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2011



european
youth forum



annual report 2011

Editorial Team

Giuseppe Porcaro – *Editor in Chief*

Sara Ulfskiöld – *Editor*

Gabriele Trapani – *Art Director*

Anne Debrabandere – *Translation*

John Lisney – *Copy Editor*

European Youth Forum

120, rue Joseph II

1000, Bruxelles

Belgium – Belgique

www.youthforum.org

*with the support of:
the European Commission
the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe*



ISSN : 2032-9938



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Peter Matjašič

*President, European Youth Forum
peter.matjasic@youthforum.org*

&

Giuseppe Porcaro

*Secretary General European Youth Forum
giuseppe.porcaro@youthforum.org*

2011 has not been easy for young people across the globe. Crises, disasters and protests provoked the rise of people power. The people of the Arab world rose up in protest to years of dictatorship demanding basic democratic freedoms. The global economic and financial crisis, especially the debt crisis in Europe, paved the way for different types and forms of protest – from the peaceful indignados movement in Spain, to violent riots in London and the Occupy Wall Street movement in NYC. In this context the Youth Forum, as a platform representing and advocating the needs and interest of young people and of their organisations, focused on those things in which we can provide an added value.

The European Youth Forum focused its efforts on using the tools available to young people, such as the co-management within the Council of Europe and the structured dialogue process within the European Union, to raise the concerns of young people and empower them to have their say on the issues affecting them directly. We pursued our strategic priorities (education; participation and youth policy mainstreaming; human rights; youth work development; employment and social affairs) with cross-sectorial initiatives centred around a rights-based approach and connecting policy development, institutional advocacy and capacity building of our members.

Firstly, we acted to ensure that youth is put high on the agenda and included in the political priorities of European decision-makers. In this respect we worked towards providing evidence-based arguments and opened new debates on the needs of young people in Europe. In particular, our contribution to the discussions over the reform of the labour market and its more precarious forms has been of utmost importance

in drawing the attention of decision-makers to the widespread vacuum concerning the protection of young people's rights. The successful finalisation of the European Charter for Quality Internships is an example that made our platform a stronger actor in this field. The higher political recognition of youth in the new EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework proposal is definitely an achievement, as well as the CoE Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation on a Framework Convention on Youth Rights. However, major challenges remain in ensuring that youth is not considered a decorative policy area but fully integrated into the major economic and social policy-making.

Secondly, we strived to materialise such political recognition with stronger financial tools. Our focus here was to ensure a strong new generation of youth programmes at EU level. We put a lot of effort into securing an increase in the budget available for youth organisations and youth-led projects. We organised countless meetings with EU officials from the lowest

e and youth s *on the rise!*

to the highest level, especially with Commission President Barroso and Commissioner for Youth Vassiliou and her team. We have repeatedly championed a strong Youth in Action programme as the preferred option for the post 2013 period and highlighted the importance of the values on which the current Youth in Action is based: active citizenship, youth participation, non-formal, informal and peer-to-peer education and volunteering

Thirdly, our requests for political recognition and financial commitments, such as in the case of Youth in Action, were strengthened as we proved and showcased the impact and outreach of volunteers in youth organisations in Europe. The Youth Forum and the 50 co-organising Member Organisations achieved this with the II Youth Convention on Volunteering. The Convention was the biggest civil society event that took place within the framework of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and was supported by four European institutions. For a week, more than 1000 young volunteers, 100 youth organisations and 8000 visitors felt at home at the democratic heart of Europe with youth-led events taking place in and outside the symbolic space of the European Parliament. The event was also a celebration of the achievements of the Forum at its 15th birthday and showed to the institutional partners and wider public how vibrant and strong youth work is in Europe.

In addition to these main processes and achieved results, we must not forget all the excellent work done in the specific fields within each of the chapters of the work-plan, such as the

institutional cooperation with the Council of Europe, the European Union and United Nations, the global issues, new media, youth work development and regional cooperation with Africa, Asia, Arab and Mediterranean region, Latin America and Caribbean. In all these areas we continuously strive to link the different parts of our work. For example, when we discuss new media, we focus on ensuring a strong youth voice and increased youth participation in that area. When we work together with our regional partners across the globe, we focus on capacity building of youth organisations with a specific focus on establishing national youth councils and/or regional platforms. Content-wise we focus on the exchange of ideas and best practices and see how we can learn from each other on the topics we have in common - e.g on youth rights with our African and Latin American colleagues.

In 2011 the Youth Forum achieved a further streamlining of its work and focus around the three core themes: Young Volunteers Building Europe, Strong Youth Organisations for Strong Civil Society and A Rights-based Approach to an Inclusive and Participatory Europe. This helped the Forum continue its mission of being the voice of young people in Europe by representing, empowering and involving young people and their youth organisation in our work. Enjoy the read and discover how we jointly defended the rights of young people, showcased the importance of volunteering and youth work as well as promoted youth organisations as actors of social change building an inclusive and participatory Europe.

THE II YOUTH CONVENTION ON
VOLUNTEERING. 07-11 SEPT. 2011

YOUNG
VOLUNTEERS
STAND UP.

FOR
YOUTH
RIGHTS
youthforum.org



Young volunteers building Europe

Volunteering is important for young people to be active and engaged citizens. It reinforces our democracies and also provides, through Non-Formal Education, unique skills for young people to be innovators and agents of social change. The Forum particularly supports participatory youth organisations in which the volunteer has access to all decision-making levels within the organisation and a high level of influence over what they do and how they do it.

During the year, the European Youth Forum strongly advocated for a Europe where the role of volunteering is actively promoted, recognised and supported, where the opportunity to be a volunteer is a right and not a privilege, and where it is possible to reconcile volunteer-time with the working and studying life.

The European Year of Volunteering, the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteering, and the Council of Europe Report “Promoting Volunteering in Europe”, created in 2011 a unique momentum to work towards these goals.

The European Year of Volunteering 2011

The Forum is a strong member of the “European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance”, an informal grouping of 39 European networks of CSOs active in volunteering that have committed to working together on the advocacy for and promotion, preparation and implementation of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (“EYV 2011”). The Forum is a part of the political Steering Group and managing Executive Group of the Alliance, through which the Forum ensured that the voice of young volunteers is heard. Furthermore the Forum nominated 9 of 100 European experts on volunteering from the Alliance member organisations to participate in the Alliance Working Groups, mandated to contribute to the unique initiative to develop the recommendations included in the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (PAVE). The PAVE provides policy recommendations for a more efficient and effective policy framework in Europe. The Forum co-chaired the Alliance Working Group “Legal Frameworks” and coordinated the participation of youth organisations to the Opening Conference

in Budapest and the Closing Conference in Warsaw.

With regard to institutional cooperation, the European Youth Forum participated to the thematic conferences of the European Commission in the context of EYV 2011. More concretely, the Forum nominated 10 participants to the Commission conference for grass-root volunteers “Volunteers: the difference they make and the challenges they face”, including the organisation of a preparatory meeting for the young volunteers. The Forum participated in the Stakeholder conference of the Commission in and spoke at the official Closing Conference of EYV2011. Additionally the YFJ participated to meetings of the Interest Group on Volunteering in the European Parliament, the Council of Europe Research seminar on “Mobility of young people - Opportunities and obstacles for cross-border volunteering for young people, particularly with fewer opportunities”, and the Commission Seminar “Volunteering policies”.

The European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers

The European Youth Forum developed a truly rights-based approach to volunteering in Europe, leading institutional partners and other stakeholders in developing a European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers. The Charter aims to create a common understanding of the definition of volunteers, volunteering activities and volunteering providers from the local to the European level and provides a common set of basic rights for volunteers and volunteering providers. Further it serves as an appeal

for designing and updating policies related to volunteering on all levels, refraining from addressing concrete implementation mechanisms or identifying right bearers, but focusing on defining and stating the rights and responsibilities of volunteers. The Draft Charter was developed through keeping the legal dimension on volunteering as concrete reference point in an open discourse with all relevant stakeholders in the area of volunteering. In a first phase the Forum focused on collection, analyses and interpretation of existing studies, surveys and statistical

data on the legal status of volunteers and volunteering organisations and published the “Report on the Rights of Volunteers in Europe”. Secondly, the Forum involved its membership, through the Working Group on Volunteering as well as Institutional and Civil Society Partners in drafting the Charter. In a third step, a Declaration on the rights-based approach to volunteering was developed by stakeholders present at the Stakeholder Conference during the II Youth Convention on Volunteering.

WORKING GROUP ON VOLUNTEERING

16-17 April, Brussels, Belgium

2-3 July, Varna, Bulgaria

Board Member Responsible: Falko **MOHRS**

Secretariat Support: Magdalena **KURZ**

Maiika **BILLARD** - CNAJEP

Anamarija **SOCO** - Croatian Youth Network

Christiana **PAPAILIA** - World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts

Ida **BIRKVAÐ SØRENSEN** - Danish Youth Council

Ana **CONDRAT** - Moldova Youth Council

Hanna Felicitas **PABST** - European Educational Exchanges – Youth for Understanding

Martin **FISCHER** - Young European Federalists

Quentin **WEBER-SEBAN** - Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo

01. “ Everyone who is doing a volunteering activity is entitled to have the status of a volunteer ”

02. “ No one shall be restricted by law to participate in a volunteering activity of their choice ”

03. “ A visa free of charge must be obtainable through an open, accessible and transparent procedure which favours volunteer’s mobility. ”

04. “ Every volunteer is entitled to the reimbursement of expenses occurring in relation to the voluntary activity ”

05. “ Every volunteer has the right to have the contribution, skills and competences gained through volunteering activities recognised by formal educational and professional structures and institutions ”

Young Volunteers *Stand up!*

From 7-11 September, The Forum organised the biggest Civil Society event of the European Year on Volunteering proving and showcasing the impact and outreach of volunteers in youth organisations: the II Youth Convention on Volunteering.

The event hosted by the European Parliament was a space for young volunteers and youth organisations to work together, to discuss with European decision-makers and to celebrate the commitment of young people from all over Europe to building a better Europe every day.

The Convention consisted of a wide range of activities, most notably the Stakeholder Conference on the Rights of Volunteers, the Volunteer Bridge dedicated to the EU-China Year of Youth, the Volunteers Village, hosting stands and activities of Member Organisations and other partners, the launch of the European Youth Forum Alumni Network and the YO! Fest, which celebrated 15 years of the European Youth Forum.

Part of the Convention was the Volunteer Bridge, one of the flagship events of the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, organised by the European Youth Forum in partnership with the All-China Youth Federation, the European Commission and the European External Action Service and with the support of the Policy Dialogue Support Facility. A World Music Village Workshop, a Graffiti Workshop and the III China-Europe Symposium on Youth Work Development featured in this event. It provided an experience of volunteering and

showcased the contribution of participatory youth organisations to the volunteering sector and to society.

The Village provided the space to more than 80 organisations, Members and non-Members of the platform, to present their work, to bring forward the added value of volunteering within their specific contexts and to engage participants and visitors in a set of workshops and interactive sessions. This Village showed the diversity and strength of youth work and the work of youth organisations. The Youth Forum therefore held a meeting in the Village with experts of the institutions who work on the new cycle of EU Programmes dedicated to Youth.

Overall the Convention gave visibility to volunteering in youth work, showcased the impact of youth organisations, provided them with a space for exchange and to learn from best practices and gave political visibility to the European Youth Forum across the institutions in Brussels. One of the first results was the support to the draft Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers from several important actors such as Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Gianni Pittella and Isabelle Durant, Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament, Jean-Pierre Vandersteen, Director General for Communication of DG Communications (EC), Marian Harkin, MEP and Coordinator of the European Year of Volunteering.

Participants

Total number of people

10.000

Number of volunteers

167

Number of different countries from where the volunteers were from

22

Number of volunteers from Hungary

11

Number of volunteers from Georgia

04

Total number of staff

33

Number of volunteers for the EU-China Bridge

51

Number of Chinese participants (including interpreters)

101

Number of volunteers from Georgia who spoke English

02

Number of young musicians from China and Europe

26

Furthest distance travelled by train to get to the Convention

3.509 Km

Number of beds in youth hostels booked

1524

Number of Inter-rail tickets issued

132

Number of Inter-rail tickets used

114

V-Village

Number of tents

72

Number of tents lost due to the stormy weather

04

Chairs

135

Number of fire extinguishers

27

Number of fire extinguishers

00

Bar tables

50

Office tables

140

Benches

130

Laptops

27

LCD screens

14

Total area (approx.)

14220m²

Area covered by tents

1610m²

Number of hours needed to group lunch and dinner tickets correctly

26 hours

Picnic tables

40

Number of scissors and cutters

09

Catering and materials

Number of available screwdrivers

01

Number of lunch and dinner tickets distributed

more than 3200



Quality of *Non-Formal* Education

2011 was the year of quality non-formal education and partnerships. The Platform achieved new steps towards recognition of Non-Formal Education and continued its leading role in bringing the Educational Stakeholders together.

Over the past years, the European Youth Forum has developed the first European system for Quality Assurance of Non-Formal Education. After the pilot project in 2010, the system was ready to start the development of the Network on Quality Assurance of NFE. This development is anchored on three strands: expertise building, capacity-building and developing a political consensus with institutions and stakeholders on how to organise Quality Assurance on NFE on European level.

The expertise building strand took place in the NFE Working Group (WG NFE) and the website on Quality Assurance of NFE became the first online hub for expertise on the matter. The capacity building strand got fully underway and 11 Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum took part in the training cycles organised in 2011. The organisations applied the Quality Assurance system to their own projects and learned from each other through the peer-feedback system. The Pool of Trainers and facilitators of the European Youth Forum was actively involved in this project and developed further the practical methodology for the system. The political strand aimed to develop a network of NFE-providers, stakeholders and European Institutions by 2012. The first step in this process was the NFE-Week, which consisted of three meetings: a meeting of the WG NFE, a training on health & NFE, and a conference on quality assurance and lifelong learning

The Quality Assurance Conference brought together, for the first time, providers and stakeholders across lifelong-learning to learn how Quality Assurance works in the different educational field and to discuss how QA can facilitate cooperation between the different sectors. Next to the Quality Assurance part of the NFE-week, the European Youth Forum and several members organised a very successful training on Non-Formal Education and Health.

Recognition of Non-Formal Education and finding the place of NFE in lifelong-learning cannot be done just by youth organisations. The European Youth Forum therefore continued to build partnerships with Education Stakeholders to make the European Lifelong Learning Area a reality. This was done with the European Training Institute, the European Parents Association and many others. Together with EUCIS-LLL, the European Civil Society Platform on Life-Long Learning, the Forum leads the process on bringing educational stakeholders together to discuss common challenges on LLL in Europe. This resulted in three joint opinions on the proposed Erasmus for All programme, both before and after the official proposal was launched.

The Forum also continued to share its expertise with institutions and to be their main partner for policies on recognition of NFE. As part of the preparatory team, it engaged with the CoE-EU Partnership on Youth on the forthcoming Symposium on the Recognition of Youth Work and Non-Formal Learning. The Forum was an active member of the Expert Group on the Recognition of Non-formal Education and Youth Work.

YM+

The European Youth Forum facilitated the coordination of YM+, the European coordination platform of young migrants and young people with migrant background, which is a project undertaken with the support of the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM). Twenty organisations from different European Countries are involved in the project, some of them members of the Youth Forum. The Youth Forum organised two capacity building events on advocacy and EU institutions, as well as organisational and project development. These events resulted in the establishment of a group of contact persons who were in charge of developing YM+ as an organisation. The YM+ was actively present at the IYCV, where its members organised a workshop on “Volunteering as a Tool for Integration by Young Migrants in Europe” and held an interactive stand to raise awareness

of participation of young migrants and about the YM+ itself. The Youth Forum has also invited YM+ representatives to youth forum events, such as Membership Support Week, the Networking Event on Youth Rights and the Youth Employment: A Call for Action. The YM+ has further been represented in external events: a European Conference on Destitution of Forced Migrants, “Integrating immigrants in regions and cities”, the 5th and 6th European Integration Forum and the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) Conference.

The Youth Forum has evaluated the project with input from YM+ member organisations about how they perceived the project and how they saw the future of the project. The members saw much potential in the project and were eager to continue the work.

WORKING GROUP NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

16-17 April, Brussels, Belgium

12-13 November, Strasbourg, France

Board Member Responsible: Katrine **KORSGAARD**

Secretariat Support: Maarten **COERTJENS**

Paulius **MIEZELIS** - Lithuanian Youth Council

Rita **SANTOS** - Portuguese Youth Council

Marah **KÖBERLE** - International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements – German Youth Council

Silva **RUKAVINA** - International Federation of Medical Students Associations

Liga **EFEJA** - Young Men’s Christian Association

Aleksandra **KAMILOVA** - Estonian Youth Council

Marcio **BARCELOS** - World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Mihai-Paul **FLORAN** - International Young Catholic Students – International Movement of Catholic Students



www.whereareyouthgoing.eu



Strong Youth Organisations for strong civil society

The Forum focuses on building the capacity, outreach and environment in which youth organisations are living in Europe. The work in this area focused on all aspects that youth organisations are bringing to societies and on building sustainable support mechanisms to enable more and more diverse young people to fulfil their potential in youth organisations and contribute to creating a more connected society.

A strong youth sector contributes also to a stronger European civil society through structured and civil dialogue and to Europe generally, as a responsible actor at the global level, through co-operation with other regions of the world. By building capacity, we focused on the knowledge support to youth organisations and their platforms. On the other hand, we advocated for strong institutional support from the local to the global level in order to create a favourable environment where youth organisations and platforms can develop.

In line with those aims, new National Youth Councils were established in 2011 and the recognition of youth work moved forward in several countries. A lot of time and effort was put into securing the funding of youth work within the post-2013 EU budget cycle.

For a strong and independent Youth in Action Programme

During 2011 the Youth Forum focused its work on the advocacy towards the future youth programme of the EU. The Forum invested a lot into ensuring the continuation of a youth programme that is aimed at supporting participatory and youth-led activities and organisations with adequate means. One of the most important moments being the bilateral meeting held between the Youth Forum and the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, in May, when the Forum clearly demanded for a strong investment in youth in the next EU budget cycle.

The Youth Forum followed the drafting of the European Parliament report on “Investing in the future: a new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe”, which was voted upon on 23rd May. The report supported the Youth Forum’s position for an independent Youth in Action programme.

The Forum also took part in several events and meetings organised by institutions or civil society organisations related to the MFF. Following the European Commission’s Communication on the MFF, the European Youth Forum has continued to work together with key actors to gather clearer information on the impact of the Commission’s proposal on the Youth Programme and funding for youth organisations beyond 2014.

During the II Youth Convention on Volunteering, the European Youth Forum presented its view on the future youth programme and the added value of European Youth Work to relevant stakeholders. This was followed up by internal consultations resulting in the adoption of an urgent resolution outlining the Youth Forum’s official position to the programme.

The EU advocacy coordination meetings have also been supporting the process. After the 23rd November, when the European Commission launched its proposal for the future programme “Erasmus for All”, the Youth Forum started the advocacy process towards the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. The Forum also launched a public campaign: “Where are you going?”, which aimed at gaining public support for the investment in youth. A Stakeholder Breakfast was organised, where over 60 representatives from the member states, the European Parliament and the Youth Forum discussed the future programme. This event served as the launch of the advocacy process towards the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament.

The Youth Forum has convened an Expert Group in the field of Youth in Action that supported the work of the organisation with regard to the future MFF. The Expert Group has taken parts in different advocacy events of the YFJ and has developed advocacy tools and materials for the Forum membership to use in their work.

The Forum has also worked with the Executive Agency (EACEA) of the Youth in Action programme with the aim to monitor and improve the accessibility and user-friendliness of the grant procedures under the current programme. The Youth Forum, as an observer, was also present in relevant EACEA meetings, following past practice. The success rate of the European Youth Forum members to get project funding varies from action to action. The 4.1 action round was very successful for the Forum membership. There were over all 155 applications and only 11 applicants did not fulfil the eligibility criteria. 36 members applied and 31 got the grant for 2011.

EXPERT GROUP ON YOUTH IN ACTION

1-3 July, Brussels, Belgium

21-23 October Baku, Azerbaijan

Board Member Responsible: Lloyd **RUSSELL-MOYLE**

Secretariat Support: Anna **RANKI**

Antonio **ORTIZ GARCIA VASO** - Spanish Youth Council

Claire **LE MOIGNE** - World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Till **BURKHARDT** - Young European Federalists

Miroslaw **KRZANIK** - Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe

Izabela **JURCZIK-ARNOLD** - European Federation for Intercultural Learning

Youth in Action in numbers

Out of 100 euro paid in taxes by a European citizen, only 2.80 flow to the EU. Out of these 2.80 only 0.1% are used to provide funding to youth programmes. In average, the current 'Youth in Action' Programme cost less than 28 cents per year to each European citizen.

Youth in Action in numbers

885

MILLIONS Euro between 2007-2013

More than
527

THOUSANDS

direct beneficiaries
between 2007 and 2010

30100
61000
Projects were granted out
Projects submitted

75%
Learned how to better identify
opportunities for their personal
or professional future

91%
73%
Declared they
felt more European

Of young people consider that having participated in a YiA project has increased their competences in foreign language

73%
Youth organisations stated the number of international projects of their structure had increased.

YiA Beneficiaries voted at the European Elections

More than

60%

2009 (average rate 30%)

1000

European Youth NGOs supported with action 4.1

Are you going to support us in asking for a strong Youth Programme?

4,500,000+
Contacts reached via social networks

Views of the campaign video

10,300

A boost for new National Youth Councils

This year was an eventful one in terms of the development of National Youth Councils. In early 2011, a new National Youth Council (NYC) in Serbia was established. The constitutional assembly of Krovna organizacija Srbije (KOMS) took place from 10-13 March 2011 in Tara, Serbia. On 12 March 2011 KOMS was officially established by 56 youth organisations, which adopted the Statutes of KOMS. During the Summer of 2011, the Kosovo National Youth Council was established. The Polish NYC (PROM) was also very recently established and held its Constitutional Assembly on 9 April 2011. There was considerable dialogue between the Polish member organisations, combined with extensive assistance from both the Youth Forum and the Polish Ministry of Interior. The Montenegrin Youth Forum (MYF) finished to develop its statutes and was officially registered as an organisation. The European Youth Forum supported the initiative for a number of years and welcomes the big steps taken so far.

In December, the Forum organised the Networking Days for National Youth Councils in Belgrade. The aim of the Networking Days was to foster greater cooperation between developing National Youth Councils and other Forum member organisations, as well as to provide sustainability training in key areas identified as challenges. The event brought together a number of NYCs as well as a number of representatives from Youth Forum member

organisations. These representatives shared their organisations' paths to becoming sustainable and having an impact on political authorities on policy issues.

The Forum successfully worked together with numerous Macedonian youth organisations to convince the Macedonian government to rethink their process of drafting a new youth law. The Macedonian government decided to withdraw its draft youth law, which posed several challenges for active youth participation, and to open it for wider consultation with youth organisations.

The Youth Work Development Working Group contributed greatly to strengthening the youth work development field through its contribution to meetings with a number of National Youth Councils. It has also supported the Youth Forum in advocating for sustainable and representative national youth umbrella organisations.

In addition to the Working Group, the Youth Forum formed a Project Group on the Cooperation in the Eastern Europe and Caucasus region (EEC Project Group), which specifically worked on fostering cooperation and concrete actions between member organisations in the region. Nine members of the project group successfully developed plans for eight projects.

WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

10-11 June, Podgorica, Montenegro

17-18 December, Serbia

Board Member Responsible: Guoda **LOMANAITE**

Secretariat Support: Matthias **CHRISTENSEN**

Evan **SEDGWICK-JELL** - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International

Borut **CINK** - International Federation of Liberal Youth

Giovanni **CORBO** - Italian Youth Forum

Mikalai **KVANTALIANI** - Belarussian Youth Council

Tamara **GOJKOVIC** - Youth for Exchange and Understanding

Hildur **TRYGGVADOTTIR FLOVENZ** - Icelandic Youth Council

Tea **JARC** - Slovenian Youth Council

Elisabeth **KIRSCHKE** - German Youth Council

EASTERN EUROPE AND CAUCASUS PROJECT GROUP

7-10 July, Brussels, Belgium

2-4 December, Baku, Azerbaijan

Board Member Responsible: Guoda **LOMANAITE**

Secretariat Support: Matthias **CHRISTENSEN**, Anna **RANKI**

Alena **JPANOVA** - Active

Janine **NOACK** - European Youth Press

Lyubomir **TODOROV** - Mouvement international de la Jeunesse agricole et rurale catholique

Anastasiya **SABATKOUSKAYA** - Belarussian Youth Council

Sandra **FALKOWSKA** - European Democrat Students

Alexandru **MUSTEATA** - Moldovan Youth Council

Matti **NIEMI** - Finnish Youth Council

Marek **BARANSKI** - European Students Union

Mikayil **ZEYNALOV** - Youth for Exchange and Understanding

Global Youth Work development

The European Youth Forum further strengthened its work in the regional and global youth dialogue and cooperation, with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional level.

The European Youth Forum actively supported the three “Universities” on Participation and Citizenship in Uruguay, and on Youth and Development in Cape Verde and Spain. Committed to enhancing the cooperation among its partners to future youth development strategies and actions as well as the regional and global cooperation processes, the European Youth Forum decided to engage in the development of a coherent and articulated system for these initiatives, the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship.

To strengthen the cooperation among youth organisations at the regional and global levels and the coordination of political inputs to global youth policy processes, the Forum also continued working closely with the International Youth NGOs and Regional Youth Platforms in the frame of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO).

The engagement of the Forum in the cooperation with other regions of the world also continued progressing. At the

Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies on the Context of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, held in Addis Ababa on 4-6th April, the Youth Forum worked together with governmental and non-governmental organisations to build a common action plan on the development of the Africa-Europe youth dialogue and cooperation framework and on the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Africa-Europe Youth Summits.

The exchange with the partners in the Latin American and Caribbean youth cooperation process continued at the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum (FEULAC), aimed at following up on the 1st EU-LAC Youth Summit and monitor the implementation of its recommendations, providing a common framework to further develop the inter-regional partnership.

In responding to the new challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean and Arab world due to the Arab Spring, the European Youth Forum started to work on the development of a renewed strategy for the dialogue and cooperation with the region. The development of this strategy comprises several steps. In the first phase, the Forum embarked on a mapping of youth organisations and platforms in the region. This exercise should help to identify some of the new and blossoming

youth organisations that would make it possible to support the strengthening of these organisationally. This is likely to foster greater political and financial support from governments and institutions to the collaborative work developed between youth organisations from Europe and the Mediterranean and Arab region. This should contribute to the development of a coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the Euro-Mediterranean and Arab cooperation, which remains a key priority within the inter-regional cooperation work.

The European Youth Forum took part to the EU-Canada Roundtable in Helsinki, jointly organised by the Canadian government and the European Commission where representatives from youth organisations had the opportunity to exchange views with youth workers, researchers and officials from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean on the topic of youth participation.

The Forum played a significant role in the EU-China Year of Youth 2011 and engaged in a series of flagship events in Europe and China, focused on promoting the youth dialogue between China and Europe and the full involvement of young people and youth organisations in the EU-China relations.

New Media

The Youth Forum's work in the field of New Media aimed at creating tools that will further the achievements of its membership in all priority areas. The main tool was the creation of a database of young experts in new media topics from our membership. When it comes to internet governance, media literacy and more technical aspects of this policy field, the Forum relies on the expertise of its membership and has established a database of young experts that represent the Forum in relevant events. Focus has been on the pan-European Dialogue on Internet Governance. In preparation for the EuroDIG conference on Internet Governance, the European Youth Forum coordinated the running of a workshop on "e-Participation: better internet policies for active digital citizens 3.0". The event gathered European input to the IGF (Internet Governance Forum). The Youth Forum representatives ensured a focus on youth participation by advocating in favour of having democratic, youth-led and volunteer-based organisations present in the Dynamic Coalition on Youth. The European Youth Forum was approached by European Commission Information Society and Media Directorate General (DG INFOS) to give input to the European Commission's actions in the Digital Agenda process, the biggest policy process towards internet governance in the EU. It is focused on setting the priorities to support the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy through the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The Forum has further supported its members in implementing their own projects, such as the New Media Summer School (NMSS) organised by AEGEE, EYP, JEF and YEU and the presence of our YEFJ database of youth experts at EuroDIG11 in Belgrade as well as IGF11 in Nairobi.

Health

In 2011, the European Youth Forum continued the process of empowering its Member Organisations to work on health by developing a database of young experts in health. Through this database young people have participated in a range of international events on a wide range of topics, from tobacco and drugs to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In April the Youth Forum organised a non-formal education and health training. Attended by 50 young people from a range of youth organisations, the event addressed the role of youth organisations in the health of young people.

The Youth Forum has also given special attention to the issue of mental health and youth unemployment, supporting research from the University of Maastricht on the relationship between youth unemployment and mental health problems. In its publication Youth Employment in Europe - A Call for Change the Youth Forum emphasised the issue of mental scarring from youth unemployment and the social impact that the exclusion of young people is currently having.

Sustainable Development

A large part of the Youth Forum's work on sustainable development has been geared towards preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will take place in June 2012. In September 2011, the Youth Forum co-organised a one week International Preparatory Meeting for Youth at the University on Youth and Development. This meeting prepared Youth Forum members, as well as others from international youth networks, for the discussions in Rio.

In October the Youth Forum gave input, on behalf of European youth, to the Compilation Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Emphasising the right to a future for young people and the need to develop a green economy that will encourage the innovation of young people, this document was a strong foundation for youth negotiations in Rio. In November 2011, the Youth Forum adopted its Resolution for Rio+20, making ambitious and tangible proposals, including reducing carbon emissions by 40% on 1990 levels by 2020, and by 90% by 2050. With this document, European youth can go to Rio to demand their right to a future, based on social, economic and environmental justice.

A Strong Institutional Youth Agenda

European Union: Structured Dialogue with Youth but not only

The European Youth Forum has strong working relations with the main institutions in the European Union.

The Platform cooperated regularly with the European Parliament's Intergroup on Youth throughout the year. The Intergroup gathers Members of the European Parliament from different political groups and parliamentary committees to discuss youth issues. In February, the European Youth Forum ensured the strong participation of youth organisations to the hearing of Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports around 20 member Organisations attended this meeting. In September, the European Youth Forum contributed to the hearing of László Andor, Commissioner responsible for Employment and Social Affairs. This latter proved to be a good occasion to raise again the issue of quality internships within the European Parliament.

The Structured Dialogue has been one of the most important European Union processes in the youth field in 2011. Its first 18-month cycle drew to a close on 30th June 2011. From the very beginning, the European Youth Forum has been one of the key stakeholders in setting up and facilitating the implementation of the process, most notably within the European Steering Committee. The structured dialogue has created a direct communication channel between young people and decision-makers at European level, as well as in all EU Member States.

Based on the national consultations held by National Working Groups in the European

Union Member States, as well as on the results of the three European Union Youth Conferences, the first cycle concluded under the Hungarian Presidency with the Council of the European Union adopting a Council Resolution on the structured dialogue with young people on youth employment. This Resolution not only acknowledges the procedure of the structured dialogue, but also endorses recommendations from young people and policy makers on youth employment. These recommendations were also referred to and supported in another Council document, developed by ministries responsible for employment, Council Conclusions on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives.

The European Youth Forum also took part in the organisation of European Youth Week 2011, which was an opportunity for National Working Group representatives to assess the structured dialogue process and to make concrete recommendations regarding its future implementation.

At the beginning of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the new Team Presidency Poland-Denmark-Cyprus entered into the second 18 month cycle of the structured dialogue with young people. The overall thematic priority of this second cycle is increasing youth participation in democratic life. The European Youth Forum was instrumental in ensuring the continuity of the structured dialogue process, and remains committed to ensuring the success and youth-friendliness of the second cycle.



United Nations: closing the International Year of Youth

Under the auspices of the United Nations, the High-level Meeting on Youth was the highlight of the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. The Forum contributed to the formal process of developing the outcome document, where the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and representatives of Member States renewed their commitment “to promote youth development, dialogue and mutual understanding, paying due attention to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and relevant outcomes and programmes of action, including the World Programme of Action for Youth”.

The importance of investing in youth development was also affirmed by the UN General Assembly in the Resolution on “Policies and programmes involving youth” adopted at its sixty-sixth session. The General Assembly urged Member States “to specifically address youth development in their economic and financial recovery measures as a response to global financial and economic crises by emphasising youth employment, promoting volunteerism and the development of formal, informal and non-formal educational and training systems in line with the needs of young people and their societies”.

The Forum took an active role in the 64th Annual United Nations Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). Entitled “Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens”, this UN DPI/NGO event aimed to highlight effective ways in which

citizens and civil society, in partnership with other stakeholders, can contribute to creating and maintaining sustainable societies, and to serve as a bridge between the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, and a major civil society contribution to this forthcoming Conference.

Participating in the First Planning Meeting of the “Youth 21: Building for Change” initiative, hosted by UN-Habitat, the Forum also had the opportunity to explore together with UN Agencies and Member States how to enhance youth development in the UN and better engage young people in the UN System.

It is also worth mentioning the 4th Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, held in Doha in December, where the European Youth Forum took the opportunity to meet with political and corporate leaders, faith community representatives, researchers, journalists and other civil society organisations and contribute to the identification of joint actions to improve relations across cultures, combating prejudice and building lasting peace.

Moreover, the Forum’s significantly contributed to the expert group meeting convened by the UN Programme on Youth in December to work towards a framework for monitoring and evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) that enables Member States to assess the situation of youth and their progress in the implementation of the WPAY.

Council of Europe: Youth Rights Mainstream

In 2011, the European Youth Forum has successfully mainstreamed the debate on youth rights within the Council of Europe.

Through its participation to the statutory bodies of the youth department, the Forum has continuously given input to the process of the preparations of the Conference of Ministers responsible for youth, which will be held in 2012 and to which the Forum is an official implementing partner, and managed to incorporate a rights-based approach to it. Additionally, the Forum has participated in several initiatives of the youth department, such as the Enter! Process on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the drafting of the recommendation on child and youth participation, through which the message of a rights-based approach to youth policy has reached even further.

The work of the Forum has also been aimed at mainstreaming the debate on youth rights throughout the Council of Europe. In this regard, meetings have been held with the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and other Directorates of the Secretariat. This has led to a change of discourse within the institution, which is now widely discussing youth rights and the importance of ensuring these for all young people.

The Parliamentary Assembly recommendation on the follow up of the work of the group of eminent people states:

The Assembly wishes to stress the need to focus on youth and implement youth rights as an investment in Europe's cohesion and future. Youth policies should be at the core of member states' strategies aimed at building up "living together" societies. In this respect, national authorities should adopt specific measures to encourage youth participation in economic and democratic life, and offer all young people equal opportunities to contribute to the development and well-being of their societies.

In addition to the work on youth rights, the European Youth Forum has continued to promote the co-management system both within the Council of Europe and beyond. The focus of the work has been on the reform of the Council of Europe within which the European Youth Forum has successfully worked together with the statutory bodies of the youth department in order to secure high political support for the youth sector and the continuation of the co-management system, including the financial support to youth organisations through the European Youth Foundation.

Through the Partnership Advisory Group and the Partnership Management Board, the European Youth Forum has secured the continuation of the cooperation on the Euro-Africa process.



ПО

ПОБЕДЕ

ПО

Rights-Based approach for an inclusive and participatory Europe

The European Youth Forum aims to work towards the full realisation of the rights of young people as a pre-requisite to further develop and build a democratic Europe with a sound social and economic model at all levels able to ensure the full development of the human and social potential of young people.

The sustainability of this European model depends as well on the contribution of young people to restore a dynamic equilibrium between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development, avoiding the threats of marginalisation of an entire generation, and stressing the importance of mainstreaming non-discrimination especially on the grounds of age.

In 2011 these goals have been challenged by the heavy crisis of the Continent. Nevertheless the Forum pursued promising successes in increasing the institutional recognition of a rights-based approach to youth policy, being it on participation, employment or generally ensuring a legal base for the rights of young people in Europe.

Youth-Rights Advocacy

Through continuous cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and in particular with Elvira Kovacs, rapporteur for the recommendation 'Towards a European Framework Convention on Youth Rights', the European Youth Forum successfully incorporated its views in the recommendation and also managed to raise the awareness of youth rights within the Parliamentary Assembly at large.

In order to support a more coherent approach to youth policy, one based on a rights-based approach, within the Parliamentary Assembly, the Youth Forum organised an informal debate on youth rights as a side-event to the Parliamentary Assembly session in June. The debate allowed youth representatives and parliamentarians to discuss the different resolutions and recommendations that were debated in the PACE on issues related to young people.

Overall the results of the June session of the Parliamentary Assembly were a great success for the Youth Forum as the concept of youth rights was explicitly recognised by the Parliamentary Assembly. There is an increased awareness within the Parliamentary Assembly for the need of a rights-based approach to youth policy. Especially the Recommendation "Towards a European Framework Convention on Youth Rights" is a noteworthy success, as the main conclusion of it is fully in line with the current work plan of the Forum. Namely, it calls on the Committee of Ministers to "instruct the relevant intergovernmental instances to study the possibility of drafting a framework convention on the rights of young people". Such a

study would clarify the need for such a Convention and would create a better understanding of the state of youth rights in Europe.

In 2011, the European Youth Forum also launched pilot funds for youth rights. Five projects (EBCO, CNJ, VJR, LJP, CNTM) carried out research within the thematic and/ or geographic areas that the organisations work within. The aim was to have a broad basis of research on different topics that together give a clear picture on the situation of youth rights in Europe.

Additionally, the Forum contracted a legal researcher to revise the book 'The International Law on Youth Rights' written by William Angel in 1995. The work entails collecting and analysing legal texts related to youth rights for the period 1994-2011 and will lay the ground for a new edition of the book.

Together, the legal research and the pilot fund will contribute to creating strong arguments for youth rights, based on well-documented evidence. Such evidence should then be used on many levels, in order to advocate for full protection and promotion of youth rights, but also in order to strengthen the awareness, both within institutions and governments, and among young people themselves. Thus, they play a vital role in the Forum's strategy on youth rights and will give great benefit in the short and medium term but even more so in the long term. The Expert Group on Youth Rights is working within this evidence-based approach to youth rights and started a structured study of the existing rights in Europe and interpret whether and how these impact young people specifically.

The European Youth Forum organised a seminar on hard law vs soft law with regards to the implementation of youth rights, in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations and the British Council. Experts, researchers and youth representatives met in a deep-dive brainstorming setting in order to discuss which rights need what kind of measures in order to be implemented. The participants prepared recommendations for decision makers and youth organisations on how to move forward based on the conclusions and recommendations. At this occasion, Mourad Mahidi presented the publication of his thesis “The Young and the Rightless?”.

In addition to this, the Forum organised the Networking Event on Youth Rights, which was an opportunity for experts, researchers, institutions and youth representatives to meet, network, discuss and exchange views on the state of youth rights in Europe. The discussions ranged from what youth rights actually are to defining what we want to achieve and finally to discuss recommendations on how the future work on youth rights can be focused. Guests from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Boltzman Institute for Human Rights, the Council of Europe and the Maynooth University enriched the discussions which were based on the experience and previous work of the European Youth Forum members.

EXPERT GROUP ON YOUTH RIGHTS

11-12 June, Brussels, Belgium

22-23 October, Vienna, Austria

Board Member Responsible: Mourad **MAHIDI**

Secretariat Support: Sara **ULFHIELM**

Guan **SCHAIKO** - International Federation of Liberal Youth

Alexia **TSOUNI** - European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

Georg **BOLDT** - Finnish Youth Council

Aleksandra **MALDŹISKI** - Organising Bureau of School Students Unions

Joel **ARENS** - Youth Council of the German-Speaking Community of Belgium

Young People Access to Decent and Quality Jobs



The European Youth Forum has been actively advocating for the overall improvements for young people on the labour market to allow them to have more sustainable jobs, decent income and access to social protection.

This entailed cooperation with various organisations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Eurofound, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and institutions, such as the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Parliament. New partnerships have been explored with organisations that focus on the topics concerning interns such as Generation Précaire, Intern Aware, Generation Praktikum, Interns Anonymous, Repubblica degli Stagisti and others.

One of the main processes to reach this objective was the finalisation of the text of the European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships (www.qualityinternships.eu) which sets the basic quality principles to ensure that internships and apprenticeships become a valuable and quality experience across Europe and beyond. To back up its advocacy work, the European Youth Forum launched a survey

“Interns Revealed” about the experiences of young interns in Europe.

The Forum also explored further the main issues affecting young people’s ability to enter into the world of entrepreneurship and reaffirmed the need for stable, enabling, and supportive environments through which young people can enter the field of entrepreneurship. The results of roundtable “Making Entrepreneurship a Real Option for Young Europeans” organised at the European Parliament in May laid the basis for the Policy Paper on the subject adopted by the Council of Members of the Platform in November.

Requests for youth guarantee policies strongly featured as a call to improve the situation of young people people that are not in education, employment or training who often face poverty and social exclusion. This was the core message sent during the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October, together with other partners such as Eurocities, the European Parliament and Eurofound at the occasion of a workshop jointly organised as part of the first Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion organised by the Polish Presidency.

35%
have done
ONE internship

28%
have done
TWO internship

9%
of the
respondents
reported to
have completed
five or more
internships

Interns Revealed

key findings

Six countries make up over half the survey population



75% Of all respondents got no or insufficient compensation

14% Internships extended beyond six months

69% Stated that the internship did not lead to a job with the host organisation

49% The most frequent source of support during internships came from parents

77%

Of the respondents listed improved CV or job chances as motivation for being an intern

15% Scholarship 26% Personal savings

10% Additional jobs 8% Student loans

Youth Employment Action

2011 was a flagship year for the Youth Employment Action project. The objective of creating a long-term, transnational project aimed at developing best practice examples on how to help young people access the labour market has become a reality with the implementation of events and activities on the ground. In March 2011 the Youth Employment Action Consortium met in Dublin to finalise plans for the year, including the organisation of the Roundtable on Youth Entrepreneurship, a Youth Employment Conference and the finalisation of a Youth Employment Publication

In November, with the support of the Youth Employment Action members, the European Youth Forum produced the publication *Youth Employment in Europe - A Call for Change*. This publication brought together the Youth Forum's different policies on internships, the youth guarantee, youth entrepreneurship and the social in-

clusion of young people. It also presented the work of the Youth Employment Action projects and showcased the work of youth organisations in the field of employment.

In December the Youth Forum organised the Youth Employment conference at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This conference, which was originally developed by the Youth Employment Action project, was the first ever youth event organised in cooperation with the OECD Forum. The event featured a range of high profile speakers, including Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD. Through this conference the Youth Employment Action project showed that youth organisations are key stakeholders in youth employment policy and that youth organisations speak on behalf of the young people of Europe and beyond.

www.youthemploymentaction.eu

European Youth Capital

The 'European Youth Capital' (www.europeanyouthcapital.org) is a title granted to a European city for a period of one year, during which it is given the chance to showcase its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development. The initiative encourages the implementation of new ideas and innovative projects with regards to the active participation of young people in society, and seeks to present a role model for the further development of other European municipalities.

In order to maintain and improve youth participation at local level and to foster the implementation of the "Revised European Charter on Participation of Young People on local and regional life", the Forum continued the facilitation of the selection procedure in particular the work

of the jury, composed of institutional, civil society, media and academic partners. The European Youth Capital 2014, Thessaloniki (Greece), was announced during the ceremony at the COMEM in Braga.

On the basis of cooperation plans outlined in Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) with the selected cities, the Forum continued its cooperation with the cities in order to ensure youth participation and a European dimension in every step of the project. In this context the European Youth Forum has been holding several coordination meetings with the municipalities from Rotterdam (EYC 2009), Antwerp (EYC 2011), Braga (EYC 2012) and Maribor (EYC 2013), and attended a coordination meeting between the cities, discussing future cooperation.

Vote at 16

The European Youth Forum successfully coordinated advocacy actions towards the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on the topic of vote at 16. The work resulted in the adoption by the PACE of the resolution “Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16”.

Additionally, the European Youth Forum, in cooperation with the European Parliament and MEP Andrew Duff, invited young European leaders and Parliamentarians to the “European Parliament Round Table – Expanding Democracy in Europe” on 7 December 2011. The Round Table raised the debate on expanding democracy in Europe through youth participation,

cooperation with participatory youth organisations and lowering the electoral age to vote 16 while ensuring citizenship education in schools. The participants to the meeting had the possibility for best practice exchange at a preparatory meeting, followed by the opportunity to establish contacts with Members of the European Parliament at the Networking Lunch and the participation at the official Round Table discussion.

The Expert Group on Vote at 16 supported the Forum in advocating for vote at 16 towards the European institutions. It further set up an action plan and timeframe for the policy and advocacy work, on the basis of the input of the Youth Forum membership.

EXPERT GROUP ON VOTE AT 16

14-15 May, Brussels, Belgium
15-16 October, Oslo, Norway

Board Member Responsible:
 Anemone **BIRKEBÆK**
 Secretariat Support:
 Magdalena **KURZ**

Helen **DEAKIN**
 British Youth Council
 Maria **KELLY**
 National Youth Council of Ireland
 Erik **VAD BRAENDGAARD**
 Danish Youth Council
 Elizabeth **TOFT ERICHSEN**
 Norwegian Children’s and Youth Council
 Maria **LETTNER**
 Austrian Youth Council

The League of Young Voters

In 2011, the European Youth Forum also began preparations to increase youth participation to the European Elections in 2014. The League of Young Voters in Europe aims to show the impact that EU political decisions and elections have on the lives of young Europeans, while also informing political parties of young people’s concerns, in order to make youth a priority and promote a stronger inclusion of young people and their interests in electoral campaigns. The main objective of the League will be to provide young Europeans with the possibility to vote in an informed manner. The League will therefore provide non-partisan information about the positions of different political parties on issues that concern and interest them.

The project started with the a feasibility phase, funded by the Open Society Institute Youth Initiative, which was necessary in order to verify the potential and opportunities connected to the implementation of the League. The Forum therefore organised meetings with potential partners and with the European institutions in order to present the project and discuss possible future partnerships. A Feasibility Study was also drafted, looking at past institutional and political campaigns to see what lessons could be learnt from them, as well as identifying some core issues as youth priorities. However, the League of Young Voters will be interactive and using the latest and innovative tools, leave a space for young Europeans to contribute with issues that they feel are not included.



Organisational, development and communication

The European Youth Forum does not exist in isolation, it is a representative platform, of which the profile and standing correlates directly with that of its individual MOs and the millions of young people who are active in these organisations. The credibility of the Youth Forum and its profile is directly related to that of its MOs and to the extent to which we do and are what we say we are and our ability to communicate that.

2011 saw the consolidation of both the communication strategy and of the changes in the governance initiated in the previous year to equip the Forum to be more fit to its members. This had a clear impact in the increased profile of the Platform and to enhanced support to its Membership.

More Quality Support to Membership

Building the capacity and sustainability of its Members through continuous support has been one of the core focused in the organisational development of the Youth Forum. A strong platform can only exist with a strong membership and, therefore, there is a need for continuous investment into its member organisations. This work includes general membership services and tailored support.

The membership services included the traditional Information and Networking Day on Funding as well as a Financial Management Training and the Secretary-Generals Networking Meeting. These three events were held within the Membership Support Week offering structured and holistic support to the membership. The week enabled member organisations to increase their capacity on funding and financial management. It also enabled managers of youth

organisations to exchange views and to gain new skills for their daily work. The Forum further organised an Advocacy Training for its member organisations, aiming at providing skills and tools to improve their European Advocacy.

To support the work of the platform itself and its member organisations the European Youth Forum has a Pool of Trainers and Facilitators, which helps to improve the capacity and improve knowledge of the membership. 30 experienced youth workers with an additional expertise in the field of training and facilitation supported different activities, including some of the Forum's institutional partners.

In the field of tailored support, further consolidation of the contact system between the Board and Member Organisations took place.

A Visible Platform

2011 was an incredible year for the European Youth Forum in the media! Thanks to the huge success of the II Youth Convention on Volunteering, the Youth Forum reached out to a European-wide media coverage, including major national newspaper, Brussels-based EU outlets, as well as European radio networks and extensive online references.

In September 2011, we reached our yearly record when the II Youth Convention on Volunteering and the European Youth Forum were mentioned in 13 print, 37 online, 7 radio and 4 TV media outlets, as well as in 29 institutional websites from all over Europe. Volunteering was the hot topic in the EU bubble and in several European countries: the national newspaper *La Stampa* (IT) reserved a full page and the European magazine *Vita Europe* dedicated to volunteering a full special issue, with a focus on young volunteers.

It was not only about the Convention! Other hot topics that brought media attention to our platform included the EU-China Youth Year, Intergenerational Solidarity, the European Youth Capital and, above all, our work on Internships and Youth Employment. The Youth Employment conference “A Call for Change” with the support of the OECD was the occasion to close the year in style, with a live interview on the BBC World Service and a national radio, *Radio Radicale* (IT). Moreover, several articles on news outlets such as *The Guardian* (UK), *Liberio* (IT) or *Metro* (BE) published extensive reportage on internships.

The Social Media Revolution

In 2011 the European Youth Forum's social media channels moved from strength to strength as the European Youth Forum ensured that the use of social media tools were even further developed to serve the purpose of reaching out to a much wider audience. Building on the success of 2010, there was a continued growth in our online followers, particularly on our Facebook page, where we obtained almost 10,000 new fans, growing from 10,800 to 20,640.

In concluding its second calendar year, the Youth Policy Watch bulletin continued to grow in popularity and remains one of the most successful projects of the European Youth Forum in terms of specific communication in the field of youth policy. Regular feedback from partners, stakeholders and members exhibits that the publication persists to fill the youth policy information gap. During the year, the Youth Policy Watch was distributed 23 times, and reached the inboxes of over 3,000 people – which includes a wide range of stakeholders in the youth policy sector in Europe and beyond.

Publications

In 2011, the European Youth Forum continued the process of empowering its Member Organisations to work on health by developing a database of young experts in health. Through this database young people have participated in a range of international events on a wide range of topics, from tobacco and drugs to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In April the Youth Forum organised a non-formal education and health training. Attended by 50 young people from a range of youth organisations, the event addressed the role of youth organisations in the health of young people.

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Communication in numbers

2 *European media partnerships*

34 *Press Releases*

32 *Print press reports*

9 *TV appearances*

12 *Radio Interviews*

192 *Online news reports*

OFFICIAL
STATEMENT

Facebook fans

From 10800 to 20640 (31/12/2011)

8,723,295

Reaching out to people!

TOP 3 COUNTRIES

TURKEY, PORTUGAL, ITALY

TOP 3 CITIES

ATHENS, ISTANBUL, BRUSSELS

Twitter followers

3,098

#YFJ #internsrevealed #IYCV #OECD

Best tweet from the II Youth Convention on Volunteering: "#YCV11 // For Youth Rights. What more? Enjoy #YFJ. We took over the heart of Europe!"
Most popular tweet from the Youth Employment Conference: "When you've finished your studies & you're being used for free labour, that's a crime" S. Burrow. Re-tweeted 25 times.

Vimeo Channel

10% New videos

More than

Videos in total

33

10.000

Views in less than 2 months for "Where are you going?"

OMNIVOLUNTEER



Finances and Administration

2011 represented the first year of the cycle under the bi-annual Work Plan 2011-12. In terms of finances, a central focus must be put on the 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 2.400.000 Euro for 2011.

Concerning the execution of the agreement with DG EAC, there was a slight under-expenditure (0,65%), meaning that the total amount applicable to the EU grant amounted at 2.986.775 Euro - the final EU contribution calculated at 2.384.948 Euro.

Consequently, the grant was reduced by 15.051 Euro. The under-spending was thus considerably reduced compared to previous years: in 2010 it amounted at 2,98% (69.362 Euro) while in 2009 it amounted at 6,31%(184.859 Euro). These positive results are due to an increase in the amount invested in the activities and in the Forum' advocacy processes, and an improved capacity to execute the activities planned for 2011.

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

On the remainder of the European Youth Forum budget not linked to the operating grant agreement with DG EAC under Youth in Action Program, there was a negative result of 312.458 Euro. The negative result is justified by the payment to DG EAC of 376.976,69 Euro relating to the reimbursement of part of the social reserves. The European Youth Forum is currently appealing to the European Ombudsman concerning this issue.

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 important, the internal audit and the consultancy role of the Financial Control Commission, as much as the external auditors, Ernest & Young.

Budget Execution

In terms of incomes, almost 85% of the Youth Forum's income stems from annual grants from international institutions. 79,9% of the total income in 2011 came from EU Budget, through the grant from DG Education and Culture, while around 3% was from grants by the Council of Europe. The Membership fees contributed to 4,6% and the volunteer contributions, partnerships and other incomes to 12,5% of the overall incomes.

Advocacy

49,8%

Operational costs

36,8%

Governance

13,4%

Incomes

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DG EAC

79,9%

Partnership & Other incomes

12,5%

Membership fees

4,6%

Grants by the Council of Europe

3%

Board

Peter Matjašič, President

Katarina Nevedalova, Vice-President

Luca Scarpiello, Vice-President

Anemone Birkebæk, Board Member

Rui Duarte, Board Member

Imse Nilsson, Board Member

Lloyd Russell-Moyle, Board Member

Guoda Lomanaite, Board Member

Katrine Korsgaard, Board Member

Falko Mohrs, Board Member

Mourad Mahidi, Board Member

Secretariat

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Secretary-General - Giuseppe PORCARO

Assistant to the Secretary-General - John LISNEY

Communications Coordinator - Letizia GAMBINI

Communications Officer - Thomas SPRAGG

Intern Policy Monitoring and Communication - Louis LEBLIQUE (jusqu'à juillet)

Intern Policy Monitoring and Communication - Yong CHOI (à partir de juillet)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department - Klavdija ČERNILOGAR (until November)

Head of Department - Sara ULFHIELM (from November)

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Young Volunteers) - Maarten COERTJENS

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Strong Youth Organisations) - Anna RANKI

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Rights-Based approach to Youth Policy) - Sara ULFHIELM (until November)

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Rights-Based approach to Youth Policy) - Giorgio ZECCA (from December)

EU Relations Coordinator - Antoine MERTZEISEN

Project Officer for the EU Structured Dialogue - Laura HEMMATI

UN and Global Relations Coordinator - Vania FREITAS

Policy Officer Participation - Magdalena KURZ

Policy Officer Employment and Social Affairs - Santa OZOLINA

Policy Officer Youth Work Development - Matthias CHRISTENSEN

Policy Officer - James HIGGINS

EU Presidency Project Officer - Viktor SZABADOS (HU Presidency)

EU Presidency Project Officer - Magdalena MACINSKA (PL Presidency)

Project Officer Volunteering and Youth Organisations - Jo DEMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Administrative & Financial Director - David WAHLI (until December)

Administrative & Financial Director - David FERREIRA (from December)

Translator / Team co-ordinator - Luc RUMMENS

Accountant - Agata PETCOV (until September)

Accountant - Christine STRUYS (from November)

Administrative Assistant / Human Resources Coordinator - Marie-Aimée MUSANASE

Translator / Assistant - Anne DEBRABANDERE

Membership Services Officer - Daniel NUIJTEN

Secretary / Assistant - Nicole BURLET-PARENDEL

IT Coordinator / Webmaster - Estefania ASOREY

Fundraising and Event 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 - **CGJL** (Luxembourg); Consejo de la Juventud de España - **CJE** (Spain); Comité pour les Relations Nationales et Internationales des Associations de Jeunesse et d'Éducation Populaire - **CNAJEP** (France); Conselho Nacional de Juventude - **CNJ** (Portugal); Consell Nacional de la Joventut de Catalunya - **CNJC** (Spain-Catalonia); Consiliul Național Al Tineretului Din Moldova - **CNTM** (Moldova); Comité pour les Relations Internationales de Jeunesse - **CRIJ** (Belgium, French-speaking Community); National Youth Council of Switzerland - **SAJV/CSAJ** (Switzerland); Cyprus Youth Council - **CYC** (Cyprus); Deutsches Nationalkomitee für Internationale Jugendarbeit - **DNK** (Germany); Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd - **DUF** (Denmark); Eesti Noorteühenduste Liit - **ENL** (Estonia); National Council of Hellas - **ESYN** (Greece);

Forum Nazionale dei Giovani - **FNG** (Italy); Nationale Jeugdraad - **JEUGDRAAD** (Netherlands); Kunsill Nazzjonali Taz-Zghazagh - **KNZ**-Malta (Malta); Lietuvos Jaunimo Organizacijų Taryba - **LIJOT** (Lithuania); Latvijas Jaunatnes Padome - **LJP** (Latvia); Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner - **LNU** (Norway); Landsrådet för Sveriges ungdomsorganisationer - **LSU** (Sweden); Lands samband æskulýðsfélaga - **LÆF** (Iceland); Croatian Youth Network - **MMH** (Croatia); Mladinski Svet Slovenije - **MSS** (Slovenia); National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan - **NAYORA** (Azerbaijan); National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia - **NCYOG** (Georgia); National Youth Council of Armenia - **NYCA** (Armenia); 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 Jeugd Raad - **VJR** (Belgium, Flemish-speaking Community).

International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs)

ACTIVE - Sobriety, Friendship and Peace; Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe – **AESEE** Europe; Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations - **ALLIANCE**; International ATD Fourth World Movement - **ATD-Quart Monde**; Democrat Youth Community of Europe - **DEMYC**; European Bureau of Conscientious Objection - **EBCO/BEOC**; Young European Socialists - **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 Unions of Students in Europe - **ESIB**; Erasmus Student Network – **ESN**; European Trade Union Confederation - **ETUC Youth**; EU Federation of Youth Hostel Associations - **EUFED**; 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 Federation of Liberal Youth - **IFLRY**; International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International - **IFM/SEI**; 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 - **IYNF**; International Young Catholic Students - International Movement of Catholic Students - **JECI-MIEC**; Young European Federalists - **JEF**; European Liberal Youth - **LYMEC**; International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth - **MIJARC-Europe**; Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions - **OBESSU**; Rural Youth Europe – Rural Youth Europe; 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 European Nationalities - **YEN**; 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).

Candidate members

NYCs

Consiliul Tineretului Din Romania - **CTR** (Romania); Czech Council of Children and Youth - **CRDM** (Czech Republic); Ukrainian Youth Forum – **UYF** (Ukraine).

INGYOs

European Council of Young Farmers – **CEJA**; European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions – **CESI-Youth**; Don Bosco Youth Net; 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/CIJOC**; International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People - **IFHOHP**; Jeunesses Musicales International - **JMI**; Pax Christi International - Pax Christi; Red Cross Youth – **RCY**; Youth Express Network – **Y-E-N**.

INGYOs

CISV International;
Freedom, Legality and Rights in Europe - **FLARE**.

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