

Minutes
YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting
Budapest, Hungary
20. – 22. September 2013

PARTICIPANTS:

Evert (Ed) Eggink	President
Stepan Cerny	Vice President
Mike Will	Treasurer
Beate Turck	Recording Secretary
Kie Cummings	Assessor
Birgir Urbancic Àsgeirsson	Assessor
Martin Winter	Assessor
Eva Magassy	Assessor
Juan Simoes Iglesias	Secretary General (SG)
Eva Tschornova	Office Manager

AGENDA

1. Devotions
2. Opening remarks and apologies
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting: - 9th May 2013 (for adoption); - Draft GA 201
5. Reports (for adoption):
 - 5.1. Christian Orientation Group (assessment membership CEC and EYCE)
 - 5.2. European Sports Group
 - 5.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group
 - 5.4. European Ten Sing Group
 - 5.5. Youth Policy Group
 - 5.6. Volunteers for Europe Group
 - 5.7. YMCA European Spectrum
 - 5.8. President's report and World Alliance of YMCA
6. Report Secretary General (May-Aug.; Sep.-Dec. 2013)
7. Movement Strengthening - Evaluation MS Conference March 2013; current and future developments
8. Evaluation YMCA Europe Festival 2013, Prague
9. Treasurer's report; - Festival finances; finances 2013 and prospects 2014; - National Contributions; - Working Group Review National Contributions system; - Fundraising / Friends of YE / George Williams Fund
10. Evaluation General Assembly 2013 and brainstorm GA 2014
11. Elections General Assembly 2014; - Job description: assessors; - Procedure election Nomination Committee
12. Membership YMCA Portugal
13. YMCA Europe and other youth organizations
14. NGS working group about representation in Brussels
15. Implementation Plan (brainstorm: directions; activities; increasing visibility YE)
16. Next meetings and events
17. Any other business
18. Closing remarks

1. Devotions

Friday: Ed Eggink; Saturday: Mike Will; Sunday: Eva Magassy

2. Opening remarks and apologies

Ed Eggink opened the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom). Apologies were received from Ion State (assessor) and Kie Cummings (assessor) for family reasons. Ed congratulated Martin Winter to his wedding in June. Also Michal Szymanczak is excused.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting

- 9th May 2013 in Manchester, England

Decision: minutes were approved. The to-do-list was updated.

5. Reports

5.1. Christian Orientation Group (COG)

Eva Magassy reported. Report received.

The 2nd YE Unify conference will take in Görlitz, Germany from 13 -16 February 2014.

The relationship with CEC was discussed.

Marloes Meijer (Chair COG) will be invited for the preparatory meeting for the GA-2014.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee wants to continue YE's involvement as "organization in partnership" in CEC. To have a seat within goes along with our strategic aims. We will wait for the invitation from CEC for consultation in 2014.

Decision: unanimously agreed

5.2. European Sports Group (ESY)

No report received.

5.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group (ESG)

No report received.

5.4. European Ten Sing Group (ETS)

Martin Winter reported. Report received.

ETS raised the idea of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ten Sing in 2018.

5.5. Youth Policy Group (YPG)

No report received.

5.6. Volunteers for Europe Group (VfE)

Report received.

5.7. YMCA European Spectrum (YES network)

Birgir reported. Report received.

In 2013 YES network trainings have taken place during the YE General Assembly (GA) in May in Manchester (funded by EU grant) and in June in Oslo, Norway (funded by the European Youth Forum). In November third training will take place in connection with the World Alliance of YMCA (WAY) Change Agents training in Poland.

It is a challenge to link the WAY Change Agents programme with our YE YES network approach. A special milestone for the worldwide Change Agents has been the training provided at the YE Festival in August in Prague. Three challenges are seen:

1. What can/should happen for the European Change Agents after 2014?
2. How are we going to make sure that all European Change Agents are going to the World Council of the WAY in 2014?
3. Mentors for all change agents are searched.

The presented draft "YES strategy 2013-2015" was discussed.

Andre Kpdonu (Chair YES network) will be invited for the preparatory meeting for the GA-2014.

5.8. President's report and World Alliance of YMCA

Ed reported. Report received.

Ed added that he attended the Y's Men Convention Europe in Bath, England and had good conversations with various delegates. Related to the European YWCA. Ed reported that so far no further steps have been agreed. Further steps have to be developed.

6. Report Secretary General (May-Aug./Sep.-Dec. 2013)

Juan reported. Report received

This time period has been a special challenge for the YE staff team, as they had to fulfill "normal" work as well as a lot of work in connection with the festival. The ExCom showed its appreciation and complimented the Staff with the result.

Proposal:

Mike Will, treasurer proposes the adoption of the paper presented by the Secretary General about a system of salary scales, and the Executive Committee asks the Secretary General for the implementation of the "Salary scales" paper starting by 01.01.2014.

Decision: unanimously decided

7. Movement Strengthening (MS)

A long term calendar of events and activities in the field of Movement Strengthening would be appreciated. All working platforms should be ask about their meetings dates and upcoming events in the upcoming period 2014-2018.

It seems to be useful to have (bi-)annually a meeting of all working platforms. The next so called MS Conference should take place in 2015. All working platforms should be involved.

Proposal:

Juan, Michal and Stephan will start working on MS.. At the ExCom meeting in March 2014 a final conceptual paper shall be adopted.

Decision: unanimously approved.

8. Evaluation YMCA Europe Festival 2013 in Prague

The ExCom collected input for the evaluation meeting in November 2013 in Edinburgh.

Ed on behalf of the ExCom thanked especially YE staff, but also all volunteers who served in the Steering Group, as Line Managers, as national preoperational teams and "normal" volunteers.

The ExCom will discuss in upcoming meetings about the future of the Festival

9. Treasurer's Report

Mike Will presented the reports.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee approves the summary information provided in both the existing core and field budgets as indicated in the working documents. The Executive Committee notes the financial report till 30 June 2013.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priorities:

Priority 1: YMCA Europe Festival 2013 budget

Mike presented an interim overview over festival cost

Proposal:

The Executive Committee notes the YMC Europe Festival 2013 financial overview.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 2: Friends of YMCA Europe

Mike proposed to re-launch the Friends of YMCA Europe campaign as a fundraising activity for YE. He presented a conceptual paper, proposing different contribution categories with regard of friends.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee deliberated and agreed to re-launch "Friends of YMCA Europe".

Martin and Birgir will continue working on this until March 2014 meeting.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 3: National Movement Contribution System (NMCS)

Mike presented interim results from the workshop at the GA 2013 and feedback from members of the NMCS Review Group. The timeline has been revised.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee notes the principles for the NMCS and endorses the revised timeline indicated for the NMCA Review Group to conclude its consultation to ensure a transparent and acceptable way forward for National Movements.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 4: National Movement Contribution 2013

Mike shared the actual payment situation of National Movement contributions.

Invoices have been sent out in March 2013 with a payment deadline end of July 2013.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee notes the up-to-date position in relation to National Movement contributions as indicated and agrees a pro-active approach to contacting national movements to encourage prompt payment of national movement

contributions.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 5: National Movement Debts

Mike presented an overview over National Movement debts.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee notes the up-to-date position in relation to National Movement Debts as indicated and reviews the status of each debtor national movement by making decision to endorse status-quo or resolve to make a new decision.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 6: Reinstating reserves

Proposal:

The Executive Committee endorses the priority to reinstate the reserves of YMCA Europe to a balance of at least € 100.000 and discussed and identified possible sources of additional income to contribute towards reinstating the reserves of YMCA Europe.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Thanks to the finance team are given for their excellent work! Thanks especially to Sarka **Cihaková** and her readiness to take over extra working time when Martina is off. Thanks to Martina, best wishes for birth of her child.

10. Evaluation General Assembly 2013 / YES Seminar and brainstorm GA 2014

Ed invited ExCom to comment on the past GA and what should be followed up in 2014. After this Ed opened the floor for suggestions for the GA-2014 with the theme "Inclusive Christianity".

The preparatory group for the GA is supposed to meet in January/February 2014 for 1-2 days in Prague. Members should be: Eva T., Michal, Juan, Ed, Stepan, chair COG and chair YES.

11. Elections GA 2014

Ed presented a draft of revised job description for Executive Committee assessors.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee discussed the proposed draft of job description for assessors and came to few adjustments. The job descriptions shall become into action by the GA 2014.

The president will communicate it with the chair of the Nominations Committee (NC).

Decision: unanimously agreed

Procedure election Nominations Committee

Ed explained the procedure.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee asks the NC to organize elections according to the constitution by inviting National Movements to send names of candidates in advance to the current NC.

Decision: unanimously agreed

12. Membership YMCA Portugal

Ed and Juan reported.

The existing National movement in Portugal (National Alliance of YMCAs Portugal) is no longer in function and is legally insolvent. Some local Portuguese YMCAs are in the process of re-founding a new national movement. In their draft constitution it is called "YMCA PORT" federation. YE ExCom is asked to revoke membership of YMCA Portugal.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee decides to apply article § 10 of the Constitution of YMCA Europe and to revoke membership of YMCA Portugal per date of this decision.

The president/secretary general will send a letter and an e-mail to the known addresses of YMCA Portugal (NSG and local YMCAs) to communicate this decision (with copy to the WAY).

The president on behalf of YE will inform all members of YMCA Europe.

Decision: unanimously agreed

13. YMCA Europe and other youth organizations (report Youth Policy Group)

Juan reported.

It was decided that we should renew contacts with the other organisations of the "Big-6" youth organisations in Europe. Juan and Ed will take initiatives.

14. NGS working group about representation in Brussels

Juan reported.

A draft discussion paper "YMCA Europe and the European Union – Vision, Purpose and Bases for a Strategic Plan" was presented. Sebastian Vogt, German student at YMCA University Kassel, worked on a conceptual paper (business plan). Sebastian now is working on an adjusted summary of it. This summary shall be sent to all ExCom members when available. There are contacts with the Belgium Protestant Church in the center of Brussels in case it will be decided to establish an office in Brussels

Proposal:

The Executive Committee agrees on the ongoing process. The concept will be discussed again at the March 2014 meeting.

Decision: unanimously agreed

15. Implementation Plan Strategy

Juan Simoes presented the implementation plan. ExCom members shall forward suggestions for the next version of the operational plan latest until 31.12.2013.

16. Next meetings and events

Executive Committee meetings 2014

- 28 February - 2 March 2014 in Thessaloniki
- 29th May 2014 before the GA in Litomyšl
- 19 - 20 September 2014 (place to be confirmed)

YMCA Europe GA 2014 and YES seminar

29 May – 1 June 2014 in the YE TC in Litomyšl, Czech Republic (Thursday – Sunday),

YES seminar if possible again before the GA starts.

YMCA Europe GA 2015

So far no concrete invitations from national movements received.

YMCA Europe NGS Forum 2013

18 – 20 November 2013 in YMCA training centre Le Rocheton, France

3rd YMCA Europe Fundraising Conference 2014

23 – 26 January in Brussels, Belgium

Seminars of YE Peace Work Institute

The final session of Peace Work Institute will take place from 1 – 6 December 2013 in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (France).

(The 2nd session of Peace Work Institute (PWI) within YMCA Europe Roots for Reconciliation project took place in June 10 - 16 Yerevan (Armenia). The 1st session was in October 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey.)

YES network/WAY/European Change Agents trainings

25 -30 November 2013, Gdynia, Poland joint training of WAY and YE

2nd Unify Conference 2014

13 – 16 February 2014 in Görlitz, Germany/Zgorzelec, Poland

17. Any other business

Birgir shared the information that in summer 2014 the next Nordic YMCA Camp will take place in Umea, Sweden.

Birgir informed the ExCom that Tinna Ros (YES board member from Iceland) right now is doing an internship at Y's Men International in Geneva, Switzerland.

YE training center in Litomyšl, Czech Republic

Ed reported that the reconstruction process is moving forward considerably. The next TC board meeting will take place in November 2013. The TC manager indicated that the booking numbers are increasing which means a better financial situation.

YMCA Europe Festival Impact Day – November 16, 2013

Juan reported.

The idea is to run various activities around the three YE flagship programmes at that day in local YMCAs, the best organized by inspired Festival participants. The activities shall be realizable in one day. More concrete information will be sent out to national movements.

6th YE Volunteers for Europe Seminar 2014: planned for March 2014 in Macedonia

3rd Youth Policy Seminar of YE: under consideration for June 2014 in Berlin, Germany

3rd European YMCA Youth workers camp: 4 – 11 August 2014 in Northern Ireland

18. Closing remarks

Ed Eggink closed the meeting.

