

MINUTES
YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting
Litomysl, Czech Republic
1. - 3. March 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); Ion State (Assessor); Juan Simoes Iglesias (Secretary General) ; Eva Tschornova (Office Manager); Michal Szymanczak (Senior Executive Officer)

AGENDA

1. Devotions.
2. Opening remarks and apologies.
3. Adoption of the Agenda.
4. Minutes of Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting 7th-9th September 2012
5. ExCom members and National contact points
6. Revision election procedures
7. Reports:
 - a) European Secretariat
 - b) Movement Strengthening
 - c) Programme groups
 - d) Christian Orientation Group
 - e) European Sports group
 - f) European Scouting and Jungschar group
 - g) European Ten Sing group
 - h) Youth Policy group
 - i) Volunteers for Europe
 - j) YES group
 - k) Presidents report
 - l) Meeting with Nordic NGS's and chairpersons
8. Treasurer's report
 - a) Accounts 2012 and report external auditors; Current year 2013
 - b) Budget proposal 2014
 - c) Festival budget
 - d) George Williams Fund (report provided by the GWF Board of Trustees)
 - e) Follow up on "Friends of YMCA Europe"
9. Programme General Assembly 2013 / YES seminar
10. Implementation Plan Strategy for 2013 and 2014
11. Festival 2013 update
12. Next meetings
13. Any other business
14. Closing remarks

1. Devotions

Friday: Eva Magassy; Saturday: Stepan Cerny; Sunday: Martin Winter

2. Opening remarks and apologies

Ed Eggink opened the meeting. No apologies.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting

- 7th – 9th September 2012

Decision: minutes were approved.

The to-do-list was updated.

5. Executive Committee members and National contact points

Birgir Àsgeirsson presented a draft about the involvement of ExCom members to ensure a closer communication with the voluntary board members of the national movements. This has been shared at the NGS-Forum in November 2012. It is an offer on voluntary basis to national movements. This is not a new structure within YE.

Proposal:

The concept shall be carried out as described and will be published on the website. National movements will be informed.

Decision: unanimously decided.

6. Revision Election procedures

Ed Eggink presented a revised document of the YE election procedures. Jan Nissen, legal advisor of YE has advised. The ExCom discussed the presented proposals.

Proposal:

To put the discussed amendments forward to the General Assembly.

Decision: decided

7. Reports:

a) European Secretariat

Juan Simoes reported. It has been an intensive past half year (September 2012 – February 2013), a close working together with the president and staff. Main objectives have been:

- efficient implementation of Strategic Plan; - develop specific events involving NM and YE staff;
- participate in key events involving YMCA young people and professional staff; - participate in planning work of Festival SG supervising issues; - follow up developments of YE according to management responsibilities

b) Movement Strengthening

Michal Szymanczak reported. After the Movement Strengthening (MS) meeting the reporting format shall be changed. Michal highlighted three main events that took place:

-> YE seminar “where west meets east” in Istanbul with 52 participants from 24 countries in Europe and worldwide; actually three events have been combined: Catch the vision seminar of YE, Peace seminar of YE, Kickoff event for “change agents project” of WAY

-> 2nd Fundraising conference of YE in Spain; participants from 11 different nationalities representing 13 YMCAs (local and national) focused on fundraising fundamentals and prepared a draft fundraising plan for their YMCAs during the Conference

-> 1st Forum of NGS in November in Brussels; thanks to a special grant of YMCA Canada there was a high participation of NGS (33). As this meeting has been valued very positive, a next meeting is already in planning (18-20.11.2013 in France). It shall take place on an annual basis.

Eva Magassy reported from her participation at the celebration of YMCA Vienna’s anniversary. The wish of some kind of regional cooperation between YMCAs in Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany was raised.

Ed Eggink reported from the actual situation of YMCA Portugal. Juan will communicate with the new leadership in Portugal.

Juan Simoes reported about the situation in YMCA Italia. There are efforts undertaken to revive the local and national structures. The same efforts can be seen in YMCA Belgium.

c) Introductory remarks Programme groups

Beate Turck gave short oral report. There is the need to take a decision on the terms according to the new strategy. Beate will make a proposal.

d) Christian Orientation Group (COG)

Report received.

e) European Sports YMCA (ESY)

Report received.

f) European YMCA Scouting and Jungschar Group (ESG)

Report received.

g) European Ten Sing Group (ETS)

Report received.

Stepan Czerny added information about the ETS conference which took place just a week before in Prague. ETS is interested in receiving more information about volunteer services with regard to VfE. Martin Winter will respond to concrete questions.

h) Youth Policy Group (YPG)

Report "Relevant organizations for YE" received.

Kie Cummings added information and raised the issues of procedures and information flow.

The so called "Big 6" organizations will be also invited to YE festival 2013 to strengthen contacts.

Proposal:

The ExCom will look at the document as presented by the YPG about strengthening relations with other organizations and will discuss this again at the May 2013 meeting in Manchester. A meeting with the board of YWCA shall be planned during the General Assembly.

Decision: unanimously decided.

i) Volunteers for Europe (VfE)

Oral report presented by Eva Magassy received.

j) YMCA European Spectrum (YES)

Link-it project is partly linked to WAY "change agents project". YES seminar 2013 will take place prior and together with the YE GA in May in Manchester. YMCA England was successful with a funding application to the EU. On behalf of YE contact persons for European change agents are Juan Simoes, Gerard Tossierams and Vardan Hambarzumyan. Report received.

k) Presidents report

Report received.

l) Meeting with Nordic NGS's and chairpersons

Birgir Àsgeirsson reported.

He was invited by the group as representative of YE ExCom. His conclusions from that meeting:

1. European YWCAs: The ExCom supports a closer relationship between YE and European YWCAs (Anna Magnusson, president).

2. CEC conference of European churches: Their next conference will take place from 1 – 9 July 2013 in Budapest. YE and YWCA try to attend and speak with one voice. Eva Magassy will attend on behalf of YE.

Decision: report received.

8. Reports Treasurer

Mike Will presented the report.

a) Accounts 2012 and report external auditors

Financial report 2012

The year 2012 turned out positively

Decision: unanimously agreed.

b) Festival budget and other scenario's

Priority 1: YMCA Europe Festival 2013 budget

The ExCom continues giving high priority to the YMCA Europe Festival 2013. Based on actual registration numbers several new scenarios have been worked out

Proposal:

The ExCom changes the budget for the YE Festival 2013. Monthly financial reports shall be sent to the ExCom. All ExCom members commit themselves to advertise the Festival in their respective national movements and personal contacts.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

c) Current year 2013

Priority 2: Streamlining core and field budgets

Proposal:

The ExCom approves the summary information provided in both the existing core and field budgets as indicated in the working documents.

Decision: unanimously approved.

Priority 3: Reinstating reserves

This remains a priority as advised before by the internal auditors

Priority 4: Training Centre debts

Can be solved this year

Priority 5: Review system for National Movement contributions

Proposal:

The ExCom endorses the timeline indicated for the NMCR (national movement contributions review group). A workshop on this issue will take place during the GA in May

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Priority 8: National Movement Debts

Proposal:

The ExCom notes the up-to-date position in relation to National Movement Debts. The ExCom 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.

e) George Williams Fund

Priority 7: George Williams Endowment Fund (GWEF)

Proposal:

The ExCom note the report of the GWF board of trustees. The ExCom should consider what can be done individually and collectively to let this endowment fund grow.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

f) Follow up on "Friends of YMCA Europe"

Priority 6: Friends of YMCA Europe

Proposal:

The ExCom deliberates and comes to decision on the seven questions posed in the report.

Decision: postponed, decision shall be taken in the September 2013 meeting

c) Budget proposed 2014

The treasurer indicated that there will be a higher need to look for additional fundraising for the YE budget. It is intended to freeze national contributions for 2014. This will mean that extra € 6.000 need to be fundraised. The Secretary-General takes as an action to review the budget proposal together with the staff and the treasurer

Proposal:

The ExCom discusses the proposed budget and makes decision on the 2014 budget to be presented to the General Assembly 2013.

Decision: postponed, decision shall be taken before the GA, after having received an updated version.

9. Programme draft General Assembly 2013 / YES Seminar

Ed Eggink presented the GA programme draft worked out by the preparation group in February. Main theme will be "Roots and Leaves II – Healthy living". Different to previous GAs this assembly will be one day shorter. It is intended to present short key notes, have short table talks, a main

speaker on Friday morning, to have no market place, but instead a so called project gallery with posters and leaflets, for Sunday a stronger programme is planned.
The YES group needs to be updated so that they can prepare their involvement and participation.

10. Implementation plan Strategy for 2013 and 2014

Juan Simoes presented the implementation plan. First observation – we are on the right way, the implementation plans are working. It is being analyzed to get a vision on how realistic the objectives for 2013 and 2014 are two years after approval of the Strategy.

Next steps are: Find out what is missing in this plan? Definitely missing are inputs from NM, a budget line for each goal, staff capacities for activities, report of results 2012.

He underlines that the strategy and implementation plan should remain a living document.

11. Festival 2013 up-date

Juan Simoes gave an overview on the preparation process until today. He reported from the last Festival steering group meetings. The entire planning process of the festival works out well. After the early bird registration deadline the steering group very carefully and accurately checked registrations and payments and the costs incurred so far. The ExCom recommend to improve and intensify marketing and communications. ExCom will receive monthly updates.

12. Next meetings (2013/2014)

Executive Committee meetings 2013/2014

20 –22 September 2013 in Budapest, Hungary; February – 2 March 2014 or 6/7 – 9 March 2014. No concrete invitations from national movements so far have been received.

YMCA Europe NGS Forum 2013

18 – 20 November 2013 in France

2nd Youth Policy Seminar

28 June – 3 July 2013 in Berlin, Germany

YMCA Europe GA 2014

28 or 29 May – 1 June 2014 in Litomysl, Czech Republic (Thursday – Sunday). YES seminar 2014 in principle also in Litomysl.

13. Any other business

Birgir Àsgeirsson raised a question with regard to the usage of the YE logo. For what events, trainings, reports can it be used? By whom? Whom to ask for permission? In principle it can be used for all YE events and presentations of ExCom and Staff members. In case of doubt check with Juan or Ed.

Juan Simoes informed that the 40th anniversary of YE will be celebrated during our festival in Prague. The ExCom agrees to present 2 awards at the GA in Manchester.

14. Closing remarks

Ed Eggink closed the meeting.