

European  
Educational  
Exchanges



# Annual Report 2004

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## Introduction

*In 2004 Europe has grown together even closer and EEE-YFU has continued to actively contribute to the integration process by providing individuals with exceptional learning and growth opportunities which will enable them to break down the barriers separating nations, cultures and beliefs. The work of YFU shows that the educational value of home-stay exchange programmes does make a difference. The individual exchange experience often has impact on a person for a lifetime. Taking this experience as a starting point, EEE-YFU in its mission of life-long learning offers seminars, trainings and workshops to students and volunteers.*

*In 2004 the exchange of more than 400 students within the European Youth For Understanding network, with a significant number among the new EU member states, has built the basis of the work of EEE-YFU*

*The highlight of 2004 was yet again the Young Europeans' Seminar in Germany that concluded the long-term project on the topic of "Islam in Europe". Students from almost 20 countries have had the chance to take a closer look at the culture, which for many of them has been the unknown neighbour in their everyday life. By participating in a number of workshops and excursions the 324 participants were given the chance to get acquainted with and learn to understand the Islamic culture. Prepared and managed by a joint Dutch-German team of volunteers and assisted by many more volunteer leaders from all over Europe, the seminar was a memorable and enriching event.*

*As introduced during the European Conference in Arras, EEE-YFU announced 2004 the "Year of mediation". The beginning of the long-term project was marked by the International Responsibility Seminar on the topic "Mediation as a way to solve intercultural conflicts, which was held on both sides of the Polish-German border. The main activity of the "Year of mediation" will be the Young Europeans' Seminar in 2005.*

*An important impulse to our work was the outcome of the European Volunteer Meeting organized in the frame of Summer University for Youth and Development in Mollina, Spain. Thanks to the professional commitment of our volunteers who planned, developed and conducted the EVM, the seminar was a success and will hopefully become a returning event. The proposal to establish a European Volunteer Network might be a starting point for a new dialogue among the European YFU organisations and their volunteers.*

*During the past year EEE-YFU was able to facilitate and coordinate a joint ICDF grant application together with YFU Germany, YFU Netherlands and YFU Switzerland. It was an important initiative which created a new way of approaching the development needs in Europe by pulling together knowledge and resources from various organizations.*

*Our activities would not have been possible without the co-funding of the programmes of the European Commission and the grants and support given by the Council of Europe (Youth Foundation and Youth Centres). On this foundation, however, it is the abilities and enthusiasm of our volunteers and devoted staff that have brought these activities to life.*

## Activities

The *European Conference* was successfully hosted by YFU France in direct connection to the International Conference of YFU. The event brought together 45 participants representing 19 European YFU-organisations in the beautiful city of Arras. They met for two days and discussed issues relating to contractual issues, mobility policy in Europe and the development of new organisations. Many EEE-related issues were also covered, such as discussion on the follow-up of the “Islam in Europe project” and proposed charter changes. The meeting also decided to focus the educational activities over the next year on the topic of Mediation. We would like to thank YFU France for the professional preparation of the event.

During the year, co-operation between the national YFU organizations in Europe grew closer. Two *National Director’s meetings* were organized – in Arras, France and in Poznan, Poland. The meeting in Poznan was held in conjunction with a 3-day workshop on Marketing and PR. The training was planned and facilitated by Jenny Fürstenbach from YFU Sweden and Claudio Enggist from YFU Switzerland. The participants learned the basics of marketing in non-profit organizations, but were also given time to share knowledge and experiences in a structured way. A handbook was published as a result of the workshop. Also in between the meetings the co-operation on European issues grew. One example was the development project, which YFU in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands developed in co-operation with EEE-YFU.

Also *co-operation between volunteers* of different YFU organizations has increased over the year. A Baltic Volunteer meeting took place in Estonia in February. In October EEE-YFU organized for the first time since 1997 a volunteer meeting. The aim was to give European YFU-volunteers the chance to meet and learn more about EEE-YFU and the opportunities available on the European level. Special focus was put on the YOUTH programme, and on encouraging the volunteers to create new projects. The meeting took place as part of the University on Youth and Development, which gave the YFU-volunteers the opportunity to meet with 150 other volunteers from a wide variety of organisations. As a result of the meeting, ten YFU-organisations now have volunteers with a good understanding of the YOUTH programme and the opportunities it offers YFU. Another outcome was plans for Regional volunteer-meetings and Regional leaders’ exchanges. A third outcome was a declaration expressing the will to establish a European Volunteer Network.

Another educational activity for volunteers was the IRS 2004. With the topic “Mediation as a way to solve intercultural conflicts”, the seminar was the kick-off for the “Year of mediation”. The event took place on both sides of the German-Polish border (Frankfurt/Oder and Slubice). The location was ideal for the topic, since it gave both an intercultural setting and closeness to all the expertise available at the mediation centre in Frankfurt. The programme introduced the basic concepts and techniques of mediation, but also allowed the participants to act out their newly-won skills in different situations. The conclusion was that the methods of mediation will be very useful for the participants’ every-day work as YFU-volunteers, and that they will spread the knowledge gained in their national organisations.

The highlight of the year was the YES 2004 on the topic “Young Europeans and Islam”. The seminar was the final event in our “Year of Islam in Europe”, and it was a huge success. The programme included workshops and excursions to mosques. Another important part of the seminar was the YES parliament, where the participants had the chance to discuss issues related to Islam in a parliamentary setting. The seminar gave the 324 participants the chance

to identify and understand factors of their personal experiences with the Islamic world and gave them the opportunity to learn more about Islamic cultures. In the preparation of the event the experiences and networks created during last year's activities on the topic of Islam proved to be very beneficial. Guests from different European Muslim organisations were invited to give workshops and lead the excursions to the mosques.

We would like to express our thankfulness to the European Youth Foundation, the Directorate General of Education and Culture of the European Union for the funding they have provided to our activities. We are also very thankful to the teams of committed volunteers who have helped us to plan and carry out these seminars. Without you, these great events would never have taken place.

## **The Board and the Office**

The General Meeting of EEE-YFU was held in Arras, France on March 19th. The meeting approved of the annual report of activities as well as the financial report. Plans were made for future activities, and a new board was elected. The chairperson, Susanne Himstedt stepped down after three years of service together with the board members Bo Ravn and Odette Haefeli. They were thanked for their long-time devoted commitment to the work of EEE-YFU. Tomasz Borek was elected chairperson of EEE-YFU. Four new board members were elected: Michael Seberich, Timo Valvio, Martin Walker and Joke Zwart. Annely Luikmel continued to serve on the board.

During the year, the board has had four in-life meetings and nine telephone conferences. Tomasz Borek (chair), Martin Walker (treasurer) and Joke Zwart (secretary reporter) have formed the Executive Committee. The other members of the Board have formed the European Training and Content Committee.

The office was smoothly run by full-time Director Åsa Nilsson. Her efficiency and commitment were much appreciated throughout the year by members and volunteers alike. Åsa Nilsson was supported by Hanna Dahlström from YFU Sweden and Assen Zhelkov from YFU Bulgaria who have made internships in the EEE-YFU office. The Board of EEE-YFU would like to thank them for their contributions to EEE-YFU in 2004.

The work of EEE-YFU would not have been possible without the support of its members and that of the institutions. We want to thank in particular the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe), the Service Public Fédéral de Programmation Politique Scientifique (Belgium) and the Directorate General of Education and Culture (the European Commission).

## **Representation**

Over the year an increased number of young volunteers have taken an active part in the work of EEE-YFU. This can be seen in the good work of the international teams who have prepared the educational activities, but also in our representative work. During the year EEE-YFU was represented at 30 external events by no less than 19 different persons.

2004 was a year when EEE-YFU managed to consolidate its strong position within the Youth Forum. EEE-YFU is represented in all three major statutory bodies of the YFJ. In November

Mads-Erik Schionnemann finished his mandate as YFJ bureau member, but in the following elections Peter Torp Madsen was elected. It is unusual that an organisation manages to hold a bureau-position two mandates in a row, so the election was a great success for EEE-YFU. During the year EEE-YFU was represented in the two statutory commissions by Oliver Wagner (Council of Europe) and Åsa Nilsson (EU Affairs), both of whom have served in the steering groups of their respective committees during the year. EEE-YFU was part of the YFJ Pool of Trainers through Gabriela Rothenfluh, and took active part in the OMC-process through Kaia Treier. Since November Mads-Erik Schionnemann is representing us in the Consultative Body of Membership Applications. We would like to thank especially Mads-Erik, Oliver and Peter who has over the year contributed greatly to creating more visibility and respect for YFU in Europe.

Two of the major EU-policy-issues over the year has been the development of the new EU-programmes for Youth (including the financial support for international NGOs) and for Education and Training (including the “Junior Erasmus”). EEE-YFU has managed to put these issues high on the agenda of the Youth Forum, and we are co-operating with other exchange-organisations in order to reach a result which will be beneficial for YFU as an organisation.

EEE-YFU continues to play an active role in the directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe, where Oliver Wagner is part of the Advisory Council. During the year we have also sent representatives to many of the events and courses organised by the Council of Europe. Especially the training and language courses have offered a great opportunity for YFU volunteers to benefit from high-quality international trainings.

Tomasz Borek  
Chair of the Board of EEE-YFU

## Activities

August 2003- June 2004	<b>426 young Europeans were given the opportunity to spend a year in another European country through YFU's inter-European exchanges.</b>
August 2004- June 2005	<b>480 young Europeans were given the opportunity to spend a year in another European country through YFU's inter-European exchanges.</b>
All year	<b>Coloured glasses follow-up project in Germany.</b> 31 volunteers were trained and then facilitated 20 workshops on intercultural understanding in twelve different schools.
February 26-29	<b>Preparatory meeting for YES 2004</b> , in Werbellinsee, Germany
February 26-29	<b>Baltic Volunteer Meeting</b> in Viljandi, Estonia. 19 participants from 3 different countries.
March 18	<b>National Directors' meeting</b> in Arras, France
March 18-19	<b>European Conference</b> , in Arras, France hosted by YFU France
March 19	<b>General Meeting of EEE-YFU</b> , in Arras, France.
April 2-4	<b>Preparatory meeting for IRS 2004</b> , in Fürstenwalde, Germany
May 22-24	<b>Preparatory meeting for YES 2004</b> , in Berlin, Germany
June 25 – 29	<b>Young Europeans' Seminar (YES)</b> , in Werbellinsee, Germany. Topic: Young Europeans and Islam". 324 participants of 19 nationalities.
June 29-30	<b>Preparatory meeting for IRS 2004</b> , in Fürstenwalde, Germany
July 3-4	<b>Preparatory meeting for EVM 2004</b> in Copenhagen, Denmark
August 8-15	<b>Coloured glasses: Understanding Cultural Diversity</b> During the World Youth Festival in Barcelona YFU-volunteers from five different countries presented three popular workshops. The aim was to make the participants gain insight into intercultural understanding and to become more open towards the unknown.
September 24-26	<b>Marketing Workshop</b> in Poznan, Poland. 28 participants from 16 different countries.
September 26	<b>Extraordinary General Meeting of EEE-YFU</b> in Poznan., Poland
September 26	<b>Preparatory meeting for IRS 2004</b> , in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany
September 27	<b>National Directors' meeting</b> in Poznan, Poland.
September 27 – October 3	<b>International Responsibility Seminar (IRS)</b> on the theme "Mediation as a way to solve intercultural conflicts", in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany and Slubice, Poland. 36 participants of 12 different nationalities
October 8-10	<b>YES 2005 Preparatory meeting</b> in Tommerup. Denmark
October 8-15	<b>EVM 2005 "Volunteering for Europe"</b> , in Mollina, Spain. 27 participants from 10 different countries
November 25-26	<b>Preparatory meeting for European Conference 2005</b> in Helsinki, Finland
December 18-19	<b>Preparatory meeting for IRS 2005</b> in Basel, Switzerland

# EEE-YFU Board and Office

## Meetings and Conferences

January 12	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
February 6-8	<b>ETCC meeting</b> in Basel, Switzerland. Participants: Odette Haefeli, Annely Luikmel and Tomasz Borek.
February 7-8	<b>Executive meeting</b> in Odense, Denmark. Participants: Susanne Himstedt, Åsa Nilsson and Bo Ravn
February 8	<b>Work meeting about finances</b> in Copenhagen, Denmark. Participants: Johnny Karleby, Åsa Nilsson, Bo Ravn and Marc Swinnen
February 9	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
March 15	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
March 20-21	<b>Board Meeting</b> , in Arras, France  <i>Present:</i> Tomasz Borek, Chair Åsa Nilsson, Director Annely Luikmel Timo Valvio Joke Zwart  <i>Excused:</i> Michael Seberich Martin Walker
April 5	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
May 21-23	<b>Board Meeting</b> , in Stockholm, Sweden  <i>Present:</i> Tomasz Borek, Chair Åsa Nilsson, Director Annely Luikmel, ETCC Michael Seberich, ETCC Timo Valvio, ETCC Martin Walker, Treasurer Joke Zwart, Secretary Reporter
June 7	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
June 21	<b>Work meeting on fundraising</b> with Anna Findert (YFU Germany) and Åsa Nilsson.
June 24	<b>Telephone conference</b> of the EEE-YFU Board
August 4	<b>Work meeting on finances</b> with Martin Walker and Åsa Nilsson
August 4-6	<b>Work meeting on webpage creation</b> with Simon Beckman (YFU Germany) and Åsa Nilsson
August 26-27	<b>Work meeting</b> in Stockholm, Sweden with Tomasz Borek and Åsa Nilsson

- September 2                   **Telephone conference** of the EEE-YFU Board
- September 25-26           **Board Meeting**, in Poznan, Poland
- Present:*  
Tomasz Borek, Chair  
Åsa Nilsson, Director  
Annely Luikmel, ETCC  
Timo Valvio, ETCC  
Martin Walker, Treasurer  
Joke Zwart, Secretary Reporter
- Excused:*  
Michael Seberich
- October 7                   **Telephone conference** of the EEE-YFU Board
- November 15               **Telephone conference** of the EEE-YFU Board
- December 10-12           **Board Meeting**, in Hamburg, Germany
- Present:*  
Tomasz Borek, Chair  
Åsa Nilsson, Director  
Annely Luikmel, ETCC  
Michael Seberich, ETCC  
Timo Valvio, ETCC  
Martin Walker, Treasurer  
Joke Zwart, Secretary Reporter
- December 14               **Work meeting**, in Leuven, Belgium with Tomasz Borek and Åsa Nilsson

## **Information and Services to the members**

- Monthly newsletter about European issues and activities sent to volunteers and national organizations
- Information about funding opportunities regularly transmitted
- Reports from YES, IRS, EVM and Marketing training produced and transmitted
- Administration of intercompany accounts
- Administration of the European Trust Fund
- Information collection on behalf of the member organisations
- Assistance in drafting a common ICDF-application

## **Educational Activities**

- Assistance to the International Organising Teams of European activities
- Attendance of the IRS, EVM and Marketing training
- Offered two internship possibilities for volunteers
- Regularly offered chances for volunteers to participate in international trainings

## Representation / Visibility

- Coordination of EEE-YFU representation in European organizations and institutions
- Attendance of meetings organized by European organizations and institutions
- Contacts with Secretariats of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation
- Contacts with the European Commission, DG Education and Culture
- Contacts with the Socrates and Youth Technical Assistance Office
- Contacts with the European Youth Forum

## Submitted grant applications

- European Youth Foundation  
YES 2005 (not accepted)  
IRS 2005 (accepted)  
Publication "Islam in Europe" (not accepted)  
Administrative grant 2004 (accepted)
- European Youth Centre  
Study session 2005 (accepted)
- European Commission  
EVS (not accepted)  
EVM 2004 (accepted)  
Administrative grant 2005 (waiting for reply)
- Belgium, federal service  
Administrative grant 2004 (accepted)

## Submitted grant reports

- European Youth Foundation  
YES 2004  
IRS 2003  
IRS 2004  
Administrative grant 2003
- European Youth Centre  
Study session 2003
- European Commission  
Administrative grant 2003  
EVM 2004
- Belgium, federal service  
Administrative grant 2003

## Representation

January 31- February 1	<b>Meeting of the Steering group for the European Union Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum.</b> EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
February 19-20	<b>Information and training day on the Open Method of co-ordination.</b> Organized by the Youth Forum in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Kaia Treier (YFU Estonia)
February 21-24	<b>Meeting of the Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth</b> in Strasbourg, France. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).
March 5-6	<b>Meeting of the Council of Europe Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum</b> in Budapest, Hungary. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).
March 12-14	<b>Meeting of the European Union Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum</b> in Helsinki, Finland. EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
March 20-22	<b>International Conference of YFU</b> in Arras, France. EEE-YFU represented by Tomasz Borek (Chairperson), Anneli Luikmel (Board member) and Åsa Nilsson (Director)
March 31- April 4	<b>Youth forum event: Sustainability of Youth Work in Europe</b> in Riga, Latvia. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative)
April 14-25	<b>Council of Europe Training Course: Training for facilitators</b> in Strasbourg, France. Attended by Jakub Pilch (YFU Poland)
April 23-24	<b>Council of Members of the European Youth Forum</b> in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Mads-Erik Schionnemann and Oliver Wagner (Representatives).
May 5-9	<b>Council of Europe Event: “Europe, Youth and Globalisation”</b> in Strasbourg, France. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative), Mads-Erik Schionnemann (Representative), Peter Torp Madsen (YFU Denmark), Servane Gandais (YFU France).
May 15	<b>Meeting of the Steering group for the European Union Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum.</b> EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
May 21-22	<b>Meeting of the Council of Europe Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum</b> in Vilnius, Lithuania. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).
June 1-6	<b>Council of Europe Seminar: Islamophobia and its consequences for young people,</b> in Budapest, Hungary. Attended by Maartje van Rije (YFU Benelux)
July 1	<b>Information and networking day on the Open Method of co-ordination.</b> Organized by the Youth Forum in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Kaia Treier (YFU Estonia)
June 25-27	<b>Preparatory meeting for the University for Youth and Development.</b> EEE-YFU represented by Peter Torp Madsen (YFU Denmark)
July 2-4	<b>Meeting of the European Union Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum</b> in Ghent, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
July 3-27	<b>Council of Europe Language course,</b> in Mollina, Spain. Attended by Oliver Wagner (YFU Germany / representative)

- July 29-August 3      **Youth Forum fact-finding mission to Israel and Palestine.** EEE-YFU represented by Michael Seberich (board member)
- August 8-15      **World Youth Festival in Barcelona, Spain.** EEE-YFU was represented by Tomasz Borek (chairperson), Joke Zwart (secretary reporter) and Mads-Erik Schionnemann (representative), Sören Andersen (YFU Denmark), Attila Baumgartner (YFU Switzerland), Ann-Claire Chène (YFU France), Pernille Christensen (YFU Denmark), Lina Kirjazovaite (YFU Lithuania) and Laura Toy (YFU France/UK).
- August 8-28      **Council of Europe Language course,** in Kassel, Germany. Attended by Jakub Pilch (YFU Poland)
- August 8 –  
September 15      **Council of Europe Language course,** in Strasbourg, France. Attended by Sylwia Plewa Wisniewska (YFU Poland) and Peter Torp Madsen (YFU Denmark)
- September 21      **Training and Information day about the new YOUTH programme.** Organised by the Youth Forum in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
- October 1-3      **Meeting of the Council of Europe Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum.** EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).
- October 1-3      **Meeting of the European Union Affairs Commission of the Youth Forum** in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (Director)
- October 9-12      **Meeting: Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth.** EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).
- November 11-14      **Youth Forum General Assembly** in Madrid, Spain. EEE-YFU represented by Peter Torp Madsen, Mads-Erik Schionnemann and Oliver Wagner (Representatives)
- November 15      **Follow-up meeting for the University for Youth and Development.** EEE-YFU represented by Peter Torp Madsen (Representative)
- November 17      **Youth Debate organised by the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, Belgium.** EEE-YFU represented by Jakub Pilch (YFU Poland) and Peter Torp Madsen (YFU Denmark)
- December 13      **Training and Information day about funding for INGYO’s.** Organised by the Youth Forum in Brussels, Belgium. EEE-YFU represented by Åsa Nilsson (director)
- December 13-15      **Council of Europe’s launching conference for the year of democratic citizenship through education** in Sofia, Bulgaria. EEE-YFU represented by Oliver Wagner (Representative).