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ANNUAL/REPORT/2013

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A CHALLENGING YEAR!

*Words by
Peter Matjašič, President
Giuseppe Porcaro,
Secretary-General*

Since 2007, the Youth Forum has been warning European Governments and Institutions about the emergence of a lost generation and it has denounced the lack of strategic and strong action to invest in youth. In 2013, the Forum still insisted on this simple but fundamental point. We continued to raise the voice, both by supporting our members active at the grassroots level as well as by claiming the rights of millions of young people at the highest political level.

It was one of the most intense years ever for the Forum and its members, with the negotiations with the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council over the Multiannual Financial Framework as well as on the new Programmes at their peak. In this context we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the EU Youth Programmes and succeeded to get both Commissioner Vassiliou and the Chair of the CULT committee of the European Parliament stating, at the YO!Fest, their agreement on a separate chapter for youth in the Erasmus+ programme as well the continuation of the administrative grants for youth organisations.

We strengthened our presence and visibility on youth employment issues, especially with direct participation of the Youth Forum during the Heads of State Conference on Youth Employment in Paris, in November.

We pushed for our Youth Employment agenda at the highest level: for quality jobs, internships and the need for a true commitment on mobilisation of resources for the Youth Guarantee.

We continued to prepare for the European Elections in 2014.

We launched the League of Young Voters with a spectacular flight of a hot air balloon taking off the Esplanade of the European Parliament in the presence of President Barroso. We also launched our *LoveYouthFuture* Pledges to ask the candidates for the next Parliament to commit to a more youth friendly European Union.

At global level we congratulated the appointment of the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Youth and started direct channels of communication with him. Moreover, a continued follow-up of Council of Europe affairs is in progress thanks to good cooperation with the Advisory Council on Youth especially concerning the next steps on raising the Youth Rights Agenda

after the unsatisfactory results of the Ministerial Conference in St. Petersburg last year.

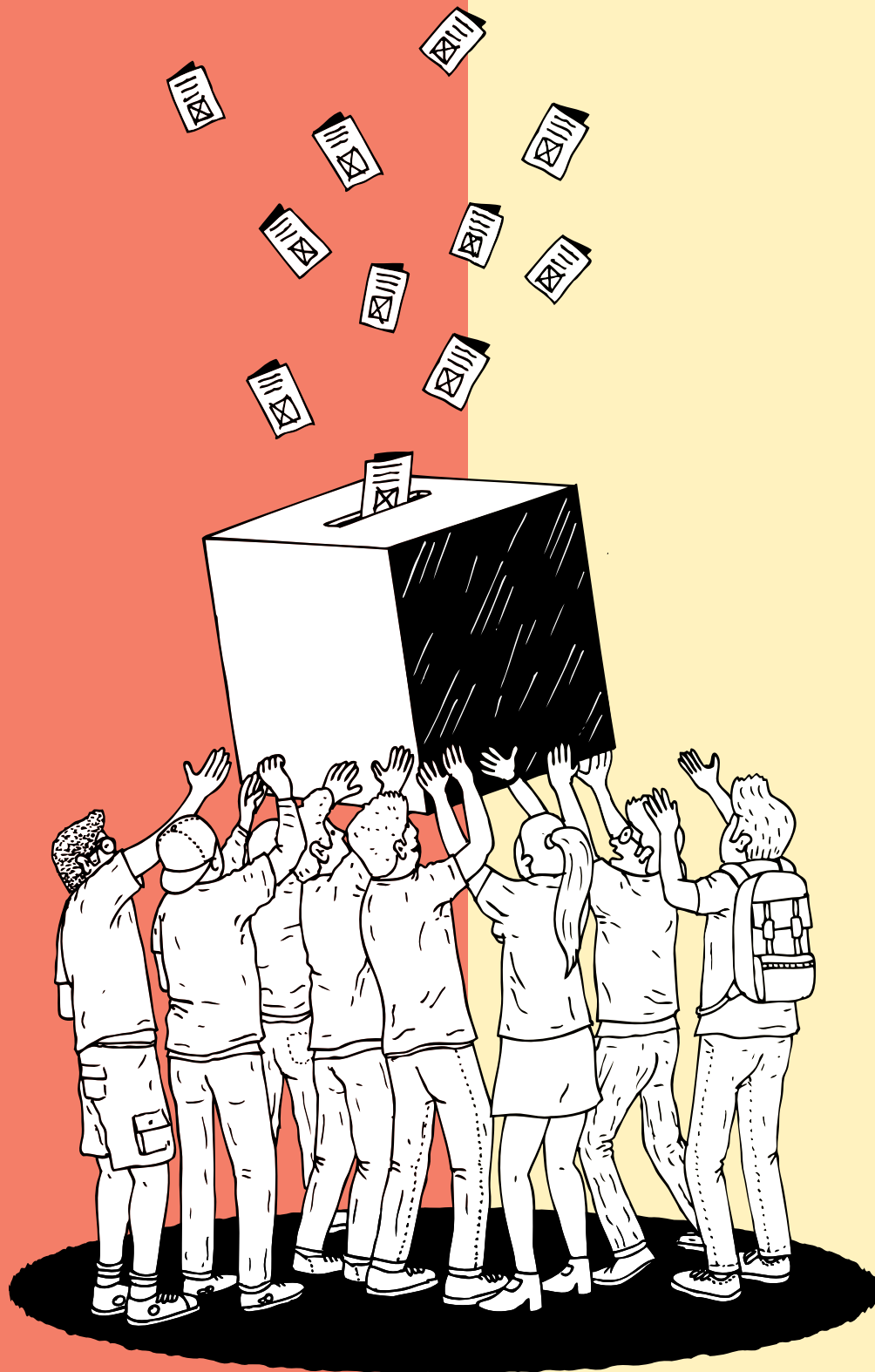
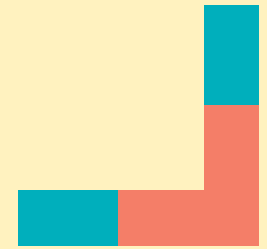
All those achievements and challenges are only part of the enormous work we did during the year. We achieved all this thanks to the volunteer commitment of our Board, the professional work of our Secretariat and the support of our Member Organisations.

In the following pages you can read more about what we did to achieve greater youth participation, stronger youth organisations and to increase youth autonomy and inclusion in Europe, which are our key goals for the current work-plan and strategic priorities cycle.

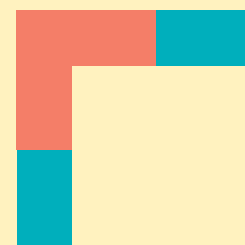
For the first time our workplan includes Critical Success Factors for our advocacy goals. This provides a more accountable system of monitoring the achievements of the Forum. In this report the results towards such Success Factors for the first year of that plan cycle have been highlighted.

Enjoy reading!

01 YOUTH PARTICIPATION



In preparation for the 2014 European Elections, two campaigns were launched - the League of Young Voters whose aim is to ensure a youth-focused campaign and LoveYouthFuture, which aims to ensure that Youth Forum priorities are endorsed by candidates. During the year, the Forum guaranteed a legacy for its 2012 campaign of Vote at 16, maintaining the debate on the public agenda and it continued to follow national policy developments. A new Policy Paper on Citizenship Education will guide the Forum's discussion on this topic in the future. The Forum's global cooperation continued through ICMYO and other platforms, while the Forum focused on the post-2015 process, making a path for the European youth voice to be heard. Lastly, the Youth Forum awarded the title of European Youth Capital 2016 to Ganja, Azerbaijan - many congratulations to them and good luck to European Youth Capital 2014 - Thessaloniki.





CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR

The Critical Success Factor foreseen for this Chapter of the Work Plan is:

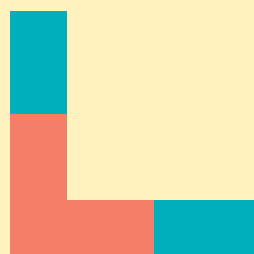
A strong European initiative to strengthen youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels and inclusion of a chapter on intergenerational justice in the programmes of political parties.

The Youth Forum activities aimed at ensuring this include:

- The launch in May 2013 of the League of Young Voters, with a strong commitment from the 5 main European political parties to engage with the platform and to take the issues raised by the League into account in their campaigns. The 26 national Leagues across the EU are

also aiming to do this.

- The Youth Forum LoveYouthFuture campaign, launched in October 2013, which encourages European Election candidates to take 11 Pledges for Youth, ensuring they are endorsed as a youth-friendly candidate. Candidates who sign the Pledges are referenced on the LoveYouthFuture website and identified by "my Pledge to youth" logo in their campaign.
- Structured dialogue continued to give a direct voice to the EU to young people through Europe.



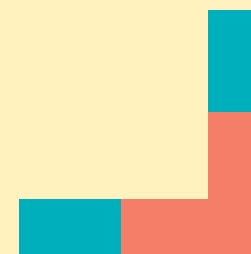
EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: LOVEYOUTHFUTURE

Launched in October 2013, the LoveYouthFuture Pledges show how European election candidates can love Europe's young people and give them a future. The 11 Pledges cover vital topics for young people such as quality education, youth rights, protections for young people, youth employment, strong youth civil society, youth investment, free movement, inclusive democracy and balanced budgets. The LoveYouthFuture campaign focuses on encouraging MEP candidates to sign these Pledges - if they commit at least to 6, they are listed as supporters on the website and get a logo "my pledge to youth" for use in their campaign. MEP candidates are already able to sign the Pledges in 10 languages, with more planned for 2014.

The campaign was launched on 15 October in the European Parliament with a high-level Panel Debate on the topic of Youth and the European Elections. At this event, a Votewatch-Youth Forum report was also launched, analysing the top-10 votes of the European Parliament on youth policy issues.

The Youth Forum set up a task-force on the European Elections in order to build cooperation between members on European Election campaigns.

Outreach continued throughout the year with the main European Political Parties and the Political Party Youth Organisations members of the Youth Forum to brief them on the campaign and explore possible cooperation and involvement.





LEAGUE OF YOUNG VOTERS

The League of Young Voters was launched at the YO!Fest in May 2013, in the presence of President of the European Commission Barroso, as a non-partisan and independent source of information for young people and as an umbrella framework for all youth-related electoral campaigns.

The official website (www.youngvoters.eu) was launched in its first phase. New tools aimed at informing young voters will be added in the first months of 2014, such as a web-experience that guides users through the European elections and a comparison tool that contrasts young users' views with those of

political programmes. The website is available in all EU official languages.

Several capacity building events were organised to support member organisations in getting involved. The League will cover nearly all EU countries and, to date, 26 branches have been approved and 6 international youth campaigns will be LYV co-branded.

The League continues to strengthen itself as a separate legal entity and as an alliance of NGOs working on young voters, each bringing their own expertise to the project. The International Debate Education Association (IDEA)

supported the League in the organisation of several elections-focused debates at the Yo!Fest and a special youth-focused Vote Match tool was developed by Votewatch. In order to provide it with an evidence-based approach, the League partnered with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance for a study looking at the implications of continued youth disengagement at European elections and issuing a set of recommendations, finalised in January 2014.

Finally, the League also continued to prepare for its main activities of the campaign of 2014, which will include training for young candidates, the European Youth Event 2014, and importantly, all the campaigns run by member organisations of the Youth Forum across Europe.

INTERREGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION

The Youth Forum's mission in developing cooperation between youth globally continued during 2013 through ICMYO and various youth platforms, in developing the World Youth Conference and also through the Universities on Youth and Development.

ICMYO is the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) and meets regularly to discuss global youth issues.

This network was strengthened in September with an agreement during its meeting to develop stronger ties between members and the adoption of a document setting the guiding principles of the network. The ultimate aim is to develop the network

as a more unified voice for youth-led organisations at global level. A World Youth Conference (WYC) is scheduled for May 2014 in Sri Lanka and the Youth Forum attended the first task-force meeting in September, pushing for the participation and decisive input of regional youth platforms.

A number of Universities on Youth and Development were held throughout the year under the joint theme of "Democratic Citizenship". The Forum developed the programme of the University on Youth and Development, which was held in September in Mollina, Spain. The Youth Forum also lead an EU-Africa training at the African University on Youth and Development in May in

Cape Verde. A Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Leaders meeting was organised to develop cooperation and dialogue during the first Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship in Tunisia (1-8 September). In 2014, the Universities will examine the overall theme of "Youth Opportunities".

Meanwhile, the Forum developed its bilateral relationships with other youth platforms. The second meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform was organised in early November in Brussels - this was especially important as in April 2014 the Africa-Europe Heads of State Summit will also take place in Brussels. The 4th Euro-Arab Youth Forum took place in Qatar in December (4-8 December) discussing the

highly relevant topic of human rights and youth participation. A meeting of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum (FEULAC) took place on 25 September in Mollina, Spain, and was also attended by the Forum. Lastly, the Forum worked with the European Commission to develop an EU-China Seminar on Youth Entrepreneurship, which was hosted in Brussels in November. One percent of the Youth Forum's budget is yearly granted to worthy projects globally and in 2013, the Solidarity Fund supported projects by YMCA, Pax Romana in Nairobi and by the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ).

POST 2015

The Youth Forum, through its engagement in events, consultations and activities, aims to ensure a strong European youth voice in the post-2015 development framework. The Forum organised a European Parliament Policy Debate (Brussels, 27 June) on “The MDGs after the MDGs: will young people be involved after 2015?” featuring MEPs and around 50 representatives from different EU Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations with a keynote speech by the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi. The Forum has conducted a number of training sessions, both at its COMEM in Spring and during the UN General Assembly before the Open Working Groups, related to education and employment to help members influence the goals that will affect them. The Forum also provided a training session on Post-2015 as part of the Training for Trainers on Global Education and Youth

during the 14th University on Youth and Development.

During the UN General Assembly in September, the Youth Forum participated in the High-level event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Post-2015 Development Agenda, along with several meetings with UN entities as well as holding side-events at the Open Working Groups on Development indicators and Youth Employment and a strategy meeting for stakeholders on Post-2015 which received wide coverage.

To ensure its members’ involvement in the process, a number of briefing notes on the Post-2015 process were distributed through the Courier for members throughout the year. These aim to give information about key developments in the process and opportunities for input.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL

The European Youth Capital title is an award given by the Youth Forum for cities that demonstrate the value of youth participation at the local level. In 2013, Ganja, Azerbaijan was awarded the title for 2016 following the decision of the jury. Badajoz (Spain), Galway (Ireland), La Laguna (Spain), Varna (Bulgaria) and Vilnius (Lithuania) were shortlisted for the title.

The Youth Forum convened the jury which included representatives from the EU Institutions, the Youth Forum, interest groups representing cities and the public and private sector, including a representative

from the media. The jury not only decided on the shortlist and the final winner, they also give invaluable feedback to the shortlisted applicants at each stage of the process.

This year, the Youth Forum introduced the novelty of a Youth Focus Group, which gave specific feedback during the application process to the six shortlisted cities, in addition to the jury’s feedback. This focus group comprises young people from the different Youth Capitals. Aiming to provide a clearer link between the European and local levels, as well as to give more visibility to its members, the Youth Forum

initiated a Youth Fair which was successfully held in November 2013 in conjunction with great cooperation from European Youth Capital 2014 (Thessaloniki). Furthermore, the Forum continues its efforts to reinforce the political recognition and impact of the title. This work will continue in 2014.

VOTE@16

The Youth Forum aimed in 2013 to ensure the continuation of the momentum from last year's European Parliament Written Declaration on lowering the voting age to 16.

Therefore, the authors of the Declaration have recently submitted Written Questions

to the Commission and Council following up on different aspects of the political questions. A debate was held between members on the topic of Vote@16 at the Yo!Fest in cooperation with the International Debate Association (IDEA) to provide training on debating skills to the participants and raise awareness on this specific topic. It also provided a space for information and networking for members. The Forum has also highlighted the significant developments on this topic at national level, including in the UK, Ireland, Malta and Norway. Moreover, Forum representatives took part in panel discussions on the topic of vote at 16 in Malta and Catalonia, both places where the issue is gaining visibility.

STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

In cooperation with the Team Presidency Ireland-Lithuania-Greece and the European Commission, the Forum contributed to the organisation of two successful consultations on the topic of social inclusion, the results of which were discussed during the EU Youth Conferences in Ireland (Dublin) and Lithuania (Vilnius, 9-12 September 2013). Now that working groups are active in all EU Member States, the Forum particularly supported the contribution of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations to the process, which resulted in an increase in their participation to the consultations. Through this participatory process, young people across Europe were able to highlight the need for free education, for the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Directive as well as equal access to welfare

and social rights, and the importance of securing young people's access to quality work and quality internships, among other topics. Consultations and conferences also clearly stressed the need for the EU and Member States to work more across policy areas to bring concrete improvements to young people's lives. These strong messages were passed to the Ministers responsible for youth gathering in the Council of the EU.

As the chair of the European Steering Committee, the body in charge of facilitating the whole structured dialogue, the Forum also cooperated with the incoming Team Presidency Italy-Latvia-Luxemburg to ensure the continuity of the process and a smooth transition to the fourth cycle of Structured Dialogue. Active preparations (July 2014-December 2015) were and continue to be

carried out, especially drawing attention towards consulting young people on the upcoming cycle's priority. In addition, the Forum worked closely with the European Commission and helped to organise both

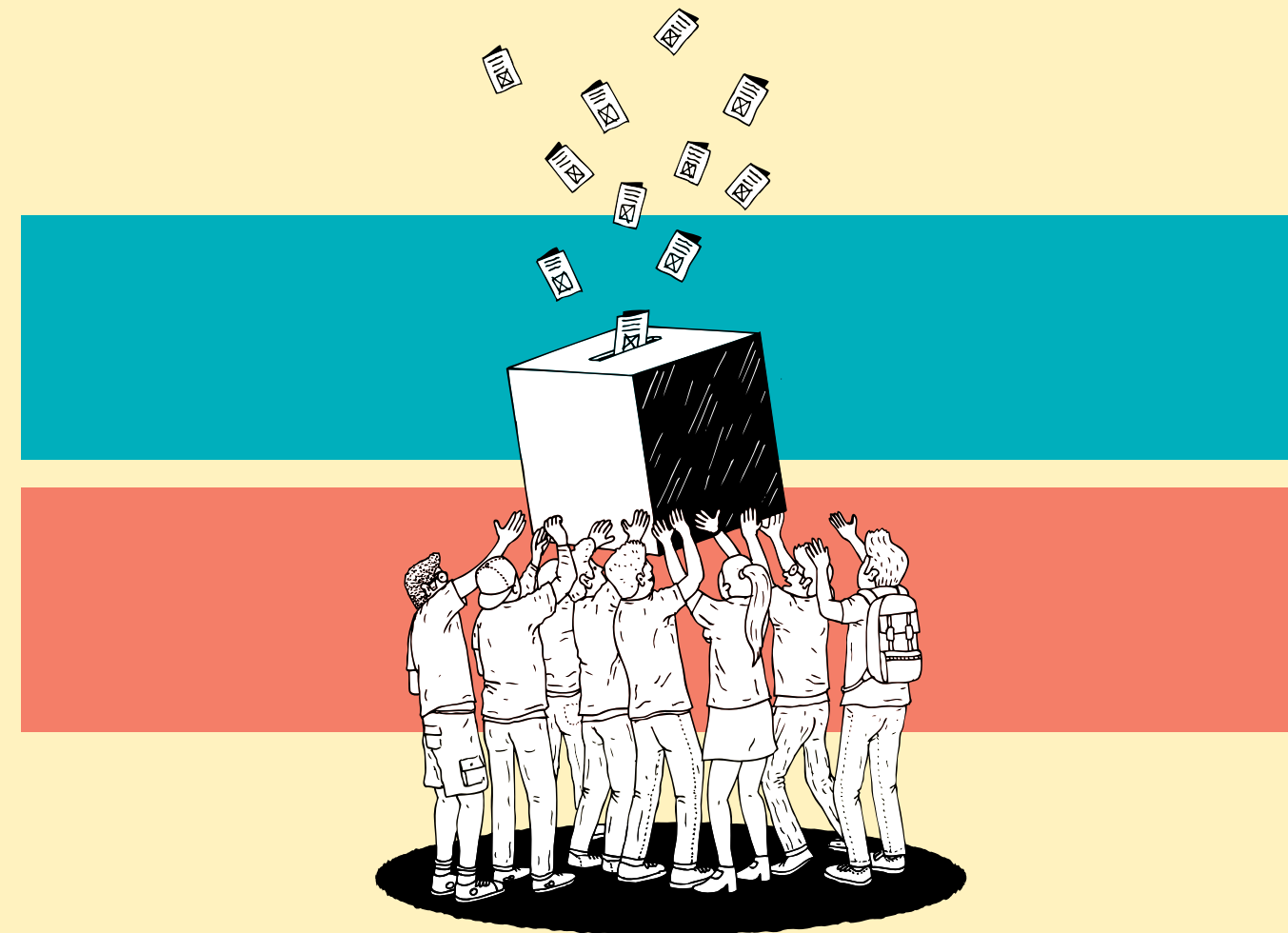
an event during the European Youth Week (Brussels 27-29 May 2013) and a conference reviewing the process (Brussels, November 26-27, 2013), with the aim to improve structured dialogue.

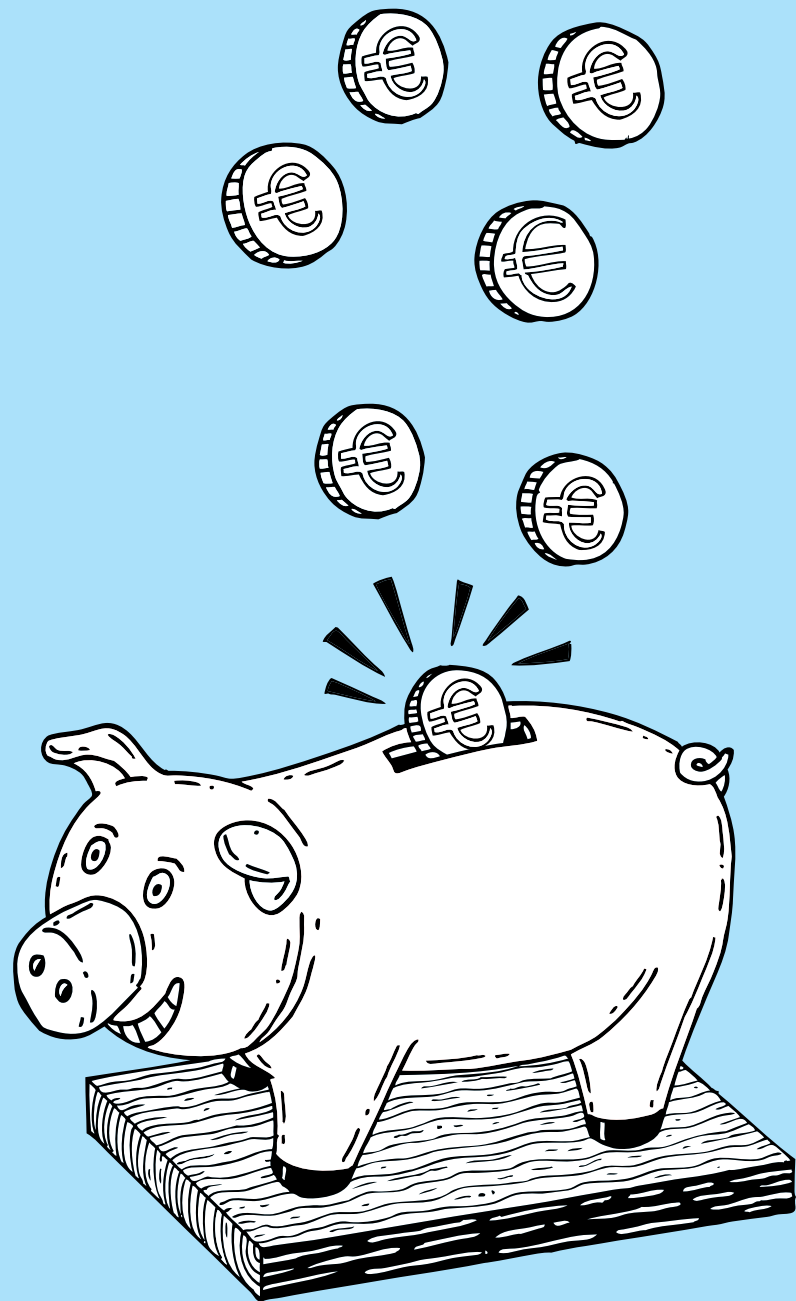
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

The Youth Forum Policy Paper on Citizenship Education was adopted in the Autumn COMEM, following input from the Youth Forum Board and membership.

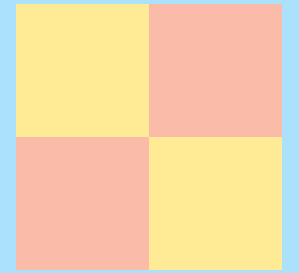
The Paper addresses the divide between democratic institutions, elected representatives, and political parties on the one hand and citizens on the other

and suggests that citizenship education could be a solution for addressing this divide. The Policy Paper sets out a number of actions which the Youth Forum and other stakeholders are encouraged to take to fully utilise citizenship education to ensure fuller youth participation.





02 STRONG YOUTH ORGANISATIONS



During 2013 the Forum committed to promote the financial recognition and the capacity building of youth organisations putting in place advocacy actions to ensure sustained funding and continued training to empower youth organisations. The Forum achieved great results negotiating the new EU Programme Erasmus+, ensuring an increased and separate budget for Youth and the presence of the Administrative Grants.

Moreover, support was provided to the process of strengthening National Youth Councils and to empower youth organisations to reach out, to create safe environments and include more diverse young people outside of their membership. Extensive advocacy work was implemented for the recognition of the impact of youth work and volunteering in society, as well as Volunteer Time Contribution as eligible co-funding in European programmes.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR

The Critical Success Factor foreseen for this Chapter in the Work Plan is:

More recognition and more and better targeted administrative funding for youth organisations, through the development of new and current European Union and Council of Europe financial programmes and other instruments (legal basis).

This CSF has been relevantly endorsed thanks to the fact that:

- the new Erasmus+ Programme includes the support to the administrative functioning of youth organisations, an increased and separate budget for Youth, along with the possibility of creating synergies and cross-sectorial projects among various sectors, including education, training

and youth sectors.

- the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe proposed simplified structural grants for the period 2014-2015 in which the volunteer-time contribution is recognised as co-funding. On this matter, relevant steps forward were moved at the EU level as well.

Many of the Youth Forum claims in the field were endorsed but there is still challenging work to do with particular reference to the recognition of youth work at all societal levels, to more accessible funds for youth organisations and to the recognition of youth organisations as key actors in the civil society sector and in society as a whole.

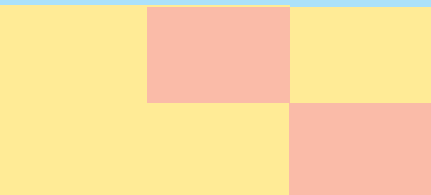
FUNDING FOR YOUTH WORK

2013 has been an important year for funding of youth organisations since the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Erasmus+ have been approved and will ensure funding for many youth organisations around Europe.

The Youth Forum has followed up on the European Council's decision on the MFF and the Erasmus+ programme's negotiations as well as the programme guide development.

The budget for the Erasmus+ programme, 14 billion euros for the 7-year period, plus the part dedicated to it from

European External Action Service funds as a support for activities taking place outside the European Union, make the budget available even bigger. In total this means that there is increased budget for education, training and youth sectors - one of the only sectors where budget was increased. During Spring the final negotiations of the new Erasmus+ programme took place. The Forum was able to influence the negotiations positively; for example the administrative support for the INGYOs. The Forum organised a high-level debate on the programme during its YO!Fest (31 May) as part of the most visible advocacy actions. During the summer the negotiations came to an end and the institutions moved towards the formal adoption of



the programme. The original proposal from the Commission was unsatisfactory, but after 2 years of advocacy by the Forum with its members and partners, we were able to improve the programme significantly - this includes a separate youth chapter, a separate budget line (10%) and operating grants for youth organisations.

In early 2013, the European Commission started to draft the programme guide for the new programme. The Forum demanded to be involved in the process from the beginning, but the Commission was reluctant.

Despite this situation, the Forum and its members were

the only stakeholders invited to contribute by providing their comments to a draft version of the programme. The Forum launched a consultation process within the membership, compiled the input from the membership and sent them to the Commission. Based on the consultation process the Forum continues to follow up this process and aims to include the needs of its members into the guide. The programme guide was published in December 2013 and many inputs provided by the Forum were included. The new Erasmus+ Programme includes support to the administrative functioning of youth organisations, an increased and separate budget for Youth, along with

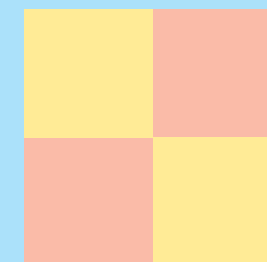
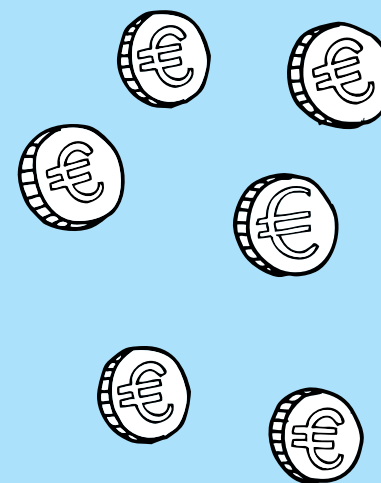
the possibility of creating synergies and cross-sectorial projects among various sectors, including education, training and youth sectors.

In order to support the work of the Youth Forum in the field of funding, the funding working group has met and developed their action plan for their mandate.

One of the many tasks following the Erasmus+ programme guide was investigating funding resource diversification

within the membership and developing tools for increasing financial sustainability of youth organisations.

With the aim of financial sustainability of youth organisations, an ad hoc task force was launched to explore alternative sources of funding for youth organisations, including funds diversification strategies and income generating activities. A toolkit on the matter will be made public for members in 2014.



YOUTH WORK POLICY

The Forum is aiming to gather more knowledge about the youth policy legislation landscape across Europe.

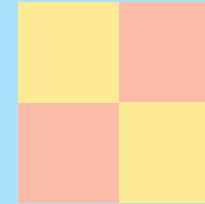
Therefore it has been collecting youth laws from European countries in order to have a coherent database of youth-related legislation, which would serve in providing proper understanding and analysis about the situation in Europe. The database will support the work of the Forum as well as its members.

The Youth Forum organised training for members on how to develop policies from a youth work perspective. The event aimed to improve the capacity of our members to develop policies from a theoretical and a practical level. The participating organisations started on a very broad level and then went further and further in depth on how to

develop relevant and specific policies in line with the reality that their organisation is facing. The Forum also used examples from its own experience in developing policies as well as inviting an external advisor.

The Youth Forum has been working on making its efforts when it comes to Youth Work more coherent and stronger by the development of a new Policy Paper on the working area. The Forum started a long and inclusive process in order to ensure that the topic was thoroughly discussed within the membership. Two consultations took place with our membership: one online and one at the Autumn COMEM.

The Youth Work Working Group has also been instrumental in shaping efforts in the development of the paper. The group has been engaged in the whole process through



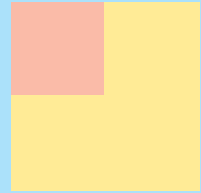
discussions and assessments of the different contributions. Another key area where the working group has been involved is the shaping of our other capacity building events.

Often, our members know the reality of organisations better than we do, this is therefore an invaluable input in order to make us stronger as a platform.

YOUTH WORK CAPACITY BUILDING

The activities under the area of youth work capacity building aim to provide better and more sustainable support to youth organisations and national youth councils. In 2013 the Youth Forum worked towards making its capacity building efforts more coherent. The Forum has developed three areas where we work on capacity building: strategic planning, policy development and advocacy. All these elements require constant engagement with the membership, making umbrella organisations more effective in advocating for youth rights, while becoming a more relevant actor for their members. In 2013, all

the working area was guided by this new approach. In line with the work plan's specific focus on the Balkans, the Forum organised two country-specific sustainability training sessions for national youth councils: in Albania and in Macedonia. Both events focused on strategic planning for the organisations. When it comes to engaging on strategic focus, the Forum involved the national youth councils in a long process that consists of firstly conducting a survey of the views of their membership on a variety of strategic questions. After this, they developed concrete actions based on the event. The national



youth councils then further developed the strategic plans before the final adoption by the membership as a whole. The Polish National Youth Council (PROM) has undergone very positive developments in the last year taking the step of applying for membership which means that they are now no longer under the Youth Work Capacity Building portfolio of the Forum. 2013 also saw the Forum becoming increasingly engaged in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Firstly, the Forum organised an event where the sustainability of youth work in the region was discussed. Regional national youth councils as well as international non-governmental youth organisations were invited to the event to discuss how their sustainability could be improved. The event's conclusions will be the basis for a sustainability event organised by the Forum in 2014.

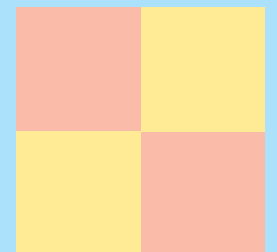
The Forum also became more actively involved in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP-CSF) process. The Forum's interest is to strengthen the voice of youth in the region and since the EaP-CSF shares this vision, there is room for a growing partnership. The Forum also conducted two support visits in 2013. Two visits were organised to the Icelandic Youth Council (LAEF) and the Ukrainian Youth Forum (UYF). These visits were more focused on the internal workings of the organisations and aimed to work on a more internal level. And finally, the Forum organised training addressed at national youth councils with the aim of them achieving better strategic planning. As already noted, the Forum sees effective and inclusive strategic planning as fundamental to any umbrella organisation and therefore a strong focus was put on this.

IMPACT OF YOUTH WORK

In line with the work plan the Forum wanted to highlight the benefits youth work brings to our society. A challenge that our sector faces generally is that many societal actors do not understand the value and impact of youth work.

Our sector continues to push for political and economic recognition of youth work, but this year the Forum also

built bridges to another sector that is traditionally not work extensively explored: artists. The Forum hired a team of filmmakers who will travel around Europe, producing short clips to show the world what we do, why we do it, and what the enormous impact is on our society. These short clips will be ready for viewing in 2014.



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH PROJECT

With the aim of empowering youth organisations to reach out to, create safe environments and include more diverse young people outside their membership, with special attention to marginalised and disadvantaged youth, in 2013 the Youth Forum implemented the first part of the Membership Growth Project. The two year pilot project aims at working with local branches of MOs in order to achieve qualitative growth and diversification of the membership base of the involved organisations.

As a result of the selection process launched in Spring 2013, the following MOs were involved: Active, AEGEE, YEU and YWCA. During the first year of implementation

of the project two meetings were organised with the aim of developing new ways of thinking about the membership and putting in place an observation phase as a basis for the 2014 implementation. Working with local branches of MOs allowed the Forum to be more in contact with grassroots youth organisations and to understand the challenges faced in recruiting new members while keeping the focus on the mission and priorities of each organisation involved. In this way the Forum could provide focused support to the involved organisations through peer learning, ad hoc training and external experts to develop specific strategies and methodologies aimed at the empowerment of youth organisations.

VOLUNTEERING

The Youth Forum continues its advocacy for the Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers through the development of an online resource on this topic for volunteers, volunteer organisations and decision-makers – this is due to be launched in early 2014.

A task force, drawing from members and outside partners was held in May to develop the structure of the website and create content. The European Parliament's December Report on Volunteering was an opportunity for it to renew its commitment to rights for volunteers.

The Parliament also supports Youth Forum priorities over issues such as volunteer recognition, active citizenship, support frameworks, insurance & health care and the volunteer time contribution as co-funding. The Youth Forum also followed with interest the development

of a United Nations Volunteers Young Volunteers Programme and advocated for youth organisations to be at its centre.

The Erasmus Plus legal base text supports the inclusion of volunteer time as co-financing in the form of contribution in kind for grants. However, it is very unclear how this will be implemented, especially through the structure of new grants under Erasmus Plus grants.

Contacts are on-going between the Youth Forum, its partners and the Commission on this issue. The Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe also agreed in April to recognise the principle of volunteer time contribution, a proposal initially proposed by the Advisory Council. A proposal is therefore due on implementing volunteer time contribution in the European Youth Foundation system for structural grants for the period 2014-2015.



03 AUTONOMY & INCLUSION

During 2013 the Youth Forum has enhanced its efforts in advocating for stronger youth autonomy and inclusion with a coherent holistic approach encompassing different strands of advocacy work that led to several achievements and developments on the following issues: the right to equal access to quality education, both formal and non-formal; increased standards of access to the job market, including quality internships, a binding European youth guarantee, minimum wages, and support to entrepreneurship; the recognition of and improvement of access to youth rights, including the fight against multiple and age-based discrimination. Efforts to promote the right to mobility for young people, through sustained advocacy on visa and residence permit liberalisation, have been promoted as well.

***Critical Success Factor.
The Critical Success Factor foreseen
for this Chapter in the Work Plan is:***

A strong European institutional initiative that will increase political and financial investment in youth employment.

This CSF has been relevantly endorsed by the measures and acts launched by the major EU institutions, namely: the EC Communication “Moving Youth into Employment” (December 2012), the EC Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (December 2013), the Council Recommendation on Youth Guarantee (February 2013) and the EP report on “Tackling Youth Unemployment: possible ways out” (September 2013).

Many of the Youth Forum claims in the field were endorsed but there is still challenging work to do with particular regards to the promotion of quality jobs for youth, a bigger financial investment in jobs creation for youth, and a stronger commitment for quality internships at national level.

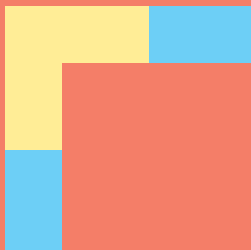
EMPLOYMENT

Advocacy work during 2013 started with the reaction to the European Commission’s ‘Youth Employment Package’ released in December 2012 and with intense lobby actions towards the Permanent Representation in view of the adoption of the Council Recommendation on the Youth Guarantee. After its adoption in February 2013, the Forum invested significant efforts in building up relations with Member Organisations active in employment, through the ‘Youth Employment Action’ framework demonstrating on a European level that youth organisations are significant stakeholders in this field.

In terms of the content of the final Recommendation on the Youth Guarantee, the Forum was disappointed that its recommendations for a €21 billion investment in the Youth Guarantee, and the extension of the Youth Guarantee for all young people in Europe up to the age of 30 (as opposed to 25), were not part of the final Recommendation.

However, the Forum's positions on the need for quality jobs, quality internships, the role of youth organisations and non-formal education for young people received wide cross-party support which was reflected in the European Parliament Resolution ‘Tackling Youth Unemployment: Possible Ways Out’, adopted in September 2013.

The Forum continued to enhance cooperation with institutional partners, organising a public event in cooperation with Eurofound and the EP Youth Intergroup on ‘Youth Disengagement – what costs and what remedies?’



(28 February, Brussels). A meeting on Quality Jobs with 13 member organisations was promoted alongside this event, with the aim of paving the way of developing the content of a publication on quality jobs for young people.

During 2013 the Youth Forum updated its positions to take into account the radically different situation of young people in Europe post-crisis: the new Policy Paper on Youth Employment was well received by social partners and the European institutions and Member Organisations. Following the specific lobbying efforts conducted with National Youth Councils around the ad-hoc ministerial meeting in the summer (3 July, Berlin) the Youth Forum launched its new publication on quality jobs for young people at the Youth Summit for Quality Jobs in Paris in November. The Forum presented the publication

to President Hollande as well as to the Minister for Employment, Sapin, and the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Andor.

The Youth Summit coincided with the Intergovernmental Summit on youth employment, organised by the President of France. The three-day youth event was very successful, both in terms of the mobilisation of young people, and of institutional advocacy. In December 2013 the Youth Forum finished the report on measures to combat youth unemployment on a national and Europe level. In late 2013 The Youth Forum also liaised with its Members to create a Youth Guarantee Toolkit' on the role of Youth Organisations in the Design and Implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Europe.



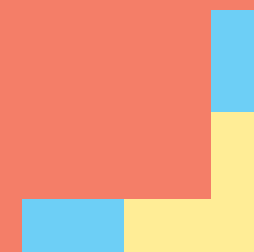
QUALITY INTERNSHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

The Youth Employment Package included the launch of a consultation of EU social partners on the Quality Framework for Traineeships. Although the document endorsed much of the Forum's quality criteria, the Forum expressed its disappointment that an immediate decision on Quality Internships was not reached. Besides this, the Forum successfully worked on mainstreaming the Charter with businesses: contacts were reestablished with the British Chambers of Commerce; a new partnership with the Adecco Group was formed and following Microsoft's signing of the Charter in 2012, a new project was started by CSR Europe, Microsoft and the Forum.

The first outcome of this was a self-assessment tool to facilitate the implementation of the Charter by employers whose preliminary results were presented at a round table in the EP (14 November,

Brussels). **This event - well-attended by the Commission, MEPs, businesses and interns themselves – was the culmination of the Forum's lobbying to the Commission to endorse the quality criteria of the Charter in their Council Recommendation proposal Quality Framework for Traineeships which was published in December.**

The Forum reacted, welcoming the measures but expressing disappointment that the issue of remuneration was left un-tackled. On apprenticeships, the Youth Forum followed, in close cooperation with OBESSU, the institutional developments on the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, and attended the launch event in Leipzig (July 2), signing a joint pledge with Microsoft on promoting quality apprenticeships for young people.



YOUTH RIGHTS AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

The Youth Forum has concentrated its efforts in catching the momentum of the institutional processes going on in the Council of Europe also with the aim of safeguarding the main results achieved in recent years in the field of youth rights. Following the failure of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth held in September 2012 – in April 2013 the Parliamentary Assembly adopted a Recommendation asking the Committee of Ministers take action to enhance Member States' capacity to evaluate young people's access to rights, prevent the violations of these rights, and consider innovative ways to empower young people in accessing their rights, including through the launch of a binding legal instrument.

The Youth Forum lobbied the main bodies in charge of discussing the Recommendation and addressed all the Permanent

Representations to the Council of Europe striving for a political commitment and opening a debate on the different legal and non-legal options in this concern.

The peak of this effort was the lobby meetings with 14 different Permanent Representations (7 October, Strasbourg), the roundtable with experts coming from the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, the African Youth Charter and the Ibero-american Convention on youth rights (26 October, Strasbourg) and the ad hoc task force meeting attended by 10 representatives of YFJ MOs which discussed the possible advocacy follow up actions in the field of youth rights (26-27 October, Strasbourg). In addition, the Youth Forum contributed to an experts' meeting on the rights of young people organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (16-17 July, Geneva).

In the framework of the mission to New York for the UN General Assembly, the Youth Forum had the occasion to meet with Human Rights officers in the OHCHR and to start discussing possible ways to contribute to a wider constructive debate in the UN system.

Evidence collection and promotion of a genuine rights based approach has progressed further: the publication "The international law on youth rights" has been updated and revised; cooperation with the Fundamental Rights Agency has been established in view of their study on the majority of EU population to be started in 2014; training on RBA has been held for the Secretariat of the Forum (Leuven, 9 and 10 April) providing insights on how to fully adopt RBA in the Forum's work.

In the field of Anti-Discrimination the Youth Forum actively contributed to the lobby towards the Member States and the EU presidencies aimed at the adoption of a EU horizontal Directive combating discrimination based on any grounds.

This process was hampered by political and technical constraints that make the adoption unlikely to happen within the end of the current European Parliament mandate, therefore the Forum has promoted joint debates with the members of the NGOs coalition on Anti-Discrimination and a capacity building event for its Member Organisations (15 & 16 December, Brussels). Finally, the Forum hired a researcher with the aim of promoting a survey on multiple and age-based discrimination cases in Europe.



EDUCATION

The advocacy work of the Forum on education policy during 2013 focused on the follow up of two main policy processes: the Commission's Communication on "Rethinking Education: investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes", and the 2012 Council Recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning. The Forum teamed up with EUCIS-LLL in the organisation of advocacy events in the Parliament concerning quality education and partnerships for lifelong learning. As a result of its advocacy work for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, the Forum was invited to join the European Qualifications Framework Advisory Board and contribute to the process of developing the guidelines on implementation of validation systems by Member States. Consultations with member organisations were initiated to gather their views on this process. A policy paper on quality education was adopted at the Council of Members in November. The paper defines our understanding on what quality education means and the driving

principles behind our call. The paper is the result of the inputs gathered during consultations with member organisations and external experts (Ad-Hoc Task force on Quality Education, 9-10 April; April's COMEM; online consultation, September). Cooperation with UNESCO was strengthened as part of our advocacy work for quality education and the post-2015 agenda for education. The study on "The Impact of Non-Formal Education in Youth Organisations on Young People's Employability" continued to raise high interest among youth organisations as well as key stakeholders in the field and it has been referred to in a wide range of events related to both education and youth employment. Further capacity building was provided to our members on the Quality Assurance of Non-Formal Education (25-29 September 2013, Mollina, Spain). The Forum developed a Manual on Quality Assurance of NFE as a support tool for the implementation of the framework; around 1000 copies were distributed to youth organisations and key stakeholders in the field.



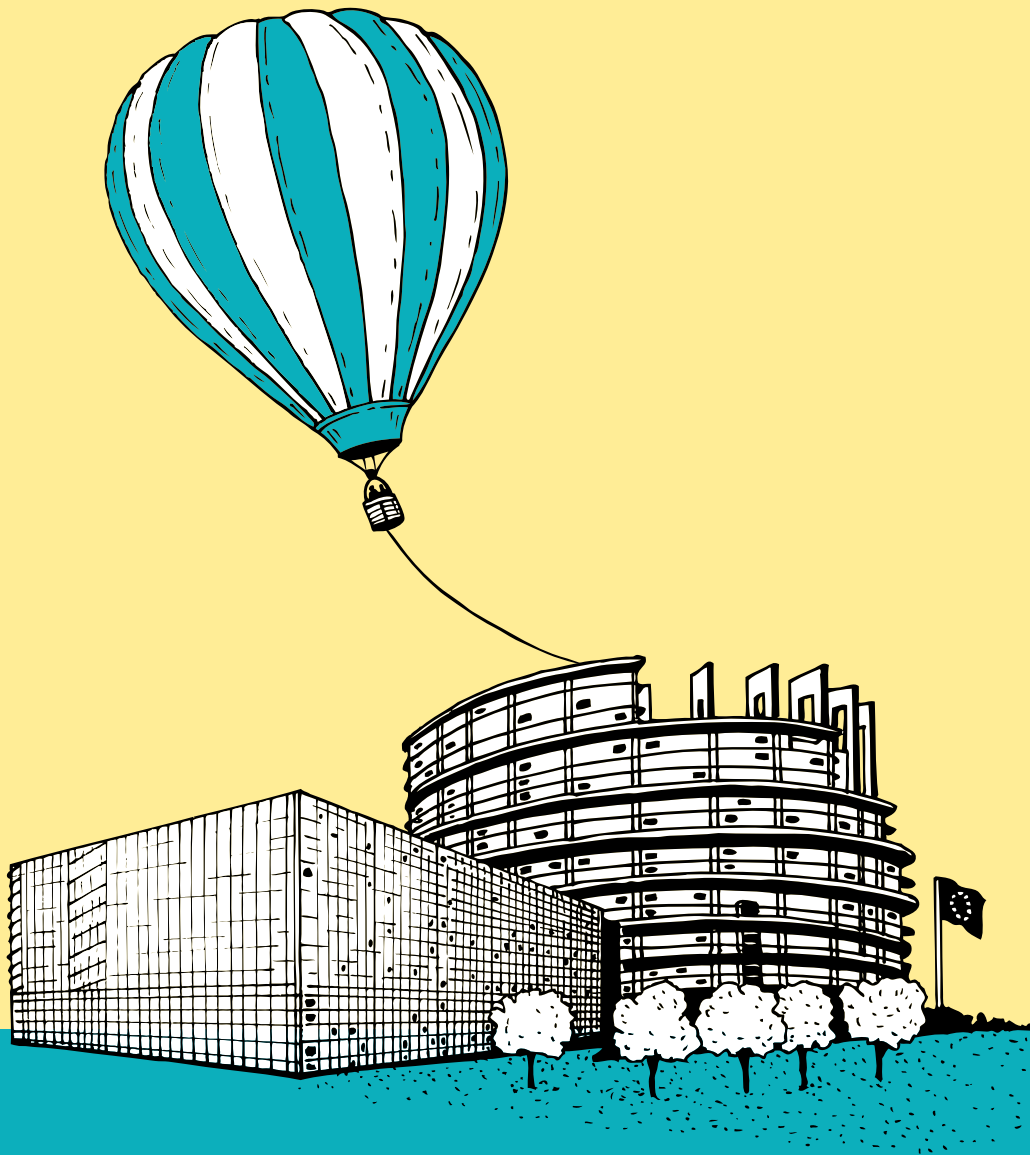
MOBILITY

On 25 March 2013, the Commission published a proposal for a new Recast Directive on Conditions of Entry for Third-Country National. After the publishing of the Reaction & Demands for Improvement on this proposal in April, the Forum reached out to the Study Group of the European and Economic Social Committee, the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), and relevant Council representative. Thanks to the coordinated advocacy efforts, many Forum demands have been considered in institutional reports and amendments, especially in the report of the LIBE committee as adopted on November 7th.

As a result, representatives from the DG Home Affairs, the European Commission, the Lithuanian Presidency and the shadow rapporteur

from the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament actively took part in the breakfast meeting on Freedom of Movement promoted by the Forum (4th December, Brussels). Members continued being actively involved in the process by implementing events and projects with the Youth Forum Mobility Micro Grants. The Working Group on Mobility that successfully met in May and October (kindly co-hosted by EFIL) was continuously included in the advocacy process and related activities. Simultaneously the Forum continued its involvement in the Steering Group of the European Platform for Learning Mobility (EPLM) and contributed to other processes such as the European Commission's open consultation on improving the procedure for obtaining short-stay Schengen visas.

04 INSTITUTIONS



In 2013, continuing its efforts to strengthen its position as an agenda-setter on youth affairs, the European Youth Forum maintained regular, frequent and close cooperation with the bodies directly in charge of youth affairs within European Union institutions, Council of Europe and the United Nations. With a view to mainstream youth policy and increase political attention to youth issues, the European Youth Forum also developed new contacts and cooperation with representatives of other policy areas, as well as high level officials, notably during its now yearly YO!Fest



The relations with institutions do not have a specific Critical Success Factor, but contribute to each of the chapter's Critical Success Factor:

- 1** A strong European initiative to strengthen youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels, and inclusion of a chapter on intergenerational justice in the programmes of political parties:
 - The YO!Fest, the regular events organised in the Parliament with the intergroup and the on-going cooperation or advocacy towards MEPs helped to make youth visible and high on the Parliament's political agenda in 2013, setting positive ground for the European Parliament elections campaign.
- 2** More recognition and more and better targeted administrative funding for youth organisations, through the development of new and current European Union and Council of Europe financial programmes and other instruments (legal basis):
 - The on-going advocacy on the Multiannual financial framework allowed securing substantial funding for youth in the new generation of EU programmes, despite a generally difficult context
 - The cooperation in the Council of Europe youth sector enabled taking first steps towards the recognition of volunteer-time contribution in the grants of the European Youth Foundation
- 3** A strong European institutional initiative that will increase political and financial investment in youth employment:
 - Regular advocacy towards Members of the European Parliament and actions towards the European Council led to the granting of funds to the fight against youth unemployment from 2014 on, while the EU has put forward several measures to ease the transition of young people from education to work, including the Youth Guarantee and a still to be adopted quality framework for internships
- 4** Strengthened inclusion of the Forum's members in its advocacy work and external representation, and increased proactiveness of the members in contributing to the work of the platform:
 - Members have been involved in many different advocacy processes and activities, whether in the Council of Europe, United Nations or European Union, and got support from the Forum in doing so.



EUROPEAN UNION

The YO!Fest 2013 (Brussels, 30-31 May 2013) was the main highlight of the year when it comes to the European Youth Forum relations with European Union. The Forum's annual political festival was a great success with more than 10.000 people participating in a mix of policy debates, concerts, non-formal activities, culminating with the presence of the highest political representation. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, the Vice President of the European Parliament, Isabelle Durant and many other institutional and political representatives joined the event to present their vision for youth and exchange with young people.

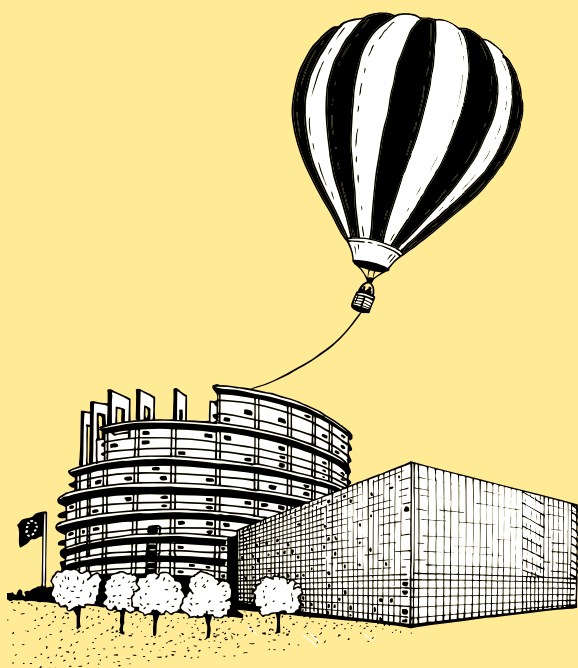
The YO!Fest created a positive ground for further cooperation with institutions that were not, until then, among the Forum's regular contacts.

Being organised in the frame of the European Youth Week, it also reinforced the cooperation with our usual partners in the European Commission. Among other topics, the YO!Fest highlighted the need for investing in youth and the general LoveYouthFuture campaign, while it clearly put youth as one of the main topics of the EU's political agenda. The YO!Fest also enabled us to increase the visibility of youth issues towards wider Civil Society in Brussels.

In parallel, the Forum established cooperation with the European Parliament towards the European Youth Event in May 2014 to highlight the topics of youth participation in elections and decision-making.

From early 2013, the European Youth Forum was in contact with European Parliament services regarding the organisation of an unprecedented European Youth Event in Strasbourg, May 2014. This event is indeed expected to bring several thousands of young people to the official premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to exchange their views on the European Union and its future. The European Youth Forum has actively engaged in the preparation of their event and offered to organise its next YO!Fest during it. It also ensured a strong presence of its member organisations in the event and made political inputs to its programme.

The European Youth Forum cooperated with the Intergroup on Youth throughout 2013. Together we organised several



political events in the Parliament, with the aim of keeping parliamentarians' attention to youth issues high. These meetings each addressed a specific topic, among others the post-2015 development agenda (Brussels, 27 June 2013), quality internships (Brussels, 14 November 2013) and the cooperation between national and European Parliaments on youth employment (Brussels, 5 December 2013). Such events gave the opportunity to bring young people into the European Parliament and offered them the opportunity to discuss with major political and institutional actors, such as the United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, the European Parliament President, Martin Schulz and Vice President Miguel Angel Martinez Martinez as well as members of the European Parliament from several committees.

In addition to these various events the Forum fulfilled its role as the voice of young people in Europe, ensuring that those designing the policies which impact their lives, hear their message. The European Youth Forum proactively contributed to crucial political processes ranging from the securing of funding available for youth organisations in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 to the adoption of the Youth Guarantee, and maintained the pressure on the European Council and institutions in general to act in favour of youth employment. The European Youth Forum successfully advocated towards the adoption of a quality framework for internships in Europe, proposed in December by the European Commission and stood for the mobility of young volunteers in the current process of revising the directives on the access of third country nationals to the EU.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

During its annual cooperation meeting with Council of Europe bodies early in the year, the European Youth Forum met with several stakeholders to plan the cooperation in 2013. This allowed the Forum to prepare the work for the recognition of youth rights with the Parliamentary Assembly, to plan the Statutory bodies' meetings and renewal with the Youth Department and to identify possibility for cooperation on the European Youth Capital title with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The European Youth Forum actively participated in the bi-annual meetings of the statutory bodies of the Council of Europe's youth sector, both in the Advisory Council and Joint Council on Youth, (Budapest, 2-5 April 2013, Strasbourg, 13-16 October 2013) and at the Programming Committee on Youth, (Budapest, 3-5 June 2013, Strasbourg, 4-6 June 2013). Within these bodies, the European Youth Forum supported the work of the Advisory Council, notably in their cooperation with ministerial officials. It also ensured the link between the statutory bodies' work and processes at stake in other structures of the Council of Europe, such as the Parliamentary Assembly recommendations 2015(2013) on young people's access to rights, adopted on 24 April 2013.

Next to this structural role, the European Youth Forum specifically advocated various bodies of the Council of Europe, as well as Members States' permanent representations, in

view of the Committee of Ministers reply to the Parliamentary Assembly's recommendations.

In cooperation with the Advisory Council on Youth and the European Youth Foundation, the European Youth Forum strongly supported the recognition of volunteer-time contribution in the grants allocated by the European Youth Foundation, leading to the recognition of the principle by the Joint Council on Youth in October and preparation in the Programming Committee for an effective mechanism in the grant applications' system to be implemented from 2014 onwards.

Considering that 2013 was the last year of the mandate for the members of the Advisory Council, the European Youth Forum also contributed to the process of nominations of the members 2014-2015. To ensure better coordination of the selection procedure between member organisations and organisations selected directly by the Council of Europe, the Forum anticipated the elections of member organisations representatives to the Advisory Council to the April COMEM (Brussels 19-20 April 2013) to allow an earlier start of the next Advisory Council's term. The Forum also engaged in the preparation of the joint training of the new Advisory Council together with the Council of Europe Youth Department, to take place in January 2014.

UNITED NATIONS

Throughout 2013, the Forum regularly met with the newly nominated UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth, in charge of driving forward the UN priorities on youth and promoting young people's effective participation in the UN system. The Forum also addressed the Secretary-General himself, Ban Ki-moon on the need for the UN to make further efforts to ensure that youth is meaningfully engaged in security and peace processes.

Promoting the enhancement of youth development and the effective engagement of young people and youth organisations in the UN system remained at the heart of the Youth Forum's advocacy towards the United Nations. It continued advocating specifically for a structured mechanism of youth participation in the definition, implementation and evaluation of its youth-related programmes, actions and activities. This work was notably reflected in the Youth 21 Initiative, which includes the proposal of establishing a UN Permanent Forum on Youth, in the reform of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the debate around its Youth Forum and in the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD).

The IANYD, in a positive move reflecting the Secretary-General's willingness to work with and for young people, developed a System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP). This action plan provides strategic guidance to the UN system as a whole in its work on youth within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and it promotes joint programmatic work on youth development.

The Forum facilitated and coordinated the representation of its member organisations at the UN General Assembly and other relevant UN meetings. It held the United Nations Advocacy Meeting (Brussels, 28-29 June 2013), attended by the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Youth, to develop a joint strategy for advocacy in the next session of the UN General Assembly and other UN meetings, on Post-2015 and Sustainable Development.

The Forum has enhanced its cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), by involving the institution in the Quality Education Ad-hoc Task Force and through an active role on the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum (Paris, 29-31 October 2013) as part of the Action Project jury. The Forum also explored opportunities of collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), and the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC), in common areas of work.



05 COMMUNICATIONS



In 2013, the European Youth Forum continued to consolidate its position as the voice of young people across Europe and as the “go-to” organisation on youth-related issues. We raised our profile through increased media coverage in national publications, as well as the EU-focused media. We hosted and launched high profile and successful events and campaigns in 2013, which led to considerable presence in the media and “buzz” on social media.

YO!Fest 2013 was a particular highlight of the year, with over 50 different pieces of media coverage (including online, print, radio and television). YO!Fest featured on websites from all over Europe including those of media, institutions and youth organisations. Social media promotion of YO!Fest and engagement with attendees was also strong.

IN THE NEWS

We were again in the news and creating a buzz on social media for the launch of League of Young Voters, which saw a hot air balloon being launched from the European Parliament. This generated media coverage in publications and online outlets across the world.

In November, the Youth Summit for Quality Jobs took place in Paris and was attended by French President Francois Hollande, which led to strong interest in the EU-wide media. This event, along with announcement of Ganja, as European Youth Capital for 2016, led to a surge of mentions of the European Youth Forum in the media, with over 80 mentions in just this one month – the highest level of 2013.



Social media

2013 was a year in which we really established the Youth Forum as the voice on EU youth policy on social media. We have continued to grow our followers on Twitter and to engage with more people through our Facebook community.

A highlight of the year on social media was that during Yo!Fest, on 31st May, the #YOFest13 hashtag was a trending topic in Belgium. Over 1,400 people liked the Facebook page and more than 146,000 connected to the mobile site.

The launch of the League of Young Voters was another key point of the year in terms of social media activity; President Barroso himself tweeted the launch of the League of Young Voters, reaching over 40,000 people.

Publications



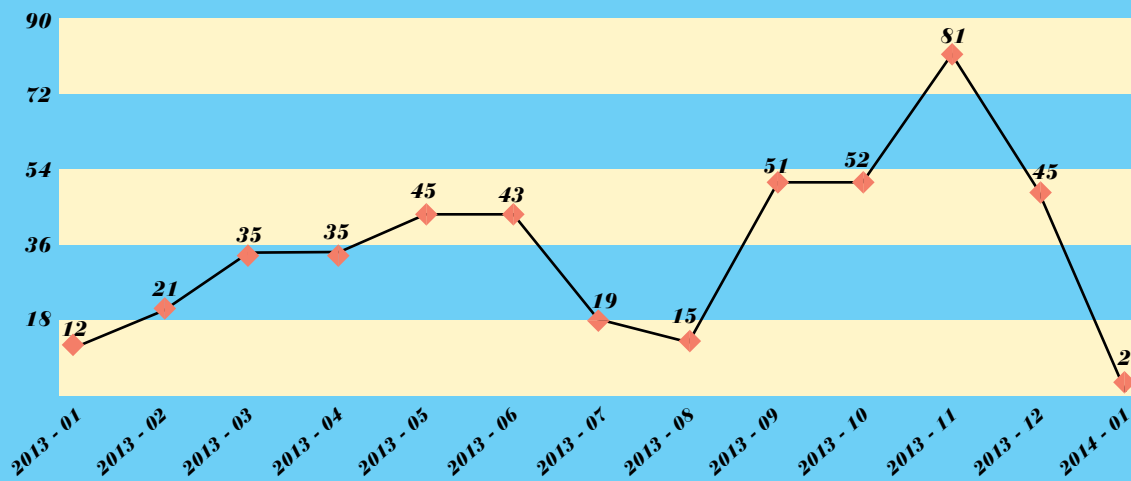
Annual Report 2012
YO! #1 / 2013 – Elections & Democracy
YO! #2 / 2013 – A Dreamy Utopia
YO! #3 / 2013 – Youth and the City
Quality Jobs for Young People report
Non-Formal Education and Employability booklet
Non-Formal Education and Employability manual
Youth Rights Expertise booklet
Internship flyer

During the year, the Youth Policy Watch was sent 22 times to over 5,000 contacts, relevant stakeholders and decision-makers, reaching its 92nd edition at the end of December 2013.

OUR MEDIA PRESENCE IN NUMBERS

- 1 European media partnership with Euranet
- 26 Press Releases
- 6 TV appearances
- 10 radio interviews
- 10 print press reports
- 460 online news reports

ONLINE MEDIA HITS BY MONTH 2013



◆ > *European Youth Forum

ONLINE MEDIA HITS BY COUNTRY 2013

Georgia 1	Belgium 65	Switzerland 4
France 18	Belarus 2	Sweden 6
Finland 3	Azerbaijan 21	Sri Lanka 1
Fiji 2	United States 23	Spain 61
Denmark 3	United Kingdom 24	Slovakia 2
Czech Republic 4		Russian Federation 5
Cyprus 4		Qatar 4
China 1	United Arab Emirates 1	
Netherlands 8	Turkey 5	Poland 7
Italy 103	Thailand 1	Luxemburg 6
	Malta 9	Malaysia 2
		Jordan 2
	Ireland 11	
Greece 22	Germany 3	India 3

ONLINE MEDIA HITS BY LANGUAGE 2013

Finnish 3	German 3	Lithuanian 1
French 20		
Czech 3	Italian 109	Malay 1
Danish 2	Modern Greek 23	Norwegian 1
	Slovak 2	Polish 7
Dutch 11	Swedish 4	Russian 8
	Azerbaijani 1	
English 179		Spanish 73

▶ FACEBOOK

81% of fans between 18-34 years old
Top 3 countries of fans: Turkey, Italy, Greece
Top 3 cities of fans: Brussels (Belgium), Istanbul (Turkey), Baku (Azerbaijan)

▶ MOST SHARED STORIES:

“Family reunions are always fun, the European Youth Forum Council of Members this weekend in Brussels in no exception (20/04/13) – reach of 21,000, 475 likes, comments and shares. “Young people are ready to work, but their unemployment rate is double that of the average” (16/05/13) – reach of 12,300, 175 likes, comments and shares.

▶ TWITTER

7.233 followers (up from 4,671 followers 31/12/12)

▶ TRENDING HASH-TAGS

#YOFest13 · #youngvoters

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR IN TWEETS



Massive congratulations to Ganja who have been crowned European Youth Capital 2016! #EYC2016 #yifj

We are in Thessaloniki for our Council of Members meeting where young delegates from across Europe will join us. #COMEM@Thess2014

— **From Microsoft Europe:** Congrats to @Youth_Forum for great #qualityjobs event @OECD in Paris this week! we were honored to sponsor&participate #youthspark @Syllaf

— **From Young Voters EU:** LYV message has now entered zero-gravity with a message out of this world! Join the movement! <http://is.gd/hJuWzT> #youngvoters

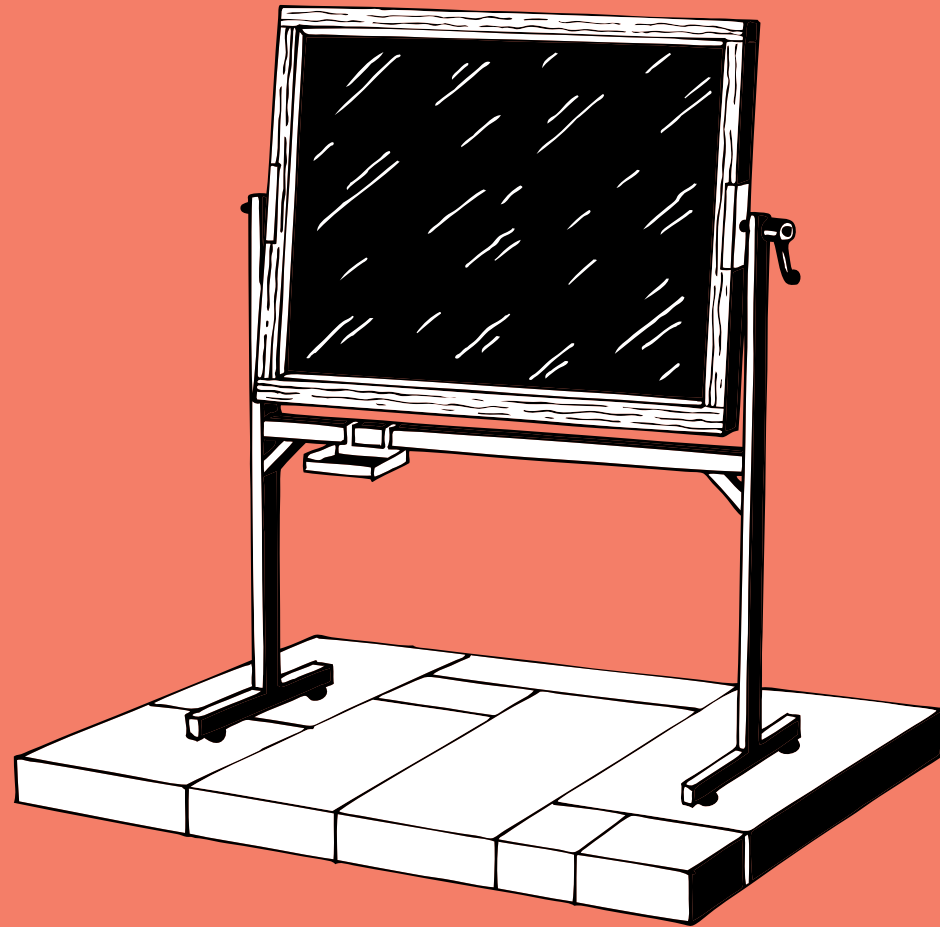
— French President François Hollande meets with youth orgs at “Youth Summit for Quality Jobs” conference at the Elysée: <http://is.gd/8lgTlf>

— MT @MartinSchulz Met EU youth organizations in Berlin. We're creating enormous expectations. Now we must deliver! <http://is.gd/d4r4ig>

— **5000 people** rocked the @europarl_en yesterday at the #yofest13. Stay tuned on <http://www.yofest.eu> for today!

— **From Martin Schulz:** I'll be with @Youth_Forum tmrw to call for youth to be at centre of EU & make sure govts put money where their mouth is! #YOFest13

— **From President Barroso:** W/ Princess Laurentien, Androulla @vassiliouEU & astronaut Paolo #Nespoli/ League Young Voters @Youth_Forum pic.twitter.com/majD0gk82f



06 INCLUSIVE PLATFORM



Membership Services

Youth Forum Academy

A successful first edition of the Youth Forum Academy was organised in Antwerp, Belgium from 13 – 23 June. 115 participants met over the course of ten days to exchange ideas and best practices, participate in various training sessions and contribute to the work of the European Youth Forum. It brought together participants from seven meetings: the membership growth project, the funding workshop, the NYC sustainability training, the YWD working group meeting, communications meeting, the Secretary-Generals Day and the pool of trainers meeting.

FREE SOFTWARE DONATIONS

On 22 January 2013 the European Youth Forum signed a strategic partnership with Microsoft Europe to promote the rights of young people and streamline investing in youth as a priority, also for the private sector.

Through this new strategic partnership with Microsoft the European Youth Forum had the opportunity to receive free software donations for our member organisations' offices as well as the offices of the member organisations.

The call for free software donations for member organisations received requests from a total of 126 organisations and over 3000 software packages were donated to our MOs and MOMOs.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

In November 2013 we closed the on-going process of the annual membership survey for 2012-2013. 71 (72%) member organisations responded, with 60% completing the full survey, including 25 NYCs and 33 INGYOs. The European Youth Forum will use the outcomes and information gathered through the Membership Survey to improve the ways in which it supports its Member Organisations, allowing for a better tailored approach and a stronger focus on the needs expressed by the MOs.

THE POOL OF TRAINERS

To support the work of the platform itself and its Member Organisations the European Youth Forum has a Pool of Trainers and Facilitators. The European Youth Forum's Pool of Trainers aims to deliver training and facilitating for Youth Forum events or events of our institutional partners and use its expertise and knowledge to support the Member Organisations.

LIST OF TRAINERS AND FACILITATORS

(MANDATE FROM APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2015):

Akgul Musa	Youth of European Nationalities - Y-E-N
Adelmann Georg	Service Civil International - SCI
Bal Ufuk	Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe AEGEE
Betrian Júlia	Consell Nacional de la Joventut de Catalunya - CNJC
Castineiras Pablo	European Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations - YMCA
Cicala Federica	Forum Nazionale Giovani - FNG
Comet i Kortman Teo	Federation of Young European Greens - FYEG
Curoşu Doru	Consiliul National Al Tineretului Din Moldova - CNTM
de Lange Christel	Nationale Jeugdraad - JEUGDRAAD
Ferreira Ana Conselho	Nacional de Juventude - CNJ
Fischer Carmen	Österreichische Kinder- und Jugendvertretung - ÖJV
Fischer Martin	Young European Federalists - JEF
Galli Viviana	European Federation of Intercultural Learning - EFIL
Hoffström Eelin	Rural Youth Europe - RYE

Jakubek Elzbieta	(Don Bosco Youth Net)
Kirjazovaite Lina	European Educational Exchanges - Youth For Understanding - EEE-YFU
Landmark Linn	Sobriety Friendship and Peace - ACTIVE
Maldiski Aleksandra	Organising Bureau of European School Students Unions - OBESSU
Mamo Nicholas	International Federation of Medical Student Associations - IFMSA
Mandozzi Sara	Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations - Alliance
Manevski Stefan	Young European Federalists - JEF
Miginis Nerijus	Lietuvos Jaunimo Organizacija Taryba - LIJOT
Mursec Simona	Mladinski Svet Slovenije - MSS
Retore Sven	Youth for Exchange and Understanding - YEU
Santos Dúlio	European Federation for Intercultural Learning - EFIL
Savishchava Darya	Belarusian Union of Youth and Children's Public Associations - RADA
Silva Ana	International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth - MI JARC
Szalai Zita	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - WAGGGS
Trojánek Pavel	Czech Council of Children and Youth - CRDM
Urb Jaan	Eesti Noorteühenduste Liit - ENL

WORKING STRUCTURES

For the cycle 2013-2014 the working structures methodology was fixed to better serve the new Work Plan and the Strategic Priorities. Alongside the fixed MO-based working groups the following ad hoc task forces have been established: Youth Rights, Volunteering, European Elections, Structures Dialogue, Youth Work.

The composition of the fixed working groups is as following:

Youth Work:

Ekaterine Tsvariani Sebastian Vogt	National Youth Council Of Georgia - NYCOG German Committee for International Youth Work - DNK
Marko Boko Viktorija Matuzaitė Gerd Tarand Sebastian Seehauser	Croatian Youth Network - MMH International Young Naturefriends - IYNF Estonian Youth Council - ENL Youth of European Nationalities - YEN

MOBILITY:

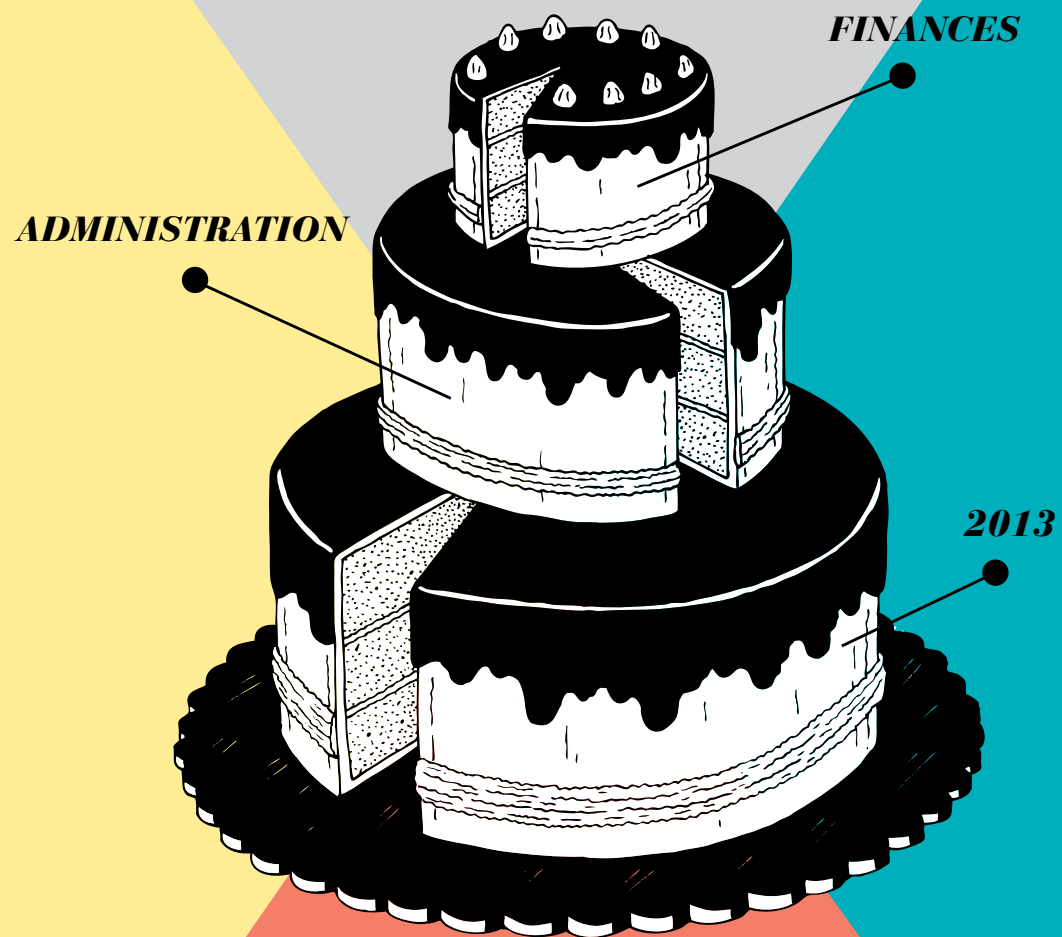
Carla Filetti Aurelia Petrov Ivan Vasiliev	Erasmus Student Network - ESN National Youth Council of Moldova - CNTM European Educational Exchanges Youth for Understanding – EEE-YFU
Elisa Briga	European Federation for Intercultural Learning - EFIL
Roland Susman	International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational - International - IFM/SEI
Evgeniya Aliyeva	Belarusian Union of Youth and Children's Public Associations - RADA

EDUCATION:

Gintare Alaburdaite Sara Bertocci	Lithuanian Youth Council - LiJOT World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - WAGGGS
Elisabeth Gehrke	European Student Information Bureau - ESIB
Emmanuelle Bertrand	Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire - CNAJEP
Marko Grdosic	Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe - AEGEE
Dejan Bojanic	Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions - OBESSU

FUNDING:

Miha Mohorko Tamara Gojkovic Federico Guerrieri	Mladinski Svet Slovenije - MSS Youth Exchange and Understanding - YEU Young European Federalists - JEF
John Gilmore Juha-Pekka Nurvala Nicolo Pranzini	European Confederation of Youth Clubs - ECYC Youth of the European People's Party - YEPP World Organisation of the Scout Movement - WOSM



07 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

2013 represented the beginning of a cycle in terms of European Youth Forum management as the Board was starting its mandate, and a bi-annual Work Plan, for 2013-14, was starting. 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 €2.500.000 for 2013.

In what concerns the execution of the agreement with DG EAC, there was a total execution of the Budget, meaning that the total amount applicable to the EU grant amounts to €2.942.531 with the final EU contribution calculated at €2.500.000.

Consequently, there is no grant reduction. If we compare to previous years as 2012 it amounted €26.191,33, in 2011 it amounted 0,65% (€15.051,53), or as 2010 it amounted 2,98% (€69.362), or as 2009 where the reduction amounted to 6,31% (€184.859). These positive results are due to

an increase in the amount invested in the activities and in the Forum's advocacy processes, and an improvement capacity to execute the activities planned for 2013.

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. On the remainder of the YFJ overall budget, not linked to the operating grant agreement with DG EAC under the Youth in Action Program, the total amount was €3.381.309 and there was a surplus of €806,38.

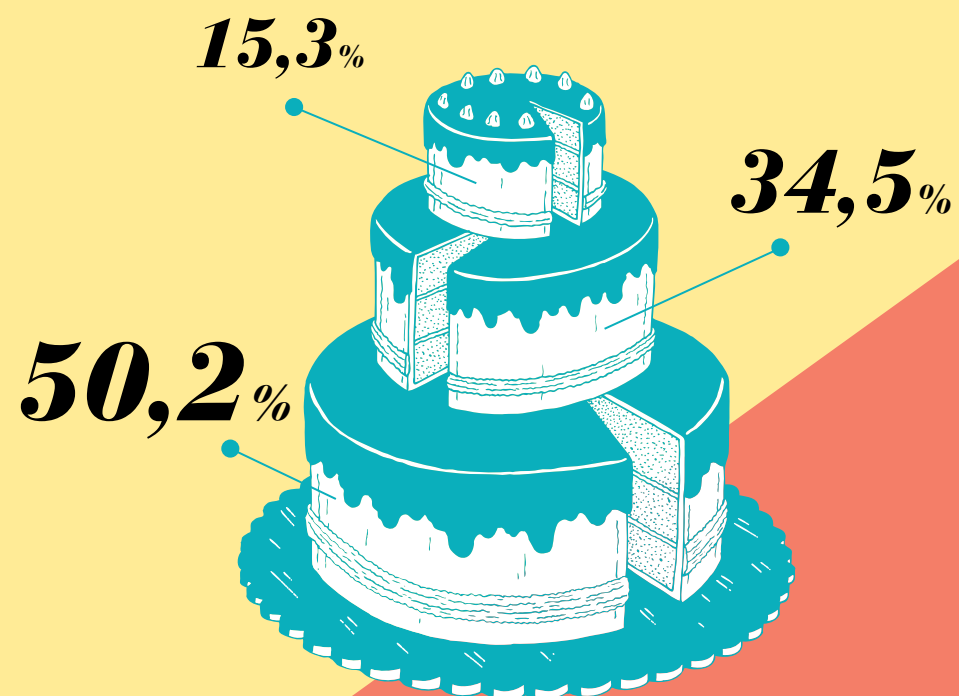
It is important to reiterate that the Youth Forum strives for correctness and clarity in its accounts, which is essential for both the members and the Forum's partner institutions; this is why the auditing procedures in place are so significant, as much the internal audit and the consultancy role of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

GRANT EXECUTION

The biggest portion of the Budget refers to the running costs of the Programs and Activities of Advocacy and Policy Development 50,2%.

The Operational Costs represent 34,5% and refer to the running and legal costs of the organisation, as well as employment costs.

The costs with Governance represent 15,3% and include all the costs with the Statutory and Governance bodies



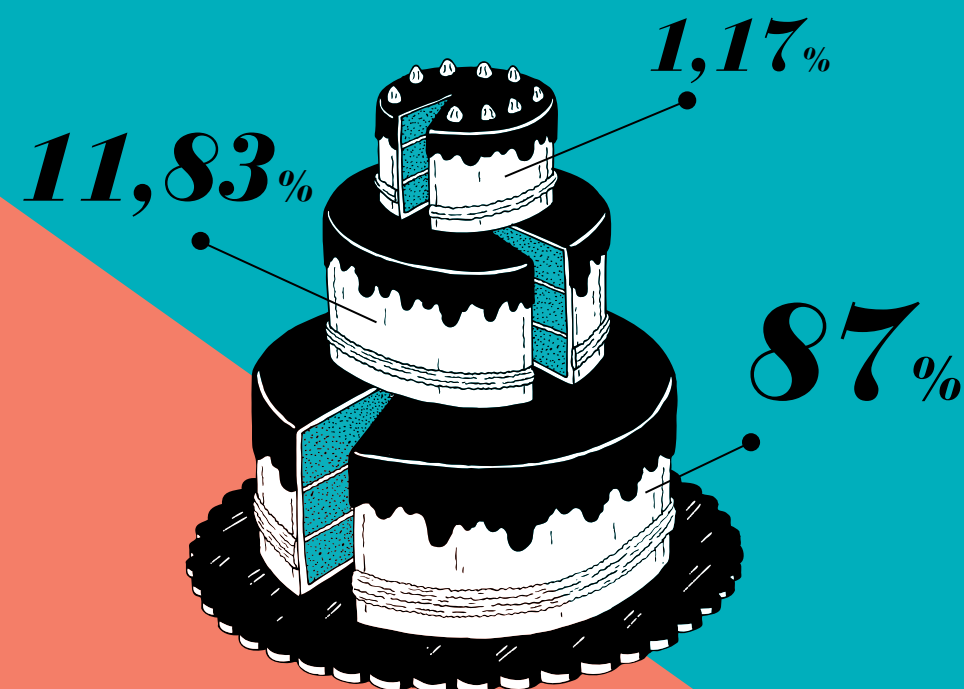
OVERALL EXECUTION

Expenditures

The overall expenditures of the Budget represent €3.380.502

The biggest portion of the execution refers to the running costs of the annual plan under the Grant Agreement with EC, Programs and Activities of 87% (€2.942.531)

The European Youth Event 2014, represent an execution of 1,17% (€39.459,79) and Other Projects costs represent 11,83%

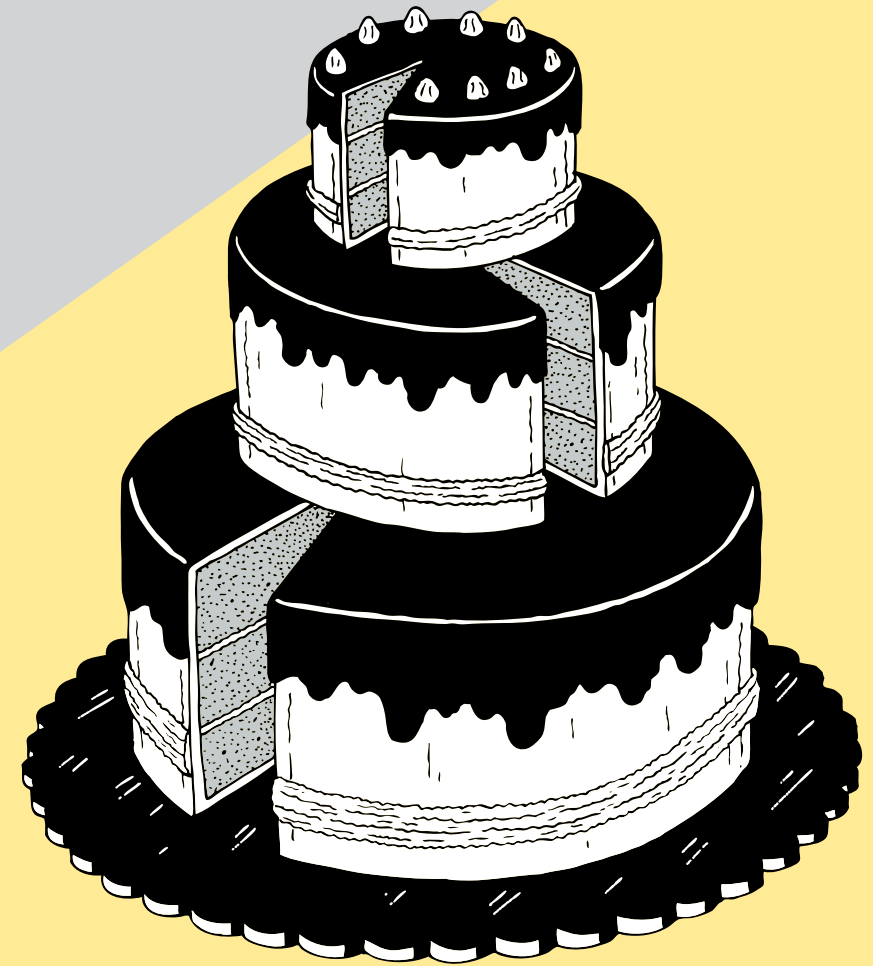


INCOMES

Overall income was €3.381.309, almost all of the Youth Forum's income stems from the annual grants from international institutions.

73,9% (€2.500.000) of the total income in 2013 came from the grant from DG Education and Culture, 1,65% (55.828€) from the European Parliament separate in two Grant/project agreements and the European Youth Even 2014 with 1,17% (39.459€) also from the European Parliament. While around 2,74% (92.773€) was from grants by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

The Membership fees contributed to 4,5% (€152.780) and the Volunteer Time Contribution contributed to 4,5% (€153.780), Partnerships and other incomes to 11,54% of the overall incomes.



08 BOARD MEMBERS



PETER MATJAŠIČ *PRESIDENT*

Coordinating: overall Board work, Chapter 1 Youth Participation, Institutional Relations, Global and Regional Cooperation, Relations with Member Organisations, Press and Communications

GUODA LOMANAITE *VICE PRESIDENT*

Coordinating: Chapter 2 Strong Youth Organisations
Lead: Structured Dialogue, EU Advocacy, European Youth Capital, Funding for Youth Work
Support: Youth Work Development, Mobility, PPYOs

LLOYD RUSSELL-MOYLE *VICE PRESIDENT*

Coordination: Chapter 3 Autonomy and Inclusion

Lead: CoE Advocacy, International Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations Co-ordination, Global Development Policy (Post 2015/Sustainable Development Goals), Cooperation with Latin-America, Youth Organisations Income Generation and Cooperatives

Support: Funding for Youth Work, UN Advocacy, Environmental Policy

JOHANNA NYMAN *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: European Elections, League of Young Voters, Youth Rights

Support: Vote at 16

MAGGIE DOKUPILOVA (until 31.12.2013) *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: Finances, Vote at 16, Environmental Policy, New Media

Support: European Elections, Employment

SANDRA KAMILOVA *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: EEC region, Youth Work Capacity and Growth, Membership Support and Training, Cooperation with Asia

Support: Structured Dialogue, Non-Formal-Education, UN Advocacy

JERRY DEN HAAN *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: UN Advocacy and Official Youth Delegate Support, Anti-discrimination.

Support: Post 2015, ICYMO Co-ordination, Internal Inclusion

ELISE DROUET *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: Euro-Arab cooperation, Youth Work Development, SEE Region, Youth Work Policy, Youth Work Capacity Building, Volunteering, Quality Internships

Support: EEC region, Youth Work Capacity and Growth, Employment

MÁRCIO BARCELOS *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: Cooperation with African region, Non-Formal Education, Quality Education, Citizenship Education

Support: Membership Support and Training

MIROSLAW KRZANIK *BOARD MEMBER*

Lead: Mobility, Erasmus+ Development & Programme Guide, Roma Youth Action Plan (part of Anti-discrimination)

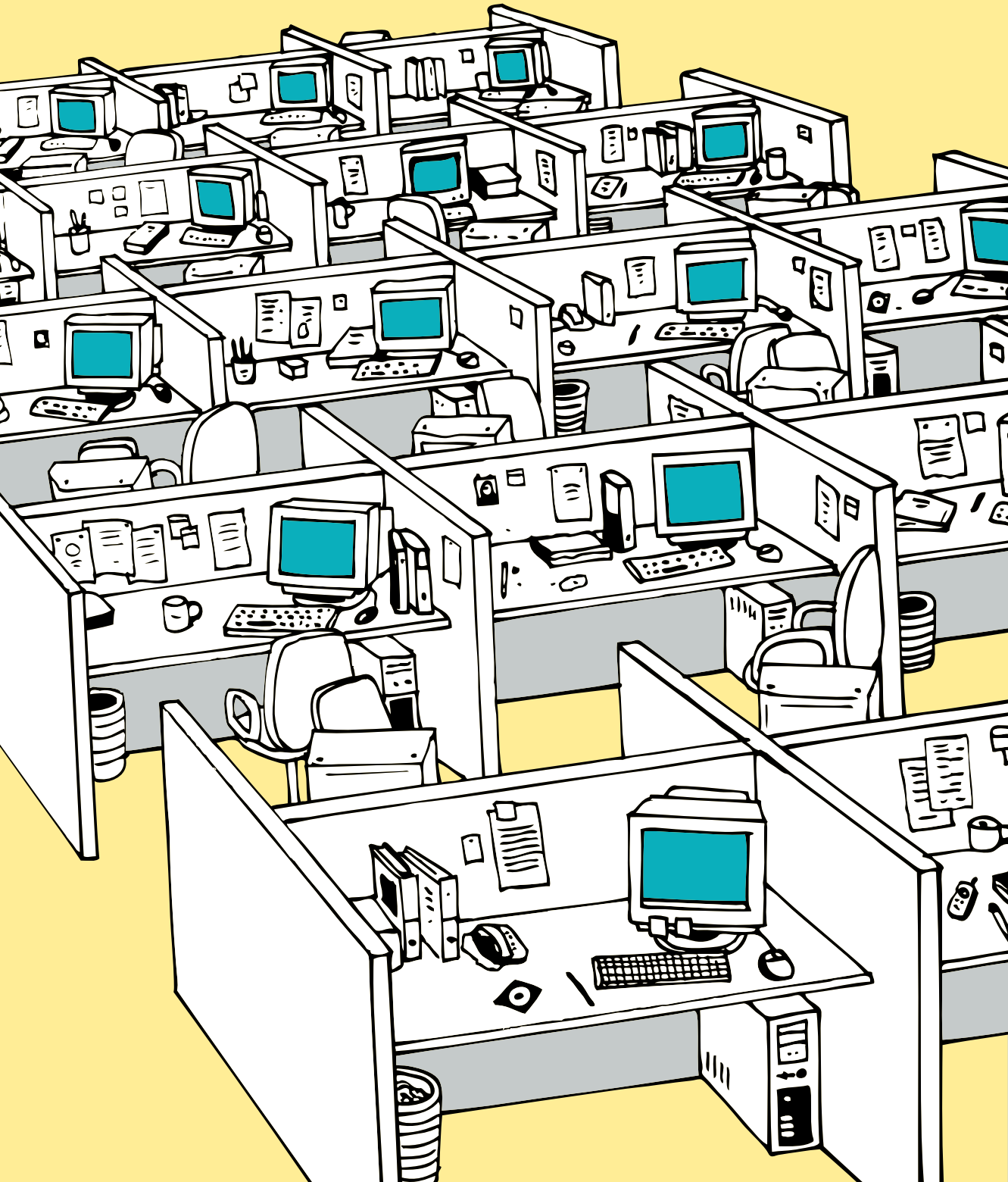
Support: Funding for Youth Work, Quality Education,

JURE ŠTAJNBAHER *MEMBRE DU CA*

Lead: Youth Employment, Internal Inclusion,

Support: SEE region, Anti-discrimination,

09 SECRETARIAT



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Secretary-General
Giuseppe Porcaro

Assistant to the Secretary-General
John Lisney

Communications Coordinator
Letizia Gambini (until April)
Macarena Rodriguez (May to October)

Communications Officer
Thomas Spragg (until October)

Intern Policy Monitoring and Communication
Seyi Akiwowo (until July)
Liam Beattie (from July)

Membership and Partnerships Officer
Jo Deman

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Administrative & Financial Director

David Ferreira

Translator/ Team co-ordinator

Luc Rummens

Accountant

Christine Struys (until September)

Stéphane Assel'e (from October)

Human Resources Coordinator

Marie-Aimée Musanase

Translator / Assistant

Anne Debrabandere

Secretary/Receptionist

Nicole Burlet-Parendel (until January)

Administrative Officer

Magdalena Liskova (from February)

IT Coordinator

Estefania Asorey

POLICY AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department

Alix Masson

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Youth Participation)

David Garrahy

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Strong Youth Organisations)

Anna Ranki (until October)

Alfonso Aliberti (from November)

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (Autonomy and Inclusion)

Giorgio Zecca

Institutional Coordinator (EU, CoE and UN)

Antoine Mertzeisen

Project Officer for the EU Structured Dialogue

Bianca Faragau

Senior Institutional Officer – UN and Global affairs

Vania Freitas

Policy Officer - Employment

Marianna Georgallis (from April)

Policy Officer - Employment

James Higgins

Policy Officer - Participation

Magdalena Kurz

Policy Officer - Youth Work Capacity Building

Matthias Christensen

Policy Officer - Education

Laura Lopez-Bech

EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT TEAM - FROM OCTOBER

Project Coordinators

Béryl Abols & Tamsin Pearce

Project Officer

Francesca Fabbri