agenda for young people and by young people. In 2010, it tackled a whole new but crucial education field: vocational education and training (VET). The European Youth Forum put forward the view of young people and youth organisations on VET. It identified three core challenges: perception and quality in VET, complementarity of VET and non-formal education, and, lastly, representation and participation in VET. A Policy Paper, as the first step in the discussion on the complementarity of VET and NFE, was soon followed by other steps, in the form of advocacy towards the European Commission and the European Parliament. This ensured that young people and VET learners are represented in the European education policy processes.

Working Group on Education

*9-11 April, Baku, Azerbaijan
16-18 September, Mollina,
Spain*

Bureau members responsible:

Michal Kadera, Luca Scarpello

Secretariat support: **Maarten Coertjens**,
Policy Officer on Education

Micha Poszvek

World Organisation of the Scout Movement /

Pieter-Jan Van de Velde

Flemish Youth Council /

Alenka Blazinsek

Slovenian Youth Council /

George Kipouros

Greek Youth Council /

Anemone Birkebaek

Danish Youth Council /

Jelena Brankovic

Erasmus Student Network /

Hannes Wacker

European Federation for Intercultural learning /

Ketevan Chachava

European Students Union

Youth Work Development

The engagement of the Youth Forum in Youth Work Development is found in the active support of the establishment, consolidation and strengthening of youth structures in Europe, based on the foundations and values of European youth work. Youth NGOs and especially YFJ Member Organisations (MOs) show the example of co-operation and networking, both in Europe and by reaching out to other regions of the world.

Establishing more National Youth Councils in Europe

In 2010, the focus was on several European countries without a National Youth Council, particularly in South East Europe. The Forum organised Networking Days in Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia and Poland. It encouraged youth NGOs, but also governmental institutions and other stakeholders, to work together on the establishment of NYCs. Capacity-building Days were held in Montenegro. The major result of this action was the establishment of the National Youth Council of Bulgaria (NFM) in November. Moreover, Serbia (KOMs) and Poland (PROM) have progressed towards the establishment of their

Council, which is expected shortly in 2011. The Youth Forum also continued to closely monitor the developments in all countries without a NYC.

The EU Youth in Action Programme

The current Youth in Action Programme will end in 2013. The European Youth Forum dedicated 2010 to the development of a youth vision of the succeeding Programme. Through various consultations, a solid position was developed and the European Youth Forum, together with the European Commission, organised two stakeholder meetings to exchange ideas. The European Youth Forum, together with its Member Organisations, started spreading the message that Europe's youth needs a stronger and

better Youth in Action Programme. Moreover, the Forum continued to support its Members that use the Programme. It organised a dedicated Information and Networking Day on Funding, which was open to all International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations that are beneficiaries of the Youth in Action.

Global Youth Work Development

Determined to develop global youth work and strengthen the role of youth organisations in global development and global governance, the European Youth Forum continued working on stronger regional and global youth cooperation. The three “Universities” on Participation and Citizenship in Uruguay and on Youth and Development in Cape Verde and Spain played an important role in 2010.

In parallel, as participant in the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO), the Forum took an active role in the cooperation between International Youth NGOs and Regional Youth Platforms in preparing inputs to the development of global youth policy.

The 1st European Youth Work Convention

The Forum Cooperated with the Belgian EU Presidency and took an active part in the organisation of the “1st European Youth Work Convention”. The Youth Forum contributed also by proposing its vision of youth work. The event took place in July in Ghent and was attended by approximately 400 participants (youth workers, youth organisations, ministries, national agencies and researchers). Its outcome was a final declaration, which emphasised the diversity of practice and differences in understanding “youth work” and its current challenges related to quality, diversity of providers and sustainable support to youth work. The subsequent Resolution on Youth Work of the Council of the EU under the Belgian Presidency invites the European Commission and the Member States to create better conditions and more opportunities for the development, support and implementation of youth work at local, national and European levels.

Inter-regional cooperation: More with Africa and the rest of the world!

The Forum has much to celebrate on the cooperation with other regions of the world. In further strengthening the cooperation with Africa, it continued its commitment to follow up on the Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the implementation of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy. This work culminated in the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit, preceding the 3rd Africa-EU Heads of State and Government Summit.

Progress was made in cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean. The 1st EU-LAC Youth Summit in May, co-organised by the Spanish National Youth Council in the frame of the EU Presidency of Spain, concluded with a declaration that urged governments to take into consideration the importance of recognising youth rights and the valuable contribution of youth organisations to the dialogue between these Regions.

Dialogue with the Arab region continued. The 3rd Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations was followed by the Euro-Arab Youth Conference “Mare Nostrum: Youth, Migration and Development” co-

organised with the Italian Youth Council and the League of the Arab States. Asia was also not forgotten. The 1st EU-China Youth Leader Summit was held in Shanghai in May in preparation of the EU-China Year on Youth 2011.

Membership services and tailored support

Being the Platform that aims to promote youth participation and youth rights in Europe, the Youth Forum contributes to building the capacity and sustainability of its Members through continuous support. 2010 saw the further consolidation of the contact system between the Board and Member Organisations. Building on the experience of the previous year, the Membership Support Week was organised. It included the traditional Info and Networking Day on Funding as well as a Financial Management Training and the Secretary-Generals Networking Meeting. The latter enabled Managers of Youth Organisations to exchange views and to gain new skills for their daily work.

Training

Training is a crucial tool for building strong youth organisations. It helps them to improve their capacity, gain expertise and increase their activities. In 2010, the Pool of Trainers was involved in many different activities. These varied from Networking Days, to EU Youth Presidency events, to the activities of Member Organisations. The booklet “How to Build Your Pool of Trainers” was published. Moreover, the European Youth Forum was involved in the Steering Group

of the TALE long-term training for trainers, run in the framework of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, to support the development of trainers in Europe.

Working Group on Youth Work Development

5-7 march, Leskovac, Serbia

10-12 june, Varna, Bulgaria

Board members responsible:

Christoffer Gronstad

Hamlet Ohanyan

Agnija Jansone

Secretariat support:

Daniel Nuijten,

Membership Services

and Training Coordinator

Vania Freitas,

Institutional Coordinator UN

& Global Youth Issues

Drazen Puljic,

Youth Work Development Policy Officer

Guoda Lomanaitė

European Liberal Youth

Javier Santos

Spanish Youth Council

Jose Felipe Sousa

Portuguese Youth Council

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

International Falcon Movement

Anamarija Soco

Croatian Youth Forum

Aygen Bekte

Youth Express Network

Irina Pruidze

Youth Council of Georgia

Stefanie Müller

European Educational Exchanges –

Youth for Understanding

Pool of Trainers

Board Member Responsible:

Agnija Jansone

Secretariat Support:

Daniel Nuijten,

Membership Services and
Training Coordinator

Basak Zeynep Tuzun - Association des Etats
Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe /

Musa Akgul - Association des Etats Généraux
des Etudiants de l'Europe /

Maria Nomikou - Association des Etats
Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe

George Kalmpourtzis - Alliance of European
Voluntary Service Organisations /

Gabriella Civico - Spanish Youth Council /

Andreia Henriques -

Portuguese National Youth Council /

Bruno Antonio -

Portuguese National Youth Council /

Elena Diez-Villagrasa -

National Youth Council of Catalonia /

Marc Cases Martin -

National Youth Council of Catalonia

Radu Cosmin Seuche -

Romanian National Youth Council /

Astrid Weber - German National Youth Council /

Carmen Fischer - Young European Socialists /

Erik Breves - European Educational
Exchanges – Youth for Understanding /

Pernille Christensen - European Educational
Exchanges – Youth for Understanding /

Aygen Bekte - European Educational
Exchanges – Youth for Understanding /

Eva Vítkova - European Federation
for Intercultural Learning /

Florin Feldmann - European Federation for
Intercultural Learning /

Costas Chronopoulos -

National Youth Council of Hellas

Lea Sedlmayr - International Federation of
Catholic Parochial Youth Movements /

Maram Anbar -

International Cultural Youth Exchange /

Daniel Rodriguez Muñoz - International
Federation of Medical Students' Association /

Karolina Tuomisto - International Federation
of Medical Students' Association /

Bruno Selun - International Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Student
Organisation /

Monika Novosadova -

International Young NatureFriends /

Liga Grundsteine -

The Young European Federalists /

Asa Gunven - The Young European Federalists /

Karina Ufert - Lithuanian Youth Council /

Marius Ulozas - Lithuanian Youth Council /

Matej Cepin -

National Youth Council of Slovenia /

Simona Mursec -

National Youth Council of Slovenia /

Ilona Kochoy - National Council of Youth
Organisations of Georgia /

Ekaterina Sherer -

National Youth Council of Russia /

Daniela Gertrud Reiter -

Austrian National Youth Council /

Eija Kauniskingas - Rural Youth Europe /

Grazyna Pulawska - Service Civil International /

Dejan Acanski - Service Civil International /

Nina Arnus - The World Organisation
of the Scout Movement /

Lilit Simonyan -

Youth and Environment Europe /

Marko Paunovic -

Youth for Exchange and Understanding

Participation **and Youth Policy** **Mainstreaming**

The participation of young people and of youth organisations in decision making processes was also pursued as a goal for 2010. Through its advocacy to lower the right to vote to the age of 16 and through fostering a rights-based approach within the Council of Europe, the Youth Forum followed up on previous achievements.

The Forum cooperated actively with the European Parliament Intergroup on youth, and was one of the main actors implementing the structured dialogue on youth on employment with the current Trio presidency of Spain, Belgium and Hungary. Within the Council of Europe (CoE), much progress has been made with regard to youth participation and youth policy mainstreaming. The discussion on a European Convention on the Rights of Young People has continuously gained more recognition. Young people have been represented in a wider range of discussions within different units. These processes allowed stronger participation of youth in policy making, as well as a stronger cross-sectorial approach.

Vote at 16

In 2010, the Forum continued its advocacy to lower the voting age in Europe to 16. Close cooperation with the Member Organisations working on the issue was deepened through the expert group, which followed up on the common advocacy, media and communication strategy. The group shared good practices on national campaigns, achievements and challenges. To address country-specific processes, a fact box on vote at 16 is under preparation. This will include studies, country specific fact sheets and newly established cooperation with researchers and institutions, and will provide a basis for evidence-based policy-making with regard to youth participation and lowering the voting age to 16.

Towards the European Year on Volunteering

Being volunteer-based, volunteer-led and representing millions of young people engaged in voluntary activities, the Platform focused on the preparation of the European Year of Volunteering (EYV) 2011. The European Youth Forum mobilised youth leaders, multipliers and young volunteers all over Europe towards a successful EYV 2011. Furthermore, the Forum has been a strong member of the

EYV 2011 Alliance, representing volunteers in youth organisations in the Steering Group and Executive Group of this informal network of European organisations active in volunteering. Additionally, several representatives of Member Organisations were selected to the Alliance Working Groups, establishing a European Policy Agenda on Volunteering and striving towards the recognition of the rights of volunteers.

Stronger Youth Participation at the EU: Structured dialogue taking off

As foreseen in the framework of EU cooperation in the youth field, 2010 saw the development of a new structured dialogue in the EU. The European Youth Forum took a leading role in this process. It ensured the participation of youth organisations at both national and European level, and worked closely with the Trio Presidency (Spain, Belgium, Hungary), the National Youth Councils and the European Commission. During the first 12 months of an 18-month cycle, national consultations were set up in Member States to address the challenges of youth (un)employment. The results were discussed at European level during two

EU Youth Conferences. This new process allowed youth organisations and institutional stakeholders to jointly identify priorities and recommendations presented to the Council of the EU and to the Commissioners responsible for youth and for employment.

EP Intergroup **on Youth**

After its successful establishment in 2009, cooperation with the Intergroup on Youth was strengthened. The needs for a stronger involvement of the European Parliament in youth policy and for a more cross sectorial approach to youth issues were emphasised. The Youth Forum brought the Europe 2020 Strategy on the Intergroup agenda. It published a joint press release on the Youth on the Move initiative. Ahead of the adoption of the Strategy, it organised an exchange of opinions between Political Party Youth Organisations, Members of the European Parliament and European Commission officials. The European Youth Forum also contributed to the work of the Intergroup on the issues of budget and of mobility in Vocational Education and Training.

Youth **Mainstreaming** **at the Council** **of Europe**

The Directorate of Youth and Sport is the main partner of the Forum within the CoE, together with its Statutory Bodies, which promotes youth participation and co-management. Additionally, in the past year, youth participation and the mainstreaming of youth issues within the CoE have further increased and young people now have the opportunity to voice their opinions in a wider range of issues than ever before. The Youth Forum was granted participatory status in the INGO Conference and increased cooperation with the Directorate General for Human Rights and Legal Affairs. Youth participation in processes related to media, such as the European Dialogue of Internet Governance, the Internet Governance Forum and the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services, has stabilised this year and a core group of Member Organisations ensured youth participation in these processes. Regarding child-friendly health services and shared social responsibilities, the Forum worked with DG Social Cohesion.

European **Convention** **on the Rights** **of Young** **People**

Thanks to the efforts of the Forum, Youth Rights are now on the agenda within several bodies of the CoE. During a round-table,

where the Youth Forum report on the state of youth rights in Europe was launched, the Commissioner on Human Rights together with representatives of the Member States' Permanent Representations to the CoE discussed the gaps in implementation of youth rights. The Youth Forum further cooperated with the Parliamentary Assembly's Rapporteur on a motion on the need for a Convention on youth rights, and gave input to the report. An exchange of views with the Committee on Culture, Science and Education further deepened the inclusion of a youth voice in this process.

A youthful Europe 2020 Strategy

In 2010, the European Youth Forum actively contributed to the process of adoption of the Europe 2020 strategy, with the aim to ensure a strong youth strand in the post-Lisbon process. The Forum provided recommendations to the European Commission before its communication was released. It also issued a press release with the Intergroup on Youth of the European Parliament and addressed the European Council ahead of the adoption of the Strategy. Especially strong advocacy was undertaken in areas of education and employment, but also on the promotion of youth policy mainstreaming and involvement of youth organisations in the governance process of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Preceding the exchange of views, the Youth representatives at the meeting gathered for a consultation on the rights of young people and adopted a statement that was handed over to the Committee.

Europe 2020 gives special attention to young people. It mentions in its headline targets the greater participation of young people to the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, and includes, among its seven flagship initiatives, an initiative targeted at youth, called "Youth On The Move".

From the very beginning, the European Youth Forum provided input to the development of the Youth on the Move initiative and presented its vision to the European Commission. The Forum welcomed the strategy, while stressing that, overall, the strategy could be more concrete and have a clearer commitment to investing in youth. Nevertheless, Europe 2020 and its flagship initiatives Youth on the Move and New Skills for New Jobs address a number of issues that are of high importance to young people and that the YFJ also works on. These include access to labour market, quality traineeships, mobility, early school leaving, education and training, youth entrepreneurship, validation of non-formal and informal learning. For example, the introduction of the youth guarantee and the quality framework for traineeships are important successes for the Youth Forum. If implemented well, these could make a real difference for millions of young Europeans in their transition from education to work.

Celebrating the UN International Year on Youth

12 August 2010 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the beginning of the International Year on Youth. The year has the goal to disseminate among young people the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the Millennium Development Goals. 2010 was also the year when the world's Ministers of Youth gathered for the first time since 1998 – at the World Youth Conference in Mexico in August 2010. Here an NGO Declaration, led by youth NGOs, called for a rights-based approach to development policies, identifying youth as an active partner in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The European Youth Forum was among the main partners in the preparatory process and strongly contributed to the development of its outcomes.

In the 3rd Committee of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Forum continued to strive for the recognition of youth participation through representative, democratic and independent youth organisations and encouraging greater implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

Keep your Promises and Make them true!

“We, 208 representatives of youth-led NGOs from 153 Countries (...) demand Governments and ministers responsible for youth, ministers of finance, ministers for development, ministers of family and gender issues and other decision-makers with impact on our daily lives, to undertake all the measures necessary to recognise young people as subjects of rights and to guarantee the full exercise of these rights, aiming at equal conditions by taking into account different characteristics such as age, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, urban and rural backgrounds, disabilities, etc. (...)”

Extract from the Youth NGOs declaration at the World Youth Conference

The declaration was handed over to the Government Representatives and the United Nations Agencies present at the World Youth Conference in León, Guanajuato, Mexico.

European Youth Capitals boosting youth involvement at local level

Youth participation at the local level was boosted through the consolidation of the European Youth Capital (EYC) initiative. Two titles were assigned by the Youth Forum this year. Leading a jury composed of representatives from various NGOs, institutions, media and think tanks, the Platform awarded the title Youth Capital 2012 to Braga (Portugal) and 2013 to Maribor (Slovenia). The interest of municipalities for the title is growing steadily with more than 20 cities from all over the continent involved in the bids. A single information point on the project: (www.europeanyouthcapital.org) was launched.

Working Group on Participation and Youth Policy Mainstreaming *20-21 February, Brussels* *23-24 October, Helsinki*

Board members responsible:

Kadri Vanem, Johan Ekman, Marianne Muona, Michal Kadera

Secretariat support:

Magdalena Kurz, Policy Officer Participation

Kris Snick – Flemish Youth Council /

Loreta Senkute –

World Organisation of the Scout Movement /

Julia Hoffmann – Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe /

Erik Van Braendgaard – Danish Youth Council /

Aleksandra Maldziski –

Organising Bureau of School Students Unions /

Silvia Puente Rodriguez –

National Youth Council of Catalonia /

Dylan Seychell – National Youth Council of Malta /

Fatim Diarra – Finnish Youth Council

Lobby Group on Youth Rights *15-16 April, Paris*

Board members responsible: **Johan Ekman**

Secretariat support: **Sara Ulfhielm**

Nicolas Puvis – French Youth Council /

Nicole Gantenbein – Swiss Youth Council /

Andre Pardal – European Democrats Students /

Kris Snick - Eilen Raport – Flemish Youth Council /

Loreta Senkute –

World Organisation of the Scout Movement /

Jaan Urb – Estonian Youth Council (Substitute)

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2010, the European Youth Forum pursued its commitment to promote the principle of equal opportunities by combating discrimination on the ground of age as well as multiple discrimination. In particular, the Platform focused on achieving equal opportunities for specific groups of young people experiencing exclusion, such as young migrants and young people with migrant background. Increasing participation of these groups was at the centre of work undertaken in the area of human rights and included also the development of strategies aimed at improving the inclusiveness and diversity within the platform.

YM+

The European Youth Forum contributed to the development of an informal platform representing young migrants and young people with migrant background in Europe. As part of the process, a mapping study was undertaken with the aim of identifying youth organisations specifically representing young migrants and/or other initiatives aimed at promoting their participation.

The constitutive event of the YM+ Platform (YM+ stands for Young Migrants and Young People with Migrant background) took place in October 2010, bringing together more

than 20 organisations. A specific strategy relating to the development of the Platform in 2011 was also established. This initiative was financially supported by the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) of the Network of European Foundations.

Including Young Migrants in Youth

The Forum implemented the project on inclusiveness that had kicked off in 2009 and aimed at increasing the capacity of its Member Organisations to further include young migrants in their structures and initiatives. The project was complementary to the work relating to YM+ and aimed also at fostering cooperation between mainstream and migrant youth organisations. Two capacity-building events took place in 2010 in the framework of this project: one focusing on equality and diversity and one on designing and managing projects on inclusion. Seven Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum took part in these training. Furthermore, representatives of the YM+ Platform attended the second one, which also focused on developing strategies to ensure cooperation between migrant and non-migrant youth.

Working Group on Human Rights

12-14 March, Brussels
22-24 October, Baku

Bureau members responsible:

Marianne Muona,
Ben Vanpeperstraete

Secretariat support: **Marco Perolini,**
Policy Officer Human Rights

Advocating for non- discrimination in Europe

The European Youth Forum continued its commitment to advocate for a comprehensive EU framework aimed at combating discrimination on all grounds. Cooperation with the Spanish and the Belgian Presidencies took place; inputs on specific issues were provided and regular consultation took place together with other EU anti-discrimination networks. Notwithstanding the challenges related to the negotiations for a new EU directive, the European Youth Forum coordinated actions at the national level in cooperation with its Member Organisations as well as other civil society organisations; the aim was to advocate towards national governments to increase the political support for a new legislation combating discrimination in Europe.

Nicolas Puvis - French Youth Council /
Alexia Tsouni - European Bureau for
Conscientious Objection / **Lucy Nowotnick** -
International Gay, Lesbians, Bi, Transgender
and Queer Youth and Student Organisation /
Signhild Samuelsen - Norwegian Youth Council /
Paul Fallon - Irish Youth Council /
Mourad Mahidi - Austrian Youth Council /
Alice Barbieri - World Association of Girl Guides
and Girls Scouts / **Sebastian Seehauser** - Youth
of European Nationalities

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

2010 continued to be a difficult year for young people in Europe. Youth unemployment rates remained at very high levels; overrepresentation of young people among workers with temporary contracts was evident; precarious work and internships and restricted access to social security further aggravated their situation.

The European Youth Forum reinforced its advocacy work to keep these important topics on the agenda of policy makers, but also came up with concrete proposals to address them. A Policy Paper on Young People and Poverty was adopted and the Youth Employment Action project further strengthened, as an example of how youth organisations themselves can help to solve these challenges.

Quality internships and youth employment

The European Youth Forum successfully raised the awareness of policy makers about the severe crisis of youth employment and asked for urgent measures to address it. The action on the matter focused on the European Institutions, but also other global organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The position of the Forum on the “Youth Guarantee”, urging governments to support greater access of young people to the labour market by ensuring that youth unemployment would not exceed a period of four months, was taken on board in two reports adopted by the European Parliament and included in the Communication of the European Commission on the Youth on Move initiative.

On internships, the Youth Forum started to develop a European Quality Charter on Internships, together with its Member Organisations and other stakeholders, including Trade Unions and Employers Platforms.. The charter will lay down the principles to assure that internships taking place across Europe become a quality learning experience.

Youth Employment Action

The Youth Employment Action (YEA) project has strengthened its core in 2010, with a number of Member Organisations securing funding from the Youth in Action Programme. The objective of creating a long-term, transnational project aimed at developing best practices of how to help young people access the labour market has become a reality with the implementation of events and activities on the ground. The Youth Employment Action website (www.youthemploymentaction.org) was launched in May 2010 and contains various activities and projects of the involved Member Organisations. The consortium decided to promote the advocacy work of youth organisations as well as the practical activities in the field of employment. With the addition of two new Member Organisations in 2010, it is clear that Youth Employment Action will continue to grow in size and influence both within the European Youth Forum and beyond.

MDGs and sustainable development

2010 presented numerous opportunities for youth to express themselves politically in the area of sustainable development. Young people, internationally, have proved themselves up to the challenge. Youth Organisations have been active calling for a rights-based approach to development policies. In the International Year of Youth, they worked on the ground in combating hunger in their communities, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the protection of the environment. As always, the European Youth Forum has been at the forefront in organising young people to help make their voices heard, in both the youth climate movement and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Youth organisations promoting health policy making

The European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations continued to promote health among young people and advocate the concerns of youth in the field. Work has particularly been focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) with the Forum continuing its engagement with stakeholders and contributing to the 2010 World Aids Conference in Vienna in July. The Platform has also been active in tobacco and alcohol issues, continuing its involvement with the European Commission's HELP Campaign and advocating on alcohol abuse through the Be Healthy, Be Yourself Blog of the European Commission and engagement with the Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN).

Working Group on Employment and Social Affairs

20-21 February, Toledo

3-4 July, Ostende

Bureau members responsible:

Luca Scarpiello

Kadri Vanem

Ben Vanpeperstraete

Secretariat support:

Santa Ozolina, Employment and Social Affairs
Policy Officer, **Julie Teng**, Executive Policy

Officer, **James Higgins**, Interim Policy Officer

Participants:

Dragan Stojanovski – Association des États
Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe /

Laura Simik – Finnish Youth Council /

Paula Guisande – Spanish Youth Council /

Igor Casapu – Moldova Youth Council /

Nils Hindersmann - Young European Socialists /

Maria Sabina Andreuzzi – Italian Youth Council /

Marc Gimenez Villahoz –

Federation of Young European Greens /

Laura Coffey –

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION

In 2010, the Forum became more fitted to the needs of the Members and better equipped to promote the Rights of Young People in Europe in the 21st Century. For these reasons two parallel and interconnected processes continued in the field of organisational development and communications: the finalisation of governance reforms and the implementation of the strategic approach to communications.

A fitter European Youth Platform

After the process of renewing its vision and mission and undertaking a wide evaluation of its Statutory Bodies, the Forum equipped itself with a new set of governance rules crystallised in the adoption of Statutory changes in April 2010.

The reform particularly affected the main governing bodies of the Platform. The Bureau was transformed into a Board that would define the overall strategy, in accordance with the organisational

mission, adopted work plan and guidelines of the General Assembly, as well as policies determined by the Council of Members. A clear division was made between the functions of the General Assembly, as the space where governance-related decisions are taken by the Members, and the Council of Members, as the space where content and ideas are debated upon. The Secretary-General is now a CEO, selected by the Board and ratified by the General Assembly.

A more visible Platform

The European Youth Forum Communication Strategy entered fully into force in early 2010. The Forum was thus able to define its messages towards the external world in a more structured manner. Communication is a tool to achieve the strategic priorities through the promotion of the social impact of youth organisations in Europe, at all levels (European, National and Local) and with a global perspective. Compared to 2009, the Platform more than doubled and increased the quality of its exposure to the European Media. The Forum developed during this year a close cooperation with Agence Europe, Euractiv and the European Voice. The total of articles/contributions mentioning key contributions of the Youth Forum to the European Debate in 2010 were 23, in 2009 only 10.

Moreover, as from the end of April 2010, the European Youth Forum has a new face. A completely new graphic image, fresher, more attractive and more youth-friendly, was developed for the European Youth Forum. This included a new logo, a completely renewed visual image, a new website and new graphic guidelines for our publications.

The Social Media Revolution

More and more interaction and involvement of interested stakeholders pass through social media. The European Youth Forum thus ensured that the usage of social media tools were further developed to continue serving the purpose of reaching out to a wider audience. There was a spectacular response to our Facebook page, rising from 1,800 fans to 10,800 at the end of the year.

Introduced in February 2010, the Youth Policy Watch online publication has undoubtedly been the most successful project of the European Youth Forum in terms of specific communication in the field of youth policy. Feedback indicates that the online publication seems to have adequately filled the up-to-date youth policy information gap. During the year, the Youth Policy Watch saw 22 editions, and was regularly read by more than 3000 people among key stakeholders in Youth Policy Development in Europe.

Social Media in Numbers
(as of end of December 2010):

Facebook:

More than 10,800 fans
80% of the fans are aged 18-34
An average of 50 interactions a day

Twitter:

More than 1,000 followers
Countless hits of the #YFJ hashtag
Listed by more than 90 other Twitter accounts

Vimeo:

26 videos
Over 4,600 total video views

Flickr:

Over 200 photos uploaded from a range of events

Publications

In 2010, the European Youth Forum continued to combine online and offline communication. The use of Issuu to spread the publications online has given the European Youth Forum's publications new visibility to a wider public.

Following the newly reformed editorial design, three editions of the YO! Mag (Youth Opinion) were published during 2010. The first ('A New Energy for Europe') was launched at the Spring COMEM, the second ('UN') was published at the launch of the UN International Year of Youth in Brussels, and the third ('Youth, Rise, Revolt') was launched at the 2010 General Assembly. To support the development of the magazine, the Pool of Correspondents and the Pool of Young Artists was enlarged to enable Member Organisations to further contribute.

In 2010, the European Youth Forum released other major publications: a report on 'The State of Youth Rights in Europe', a toolkit to 'Build your own Pool of Trainers', the third edition of 'Development Needs Youth', which was launched at the European Development Days 2010 in Brussels, a Study on the Youth dimension of the EU Lisbon treaty and a Research thesis on Youth Rights.

FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

2010 represented the end of a cycle in terms of European Youth Forum management under the bi-annual Work Plan, for 2009-10. In terms of finances, a central focus must be put on budget execution over the year.

The Youth in Action Programme, which includes, within Action 4.2, the support for the European Youth Forum, settled at a maximum of €2.315.000 for 2010.

Concerning the execution of the agreement with DG EAC, there was a slight under expenditure (- 2,92%), meaning that the total amount applicable to the EU grant amounts to €2.809.255 with the final EU contribution calculated at €2.245.638. Consequently, there is a grant reduction of €69.362. Therefore, the underspending was considerably reduced comparing to the previous year: in 2009 it amounted to 6,31% (€184.859). These positive results are due to an increase in amount invested in the activities and the advocacy processes (+7,4%). It is also important to stress that during 2010 there were less changes within the European Youth Forum Secretariat, with four staff members terminating their contracts during the year comparing to 9 new employees during 2009. This had a positive impact on the capacity to execute the activities planned for 2010.

As required by the EU financial regulations, and the agreement, there was no surplus coming out of the funds allocated to the operating grant agreement.

On the remainder of the YFJ budget, not linked to the operating grant agreement with DG EAC under the Youth in Action Program, there was a surplus of €47.194.

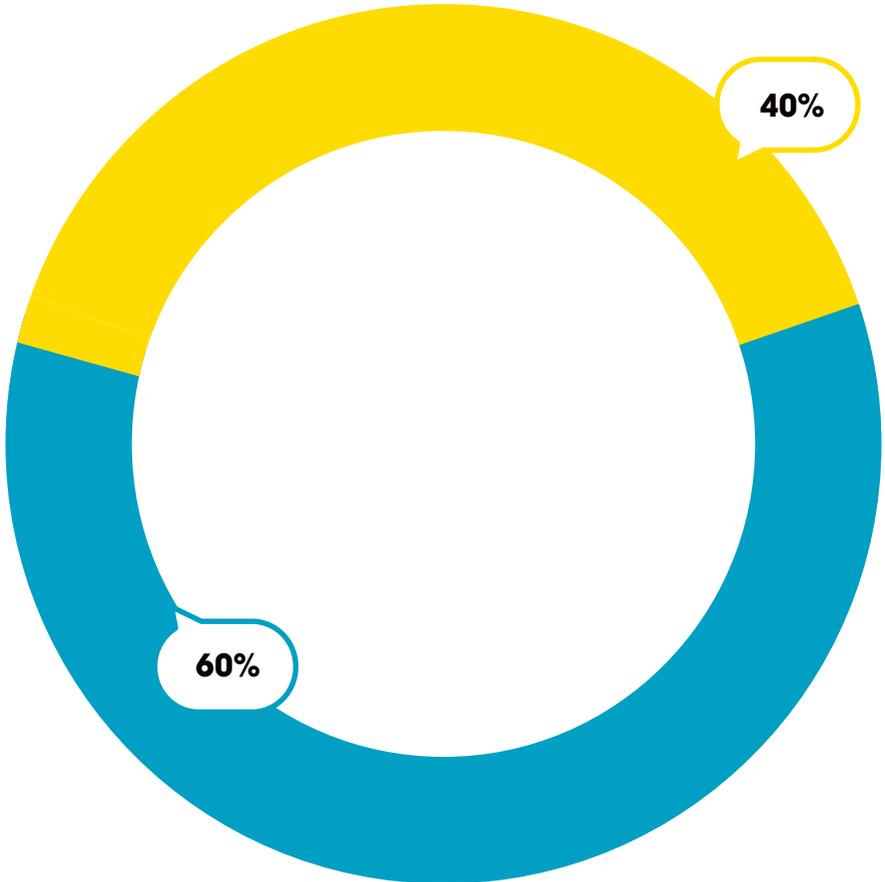
It is important to reiterate that the Youth Forum strives for correctness and clarity in its accounts, which is essential for both the members and the Forum's partner institutions; this is why the auditing procedures in place are so significant, as much the internal audit and the consultancy role of the Financial Control Commission, as the external auditors, Ernst & Young (appointed by the General Assembly in Vilnius).

Overall Execution /

The biggest portion of the budget refers to the running costs of the organisation 60%.

The running costs are including operational and legal costs as well as employment

costs. Programmes and activities amount to 40% of the overall execution. These costs refer to “Statutory Bodies”, “Priority Working Areas” and “Advocacy and General Work”.



 Running Costs
 Prog. & Activ.

Budget Execution /

Most of the budget (97%) is included within the framework of administrative grants, from the EU (Youth in Action) and the Council of Europe. The remainder refers mostly to costs not accepted within the framework of these agreements.

Besides this comparison on the overall budget, it is interesting to see how the total costs of the Youth Forum budget have been evolving over the last three years, referring to the amounts allocated within the aforementioned grants.

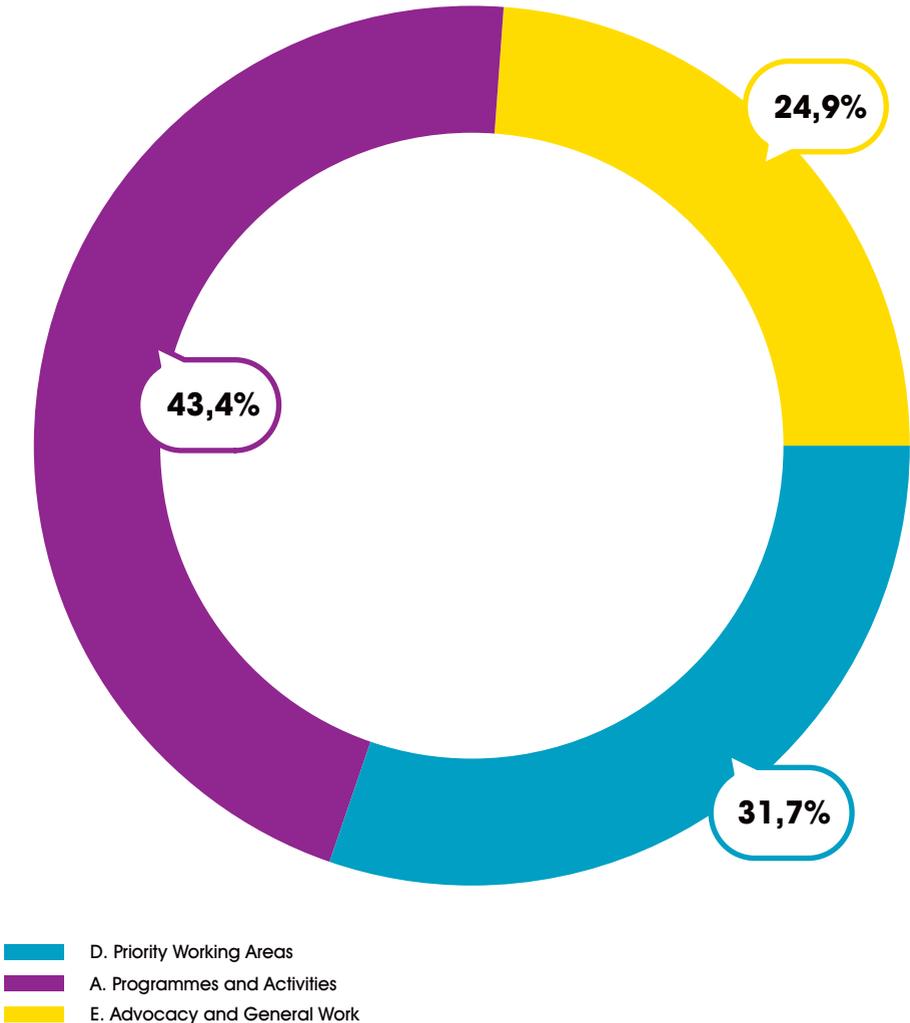


In terms of expenditure, the biggest portion of the Youth Forum budget is allocated to employment costs, representing 50% of the total costs. Mainly due to the personnel changes indicated above, there was a rise of €15.254 (+1,1%) on these costs from 2009 to 2010.

Programmes and Activities /

The costs for Statutory meetings were €75.757 lower, due to the bi-annual Ordinary General Assembly that took place in 2010. With regards to funds allocated to the execution of activities and actions foreseen in the YFJ Work Plan, namely related to Priority Working Areas, there

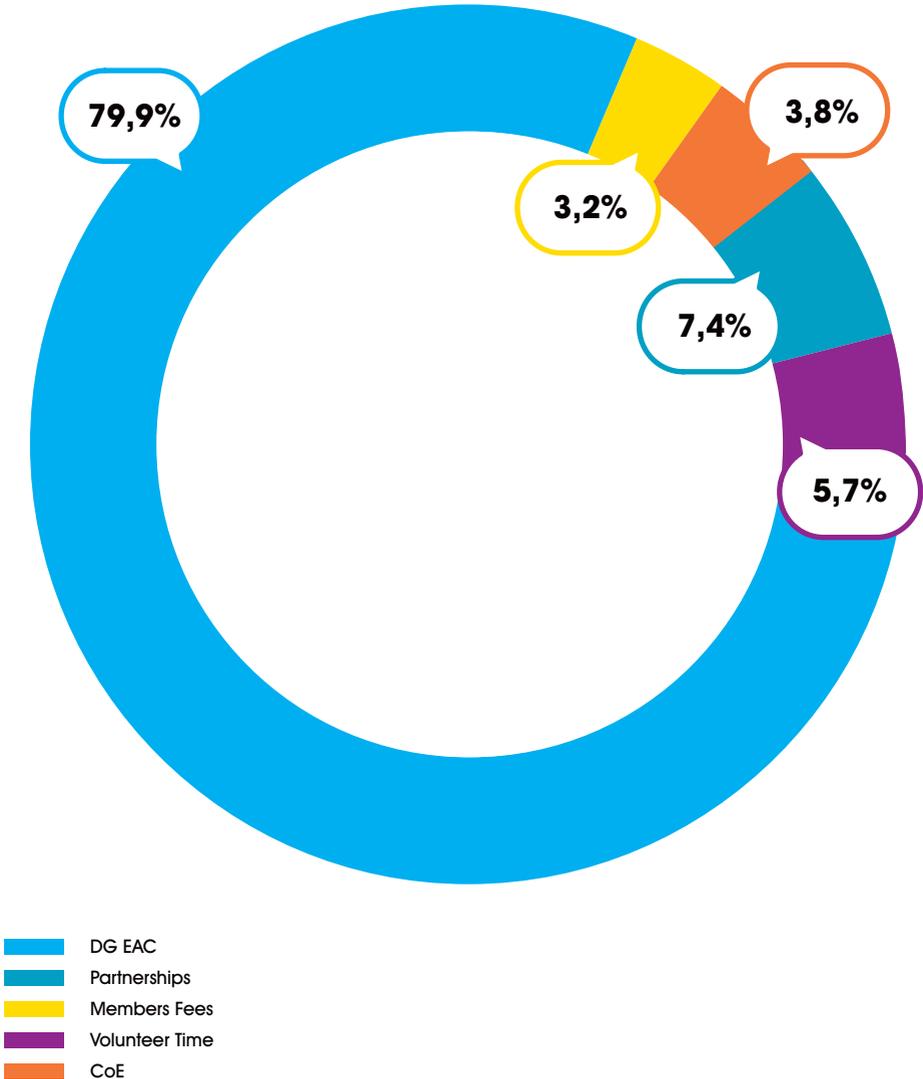
was a decrease of 20% comparing to 2009. Advocacy and General Work related costs were higher than in 2009 (12%). For 2010, the total costs referring to Programmes and Activities were amounting to € 1.123.485 (2009: 1.045.696) representing an increase of 7,4%.



Incomes /

In terms of incomes almost 85% of the Youth Forum income stems from annual grants from international institutions. 79,9% of the total income in 2010 came from the European Communities' Budget, through a grant from

DG Education and Culture, while around 3,8% was from Council of Europe grants. The Membership fees were contributing to 3,2%, the Volunteer to 5,7% and Partnerships to 7,4% to the overall incomes.



SECRETARIAT

SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Secretary General

Giuseppe PORCARO

Assistant to the Secretary General

Jessica PETER (until July)

John LISNEY (from August)

Media and External Relations Coordinator

Letizia GAMBINI

Communications Coordinator

Marta GOMEZ (until February)

Visual Communications Coordinator

Gabriele TRAPANI (until November)

Intern Policy Monitoring and Communication

John LISNEY (until July)

Assistant Policy Monitoring and Communication

Thomas SPRAGG (since July)

Membership Services & Training coordinator

Daniel NUJTEN

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department

Klavdija CERNILOGAR

Executive Policy Officer, Youth Mainstreaming Sustainable Development and Health

Julie TENG

Executive Policy Officer Education

Maarten COERTJENS

EU Relations Coordinator

Antoine MERTZEISEN

CoE Relations Coordinator

Sara ULFHIELM

UN and Global Relations Coordinator

Vania FREITAS

Policy Officer Participation

Magdalena KURZ

Policy Officer Employment and Social Affairs

Santa OZOLINA

Policy Officer Human Rights

Marco Perolini

Policy Officer Youth Work Development

Drazen PULJIC

Policy Assistant/Interim Policy Officer (from November)

James HIGGINS

EU Presidency Project Officers

Joan CONCA (Spain)

Kris SNICK (Belgium)

**ADMINISTRATIVE &
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT****Administrative & Financial Director**

David WAHLI

Translator/ Team co-ordinator

Luc RUMMENS

Accountant

Agata PETCOV

Administrative Assistant / Human Resources Coordinator

Marie-Aimée MUSANASE

Translator/ Assistant

Anne DEBRABANDERE

Secretary/Assistant

Nicole BURLET-PARENDEL

IT Coordinator/Webmaster

Estefania ASOREY

Event and Fundraising Coordinator

Elisa Carlotta QUADRI



MEMBER ORGANISATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

MO's

Full members

National Youth Councils (NYCs)

Suomen Nuorisoyhteistyö Allianssi ry - **Allianssi** (Finland);
Belarusian Union of Youth and Children's Public Associations - **BUYCPA RADA** (Belarus); British Youth Council - **BYC** (Great Britain); Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse Luxembourgeoise - **CG-JL** (Luxembourg); Consejo de la Juventud de España - **CJE** (Spain); Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Education Populaire - **CNAJEP** (France); Conselho

International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs)

ACTIVE - Sobriety, Friendship and Peace; Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe - **AGEEE Europe**; Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations - **AL-LIANCE**; International AID Fourth World Movement - **AID-Quart Monde**; Democrat Youth Community of Europe - **DEMVC**; European Bureau of Conscientious Objectors - **EBCO/BECC**; Young European Socialists -

Candidate members

NYCS

Consiliul Tineretului Din Romania - **CTR** (Romania);
Croatian Youth Network - **MMH** (Croatia);
Ukrainian Youth Forum - **UYF** (Ukraine).

INGYOS

Erasmus Students Network - **ESN** ;
Youth of European Nationalities - **YEN**

Nacional de Juventude - **CNJ** (Portugal); Conseil National de la Jeunesse de Catalunya - **CNJC** (Spain-Catalonia); Consiliul National Al Tineretului Din Moldova - **CNTM** (Moldova); Comité pour les Relations Internationales de Jeunesse - **CRIJ** (Belgium, French-speaking Community); National Youth Council of Switzerland - **SAJ/CSAJ** (Switzerland); Cyprus Youth Council - **CYC** (Cyprus); Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Internationale Jugendarbeit - **DNK** (Germany); Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd - **DUF** (Denmark); Eesti Noorteliit ja Noortekeskus - **ENL** (Estonia); National Council of Hellas - **ESYN** (Greece); Forum Nazionale dei Giovani - **FNG** (Italy); Nemzetközi Ifjúsági Koordinációs Iroda - **GNYK** (Hungary); Nationale Jeugdraad - **JEUGDRAAD** (Netherlands); Kunsli Nazionalni Taz-Zghazagh - **KNZ-Malita** (Malta); Lietuvos Jaunimo Organizacija Taryba - **LJOT** (Lithuania); Latvijas Jaunatnes Padome - **LJP** (Latvia); Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner - **LNJ** (Norway); Landsrådet för Sveriges ungdomsorganisationer - **LSU** (Sweden); Landsamband askulövsfélaga - **LÆF** (Iceland); Mladinski Svet Slovenije - **MSS** (Slovenia); National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan - **NAVORA** (Azerbaijan); National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia - **NCYOG** (Georgia); National Youth Council of Ireland - **NYCI** (Ireland); National Youth Council of Russia - **NYCR** (Russia); Österreichische Kinder- und Jugendvertretung - **ÖJV** (Austria); Rada Mládeže Slovenska - **RMS** (Slovakia); Vlaamse Jeugdraad - **VJR** (Belgium, Flemish-speaking Community).

ECOSY: European Confederation of Youth Clubs - **ECYC**; European Democrat Students - **EDS**; European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding - **EEE-YFU**; European Federation for Intercultural Learning - **EFIL**; The National Union of Students in Europe - **ESIB**; European Trade Union Confederation - **ETUC Youth**; EU Federation of Youth Hostel Associations - **EUFD**; European Union of Jewish Students - **EUJS/UEEJ**; Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe - **EYCE**; International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements - **FIMCAP**; Federation of the Young European Greens - **FYEG**; International Cultural Youth Exchange in Europe - **ICYE**; International Federation of Liberal Youth - **IFLY**; International Falcom Movement - Socialist Educational International - **IFMSEI**; International Federation of Medical Students Association - **IFMSA**; International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Student Organisation - **IGLYO**; International Union of Socialist Youth - **IUSY**; International Young Naturefriends - **INYF**; International Young Catholic Students - **IFYCS**; International Movement of Catholic Students - **JFCI-MIEC**; Young European Federalists - **JEF**; European Liberal Youth - **LYMEC**; International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth - **MJARC-Europe**; Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions - **OBESSU**; Rural Youth Europe - **RYEurope**; Service Civil International - **SCI**; World Organisation of Young Esperantists - **TEJO**; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - **WAGGGS**; World Organisation of the Scout Movement (European office) - **WOSM**; European Region of the World Student Christian Federation - **WSCF-Europe Region**; Youth Action for Peace - **YAP**; Youth for Development and Co-operation - **YDC**; Youth and Environment Europe - **YEE**; Youth of the European People's Party - **YEPP**; Youth for Exchange and Understanding - **YEU**; European Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations - **YMCA**; Young Women's Christian Association - **YWCA**.

Observer members

NYCS

Rat der Deutschsprachigen Jugend - **RDJ** (Belgium, German-speaking Community).

INGYOS

European Council of Young Farmers - **CEJA**; European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions - **CEST-Youth**; Don Bosco Youth Net; European Council of Councils Organisations - **ECCO**; European Free Alliance Youth - **EFAY**; European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth Committee - **ENGSO** Youth; European Youth Press - **EYP**; International Federation of Training Centres for the Promotion of Progressive Education - **FICEMEA**; International Federation for Educational Exchanges of Children and Adolescents - **FIEEA**; International Coordination of Young Christian Workers - **ICYCW/CJOC**; Jeunes Musicales International - **JMI**; Pax Christi International - **Pax Christi**; Red Cross Youth - **RCY**; Youth Express Network - **YE-N**.

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european youth forum