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2012



european  
youth forum



# *annual report 2012*

## **Editorial Team**

Giuseppe Porcaro – *Editor in Chief*  
Alix Masson – *Editor*  
Gabriele Trapani – *Art Director*  
Anne Debrabandere – *Translation*  
Thomas Spragg – *Copy Editor*  
John Lisney – *Copy Editor*

European Youth Forum  
120, rue Joseph II  
1000, Bruxelles  
Belgium – Belgique

**[www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)**

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2012 European Youth Forum

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2012

**intro**

**Intro by**

**Peter Matjašič**

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

**&**

**Giuseppe Porcaro**

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

# Investing in youth, now!

Crisis, disaster and protest were the most commonly used words to describe 2011, with young people at the forefront. Young people stood up against dictatorships across the Arab world, but also against the austerity measures and hardship faced in the continuous crisis in Europe. As a platform representing and advocating the needs and interests of young people and of their organisations, we need to be the bridge between the indignados activists and the decision-makers that shape our lives at all levels. During 2012, we tried to do just that.

Firstly, we continued to advocate strongly for youth to be high on the agenda and included in the political priorities of European decision-makers. By addressing directly the European Council and its President on the issue of the need to invest in youth right here, right now, we achieved an unprecedented level of visibility for youth issues and the Youth Forum when mentioned in the Press Statement of Herman Von Rompuy at the end of the European Council meeting in February, as well being associated with its initiative to involve young people in the Peace Nobel Prize that was given to the European Union in December 2012. Moreover, during the annual YO! Fest, we presented the Charter on Quality Internships and received its endorsement by the President of the European Parliament. However, major challenges remain in ensuring that youth is not considered a decorative policy area, but is fully integrated into major economic and social policy-making.

Secondly, we strived to materialise such political recognition with stronger financial tools. The highlight of the past year was definitely the work on convincing the European institutions that investing in youth should be a priority. It is not acceptable to read that the EU spent 12.7 EUR per year for one dairy cow, while dividing the youth activities budget equally among young people in the EU, each young person actually received approximately 1.26 EUR per year. This is the essence of our campaign [loveyouthfuture.eu](http://loveyouthfuture.eu) towards a strong focus on youth in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, in addition to bringing forward the debate on investing in youth to the larger public and allowing young people themselves to get actively involved by sharing their ideas through a user-generated content part of this online platform.

Following this general goal, we continued having a strong stance towards a solid youth programme in the next budget cycle of the EU. We did that with countless meetings with the Commission, the Parliament, and the Council of the EU. The influence that we managed to have on the Report on Erasmus for All, to be released by the European Parliament, as well as a very important bilateral meeting in June between the leadership of the Forum and Commissioner Vassiliou, were definitely the highlights of this process. As a consequence of this action, we raised support over the principle of keeping administrative grants for youth organisations in the future programme, as well as a clear separation and earmarking of resources for youth work. More has to

be done, as the negotiations for the new programme are not finished. But we are on the right track.

Thirdly, our requests for political recognition and financial commitment, such as in the case of youth programmes, were strengthened as we continued to work on the impact and outreach of volunteers in youth organisations in Europe, in addition to advancing a rights-based approach in youth policies. Examples of this were specifically the campaign for a written declaration at the European Parliament on [vote@16](http://vote@16), the use of the momentum of the EYV11 and IYV+10 to promote the rights of volunteers, and the strengthening of the quality of Non-Formal Education. Furthermore, by continuing preparations towards the European Elections in 2014 with the exploratory phase for the setup of a League of Young Voters, as well as working on a Youth manifesto, we equipped ourselves to take part in a meaningful European Year of Citizens 2013, together with other civil society partners.

It was also an important year for our governance, with the finalisation of a 10 month long process of reflection on the new cycle of strategic priorities for the Youth Forum for the next 6 years as well as a new work plan for the next biennium and a renewed leadership elected at the General Assembly in November 2012.

We can be proud of what we have achieved so far, but cannot allow ourselves to be complacent. We can and need to do even more!



# .01

## Young volunteers building Europe

*2012 has seen some major steps forward for the Youth Forum in the recognition of volunteers and their crucial contribution in building Europe. The Youth Forum has fought to ensure a legacy for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 towards the different institutional and civil society partners. The Youth Forum strove especially for a rights-based approach to volunteering, promoting in particular the Charter for the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers. It welcomes crucial steps during 2012, which include more recognition of Non-Formal Education and is pleased with the work done on quality in Non-Formal Education.*

# Volunteering

Nearly five years of discussion, debate, and consideration of the rights of volunteers culminated in the launch of the European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers at the European Parliament in September 2012. The Charter sets out a structure for safe and quality volunteering, addressed toward decision-makers at all levels, as well as volunteers and volunteering-involving organisations. 2012 also was a year to ensure a legacy for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, with the Youth Forum leading the efforts to establish the European Alliance for Volunteering, the follow-on from the Civil Society Alliance formed during the year.

The Youth Forum's rights-based approach to volunteering provided the guiding principles for the Youth Forum's years of work on developing the Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers. Work on this topic had started in 2008 with the "European framework for the rights of the volunteer", drafted by the Youth Forum. A wide consultation with our members accompanied the whole process, as well as other volunteering organisations such as those involved in the European Year of Volunteering Alliance and volunteers themselves. The rights of volunteers was a focus of the II Youth Convention on Volunteering, organised by the Youth Forum in September 2011 at the European Parliament.

In June the Charter gained the strong support of the European Parliament in its Report on Cross-Border Volunteering. In September, it was officially launched in seven different languages at the European Parliament in a high-level event hosted by Marian Harkin MEP. The subsequent debate on volunteers' rights and how to advocate for these in the future set the scene for the next phase, having a concrete effect on developing volunteering infrastructure across Europe. With both the European Parliament and the Commission calling for Member States to ensure clear legal frameworks for volunteering, many organisations expressed their enthusiasm to be involved in campaigns on this subject. The Youth Forum Working Group on Volunteering were closely involved in the development, approval and translation of the Charter.

The Youth Forum was deeply involved in the establishment of the new European Alliance for Volunteering (EAV), a follow-up to the Civil Society cooperation that existed during the European Year for Volunteering 2011. The previous Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering was dissolved in March 2012. As part of the Preparatory Working Group tasked with putting together the EAV, the work programme and legal structure for the EAV were developed in a process that involved close consultation with possible future members of the EAV. The Youth Forum Working Group on Volunteering also contributed to this process.



# Evidence for stronger recognition of Non-Formal Education

The recognition of Non-Formal Education (NFE) and the impact of youth organisations as key providers of quality education were at the core of our efforts in 2012. The Forum kept its leading role in this process by providing evidence-based research and closely monitoring and influencing policy developments in education and youth, while strengthening its coordination with educational stakeholders.

The Forum commissioned a study on “The Impact of Non-Formal Education in Youth Organisations on Young People’s Employability.” Conducted by the University of Bath and GHK Consulting. The findings prove that long-lasting and frequent engagement and participation in NFE in youth organisations bring high soft-skills development. Skills developed are closely linked to those demanded by employers. This research provides the long-awaited evidence of the need for more political and financial investment in youth organisations to ensure that they can deliver quality Non-Formal Education to more young people, thus providing more needed skills to more young people and ensuring a better access to the labour market.

The 2012 Non Formal Education Week further contributed to discussing and exploring ways to push forward the recognition of NFE in both policy and practice, and at national and European levels. The week-long series of events brought together youth organisations, policy and decision-makers, institutions, employers and private sector representatives, and various civil society organisations, in an interactive space to establish dialogue and learn from each other on the latest developments on recognition policy and practices in NFE, while enhancing their advocacy work in this field. The event contributed to further understanding on the role that youth organisations play as key providers of NFE and the social impact of their educational work, hence contributing to

the discussions on the development of targeted and effective policies in the field of education and youth in Europe, such as the Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal learning.

Further steps were taken in the consolidation of the Framework for Quality Assurance of Non-Formal Education developed by the Forum. Since its start in 2008, a pilot project phase and a series of training cycles were held in order to build the capacity of its member organisations to implement Quality Assurance in their educational projects. In 2012 new youth organisations participated in the trainings and got to discover the value of quality indicators and peer-feedback to assure quality of their NFE projects. The actors involved in the project developed a Manual on Quality Assurance of NFE as a support tool to the capacity building and implementation of this process.

Cooperation and partnerships are instrumental to maximise efforts and reach the expected results. Therefore, the Forum continued to share its expertise and to coordinate efforts with other institutions and partners working towards the recognition of NFE. The Forum was an active member of the Expert Group on the Recognition of Non-formal Education/Learning and Youth Work led by the Youth Partnership of the EU/CoE, as well as of the Youthpass Advisory Group. Building on the constructive cooperation in the previous years, the European Youth Forum and EUCIS-LLL (European Civil Society Platform on Life-Long Learning) officially signed a partnership to strengthen the position of education, training and youth stakeholders at European Level and increase the impact on EU policy in education. This resulted in an active participation and contribution of the work by the Coalition on “Erasmus for All” monitoring the new Youth programme.

# KEY FINDINGS: Research NFE & Employability

250

responses from youth organisations

1,301

young people  
from over

40

countries across Europe

Long-lasting and frequent engagement and participation in youth organisations brings high soft-skills development.

6

amongst the six skills mostly demanded by employers

5

are also among those developed through involvement in youth organisations: communication, teamwork, decision-making, organisational skills and self-confidence. For non-formal education activities abroad, this includes higher development of language, intercultural and leadership skills.

Experience in youth organisation and the skills this develops are valued by employers especially when young people have no – or very little – formal working experience, thus making the work of youth organisation an important contribution to the transition of young people from education to the labour market.

The participation in youth organisation is particularly valuable in developing social capital (network and connections) and in creating new vocation paths, especially for NEETs, early school leavers and young migrants.

# YM+

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The Platform for Young Migrants YM+, a project of the Youth Forum, came to an end in 2012, after enabling advocacy and outreach for many youth migrant organisations to the European level. The Youth Forum proposed to consolidate the platform and move towards an independent and self-sustaining entity. However the funding support ended from external funders. YM+ members continue to be enabled to attend European level activities, such as the European Integration Forum and the Roma Youth Action Plan.

The Youth Forum aimed to gather and develop tools to reach out to a greater diversity of young people. After holding a Roundtable to gather best practices in April 2012, a number of useful publications and case studies were collected.

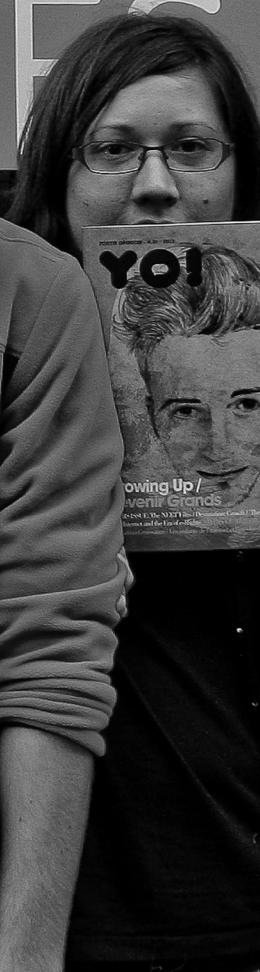
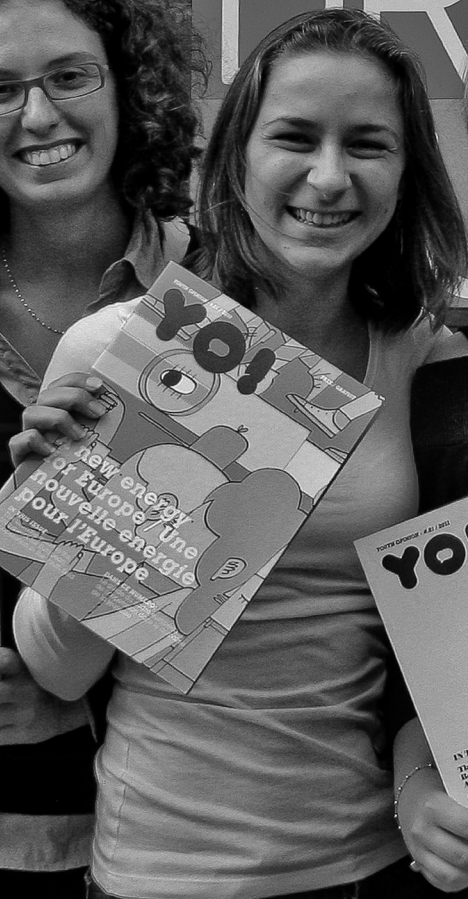
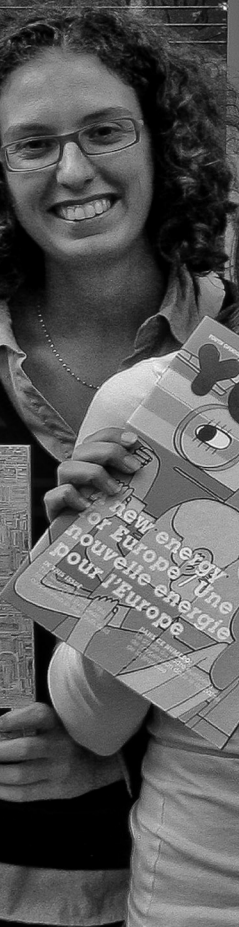
## For less Visa Barriers for young volunteers

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Visa regimes constitute one of the greater barriers for youth mobility. This has therefore been the focus of work of the Forum in this area. The Youth Forum advocated for better rules for visas for cross-border youth activities through the revision of the so-called “Visa Directive.” The Forum is also part of the Steering Group establishing the European Platform for Learning Mobility in the youth field to be founded in March 2013. The Youth on the Move card, due to be launched in 2013 will also be a useful tool to encourage youth mobility. However, it is important that such a card builds on the existing ones and incorporates new elements related to promoting European mobility opportunities and recognition of non-formal education and volunteering outcomes.

FOR  
YOUTH  
RIGHTS.

POUR LES  
DROITS



# .02 Strong Youth Organisations for Strong Civil Society

*In 2012 the Forum focused on all aspects that youth organisations bring to society, building sustainable support mechanisms to enable more and more diverse young people to fulfil their potential in youth organisations and contributing to creating a more connected society. A strong youth sector also contributes to a stronger European civil society through structured and civil dialogue, as well as to Europe as a responsible actor at the global level. By building capacity, we focused on the knowledge support to youth organisations and their platforms. On the other hand, the Youth Forum advocated for strong institutional support and more investment in youth from the local to the global levels in order to create a favourable environment, in which youth organisations and platforms can develop. The recognition of youth work and the importance of youth participation also moved forward in several European countries and at global level in the UN system.*

# Invest in Youth

During 2012 the Forum focused on advocating for more investment in youth and especially towards the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport as well as on mainstreaming and prioritising youth within the EU's Multi-annual framework (MFF) 2014-2020.

The advocacy regarding the "Erasmus for All" programme targeted the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers, calling for a strong and independent Youth in Action Programme for non-formal education, youth work and democratic youth organisations. Regarding advocacy towards the Council, the Forum worked closely with its members in order to ensure that the needs of the youth field and youth organisations in general would be taken into account in their positioning.

As an outcome in May 2012, the Council reached its General Partial Agreement, which included many of the points that the Forum had advocated for: a specific youth chapter with youth-field related aims and objectives, and support for European Youth organisations.

The Forum worked even closer with the European Parliament and ran extensive advocacy and lobbying in order to ensure that its demands were taken into account in its position. The outcome was very positive – all the key demands of the Forum were included: a separate youth chapter called Youth in Action with its own budget line, aims and objectives linked to the EU Youth strategy, three key actions in line with the Forum proposal, support for European youth organisations, inclusion of the volunteer time contribution as co-funding, non-formal education as understood by the Forum was streamlined in the programme, and the request for civil society organisations to be consulted on the monitoring and implementation of the programme.

Besides the advocacy regarding the legal basis, the Forum worked with the European Commission on the administrative grants of youth organisations, participated in the stakeholder consultation of the Commission regarding the users guide, and started developing its own position on the latter.

Many activities and events were organised focusing on the advocacy process during 2012: the Forum was invited as expert to the CULT committee hearing on the "Erasmus for All" programme in March; several bilateral meetings with the shadow rapporteurs of the

European Parliament and the Youth Inter-group regarding the new programme; meeting with Commissioner Vassiliou in June regarding the administrative grants; stakeholder breakfast for the Youth Working Party of the Council and MEPs was organised in September - just to mention a few.

The Youth in Action expert group was instrumental in supporting the work of the Forum. During 2012 it focused mainly on developing recommendations to the Council and to the European Parliament regarding the new programme and started developing the Forum's position on the users guide.

Regarding the European Council and the overall MFF advocacy, in cooperation with the National Youth Councils and Political Party Youth Organisations, the Forum sent a letter to each Prime Minister/Head of State asking for her/his support for an increase in the budget of the programme and, more generally, for investing in youth in the next MFF. The Forum also continued working with the European Parliament in order to translate youth mainstreaming as a key point in the European Parliament interim report on the MFF. As an outcome of this advocacy process, the European Parliament report on the MFF strongly favours mainstreaming youth within the MFF, sets youth as a priority, and supports the specific financial instruments dedicated to youth.

To support the advocacy work of the Forum and its members, the Forum developed the LoveYouthFuture platform ([www.loveyouthfuture.eu](http://www.loveyouthfuture.eu)) – calling for more investments in youth at all levels: local, regional, national and European. The Forum developed tools for its members to act in order to spread the message from local level to the European level. Everyone can express support in the webpage of the campaign, members have tools to advocate towards the decision makers and the Non Formal Education activity raises awareness among young people of the importance of investing in youth.

The Forum continued participating to the Programme Committee and Evaluation Committee meetings of the Youth in Action programme as an observer, and worked with the Education and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission to improve the implementation and user-friendliness of the programme.

# EU budget for youth revealed

Youth unemployment costs

billion **100** euros

The taxpayer approximately per year in 21 member states = Not investing in youth is costly!

**20%**

Of population of Europe are young people.

Direct support for European youth policy, youth work and youth organisations represents

**0.09%** of the EU budget.

The Lifelong Learning Programme is

**0.7%** of the EU budget for 2007-2013.

European Social Fund programmes included around

**4.5** million Of young people (15-24 years old)

accounting for

**28%** the total in 2010 = via the ESF **2.1%** of the total EU budget flows to youth.

YiA+LLP+ESF or youth 2007-2013

**2.9%** of the total EU budget.

Young farmers benefit from the CAP directly for

**5** billion euros during 2007-2013, which is only

**0.5%** of the total EU budget.

2012 the YiA programme supported with administrative grants

**50,000** euros annually

**60** European Youth Organisations.

# Supporting new National Youth Councils in Europe

The Youth Forum continued to give special attention to the youth councils of Poland, Serbia and Bulgaria. However since these councils developed considerably over the past years, the Forum also supported the developments in other countries.

Organisational strengthening and strategic planning were the core objectives for two events planned for Krovna organizacija Srbije (KOMS, Serbia) and for Polskiej Rady Organizacji Młodzieżowych (PROM, Poland). These events were the beginning of a consultative process, of which the final goal is to establish an action-plan and a strategy for the newly established NYCs and build a more inclusive platform, where the members feel included in the processes, thereby creating a more sustainable organisation.

In Macedonia, a contested draft youth law was finally withdrawn, ending a long battle by parts of civil society contesting it. However, the involvement in this process led to many youth organisations cooperating on a range of issues, which ultimately led to an event where the foundation for a future permanent coalition of youth organisations was established aiming at establishing a National

Youth council in Macedonia in 2013.

In Hungary, the Youth Forum also organised an event to lay the foundation for a future youth council. There, the momentum created was significant, and the Hungarian NYC was eventually established in December.

In 2012 the Forum could welcome another constituted NYC: in Montenegro Crnogorski Omladinski Forum (COF), which was established in June after years of consolidation. Since then, COF has looked inwards at developing its own capacity and reaching out to new member organisations.

The Youth Work Development working group developed recommendations for how to include more international non-governmental youth organisations in the work done by the Forum on youth work development, and concentrated on global and inter-regional cooperation amongst youth organisations. It also contributed to the drafting of publications focused on the impact of youth work and sustainability of National Youth Councils.



# Global Youth Work

The work of the Youth Forum in strengthening its inter-regional and global youth cooperation also continued progressing. The Forum worked closely with the International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations and Regional Youth Platforms in the frame of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO).

Throughout 2012, the Forum remained actively engaged in the Africa-Europe youth cooperation. The creation of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform was among the core actions implemented. Designed to plan, monitor, implement and evaluate the Africa-Europe youth cooperation programme, the Platform represents an important step forward towards a more comprehensive and coordinated dialogue and cooperation.

In the run up to the 7th EU-LAC/1st EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Youth Forum also continued advocating for the setting-up of a coordinated strategy on youth in the partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC). Reaffirming the strength of the inter-regional youth cooperation, the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum (FEULAC) issued a joint statement on the key issues and recommendations regarding the

EU-LAC cooperation and, in particular, the central theme of the Heads of State and Government Summit: "Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investments of Social and Environmental Quality".

Also bearing fruit was the Youth Forum's cooperation with the Arab and Mediterranean region. In responding to the new political context in the region, the Forum step up efforts in strengthening the political dialogue among all relevant stakeholders, at civil society and institutional level, along with enhanced support to capacity building initiatives to establish and consolidate national and regional youth structures. In doing so, the Forum contributed to a more coordinated and effective cooperation.

The Forum's work on creating a more coherent and articulated system for the three Universities – University on Youth and Development (Spain), the University on Participation and Citizenship (Uruguay), and the African University on Youth and Development (Cape Verde) – also moved ahead with the formalisation of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship; a partnership that continued to grow with the pilot experience of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Development.

# New Media & Sustainable Development

A large part of this year's work in the area of New Media was marked by the adoption of the Policy Paper on New Media and Internet Governance (April 2012). Increased youth participation was ensured in both European Dialogue on Internet Governance and Internet Governance Forum, the two main internet governance stakeholder conferences. In June, the Youth Forum and youth representatives participated to EuroDIG in Stockholm, where Member Organisations (YEU, JEF, AEGEE, EYP) successfully organised the 2nd edition of the New Media Summer School "The Web of Tomorrow is Yours," recognised as a best practice in capacity building of civil society in this field. In November, for the first time, a youth event was held at the Internet Governance Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, thanks to cooperation of the Forum with YEU and NAYORA and the support of Google.

The Youth Forum's work on sustainable development focused on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Following the adoption of the Resolution for Rio+20 in late 2011, the Forum attended the conference with strong positions and the mandate of representing almost 100 European youth organisations. The Youth Forum had clear goals in a number of areas, including the green economy, employment, gender and health, youth participation and governance. Thanks to our lobbying on the spot, we secured the inclusion of paragraph 231 in the final declaration clearly mentioning a reference to Non-Formal Education.

# A Strong Institutional Youth Agenda

## **European Union**

From January on, the European Youth Forum ensured the continuity of its cooperation with main actors in the EU youth field, the European Commission and Member States. The Structured Dialogue continued to be a major European Union process in the youth field in 2012 and concluded its second 18-month cycle by the 31st December 2012. During this second cycle, the European Youth Forum continued facilitating the implementation and coordination of the process allowing it to further develop. Young people and policy-makers discussed youth participation in democratic life in Europe in all Member States, thanks to the debates organised by National Working Groups and several international non-governmental youth organisations. Discussions culminated during the EU Youth Conferences organised by the Danish and the Cypriot presidencies of the Council of the EU. Based on the results of the joint discussions, the Council adopted three different Conclusions on the specific priorities of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio Presidency as well as a Council Resolution on youth participation in democratic life in Europe. This latter endorses recommendations from young people and policy makers on youth participation and defines concrete ways to further develop the Structured Dialogue process.

Besides its work in the renewed framework of European cooperation in the youth field, the Youth Forum reached out to other stakeholders in various policy areas. The

Forum especially reinforced its relations with the European Parliament, either in its cooperation with the intergroup on youth, or through more thematic advocacy. The intergroup held several meetings in cooperation with the Forum and took an active part in organising the YO! Fest on internships. It also proved to be a good relay for our message on the future youth programme in the Parliament. On this crucial topic, the Forum also established direct contact with key Members of the European Parliament working specifically on the programme, such as MEP Pack, Chairwoman of the Committee on Culture and Education, or MEPs Kalfin and Böge, who prepare the positions of the Parliament on the Multi-annual Financial Framework, and can thus ensure that the Youth programme will be adequately funded.

On more thematic processes, the Forum sustained its strong engagement in favour of youth employment as well as its work on the transition from education to work in close cooperation with the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs in the European Commission, or with other Civil Society organisations via the Social Platform. The Forum monitored youth-related developments in the implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy, and contributed to important steps of the European Semester, pushing for a stronger emphasis on youth and clear measures to combat the impact of the crisis on young people's lives, now reflected in the Annual Growth Survey 2013.

## Council of Europe

In 2012 the European Youth Forum sustained its close cooperation with the Youth Department of the Democratic Citizenship and Participation Directorate and persisted in mainstreaming the debate on youth rights in the Council of Europe. In particular the Forum contributed to the work of the co-management bodies of the youth sector; the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, and processes and projects addressing specific topics, such the second phase of the Enter! Project on the access of young people to Social Rights, the Follow-up Group of the project “Young People Combating Hate Speech Online,” and the Follow-up Group on the Participation of Children and Young people. Furthermore, the Forum met with the Children's Rights Department of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law and identified common grounds of potential fruitful collaboration with particular regard to the field of children and young people's participation.

Through its participation to the statutory bodies of the Youth Department, the Forum continuously partook in the preparation of the Conference of Minister responsible for youth and to the youth event prior to it, to which the Forum was an official co-organising partner. The Forum submitted comments, inputs and amendments to the draft Declaration aimed at being adopted during the Conference with the aim of strengthening the rights-based approach, promoting the empowerment of young people and the debate on the possibility of ad-hoc legal instruments, stressing the need of strong systems of collection of youth rights violations cases. While on one hand, the Forum is satisfied of how the youth

event produced an outcome document of high quality thanks to the high number of participants and their different background, it is quite disappointed that the Ministerial Conference failed its highest objective of producing a final declaration able to commit the Member States to improved access of young people to their rights. Given the reasons for the lack of consensus, however, the Forum firmly stood up for fundamental freedoms and young people's access to their rights. Furthermore, the Forum participated actively – during the statutory meetings - to the discussion on the political follow-up to the Ministerial Conference and to the development of proposals for the future flagship projects, mainstreaming the work of youth organisations and its potential, especially in the field of Non-Formal Education, access to social rights, youth participation and gender equality.

The Youth Forum was asked to contribute to the Parliamentary Assembly Outline Report “The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis.” This was a fruitful occasion for the promotion of youth autonomy, the need of adopting a full rights-based approach, and the urgency of fighting social exclusion through specific youthful measures, including an increased support to youth organisations. This outline report led to the adoption of the correspondent PACE Resolution 1885 (2012), which explicitly endorses many of the inputs provided by the Forum: the need of a Youth Guarantee, the urgency of adopting the Quality Internships Charter, the importance of ensuring young people access to social protection schemes, and the crucial role that can be played by youth entrepreneurship.

## United Nations

In the wake of the International Year of Youth August 2010-2011, the United Nations (UN) placed a renewed emphasis on youth again in 2012. As the debate on how to enhance youth development and more effectively engage young people in the UN system was launched with the Youth 21 Initiative, the Secretary-General of the United set youth as a priority in his next five-year action plan. Addressing the needs of the largest generation of young people the world has ever known by deepening the focus on youth of the existing programmes was among the key priorities announced by Ban Ki-Moon. With this, the Secretary-General committed to developing and implementing an action plan on youth, to creating a youth volunteer programme and appointing a Special Advisor on Youth.

Welcoming this step forward in prioritising youth in the UN agenda, the Youth Forum strongly advocated for a meaningful engagement of young people and youth organisations in global governance and in the UN system, through participatory and accountable mechanisms; acknowledging their legitimate and valuable contribution to development and the goals of the UN. This

approach was extended to the Youth Forum's participation in the UN Commission on Social Development and the UN General Assembly, as well as the several initiatives and meetings convened by the different UN entities - participation guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth and the implementation of its priorities and the internationally agreed development goals, namely the Millennium Development Goals.

Leading up to 2015, the United Nations also put in place a series of consultations that intended to promote the discussion among all stakeholders and provide inputs to the next generation of the global development agenda. Aimed at playing a full role in this process, the European Youth Forum joined Beyond 2015 global campaign and contributed to several consultations. While advocating for a participatory and inclusive process, in particular as regards young people, the Forum called for a development framework that includes a stronger focus on youth, with special attention to marginalised and socially excluded groups, and that empowers youth organisations as key actors of development.



# .03 Rights-Based approach for an inclusive and participatory Europe

*The full realisation of the rights of young people is a pre-requisite to further developing and building a democratic Europe with a sound social and economic model at all levels and that is able to ensure the full development of the human and social potential of young people. The sustainability of this European model depends on the contribution of young people to restoring 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 2012 the deep crisis affecting Europe challenged these goals. Nevertheless the Forum pursued promising successes in increasing the institutional recognition of a rights-based approach to youth policy, be it on the right to participation, to employment, or generally ensuring a legal base for the rights of young people in Europe.*

# Youth-Rights Advocacy

The European Youth Forum continued investing its efforts towards a full recognition of Youth Rights focusing on research and the collection of evidence on one side, and on advocacy actions on the other, supported by the work of its Expert Group on Youth Rights (EGYR).

In 2012, the EGYR's work focused on a briefing note and survey on youth rights disseminated through the Platform in order to involve a wider range of Members in the debate, and to raise the global awareness of youth rights concepts and potentialities. The survey showed the crucial role that Member Organisations play in training and capacity building in this field. On another level, the EGYR continued its research aimed at identifying possible gaps in the implementation of youth rights in Europe, and developed a draft list of Youth Rights based on an extensive mapping of the actual legal tools protecting the rights of young people.

Furthermore, a mapping exercise of the age limits in use in European countries was conducted with the aim of gathering evidence of the gaps and the weaknesses that affect young people's access to rights. The membership of the Youth Forum discussed the list of rights as well as ways of defining, prioritising and clustering Youth Rights in a more coherent manner. The debate on the legal recognition of Youth Rights addressed the different advocacy actions options available and possible ways forward for the European Youth Forum. This represented a crucial constructive debate, which built a strong framework for both the finalisation of the report and the development of a Policy Paper on Youth Rights. The

EGYR finalised its report which included evidence related to the status of youth rights and their institutional protection, but also coherent recommendations to the Forum's membership on possible research and advocacy actions as a way forward.

Following the adoption of the Policy Paper on Youth Rights laying out the framework of future advocacy actions of the Forum in the field of Youth Rights, the Youth Forum organised a policy training on Youth Rights. The training focused on concepts and definitions of the rights-based approach and its application in the field of youth policy, and exchanged views and best practices with representatives of the Finnish Human Rights Center, European Network of Women and Save the Children Finland.

The 9th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and the Youth Event held in St Petersburg in September 2012 were devoted to the topic of young people's access to rights. The Forum co-organised the Youth Event and contributed to the development of the discussions that lead to the final outcome document: several proposals of research, advocacy and lobby actions are contained in this document representing a concrete step forward in the promotion of youth rights (See the Council of Europe section for more).

A final draft of the new edition of the publication "The international law on youth rights" was produced. An academic researcher will review this draft in view of the finalisation of the book, foreseen in 2013. The book, originally written by William Angel and released in 1995, is

a collection and analysis of legal texts related to youth rights, and represents an important academic point of reference in this field.

In the framework of the fruitful collaboration with the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the Forum supported the preparation and the follow-up of a meeting between the Advisory Council Chair and the Deputy Registrar of the European Court on Human Rights. One of the main results of this was that the Advisory Council obtained a first collection of proper case law regarding youth rights in the framework of the Court that was shared with the Forum. This could serve as the basis for analysing the status of youth rights violations, investigating to what extent this tool is used by young people, how "youth friendly" it is, and how it could be used more.

The Forum actively strengthened relevant partnerships in this field. It contributed to the work of the Social Platform Fundamental Rights and Anti-discrimination (FRAND) Working Group and, in particular, to the SP paper on "Investing in Equality". It attended the 5th Fundamental Rights Platform meeting of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and started investigating with the FRA Director the possibility of being involved in the internal drafting of research proposals regarding young people that could start in 2013. It also re-joined the Children Rights Action Group and supported its lobby work on how the Multi Annual Financial Framework affects children and young people.



# Youth Employment

The European Youth Forum actively advocated 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. Due to the high youth unemployment levels across Europe, the topic has not only gained political visibility but more is being done to practically improve the situation. Various European and international institutions are addressing the topic, and many recognise the European Youth Forum as an important stakeholder to work with. Besides the regular contacts with the European Commission and the European Parliament, this year the Youth Forum succeeded in establishing more structured cooperation on youth employment with institutions such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). The Youth Forum was also actively involved in youth employment events organised by the Danish and Cyprus EU Presidencies.

The main success of this process was the elevated interest in the topic in the media and society, and that the European Commission foresees to come forward with a European Quality Framework on Traineeships by the end of 2012. More than 30 MEPs and approximately 50 different organisations and companies currently support the European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships.

The Youth Forum has also enjoyed unprecedented success in its work on

promoting a European Youth Guarantee at both national and European levels. In September 2012 the Forum produced its publication 'A Youth Guarantee for Europe' and accompanying info-graphic on the Youth Guarantee and Youth Unemployment in Europe. These documents, which were an elaboration of the 2010 Position Paper on the Youth Guarantee, became a reference point for both member organisations and the EU institutions. Based on this work and contacts established within the EU institutions, the Youth Forum was given the opportunity to contribute directly to the European Commission's Youth Employment Package. Many of the Forum's recommendations and positions were taken on board and the proposal for a Youth Guarantee, which was a core part of this package, explicitly recognised the situation of young people on the labour market and the unique role of youth organisations as representatives of young people. As a result of intensive advocacy since 2010, the Forum has been successful in introducing the Youth Guarantee into the political agenda of the EU and making it the flagship policy of the EU on youth employment.

As part of continuous effort towards advocating for better quality internships and apprenticeships for young people in Europe, the Youth Forum organised the Yo! Fest: Intern Action Day, which took place on the Esplanade of the European Parliament in Brussels. It gathered member organisations and partners, different institutions and organisations, interns and apprentices themselves, and a general public of several thousand people. It was a day full of activities

raising awareness about the situation of interns in Europe, was a moment for publicity of the Youth Forum's initiative and for officially handing over the Charter with all its signatures to European Parliament President Martin Schulz and European Commission Director-General for Employment, Koos Richelle. As part of the event, the European Parliament Youth Intergroup organised a debate with employers entitled "Are students and school students welcome in enterprises?" Following the adoption of the Position Paper on Youth Entrepreneurship, the Youth Forum positioned itself as an important stakeholder with regard to the topic. This involved representing the Youth Forum's new positions at meetings, speaking at events and disseminating the document to a wide audience of policy makers and other partners. The Forum was recognised as the interlocutor for the topic by the OECD, among other institutions, and received invitations to intervene at many high-level meetings.

Youth Employment Action continued to grow and develop in 2012. Organisations within the group became core consultative partners in the youth employment policy for the Forum and were fundamental to the development of the Forum's positions on employment and social affairs throughout the year. The opportunities for exchange and policy updates provided through this group resulted in a marked increase in capacity and expertise among participating organisations. As a result of the work of the Forum and its members in Youth Employment Action, the youth guarantee was pushed to the top of the political agenda in several countries in

# Social inclusion

The Forum was involved in the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EPAP) Stakeholder Dialogue. This is a group composed mainly of representatives from NGOs that are active at EU level in the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion, representatives of the social partners at EU level, representatives of the regional and local authorities as well as representatives from international organisations. This group is an answer to the Europe 2020 Strategy's acknowledgment of the decisive need for partnership and for extending commitment and ownership.

In November 2012 the Youth Forum organised a Roundtable on the Social Inclusion of Young People in the European Parliament. This event provided a unique opportunity for exchange between academic experts, policy makers and young people on the issue of social inclusion. The event raised the profile of the issue in a European context and strengthened the reputation of the Youth Forum as a core organisation in social inclusion policy.

Besides its involvement in the Steering Group of the Social Platform, the Forum also followed and contributed to the work of the Social Policy Working Group.

billion **153** euros  
Cost of Youth Unemployment in the EU

**5.7** million

Number of young people unemployed in the EU

**279,000**  
Rise in youth unemployment in 2012

billion **21** euros\*  
according to the ILO

Estimated cost of a Youth Guarantee

**12.8%**

Percentage of young people not  
in employment, education or training

# Youth unemployment in numbers

4<sup>1</sup> months

Maximum period of unemployment by which a young person should be offered a job, training or re-training under a youth guarantee

5

Number of countries in Europe with a youth guarantee currently in place

1 year\*

Based on Swedish model

Time in which it takes for the state to recuperate the economic investment in young people through the youth guarantee

6

Number of countries where youth unemployment is more than 2% of GDP

6,334<sup>1</sup>

Views and downloads of Youth Forum's Youth Guarantee publication and infographic

# Vote @ 16

As participation in the democratic process and the right to vote are key elements of citizenship, lowering the voting age to 16 and citizenship education are integral parts of the European Youth Forum's efforts to contribute to active citizenship of young people in Europe.

In this context and after the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted the Resolution 1826 "Expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16" in 2011, the Forum ran a Pan-European campaign towards the adoption of the Written Declaration 27 on lowering the voting age to 16.

The Forum officially launched the Pan-European campaign on vote at 16 on 8th May 2012 in the European Parliament. This included an Expert Group meeting, a capacity building event for members, the website/Facebook/Twitter launch and a political debate in the European Parliament. The capacity building event allowed the participants to join a detailed European level advocacy training towards MEPs, a briefing on the campaign timeline, a training on how to act as multiplier and how to develop national action plans, a communication training, and a visit of the Parliamentarium in Brussels. The political debate on "Vote at 16 - Expanding Democracy in Europe" in the European Parliament, organised in cooperation with MEP Becker, laid the foundation for the Written Declaration in the Parliament.

The Declaration submitted and strongly supported by Heinz K. Becker (Austria; EPP), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (Spain; S&D), Karima Delli (France; Green/EFA), Jan Phillipp Albrecht (Germany; Green/EFA), and Andrew Duff (UK; ALDE) aimed at ensuring that Europe grants young people the rights that fit their duties by lowering the electoral age to 16.

The Written Declaration was launched on 10th September and was open for signature until 13th December 2012. The Forum organised advocacy missions to the European Parliament plenary sessions, including members of the Board and experts from MOs, in September, October, November and December 2012.

The Declaration closed with 177 support signatures by MEPs on 13th December 2012. It is a success that this number of MEPs supported the initiative, calling on the Member States to lower the voting age to 16, to strengthen civic education in schools, to adapt teacher training and to foster cooperation with non-formal education providers.

The Campaign website (<http://www.voteat16.eu>), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/voteat16eu](http://www.facebook.com/voteat16eu)) and Twitter account ([#voteat16](https://twitter.com/voteat16)) will continue to be an online source for the topic of vote at 16, providing information on why lowering the voting age is relevant, the European reality and Country specific information.

# European Youth Capital

The 'European Youth Capital' 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 2015, Cluj-Napoca (Romania), was announced during the ceremony at the

General Assembly, hosted by EYC 2013 Maribor (Slovenia).

On the basis of cooperation plans outlined in Memorandums of Understanding (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 held several bilateral coordination and monitoring meetings with the municipalities of Antwerp (EYC 2011), Braga (EYC 2012) and Maribor (EYC2013) and Thessaloniki. Additionally the Forum conducted an evaluation of the first 3 editions of the EYC, which gives a foundation for the general development of this project. Lastly, the Forum convened a European Youth Capital Coordination meeting, inviting all EYCs for common discussions on the future of the project, as well as allowing best practise exchange.

# League of the Young Voters

The European Youth Forum, together with two co-founders, Votewatch and IDEA, is setting up the League of Young Voters (LYV) as a major initiative to mobilise young people in elections. The League of Young Voters aims to become the main electoral platform for young people in Europe during the European elections in 2014, by countering the rising detachment of young people towards politics, but more importantly by engaging youth in a dialogue with policy makers.

In 2012, the League of Young Voters progressed rapidly. All major European political parties agreed to sign official agreements with the League, which included the agreement to take on youth issues identified by the League in their political campaigns. The Forum was successful in

its application for funding for the first year (2012-2013) from the Open Society Institute, and continues to seek other sources of funding. It was in regular contact with LjJOT to ensure that a pilot phase was carried out in the context of the elections in Lithuania in October 2012.

The Forum continues working towards establishing the LYV as a separate AISBL under Belgian law, while ensuring that the Forum keeps oversight of the new entity. End of 2012, the Forum launched its strategy towards ensuring that the League is replicated in EU Member States, and began approaching NYCs in this regard, as well as approaching INGYOs in order to ensure direct links between the LYV and their campaigns for the European elections 2014.

# Organisational Development and Communications

## ***Quality support to the membership***

In May 2012 the Youth Forum continued its support to the members through various initiatives. Firstly the annual membership support week, which included the fourth edition of the Secretary-General's Day and session on Press & Communication. Moreover an informal network of administrators and persons responsible for finances was successfully launched towards the end of the year.

2012 also saw the launch of the new database system, resulting in a better information management within the Youth Forum and allowing a more streamlined support to our member organisations. By bringing together the information and contact details of member organisations and linking it with the participation information of their various individual members, the database provides a better overview and statistics of the

involvement in the different activities of the Youth Forum.

In April 2012 a Membership Survey was launched, gathering information from our members on various topics including governance, financial management, membership figures, etc. Through the survey there is greater insight of the needs and strengths of the members.

To support the work of the platform and its member organisations, the European Youth Forum continued developing its Pool of Trainers and Facilitators. Throughout 2012 the Pool was involved in the different working structures of the Youth Forum and provided training and facilitation support in over 25 events from our Member Organisations, our Partners and the Youth Forum itself.

## *POOL OF TRAINERS*

*Karina Ufert – European Students Union / ESU*

*Nerijus Miginis – Lithuanian Youth Council / LiJOT*

*Eva Vitkova – European Federation for Intercultural Learning / EFIL*

*Lina Kirjazovaite – European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding / EEE-YFU*

*Lilit Simonyan – Youth Environment Europe / YEE*

*Ivana Davidovska – Youth for exchange and Understanding / YEU*

*Natalia Nikitina – Alliance of European Voluntary Organisations / ALLIANCE*

*Elena Diez-Villagrasa - Catalanian Youth Council / CNJC*

*Lucie Frisova – International Young Naturefriends / IYNF*

*Sven Retore – International Young Naturefriends / IYNF*

*Ufuk Bal – Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe / AEGEE*

*Federica Cicala – Italian Youth Council / FNG*

*Evija Rudzite – Latvian Youth Council / LJP*

*Elzbieta Jakubek – Don Bosco Youth Net /*

*Musa Akgul – Youth Express Network / Y-E-N*

*Radu Seuche – World Organisation of the Scout Movement / WOSM*

*Asa Gunven – Young European Federalists / JEF*

*Andreia Henriques – Portuguese Youth Council / CNJ*

*Marko Paunovic – Youth for Exchange and Understanding / YEU*

*Maria Nomikou – Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe / AEGEE*

*Marius Ulozas – Lithuanian Youth Council / LiJOT*

*Simona Muršec – Slovenian Youth Council / MSS*

*Bruno Antonio – Portuguese Youth Council / CNJ*

*Liga Grundsteine – Young European Federalists / JEF*

*Pia Viktoria Nurmio-Perala – Rural Youth Europe / RYEurope*

*Julia Myasysheva – Service Civil International / SCI*

*Pablo Castiñeiras Cuadrado – Young Men Christian Association / YMCA*

*Margus-Tarmo Pihlakas – Estonian Youth Council / ENL*

*Angelos Nikolopoulos – European Bureau for Conscientious Objection / EBCO*

*Linn Landmark – Sobriety, Friendship and Peace / ACTIVE*

## ***A Visible Platform***

In 2012, the Youth Forum consolidated its position as the reference for youth issues and policy at EU level and in Brussels. Thanks to an increased number of media contacts and successful campaigns, we reached out to even larger European-wide media coverage, including major national newspaper, Brussels-based EU outlets, as well as European radio networks and extensive online references.

The highlight of the year was certainly the cooperation with the European Institutions for the “Peace-Europe-Future” online contest, to bring 4 young people to Oslo as part of the EU delegation receiving the Nobel Peace Prize 2012. The contest also brought visibility to our campaign for more investment in youth, LoveYouthFuture. Other main events of the year were the General Assembly, where a new leadership was elected and the YO! Fest – Intern Action Day, with the launch of the European Charter for Quality Internships, as a wake-up call for the rights of young interns in Europe.

More hot topics that brought media attention to our platform included the European Youth Capital, our work on Youth Employment with the promotion of a Youth Guarantee in Europe, and, above all, our call for more investment in youth in the next EU budget 2014-2020, with the LoveYouthFuture campaign.

A clear success was achieved when moving from reporting to interacting. Great visibility came with the media partnership with Euranet - the European radio network - with which two major live radio debates were organised. The debates, one focusing on internships on Intern Action Day and one special LoveYouthFuture debate with European Commissioner for Youth, Androulla Vassiliou on investing in youth, were both live streamed and followed by national reporting from national radios such as Radio France International (F), Radio 24 (IT), Radio Romania International (RO), Skai Radio (GR) and student radios.

Additionally, the Youth Forum co-organised several live streamed events: a debate on the EU budget and the 2014-2020 MFF co-organised with MEP Kalfin, as well as the signing of the European Charter for Quality Internships and Apprenticeships with Microsoft Europe.

This year’s three editions of the YO! Mag focused on Growing Up, Futurama and Geo-politics, featuring articles, illustrations and pictures from our team of correspondents and over 15 external contributors.

Finally, during the year, the Youth Policy Watch was sent 23 times to over 4,000 contacts, relevant stakeholders and decision-makers, reaching its 69th edition at the end of December 2012.



# Social Media

This year brought the Youth Forum's social media engagement to new heights. In employing new methods to give our audience compelling social experiences, we have been able to encourage advocacy amongst our existing followers, whilst exposing new users to our brand and values through organic conversations.

In 2012 the Youth Forum for the first time began utilising commercial advertising tools, to better shape content for specific audiences. This has led to a particularly notable rise in interactions with users on Twitter and Facebook (including many international institutions and decision makers) and ensured further visibility to the Youth Forum.

## Highlights:

*In the midst of the May European Summit, President Herman Van Rompuy used the Forum's #YFJ hashtag in relation to youth employment.*

*In November, during the Youth Forum's General Assembly, our Facebook page reached out to more than 100,000 unique visitors.*

*December saw the Forum as a facilitating partner in a Twitter chat on Youth Employment with Commissioner László Andor, with the focus on the launch of the Employment Package.*

## Publications

- Annual Report 2011 // **2,000** Copies
- YO! #1 / 2012 – Growing Up // **3,000** Copies
- 12th University on Youth and Development // **500** Copies
- YO! #2 / 2012 – Futurama // **3,000** Copies
- II Youth Convention on Volunteering – Final Report // **500** Copies
- European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers // **Online Publication**
- Help Wanted – Youth Guarantee Infographic // **2,000** Copies
- A Youth Guarantee for Europe // **Online Publication**
- YO! #3 / 2013 - Geopolitics // **3,000** Copies
- The Value of Youth Work // **2,000** Copies
- LoveYouthFuture 2013 Calender // **1,000** Copies
- LoveYouthFuture Postcards // **500** Copies x **3** designs
- LoveYouthFuture Stickers // **1,200** Copies

# Our media presence in numbers

1

*European media partnership  
with Euranet*

32

*Press Releases*

9

*TV appearances*

27

*Radio Interviews*

12

*Print press reports*

48

*Online news reports*

## Facebook fans

From 20,640 (31/12/2011) to 31,133 (31/12/2012)

Reaching out to an average of 40,000 to a maximum of almost

# 100,000

people per week!

# 80%

Fans between 18-34 years old

### TOP 3 COUNTRIES OF FANS

TURKEY, ITALY, GREECE

### TOP 3 CITIES OF FANS

BRUSSELS, ISTANBUL, ATHENS

## Twitter followers

### TRENDING HASH-TAGS

#YFJ #peace4eu  
#loveyouthfuture  
#youthguarantee

### Highlights of the year in tweets:

**From the GA:** "Should we adopt compulsory bubble-making equipment for any future Youth Forum statutory meeting? Show your bubbles if you agree! #YFJ"

**A successful Secretariat:** We won! Best in house team at #epaawards, our intern Thomas picked up the prize! [pic.twitter.com/M2lawIT3](http://pic.twitter.com/M2lawIT3) #YFJ #qualityinternships

**From Russia, with love:** STAND UP FOR #YOUTHRIGHTS. Everywhere. For all. Even in Russia. <http://tinyurl.com/bv4pu2u> #freepussyriot #loveyouthfuture #YFJ

**Herman Van Rompuy:** @EUhvr: What we can do for growth: invest in skills and training, especially for young people. #euco #yfj

**NOT INVESTING in YOUTH costs us 100 billion euro per year:** <http://t.co/B3W1FS9v> #YFJ #youth @euhvr @eu\_commission @eucouncilpress

## Vimeo Channel

9 New videos  
36

Videos in total

## Flickr

12

New sets

571

New pictures



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# Finances and Administration

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*2012 represented the end of a cycle in terms of European Youth Forum management, as the Board was finishing its mandate and a bi-annual Work Plan for 2011-12 was still ongoing. 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 to the European Youth Forum, settled at a maximum of 2,448.000 euros for 2012.*

*In what concerns the execution of the agreement with DG EAC, there was a slight under expenditure (1.07%), meaning that the total amount applicable to the EU grant amounts to 2,886.828 euros with the final EU contribution calculated at 2,421.808,67 euros. Consequently, there is a grant reduction of 26,191,33 euros. Comparing to previous years, in 2011, the reduction amounted 0.65% (15,051,53 euros); in 2010, it amounted 2.98% (69,362 euros); in 2009, it amounted to 6.31% (184.859 euros). These positive results are due to an increase in the amount invested in the Forum's activities and advocacy processes, and an improvement capacity to execute the activities planned for 2012.*

*As required by the EU financial regulations and the agreement, there was not a surplus coming out of the funds allocated to the operating grant agreement.*

*Of 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 66,563 euros.*

*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 Kyiv).*

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# Budget Execution

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*The biggest portion of the Budget refers to the running costs of the Programs and Activities of Advocacy and Policy Development 43.51%.*

*The Operational Costs represent 42.53% and refer to the running and legal costs of the organization, as well as employment costs.*

*The costs with Governance represent 13.95% and include all the costs with the Statutory and Governance bodies.*

Advocacy and Policy Development

43.51%



Operational costs

42.53%

Governance

13.95%

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# Incomes

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*In terms of incomes, almost 87% of the Youth Forum's income stems from the annual grants from international institutions. 83.9% of the total income in 2012 came from the EU budget through the grant from DG Education and Culture, while around 3.2% was from grants by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The Membership fees contributed to 2%, the Volunteer Time Contribution contributed to 4.8%, and Partnerships and other incomes contributed 6.1% of the overall incomes.*

Grants from international institutions

87%

EU budget through the grant from DG Education and Culture

83.9%

Grants by the European Youth Foundation  
of the Council of Europe

3.2%

Volunteer Time Contribution

4.8%

Membership fees

2%

Partnerships and other incomes

6.1%

# WORKING STRUCTURES

## Working Group on Youth Work Development

22-24 June, Brussels, Belgium  
17-19 September, Mollina, Spain

Board Responsible: *Guoda Lomanaitė*  
Secretariat Support: *Matthias Christensen*  
PoT facilitator: *Ufuk Bal*

*Eugeni Brigneti* – International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International / IFM-SEI  
*Borut Cink* – International Federation of Liberal Youth / IFLRY  
*Giovanni Corbo* – Italian Youth Forum / FNG  
*Mikalai Kvantaliani* – Belarusian Youth Council / RADA  
*Tamara Gojkovic* – Youth for Exchange and Understanding / YEU  
*Hildur Tryggvadottir Flovenz* – Icelandic Youth Council / LÆF  
*Tea Jarc* – Slovenian Youth Council / MSS  
*Elisabeth Kirschke* – German Youth Council / DNK

## Working Group Non-Formal Education

31 March-2 April, Brussels, Belgium  
21-23 October, Brussels, Belgium

Board Member Responsible: *Katrine Korsgaard*  
Secretariat Support: *Laura López-Bech*  
PoT facilitator: *Lina Kirjazovaite*

*Marcio Barcelos* – World Organisation of the Scout Movement / WOSM  
*Liga Efeja* – Young Men's Christian Association / YMCA  
*Mihai-Paul Florian* – International Young Catholic Students – International Movement of Catholic Students / JECI-MIEC  
*Aleksandra Kamilova* – Estonian Youth Council / ENL  
*Marah Köberle* – International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements – German Youth Council / FIMCAP  
*João Mesquita* – Portuguese Youth Council / CNJ  
*Paulius Miezelis* – Lithuanian Youth Council / LiJOT  
*Silva Rukavina* – International Federation of Medical Students Associations / IFMSA

## Working Group on Volunteering

19 - 20 May, Brussels, Belgium  
27 - 28 October, Brussels, Belgium

Board Member Responsible: *Falko Mohrs*  
Secretariat Support: *David Garrahy*

*Elise Drouet* – French Youth Council / CNAJEP  
*Anamarija Soco* – Croatian Youth Council / MMH  
*Christiana Papailia* – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts / WAGGGS  
*Ida Birkvad Sørensen* – Danish Youth Council / DUF  
*Hanna Felicitas Pabst* – European Educational Exchanges – Youth For Understanding / EEE-YFU  
*Martin Fischer* – Young European Federalists / JEF  
*Quentin Weber-Seban* – World Organisation of Young Esperantists / TEJO



## The EEC Project Group

Board Member Responsible: *Guoda Lomanaitė*  
Secretariat Support: *Anna Ranki, Matthias Christensen*  
PoT facilitator: *Marius Ulozas*

*Alena Ipanova* – Active – Sobriety, Friendship and Peace / ACTIVE  
*Janine Noack* – European Youth Press / EYP  
*Lyobomir Todorov* – Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique / MIJARC  
*Anastasiya Sabatkouskaya* – Belarusian Youth Council / RADA  
*Sandra Falkowska* – European Democrat Students / EDS  
*Alexandru Musteata* – Moldovan Youth Council / CNTM  
*Matti Niemi* – Finnish Youth Council / ALLIANSSI  
*Marek Baranski* – European Students Union / ESU  
*Mikayil Zeynalov* – Youth for Exchange and Understanding / YEU

## Youth in Action Expert Group

24-26 February, Casal di Principe, Italy  
20-21 October, Brussels, Belgium

Board Member Responsible: *Lloyd Russell-Moyle*  
Secretariat Support: *Anna Ranki*  
PoT facilitator: *Elzbieta Jakubek*

*Claire Le Moigne/Nicolo Pranzini* – World Organisation of the Scout Movement / WOSM  
*Till Burckhardt* – Young European Federalists / JEF  
*Antonio Ortiz García-Vaso* – Spanish Youth Council / CJE  
*Mirosław Krzanik* – Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe / AEGEE  
*Izabela Jurczik/Elisa Briga* – European Federation for Intercultural Learning / EFIL

## Expert Group on Youth rights:

3-4 March, Brussels, Belgium  
29 June – 1 July, Brussels, Belgium

Board member Responsible: *Mourad Mahidi*  
Secretariat Support: *Giorgio Zecca*  
PoT facilitator: *Musa Akgul*

### Members:

*Guan Schaiko* – International Federation of Liberal Youth / IFLRY  
*Alexia Tsouni* – European Bureau for Conscientious Objection / EBCO  
*Georg Boldt/Johanna Nymann* – Finnish Youth Council / ALLIANSSI  
*Aleksandra Maldžiški* – Organising Bureau of School Students Unions / OBESSU  
*Joel Arens* – Youth Council of the German speaking community of Belgium / RdJ

## Expert Group on Vote 16

7 May, Brussels, Belgium  
11-12 September, Strasbourg, France

Board member responsible: *Anemone Birkebæk*  
Secretariat support: *Magdalena Kurz*

*Elizabeth Toft Erichsen* – Norwegian Children and Youth Council / LNU  
*Maria Lettner* – Austrian Youth Council / ÖJV  
*Helen Deakin* – British Youth Council / BYC  
*Maria Kelly* – Irish Youth Council / NYCI  
*Erik Brændgaard* – Danish Youth Council / DUF

# 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\*

\*winner of the best in-house category  
of the European Public Affairs Awards 2012

## 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 - Caoimh KETT (until July)*

*Intern Policy Monitoring and Communication - Thomas DEWEER (from July)*

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

*Head of Department - Sara ULFHIELM (until August)*

*Head of Department - Alix MASSON (from September)*

*Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Young Volunteers) - Maarten COERTJENS (until January)*

*Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Young Volunteers) - David GARRAHY (from February)*

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

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

*EU Relations Coordinator - Antoine MERTZEISEN*

*Project Officer for the EU Structured Dialogue - Laura HEMMATI (until January)*

*Project Officer for the EU Structured Dialogue - Bianca FARAGAU (from February)*

*UN and Global Relations Coordinator - Vania FREITAS*

*Senior Policy Officer Employment and Social Affairs - Santa OZOLINA*

*Policy Officer Employment and Social Affairs - James HIGGINS*

*Policy Officer Participation - Magdalena KURZ*

*Policy Officer Youth Work Development - Matthias CHRISTENSEN*

*Policy Officer Education - Laura LOPEZ-BECH*

*Membership and Partnerships Officer - Jo DEMAN*

*EU Presidency Project Officer - Magdalena MACINSKA (PL Presidency)*

*EU Presidency Project Officer - Nina MØLLER PORST (DK Presidency)*

*EU Presidency Project Officer - Yiannis TRIMITHIOTIS (CY Presidency)*

*EU Presidency Project Officer - Valerie DUFFY (IE Presidency)*

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

*Administrative & Financial Director - David FERREIRA*

*Translator / Team co-ordinator - Luc RUMMENS*

*Accountant - Christine STRUYS*

*Administrative Assistant / Human Resources Coordinator - Marie-Aimée MUSANASE*

*Translator / Assistant - Anne DEBRABANDERE*

*Secretary / Assistant - Nicole BURLET-PARENDEL*

*IT Coordinator / Webmaster - Estefania ASOREY*



# 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); Czech Council of Children and  
Youth - **CRDM**; 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  
Organizacija Taryba - **LIJOT** (Lithuania); Latvijas Jaunatnes  
Padome - **LJP** (Latvia); Landsrådet for Norges barne- og  
ungdomsorganisasjoner - **LNU** (Norway); Landsrådet  
för Sveriges ungdomsorganisationer - **LSU** (Sweden);  
Landssamband 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 Jeugdraad - **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 – **AEGEE** 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**; Youth Action for Peace - **YAP**; 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); **KOMS** (Serbia); Nacionalen Mladezhki Forum - **NMF** (Bulgaria); 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

Children's International Summer Villages **CISV International**; Freedom, Legality and Rights in Europe - **FLARE**.

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