

**Minutes**  
**YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting**  
**Cluj-Napoca, Romania**  
**09. – 11. October 2015**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**AGENDA**

1. Devotion
2. Opening remarks and apologies
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes (and to-do lists): ExCom meeting Tallinn 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015
5. Reports
  - 5.1. Christian Orientation group; 5.2. European Sports Group; 5.3. European Scouting and Jungschar Group; 5.4. European TEN SING Group; 5.5. Youth Policy Group; 5.6. Volunteers for Europe; 5.7. YES Network ; 5.8. Presidents Report; 5.9. Conclusions Movement Strengthening Conference; 5.10. Report of meeting Big-6 representatives at WOSM Seminar in Cluj
6. Report Secretary-General
  - 6.1. Results meetings and travels past half year; 6.2. Upcoming travels and meetings next half Year; 6.3. Staff situation; 6.4. Youth Employment meeting in Madrid
7. YE actions Refugees and Asylum seekers
8. Job description Executive Committee for 2016 elections
9. Proposal changing the Constitution
10. Strategy 2016 – 2020
  - 10.1. Discussion about the first draft text; 10.2. Next steps and timeline
11. General Assembly
  - 11.1. Evaluation GA in Tallinn; 11.2. Draft minutes GA Tallinn; 11.3. Format GA 2016
12. Finances
  - 12.1. Situation 2015 and budget 2016; 12.2. Overview deptors; voting right; membership
  - 12.3. Next steps FoYE campaign
13. Event/Festival 2019
  - 13.1. Proposal for Steering Group; 13.2. Venue
14. Implementation Plan 2015/2016
15. Update YMCA Europe representation in Brussels
16. Update Training Center
17. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings
18. Any other business
19. Closure

**1. Devotions****2. Opening remarks and apologies**

Ed opened the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom).

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting Tallinn 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Decision:** minutes were approved.  
The to-do-list was looked through and updated.

## **5. Reports (for adoption)**

### **5.1. Christian Orientation Group (COG)**

Report received. Diana reported.

COG worked as usual, skype meetings took place. Marloes Meijer resigned from her position as chairperson. As interim coordinator Eva Magassy (Hungary) will serve until a new chairperson has been elected.

### **5.2. European Sports Group (ESY)**

Report received. Dan reported.

New chairman is Volker Kamin (Germany). It is recognized that ESY runs mostly the same events yearly with more or less the same participating countries and national sport groups. There is the wish for more open events, also with mixed teams, trend sports instead of just tournaments. There is also the wish that an ExCom member will take place in a future meeting.

### **5.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group (ESG)**

Report received. Dan reported.

New chairman is Christian Ochsner (Switzerland). A similar impression can be recognized, that ESG is organizing the same events yearly with more or less the same participating countries and groups.

### **5.4. European TEN SING Group (ETS)**

Report received. Martin reported.

New chairperson is Sebastian Vogt (Germany). ETS plans a next ETS Festival celebrating 30 years TEN SING in YE in 2018, maybe in Norway.

### **5.5. Youth Policy Group (YPG)**

No written report received. Kie reported.

Heidi Silven, Stepan Cerny, Tinna Ros Steindottir, Liam Preston, Stefan Leier and Kie Cummings (chair) are members. On invitation of YMCA England a kind of strategic meeting shall take place in London in January 2016. For about 15 persons all costs would be covered, excluded travel costs. YPG is now in the process of inviting respective people to the meeting. The ExCom has decided before that Tinna will take over Liam's position at Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. Heidi stays one more year as YE's representative in the European Youth Forum.

### **5.6. Volunteers for Europe Group (VfE)**

Report received. Beate reported.

Two meetings took place with VfE Core group members and GA participants on VfE. As a result an online survey has been sent out to find out what is going on with regard to volunteer exchanges within YE.

### **5.7. YES network**

Report received. Birgir reported.

Regarding grant applications to (EU Erasmus+ or Council of Europe) our YE ownership should be more clearly. Who is coordinating the grant contents?

### **5.8. President's report**

Report received. Ed reported.

Ed took part in the Convention of Y's Men Europe and gave an input. As one result Y's Men Region Central Europe will dedicate the next 2-years fundraising campaign on refugees work within YE. Diana added that she also gave input to a regional Y's Men Club meeting (Finland/Baltic) and particularly "advertised" our FoYE Campaign.

Ed informed about positive changes in the leadership of YMCA/YWCA Switzerland. In the meantime all outstanding national contributions have been paid by the Swiss movement. The ExCom thanked Ed and Juan for all efforts in solving this situation.

Ed also informed about a WAY summit meeting which will take place in November 2015 in our TC in Litomysl. Ed and Juan are invited to attend.

### **5.9. Movement strengthening conference - Conclusions**

No written report received. Stepan reported.

MS should be a general interface within all YE activities. All working platforms should be urged to analyze

themselves and to work more closely together. Raise the use of tool kits (like tool kit from European YMCA youth worker initiative). Probably an implementation officer is needed. Transformations due to Brussels office can be expected. Report of the MS conference in Tallinn will be produced.

#### **5.10. Report of meeting Big-6 representatives at WOSM Seminar in Cluj**

Written report from Tinna Ros Steinsdottir received. There are ideas for a meeting of Secretary Generals, CEO's and Presidents of the Big-6.

**Decision:** All reports have been received.

### **6. Report Secretary-General (for adoption)**

#### **6.1. Results: meetings and travels past half year**

Juan reported.

Main working issues: new strategy, refugee crisis, Brussel office, travels.

Kie thanked Juan in particular for his great extensive work for YE.

#### **6.2. Upcoming travels and meetings next half year**

Juan reported.

#### **6.3. Staff situation**

Juan reported.

#### **6.4. Youth employment meeting in Madrid, Spain**

Juan reported.

As result from the last World Council and on initiative of the WAY this meeting took place.

The report will be expected soon and will be communicated. European participants came from Spain, France, England (Y Care) and YE (Juan).

#### **Proposal:**

Ed Eggink proposes the adoption of the paper presented by the Secretary General and the proposed travel schedule.

**Decision:** unanimously decided

### **7. YE actions Refugees and Asylum seekers**

Juan presented his written report. YMCA cannot remain silent as a movement. It is a global issue.

The purpose of this draft was to show what we as YE have done so far and what national and local YMCAs in Europe are doing and to propose further actions. But we are not an emergency relief organization. We are good in integrating people into communities.

For sure we need to address this issue of refugees coming to Europe in our strategic plan. We will need a reasonable pan-European approach. We should connect ourselves with key institutions in Europe.

A draft programme of refugee conference in the Netherlands in March 2016 will be published at end of October. YMCA delegates from Vienna and Munich will be invited as speakers. Juan and our staff continue working on the issue and YE's further engagement.

### **8. Job description Executive Committee for 2016 elections (for decision)**

Ed reported.

The presented draft job descriptions were intensively discussed and changes and adjustments were proposed.

#### **Proposal:**

It is proposed to the Executive Committee to adopt the "Job description" paper presented by Ed Eggink after including all discussed changes and amendments. Then they will be sent to the YE nomination committee.

**Decision:** unanimously decided

### **9. Proposal changing the Constitution (for decision)**

Eva and Stepan explained the procedure so far and why changes are required according to changes in the Czech law.

Ed described the parts in detail that have to be changed or those which we can keep.

**Proposal:**

The proposed draft of constitution was discussed extensively. It is proposed to put the results into a second draft which shall be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in February 2016. The final draft then shall be sent to all NM for further consideration until the General Assembly in May 2016 in Madrid.

**Decision:** unanimously decided

**10. Strategy 2016 - 2020****10.1. Discussion about the 1<sup>st</sup> draft text "Together towards 2020"**

Juan presented the 1<sup>st</sup> draft.

Extensive discussion took place.

**10.2. Next steps and timeline**

As next milestones in the further process and in terms of timeline it was agreed:

- until 18.10.15 further remarks on 1<sup>st</sup> draft to Juan
- until 31.10.15 work out a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft, including discussion points from this meeting (to be shared with ExCom again)
- 01.11.15 send 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (new format) to all member movements and all YE working platforms
- 23.-26.11.15 discussion at NGS Forum in Rome
- until 15.01.16 receive feedback from members and working platforms
- until next ExCom meeting in February 2016 work out 3<sup>rd</sup> draft.

**11. General Assembly (GA)****11.1. Evaluation GA in Tallinn**

Juan reported.

Generally a good evaluation was received.

**11.2. Draft minutes of GA in Tallinn**

Postponed.

**11.3. Format GA 2016 (preparatory meeting 9.-10. January 2016)**

The preparatory meeting is planned to take place at 9./10. January 2016 in Prague.

Participants: Juan, Eva (staff), chairperson or representative of COG and YES, Ed, Stepan from ExCom. To be considered and decided:

- Length of GA 2016, 3 or 4 days? We will have elections, constitutional changes and the strategy discussion; can this be managed in a "short" GA?

**12. Finances**

Mike Will presented the financial reports. He thanked Juan, Sarka Cihakova and Martina Hudcovska for excellent work in the finances.

**12.1. Situation 2015**

**Expenditures:** Total expenditures at end of ¾ of the year is 71,43 %. Less than 75 %, which is good!

Juan, Martina, Sarka and paid-staff team were diligent in identifying savings on operational costs wherever possible: this is good and must be recognized by the ExCom.

**Income:** Total national movement contributions received to date is 79,47 % of that forecast. Payments still to be received from 10 national movements (€ 46.429). As agreed in the ExCom meeting in March 2015 this time only the actual national movement contributions received are shown in the actual income figures.

**Proposal 1:** It is recommended that the Executive Committee note the accounts, as presented to 30 September 2015.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**Proposal 2:** It is recommended request the pursuit of unpaid national movement contributions for 2015 before the end of the financial year.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**Proposal 3:** It is recommended request to contact the hoped for donors regarding possible grants before the end of the financial year.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

### 12.2. Overview debtors; voting rights; membership

Mike presented an overview over National Movement (NM) debts.

**Proposal 4:** Having received payment of all outstanding debts from YMCA/YWCA Switzerland, it is recommended that the Executive Committee restore the voting rights to the national movement of YMCA/YWCA Switzerland (voting rights have been taken in May 2014).

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**Proposal 5:** Having received communication from the YMCA Latvia to the Secretary General, YMCA Latvia agree that revoking membership of YMCA Europe is sensible in their circumstances. It is recommended that the Executive Committee revoke the membership of the national movement of YMCA Latvia (voting rights already have been taken in May 2012).

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**Proposal 5:** It is recommended that the Executive Committee send letters to YMCA Greece and YMCA Macedonia informing them that if they do not pay their full membership fee until end of 2015 according to the constitution will lose their voting rights, unless the Executive Committee decides differently.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

### 11.3. Next steps FoYE campaign

Ed reported.

Next steps should be: collect names of any participants of YE events and trainings, create a common letter, send out that letter through ExCom members to “their” respective NM. Database of YE festival 2013 is existing, but so far not used for fundraising issues. In some NM it might be useful to connect with national offices to collect additional addresses. As an idea, offer a “day of activities” for the benefit of YE, that could also be a suitable action for young people.

### 13. Event/Festival 2019

Juan reported.

Since the last ExCom meeting and the decision that we want to have a next big YE event in 2019 several actions have been taken. NGS have been informed as well as the WAY.

Some national movements were contacted informally about their willingness to host that event (YMCA Spain, France, Germany and England). As the YMCA was founded in England and will be 175 years old in 2019, this of course put a special focus on an inquiry of England as possible host movement. So Juan sent an official letter to the NGS of YMCA England. In September a positive verbal response was received and just before our meeting a written answer was received, informing the ExCom that YMCA England could imagine being host for the 2019 YE event and that they would be ready for further negotiations.

The issue was discussed in detail.

#### 13.1. Proposal for Steering Group

**Proposal:** The Secretary General will present to the Executive Committee a proposal of the composition of the Steering Group (Brainstorming/Planning Team). The composition of the Steering Group shall be approved by the Executive Committee. It will involve professionals and volunteers from a diverse cultural and YMCA background and it will have a strong involvement of young people.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed

#### 13.2. Venue

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee agrees about continuation with the communication process between YMCA Europe and YMCA England until a formal positive written reaction to our proposal is received. The next steps in the communication will include an agreement regarding responsibilities of both organizations, the search for a suitable venue (in London or near London) and agreement on the vision of both organizations regarding the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Decision:** agreed

### 14. Implementation Plan

Juan reported.

**15. Update YMCA representation in Brussels**

Juan reported.

The job description has been put together by Ed and Juan by end of this **summer**. Applications have been received. Regarding office space in Brussel we are on the waiting list in our favored office building.

A search committee has been formed on Juan's proposal (Steven Turner as NGS of YMCA Ireland, Ed and Mike as ExCom members, Kie as chairperson of the Youth policy group, Tabea Kölbl as international director of YMCA Germany, Juan as SG). All interviews with the selected candidates will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in Brussel.

Regarding finances - WAY has assured to give a yearly grant for our YE representation office in Brussel, starting 2015 until 2018 (for one year a written agreement and for the following years a verbal commitment).

**Proposal:** The Executive Committee confirms the proposed search committee composition and assigns the committee to present a final candidate for the position as "Advocacy, Project and Fundraising Officer" to the Executive Committee for final decision. If no applicant is convincing and suitable, a new application process shall be started at a later time.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed

**16. Update Training Center (TC)**

Stepan reported.

What happened since May 2015, how looks the current situation.

**17. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings**NGS Forum

23.-26. November 2015 Rome, Italy

4<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Conference

25.-27. January 2016 Brussels, Belgium

Provide information about fundraising opportunities within European institutions. Participation costs will be approximately 300 Euros.

ExCom meeting

18.-21. February 2016 in YMCA guest house Hintersee, Germany,

YE General Assembly 2016

Thursday May 5 – Sunday May 8, 2016 in Madrid, Spain.

**18. Any other business**

We should not forget to look over the job descriptions of Nomination Committee.

In Austria YMCA work is taking place in several cities. What can we do to support, to strengthen them, to help them building a new national movement again? Austria is heavily affected by the refugee situation.

**19. Closure**

Ed closed the meeting.