

<b>YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting</b> <b>Berlin, Germany</b>	<b>08.-11. March 2012</b>
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**Participants:**

Peter Posner	President
Ed Eggink	Treasurer
Beate Turck	Assessor
Stepan Cerny	Assessor
Mieke Barenbrug	Assessor
Juan Simoes Iglesias	Secretary General (SG)

**In attendance:**

Michal Szymanczak	Senior Executive Secretary
Eva Tschornova	Officer Manager

- **Opening remarks and apologies**

Peter Posner welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and members of YE staff in attendance. He gave apologies from Kaare Dag Mangersnes (Vice-President), Marina Michailidou (Recording secretary), Susan Louhema (Assessor), Karin Hammar (Assessor).

Peter confirmed the committee was quorate. As Marina is not able to attend, Beate agreed to write the minutes.

- **Reports**

**European Secretariat**

Juan reported that the structure of the staff team had changed. New contracts and reporting systems are in place and operating. All staff now report directly to Juan.

Juan has already visited a large number of National Movements and had met 16 National Secretaries. During his travels he had received good feedback about the new YMCA Europe Strategy.

The planning for the 2013 Prague Festival was going well with strong support from the World Alliance of YMCAs. The greatest need continues to be financial guarantees (see their report later).

His plans for the immediate future include improving communications to National Movements and into Europe generally, which will include frequent updates of the web pages and regular newsletters.

**Movement Development**

Michal reported about his activities according including the possibility of a new YMCA in Montenegro, contact with interested parties in Uzbekistan and preparation of full membership of YMCA Moldova. YMCA Serbia could serve as pilot country focus group under leadership of Czech YMCA.

**Movement strengthening meeting planning**

The agenda and explanations had been shared with all participants before the meeting. Mieke and Stepan will take notes from group work sessions and will report back to the plenary.

**Christian Community**

Report of the Christian Orientation Group (COG) was presented by Mieke. The highlight was the Unify Conference held in England in January which will be a source of new members. Adam Rychlik has been nominated as contact person from YE staff to COG.

**Programmes - overall coordination**

No Report received.

**European Sport YMCA (ESY)**

Report was presented by Stepan.

**European Ten Sing (ETS)**

Report was presented by Stepan. ETS conference just took place. Line-manager from ETS for YE festival has been appointed. Need for founding new TS groups in countries so far not involved has been identified.

**European YMCA Scouting & Jungschar group (ESG)**

No Report received.

**Volunteers for Europe (VfE)**

Report was presented by Beate. In October there will be a seminar of Youth Policy platform in Berlin. Juan would be interested in attending next VfE seminar on behalf of YE.

**YMCA Europe Spectrum (YES)**

Oral report was presented by Stepan. Unfortunately no one from YES will attend the Movement Strengthening meeting but the Group is quite active via Facebook. Next YES seminar will take place parallel to the May 2012 General Assembly in Prague and already about 30 registrations have been received.

**European Youth Policy**

Oral report given by Juan. Kie Cummings (2008-2011 representative of YE at the European Youth Forum to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth) has sent a concept paper for this new YE platform to Juan who will forward it to executive committee for their consideration. Regarding a new nomination of a YE representative to European Youth Forum to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth, Kie and Karin should be contacted to take further steps.

Proposal: Executive Committee will deal with the draft European Youth Policy paper at its May 2012 meeting.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**Finances**

Ed reported. The first budgets for 2011 indicated a large deficit but the year ended with a surplus of 157 Euro. Special thanks to great work of Juan.

The Friends of YE campaign (2009-2011) has been quite successful, an overall amount of 54,000 Euros could be raised. The question now is if the campaign should be extended or changed or finished at all. Proposal: The final decision should be taken at meeting in May 2012.

Ed highlighted a few National Movement members which, under §10 of the YMCA Europe Constitution concerning non payment of their contributions, could be considered to have their voting rights withdrawn. The Executive Committee discussed each Member's particular situation.

Proposal: Juan would contact each of the Movements concerned to advise them of this situation and to see if we can work with them to improve their position. Any decisions will then be taken by Executive Committee at its next meeting on May 16, 2012 in Prague. **Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Accounts 2011

Ed presented the final figures of accounts of 2011.

Proposal: The executive committee agrees to submit the 2011 final accounts for approval to the General Assembly in May 2012.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Budgets 2012 and 2013

Ed gave an update of the planned budget of 2012 and proposed budget for 2013.

Proposal: The Executive Committee agreed with the proposed budgets and the proposed national contributions for 2013 to be presented to the General Assembly in May 2012.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Proposal: Following a request at the 2011 General Assembly, the Executive committee proposed that the decision about National Contributions taken at the General Assembly 2012 is separated from the overall budget decisions.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

#### Constitution for the new YE Endowment Fund (Draft)

Ed presented a draft for the constitution of a YE Endowment Fund "The YMCA Europe George Williams Fund" which is to be under separate Governance from the Executive Committee. The YE president and YE treasurer should become trustees of the Fund, provided with a veto right. A constitution will protect donations. This constitutional paper will be presented at the 2012 General Assembly.

Proposal: To establish the "The YMCA Europe George Williams Fund. A board of trustees shall be nominated and appointed by the YE Executive Committee. The constitution may become part of the YE constitution bylaws.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

#### **Resource Mobilization/Impact Assessment**

Juan reported. In regard to finances the situation of YE still is very weak and fund raising including submission of grant applications continues. Funds have been agreed/received from World Alliance, EED, Y's Men Denmark, YMCA of the USA, Horyzon, EU. Application for grant submitted to Westfälische Landeskirche.

Staff are working on improving our impact assessment results using a LogFrame (NGO project management system).

#### **YMCA Europe Resource Team (YERT)**

Juan reported. New Working Plan for 2012/13 has been agreed. Diagnostic analyses are being planned for three movements. The Team discussed if links could be made to other working platforms of YE to offer diagnostic analyses of YE's wider operations.

#### **YMCA Europe Training Centre**

Juan reported. The main plenary halls and the entire area around the Training Centre are subject to major renovations which will be finished mid/late 2013 meaning we cannot go there for the 2012 General Assembly. Elections of both Training Centre boards will take place in September 2012 and new candidates representing YE have been proposed.

#### **World Alliance of YMCA (WAY) Matters including Global Operating Plan**

##### WAY

A detailed report will be presented during the Movement Strengthening meeting by Selma Zaidi which will feature WAY's new strategy.

##### Global Operating Plan (GOP)

No report received.

#### **YMCA Europe Festival 2013**

Juan reported. The 6<sup>th</sup> steering group meeting had just been taken place. The planning is down to fine detail including food distribution, general contracts, and confirmation of festival manager and creative director. Financial guarantees still will be needed. The official launch of YE festival will take place during the General Assembly at the Prague City Hall. WAY will use festival as platform for youth empowerment.

**Amendments to the Constitution**

Peter reported and presented a draft of constitution including all proposed changes and additions. A new section § 24 of constitution By-laws are included.

Proposal: The proposed changes in the constitution shall be presented to the delegates of the GA 2012 for voting.

**Decision:** Unanimously agreed.

**YMCA Europe General Assemblies 2012, 2013****Preparation of GA 2012**

Eva reported that the planning was almost complete.

**GA 2013 and 2014**

YE GA 2013 The GA will take place 09-12 May 2013. WE had received two invitations to host this GA but both had been withdrawn. The Staff will consider other venues.

- **Next meetings**

16 May 2012, Prague, Czech Republic. Autumn 2012 meeting to be agreed on during General Assembly by the new Executive Committee.

- **Any other business**

YMCA Moldova: YMCA Moldova has officially has sent in an application to become member of YMCA Europe. An alliance of YMCAs in Moldova (legal status) has been formed. All submitted documents are complete and according to the constitution of YMCA Europe.

Proposal: Executive committee accepts “National Alliance YMCA in Republic of Moldova” as a new member of YMCA Europe. A formal welcoming act will take place at GA 2012 in Prague.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Results from the Movement Strengthening Meeting.

General impressions: evaluation of participants was predominantly good with strong discussions and many questions about the implementation plans and procedures. Some mutual agreement and understanding could be seen but unfortunately we did not move forward as far as we would have liked to. Good input of all the Executive Committee and good preparatory process for the meeting. Maybe there is the need for building working groups to work further on “implementation plan/actions plans”.

Informal group of YE advisers: Juan is conscious of the expertise available around our Movement and would like to create an informal structure in order to be able to use this resource as a group of mentors. To be discussed at future meetings as the idea develops.

- **Closing Remarks**

Peter thanked the Executive Committee for their hard work and inputs. He closed the meeting at 11 March 2012.

Peter Posner  
(President)

Beate Turck  
(Assessor / Recording Secretary)