

# EEE-YFU Annual Report

# 2006



European  
Educational  
Exchanges



# INTRODUCTION

The Europe in which YFU organises its educational youth exchange programmes today, has changed significantly since YFU Germany started its activities almost fifty years ago. 2006 was a year with many changes, both around and within EEE-YFU.

The European Union expanded its boundaries to include Bulgaria and Romania as new member states at the end of 2006. A new budget was established for the next seven years, including new grant possibilities under the Youth in Action programme and plans to implement a new Comenius sub action for individual pupil mobility in 2009. EEE-YFU has closely followed these developments, kept YFU organisations informed about how these might affect their operations and aimed to ensure that the interests of YFU are taken into account by participating in consultations and joining a tender for a study and pilot to prepare the Comenius sub action.

In the spring of 2006, EEE-YFU moved to a new office near the European Institutions in Brussels, and welcomed Elizabeth Niland as the new office coordinator. We enlarged our board and were able to strengthen our ties with the European Youth Forum and several other important partners in Brussels. We also welcomed YFU Turkey as our newest partner organisation.

While the YFU network includes many strengths and talents, it is crucial for an international organisation operating on the crossroads of youth mobility, active participation and lifelong learning, to strengthen its ties with relevant actors and networks in these areas at the European level. EEE-YFU does this by establishing partnerships with other European youth organisations and by opening up possibilities for young volunteers from its members and partners to take part in seminars, trainings and platforms. This enables them to learn that their exchange experience is only the start of a lifelong process of learning from each other and contributing to a European – if not global – society. As true European citizens and volunteers, YFU alumni represent the future leadership of Europe.



By creating possibilities for YFU organisations and their volunteers to benefit from new learning experiences and other opportunities that Europe offers, EEE-YFU aims to strengthen the European YFU network as a whole. This way, even more European youngsters will be able to go on exchange in the years to come.

In this annual report we inform you of our partnerships and activities in 2006. Our work would not have been possible without the structural financial support we received from the European Commission and the Council of Europe. At its basis, however, are the many talented and devoted volunteers who made these events a reality and who represented us in the various bodies through which we participate.

*Joke Zwart*  
Chairperson of EEE-YFU

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European  
Educational  
Exchanges



## EEE-YFU

EEE-YFU is an international non-profit youth organisation, supporting national YFU organisations based in Europe. Our aims are ...

- to promote intercultural understanding through youth exchange programmes in Europe
- to enhance the public visibility of Youth for Understanding in Europe and with European institutions and organisations
- to enrich the experience of European exchange students by facilitating educational and content related activities
- to assist in planning and conducting international training for staff and volunteers

Founded in 1985, EEE-YFU facilitates the cooperation of over 30 member and partner organisations throughout Europe. By supporting organisational collaboration and volunteer initiative, we bring the European dimension closer to hundreds of young people in Europe every year.



## YFU

Youth for Understanding (YFU) is an international non-profit youth exchange organisation. It offers educational exchanges of young people among more than 50 countries worldwide. The mission of YFU is to prepare young people for their opportunities and responsibilities in a changing, interdependent world.

This is done through international home-stay exchange programmes. YFU believes that the exchange experience is an educational event that helps the participant to mature in the understanding of other cultures. To enhance the experience, YFU provides constant support to each student through seminars and individual counselling. YFU is a volunteer organisation with more than 50.000 volunteers worldwide. They conduct a large part of YFU's programme as well as participate in particular training activities on both national and international level.

Youth for Understanding was established in 1951. At present, a yearly average of 3500 students between 15 and 18 years of age participate in the one-year exchange programme. 1000 students participate in short term programmes. Furthermore, a growing number of young people between 18 and 21 years of age join our college programmes. For further information on YFU and its programmes, see:

<http://www.yfu.org>

### YFU Mission Statement

"To prepare young people for their responsibilities and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world "

# PARTNERSHIPS



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Council of Europe (CoE)

In 2006 EEE-YFU continued to be active in the directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS) of the Council of Europe (CoE). As well as being represented in its structures (see below), EEE participated in numerous activities and events organised by the CoE, such as language courses and trainings.

### Advisory Council on Youth

EEE-YFU is one of 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth, one of the two governing bodies of the DYS, which guide the institution's programmes in the youth field.

### Programming Committee on Youth

Oliver Wagner, EEE-YFU Board, was elected to the programming committee of the DYS for a three year term.

### CAHCIT, European Year of Citizenship through Education

EEE-YFU was represented by Oliver Wagner in the "Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on the 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education" (CAHCIT) within the directorate of education, which concluded its work in 2006 with an evaluation phase.

### North – South Centre

EEE-YFU is a partner of the University on Youth and Development of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe. In 2006 EEE-YFU organised and participated in a number of events at the University, organising its International Responsibility Seminar there (see page 10)

## European Commission

EEE-YFU worked closely with the European Commission through its YOUTH programme in 2006. In addition, EEE was active in consultations with the Commission on the preparation of the new Youth in Action programme and its guide. The programme is to run from 2007 -2013.



## European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)

EEE-YFU cooperated with EFIL in the capacity of subcontractor on the development of the Individual Pupil Mobility Project of the European Commission. The project, which began in October 2006 and which will run until July 2008, is aimed at providing recommendations to the Commission on the shape and structure of its own individual pupil mobility action to be launched in 2009, as a sub action under the Comenius programme (see page 6).

### EEE-YFU participation in brief

- Coordination of EEE-YFU representation in European organisations and institutions
- Active participation in the European Youth Forum
- Participation in meetings organised by European organisations and institutions
- Communication with the European Commission, DG Education and Culture
- Communication with the Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport and the European Youth Foundation



## **European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

In 2006, EEE-YFU developed its cooperation with the European Youth Forum and was represented in all its major statutory bodies. Peter Torp Madsen, Denmark served his second year as Bureau member of the YFJ, completing his mandate in December 2006. Throughout his term Peter focused on issues of non formal education, training and intercultural dialogue. EEE also had elected representatives in the other structures of the Youth Forum, namely the COEACOM and EUACOM, together with the Pool of Trainers (PoT).

### **European Union Affairs Commission EUACOM**

Kerli Albin, Estonia, represented EEE in her second year as a representative in the European Union Affairs Commission. Meeting three times in 2006, the group focused on EU developments of relevance to EEE, such as the recognition of non formal education, volunteering and mobility.

### **Council of Europe Affairs Commission COEACOM**

Oliver Wagner, EEE-YFU Board, completed his term in the COEACOM in 2006 while Hanh Nha Ruyter, Norway was elected to the COEACOM for a period of three years. Meeting three times a year, the COEACOM focused its work on the All Different All Equal Campaign and the European Portfolio for Youth workers and youth leaders.

### **Pool of Trainers PoT**

Bettina Kiséri Nagy, EEE-YFU Board, and Peter Haselmann, Denmark, were active trainers in the European Youth Forum Pool of Trainers. By providing trainings for many YFJ events and activities, both were able to develop their skills and apply them to YFU activities.

## **Youth for Exchange and understanding (YEU)**

EEE-YFU continued its cooperation with Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU), participating as a partner in a Training for Trainers in a Global Context and collaborating in the preparation of future activities.

### **and others...**

In 2006 EEE also cooperated at various levels with the following partners: OBESSU (Organising Bureau of European School Student Organisations), EIE (Experiment in Europe), European Volunteer Centre (CEV), AEGEE (European Students Forum), ALLIANCE (Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations) and other European youth organisations within the framework of the European Youth Forum and the Council of Europe.



# COMENIUS INDIVIDUAL PUPIL MOBILITY PROJECT



In 2006, EEE-YFU collaborated with the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL, European umbrella organisation of AFS) applying for a tender from the European Commission to carry out an Individual pupil mobility project as one of the sub actions under the Comenius action of the new Life Long Learning programme 2007-2013. EFIL in the capacity of contractor and EEE-YFU in the role of subcontractor were awarded this tender in October 2006. With this tender, the European Commission has contracted EFIL to carry out a study on the situation of secondary school long term mobility throughout Europe, as well as a pilot version of a European Individual Pupil Mobility scheme. EEE-YFU has been subcontracted by EFIL to carry out the work in certain countries, ensuring a broader base for the entire project. The Commission will use the results of the project when shaping its own Individual pupil mobility action which is due to start in 2009. The action itself will be run by Comenius schools and the National Agencies for Comenius.

## How does the project work?

The project consists of three phases: a study phase, a recommendation phase and a pilot phase. In June 2008, a final report will be presented to the Commission.

## The study Phase

The aim of the study phase is to provide an overview of existing pupil mobility in Europe.

The study phase began in December 2006 and carried through to January 2007. The study was conducted in 31 countries across Europe, and was carried out by YFU in 7 of these countries, in 6 of which AFS has no presence: Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Lithuania and Greece. AFS carried out the study in the remaining countries of the EU, Norway, Iceland and Turkey.

## The recommendations phase

In this phase a framework for the new pupil mobility action is produced, including recommendations on the administration of the future action, the length and timing, necessary training and support, etc.

## The pilot phase

In 2007, a pilot phase for the future pupil mobility scheme will take place between 10 selected countries. In this phase, 2 YFU organisations will be involved: YFU Estonia and YFU Germany. YFU Germany will carry out the pilot phase jointly with AFS Germany. The pilot will run in the second half of 2007, with bilateral exchanges of 3 and 6 months being carried out between schools that are involved in existing Comenius Partnerships. The selection and preparation of the participating pupils and schools will be the responsibility of YFU and AFS organisations in the 10 participating countries. They are working closely with National Agencies in their countries to promote the possibility among Comenius schools. The call for participants is available on <http://www.eee-yfu.org/comenius>

## The final report

Based on the results of the study and the pilot, and on the evaluation of the pilot phase by an external evaluator, a report will be written including recommendations for the future mobility scheme. This report will be presented to the European Commission in June 2008.

EEE-YFU is thankful for all the hard work put into the study by the 7 YFU organisations involved, and for the efforts of YFU Germany and YFU Estonia throughout 2006 in preparing for the upcoming pilot phase.

## EEE-YFU representation

### Management Team:

Elizabeth Niland, office coordinator

### Steering committee:

Joke Zwart, chair of the board

### Advisory Committee:

Joke Zwart, chair of the board

### Pilot coordinators:

Holger Dudzus, YFU Germany  
Kadri Saar YFU Estonia

### Study coordinators:

Iris Wiesner, YFU Bulgaria, Kadi Metsmaa, YFU Estonia, Chara Philippitzi, YFU Greece, Gaby Tervidyte YFU Lithuania, Monika Schubert, YFU Poland, Laura Stoica YFU Romania, Jana Zimanova and Monika Zabadalova, YFU Slovakia



# REPRESENTATION



We support the participation of YFU volunteers in the various activities organised by our partners at the European level. Through EEE, young YFU volunteers can take part in trainings, information days or networking opportunities, so that they can use the newly obtained knowledge for the good of their national YFU organisation or the European YFU network as a whole. EEE-YFU expects these volunteers to act as promoters of the YFU programme to the outside world and as multipliers when they return to their national YFU organisation.

## Representative meetings and Christmas reception

January & December, Brussels

In 2006 EEE held two meetings with its mandated representatives to discuss ongoing work at the European level. These meetings were successful in ensuring an open dialogue between the EEE board and its representatives.

In December, EEE held a Christmas reception, where representatives were given the chance to meet with some of EEE's key partners. Piia Heinamaki from the European Commission (DG EAC, Comenius sub programme) and Karal Bartak, European Commission (DG EAC Youth Policy Unit), were among the guests eager to learn more about the work of EEE. Present too, were many YFU alumni that are living and working in Brussels. In 2007, EEE-YFU hopes to strengthen its ties with these alumni so as to establish a Brussels-based pool of volunteers.

## Press and communication meeting

July, Trakai, Lithuania

EEE-YFU office coordinator Elizabeth Niland, together with Gaby Tervidyte, YFU Lithuania, attended the press and communication meeting of the European Youth Forum. The meeting contributed to the development of communication between the Youth Forum and its members and advancing the communication capacity and material of EEE-YFU.

## Inaugural dialogue on Non Formal Education

September, Brussels

Elizabeth Niland, EEE-YFU coordinator, participated in a 'dialogue' of the European Youth Forum on the recognition of non formal education. The meeting focused on the issue of bridging the gaps between formal and non formal education. At the seminar EEE showcased the importance of the recognition of exchange years abroad, and contributed to discussions on recognition tools such as the European portfolio for youth workers and youth leaders (CoE) and YouthPass (EU).

## Mobility seminar

October, Brussels

The European Youth Forum held a mobility seminar in Brussels where EEE was represented by EEE-YFU board member Oliver Wagner and Sara Ulfhiem, YFU Sweden. The seminar centered on discussions relating to visa and mobility barriers for young people across Europe.



## REPRESENTATION



### **Youth in Action 2007-2013 consultation days year round, Brussels**

Throughout 2006, EEE-YFU participated in several consultation and information days with the European Commission on the development and finalisation of the new Youth in Action Programme. The new programme replaces the YOUTH programme which ran until the end of 2006. In 2007, EEE-YFU will encourage and support the use of the new Youth in Action programme by YFU organisations throughout Europe (See page 13).

### **General Assembly and Council of Members Meeting of the European Youth Forum**

In April EEE-YFU was represented at the YFJ Council of Members meeting in Prato, Italy by Oliver Wagner. In November Elizabeth Niland and Kerli Albin represented EEE at the General Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania. In addition, EEE fully contributed to the work plan of the European Youth Forum for the coming years, ensuring that issues such as the recognition of exchange periods were given top priority.

### **European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005 conference May, Bucharest**

Erik Jentges, YFU Germany, and Oliver Wagner, EEE-YFU attended the evaluation conference of the year, both emphasising the value of intercultural exchanges in the educational field in Europe.

### **Intercultural Language Classes of the Council of Europe**

In summer 2006 several YFU volunteers were selected to take part in a 4-week language training course of the Council of Europe, in languages such as Spanish, English, French, Italian and Russian held in different locations across Europe.

#### **In 2006 EEE-YFU took part in ...**

- The European Union Affairs Commission and the Council of Europe Affairs Commission of the European Youth Forum
- European Youth Forum's General Assembly, Council of Members meeting, trainings, seminars, consultations, information and networking days
- Training courses and intercultural language classes offered by the Council of Europe's directorate of Youth and Sport
- The University of Youth and development of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe
- The evaluation process of the European Year of Citizenship through Education of the Council of Europe's directorate of education
- A consultation process on the Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013



# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## EEE-YFU Educational Activities in brief

- Assistance to the International Organising Teams of European activities
- Attendance of the IRS, Study Session and EVM
- Internship possibilities for volunteers
- Regular opportunities for volunteers to participate in international trainings



**YES 2006**  
Young Europeans Seminar

## General

During and after the exchange experience, EEE-YFU is committed to provide on-going education in cross-cultural issues to YFU students, returnees and volunteers. We organize – on national and European level – seminars on various cultural and youth-related issues. By creating intercultural forums, we seek to enhance the exchange experience of YFU participants. We do so in order to unite young people and to raise awareness on various issues, thus providing young people with the tools needed to understand the complexity of both the local and global environment. In addition, EEE-YFU offers young volunteers the possibility to grow personally by providing them with a platform to exchange experiences and good practices and to develop new projects. A big thanks goes to the professional commitment of the many volunteers who planned, developed and conducted these activities in 2006.

## Young European's Seminar

The highlight of every intra European exchange year with YFU is the Young Europeans' Seminar (YES). This unique yearly event is offered to all European exchange students participating in a YFU year programme within Europe, before they return to their home country. The four-day seminar covers topics that are related to their exchange year, as well as current European issues. Thus, it encourages the participants to understand themselves as young European citizens with responsibilities and opportunities in an ever-closer growing world. In addition, the YES wants to make participants aware that finishing their exchange year is not an end. For many, it forms the starting point of a lifelong learning process in the field of intercultural understanding, democratic involvement, and social responsibility.

## YES 2006

The Young Europeans' Seminar 2006 gathered 420 YFU exchange students in Werbellinsee, Germany, for four days on their journey back from their host country in June/July. While YFU Germany was in charge of the logistical tasks, the content was organised by YFU Finland and YFU Estonia: the theme of the seminar "**Promoting Tolerance by Means of Intercultural Dialogue**" was discussed in many ways through a variety of workshops on communication, tolerance and Islam as well as through trust games, arts, and dance all promoting tolerance. Together with exploring the topics in depth, the workshops proved a great way for students and volunteers alike to get to know each other and European diversity better! The highlight of the YES was the YES Parliament, held on the last day of the seminar, where the topic of sexual diversity and tolerance was discussed. The YES was one of the first activities to be held under the European youth campaign "All different – All Equal", serving as a subtitle for the YES.





## University on youth and development 1-8 October, Molina, Spain

The North-South Centre is a body of the Council of Europe, working on issues of North South cooperation. The centre is a valued partner in the youth field, having a clear and particular role in coordinating efforts for effective training and in creating a framework to enhance the role of youth in Global Youth work. Each year the North South centre organises its University on Youth and Development together with its many and varied partners of which EEE-YFU is one. Other partners include: the European Youth Forum, the Latin American Youth Forum, the Spanish youth institute, the Spanish youth council and internationally operating youth NGOs such as Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU), European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL), Youth Action for Peace (YAP) and many more...

The University gathers together young people from all over the world participating in a variety of events for a week long period, in the Euro - Latin-American Youth Centre (CEULA), Molina, Spain. It provides a unique opportunity for young people and youth organisations to learn more about each others work, while highlighting the visibility of each others activities.

EEE-YFU has been a partner in the University since 2004 holding its own activities such as the European Volunteer Meetings (EVM) in 2004 and 2005 in the frame of the University. Furthermore, EEE-YFU volunteers regularly participate in the activities of other partners. In 2006 the University provided the perfect setting for the International Responsibility Seminar (IRS).



## International Responsibility Seminar

The International Responsibility Seminar (IRS) is a week-long training session for young YFU volunteers and alumni. Its aim is to guarantee on-going reflection and training in internationalism. It gives European YFU returnees a chance to meet and exchange ideas while approaching a subject that is not directly related to YFU's daily operations. This allows YFU volunteers to broaden their scope and to examine intercultural approaches to societal challenges today. Topics of recent years included Gender Equality, Islam in Europe and Conflict Resolution.

The IRS 2006 focused on **"Conflict management through Intercultural Learning"**. The activity gathered 14 participants from YFU organisations around Europe for the week long event. Debates and exercises were used as tools for discussion and exploration of the topic. The IRS followed the themes of the All Different All Equal Campaign, allowing YFU volunteers to practically contribute to its aims. During the activity a very fruitful cooperation took place with Youth Action for Peace (YAP) in the form of a joint session, introducing the aims and methods of both organisations to each other's volunteers. This was highly appreciated by the YFU volunteers in the extensive report, confirming the approach of EEE-YFU to promote 'inter-organisational exchange of knowledge and methodology, especially with like minded exchange organisations. All participants gained a valuable understanding on conflict management and transformation as well as a motivation to bring the international spirit back home to their involvement in the national YFU organisation' (IRS 2006 Report). The framework of the University also made it possible to introduce the YFU participants to many other approaches of youth NGOs, for example in Human Rights Education.

*'The University on Youth and Development is a space for debate, training, exchange of experiences and affirmative action concerning Global Youth Cooperation, (that is) young people and youth organisations collective response to the challenges of globalisation.'*

North South Centre

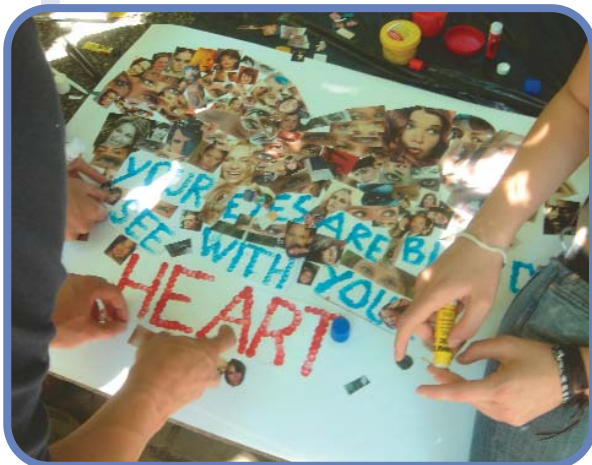


## Training for Trainers in a global context

In partnership with Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) and other youth NGOs like AEGEE, ALLIANCE and EFIL, EEE-YFU facilitated a Training for Trainers in a global context in the frame of the University. EEE-YFU was represented at the training by 5 YFU participants from Lithuania, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Sweden. The course was aimed at young people and youth workers in a position to act as "multipliers" for a socio-educational philosophy based on participation, pluralistic democracy, intercultural learning and Human Rights, within a global context, as a basis for an open and just world for all. The course addressed the needs of the partner organisations to have competent and autonomous trainers. In doing so it aimed to broaden understanding of the role of 'training' and 'trainers' in today's global youth work context and to enable participants – within the framework of their Youth Organisations and/or its member associations – to competently prepare, run and evaluate non-formal education training activities. The training was received and evaluated very well by all EEE-YFU participants.

*"It was a great and enriching experience for me personally as well as for my work within YFU and beyond."*

Sonja Beinert, YFU Germany



## Euro- Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT)

The Euro-Latin American Youth Forum (FEULAT) is an event organised by the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ), and with the support of the Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE) and the Ibero-American Intergovernmental Organisation (OII). The FEULAT 2006 follows up the results of a 3-year partnership project between the Youth Forum and FLAJ, which was aimed at promoting co-operation between youth organisations in Europe and Latin America as well as at developing youth policies in Latin America, strengthening the youth movement in Latin America and promoting the participation of Latin American youth organisations in the political decision-making process.

In 2006 EEE-YFU supported the participation of 3 YFU volunteers to the Euro Latin American youth forum, coming from YFU Germany, Estonia and Finland. A young volunteer from YFU Mexico was also present at the event. The 2006 FEULAT focused on Non-formal education, Youth rights and protection mechanisms, and Full and effective participation of young people.

### The aims of the FEULAT are to:

- Provide a space of encounter, exchange and joint reflection between young people from Latin America and Europe
- Strengthen co-operation between European and Latin American youth organisations and regional platforms
- Enhance a common working agenda on youth, involving all stakeholders in the Euro-Latin American frame

# EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK



## Comenius Explained!

### European Cooperation on School Education

Comenius is an action under the new Life Long Learning Programme of the European Commission for 2007-2013. Comenius focuses on the first phase of education, from pre-school and primary to secondary school, and it is addressed to all members of the education community in the broad sense – pupils, teachers, other education staff, but also local authorities, parents' associations, non-government organisations.

Comenius supports school partnerships, individual mobility of teachers and student teachers, projects for the training of school education staff, and school education networks. It thus aims to enhance the quality of teaching, strengthen its European dimension and promote language learning and mobility. This has traditionally been carried out through short term group exchanges for students and long term projects.

Under the new Individual Pupil Mobility action, to be launched in 2009, Comenius will enable the long term exchange of upper secondary school students for the first time.

## Youth in Action Programme 2007 - 2013

Youth in Action is the new EU Programme in the field of youth, and is therefore a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension. This Programme is the result of a large consultation with the different stakeholders in the youth field and is the response to the evolutions in the youth sector at European level. It aims to inspire a sense of European citizenship among the youth of Europe and to involve them in constructing the future of the Community.



The Youth in Action Programme contains five operational Actions:

- **Action 1** - Youth for Europe: supporting exchanges and youth initiatives and encouraging young people's participation in democratic life;
- **Action 2** - European Voluntary Service: encouraging young people to take part in a voluntary activity abroad that benefits the general public;
- **Action 3** - Youth in the World: encouraging cooperation with Partner Countries by building networks, promoting the exchange of information and assisting with cross-border activities;
- **Action 4** - Youth Support Systems: promoting the development of exchange, training and information schemes;
- **Action 5** - European Cooperation in the youth field contributing to the development of policy cooperation in the youth field.



## All Different All Equal Campaign Be the change you want to see

"All different, All equal" is the call of the Council of Europe for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation.

From June 2006 to September 2007, the Council of Europe is running a Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation, using the same successful name and logo as the 1995 campaign of same name. The 2006-2007 Campaign is being organised in partnership with the European Commission and the European Youth Forum.

EEE-YFU participated in the All Different All Equal Campaign throughout 2006, with activities such as the YES and the IRS supporting the campaign. The campaign is relevant to the daily work of YFU in focusing on intercultural dialogue and tolerance. In 2006 EEE-YFU submitted applications for future activities to be held under the themes of the campaign throughout 2007.



# MEMBERS

## EEE-YFU Services to the members in brief

- Monthly newsletter on European issues and activities sent to YFU volunteers
- Quarterly newsletter on European issues and funding opportunities and deadlines aimed at YFU National organisations
- Reports from YES, IRS, and other activities produced and transmitted
- Financial administration of over 400 intra European YFU exchanges
- Information collection on behalf of the member organisations

## General Meeting

The annual General Meeting of EEE-YFU was held in Roskilde, Denmark directly after the European Conference. The meeting was used to report on the past year and set directions for 2006. A new chairperson and three new board members were elected to the board. It was decided to increase the size of the board to include one additional board member, allowing EEE-YFU to establish a separate subcommittee for external communications matters, the External Communications Committee (ECC).

Former EEE-YFU board member Joke Zwart from the Netherlands was elected as the new chair person of EEE-YFU. The three new board members elected were Karlis Grinbergs from Latvia (Treasurer), Trine Tandberg from Norway (ECC Member) and Markus Inderbitzin from Switzerland (ECC Member).



## National Directors' Meetings

Throughout 2006, EEE-YFU increased its cooperation with the national organisations. Two meetings for National Directors were held. The first took place in Roskilde, Denmark, directly preceding the European Conference in March. Issues discussed included quality management, the need for coordinated travel dates and the future of the Young Europeans' Seminar (YES).

The second National Directors' Meeting was held in October in Vienna, Austria, and hosted by EEE-YFU's newest partner organisation, YFU Austria. EEE-YFU office coordinator, Elizabeth Niland held a presentation on the Individual Pupil Mobility project, which had at that time just gotten underway. Several YFU Directors from outside Europe also attended this meeting as observers.

## European Conference

The annual European Conference was organised and hosted by YFU Denmark in March 2006. The 4-day conference, which took place in Roskilde, Denmark, brought together the leadership of many European YFU organisations. Topics discussed included several issues related to the operations of YFU, as well as the development of the new Individual Pupil Mobility Scheme by the European Commission and the need to use youth exchange as a means to enhance intercultural understanding between Christian and Muslim cultures. Journalist David Trads, former chair of YFU-Denmark, presented his thoughts on the role of YFU in the world of the past and of today.

EEE-YFU facilitated a workshop on advocacy, clarifying the European policy process and the importance of the combined efforts of national members and EEE-YFU in strengthening our position in Europe. EEE-YFU board members also actively engaged in a workshop about international structures within YFU, during which the position of EEE-YFU and ways to strengthen EEE membership were discussed. A third workshop was held addressing the members' training needs in future European activities facilitated by EEE-YFU.



# HUMAN & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## EEE-YFU board in 2006:

Joke Zwart, The Netherlands	Chairperson
Karlis Grinbergs, Latvia	Treasurer
Timo Valvio, Finland	Secretary
Oliver Wagner, Germany	ETCC and ECC member
Bettina Kiséri Nagy, Hungary	ETCC Member
Trine Tandberg, Norway	ECC Member
Markus Inderbitzin, Switzerland	ECC Member

## Office staff in 2006

### The office of EEE-YFU was staffed by:

Sandra Weidemann (until May, 2006)  
Elizabeth Niland (starting May, 2006)

### The office staff was supported by:

Michael Paul, Germany  
Intern, January to April 2006  
Alexander Tsukev, Bulgaria  
Intern, September to December 2006  
Marc Swinnen, Belgium  
volunteer bookkeeper

## European Volunteer Network

The European Volunteer Network (EVN) is a virtual discussion forum established by and for young volunteers who have taken part in previous activities organised by EEE-YFU. The network gained many new volunteers during the 2006 University on Youth and Development, when those new to EEE-YFU activities were eager to join the mailing list. The list, which has been in existence since the first European Volunteer Meeting in 2004, also held at the University, is a useful tool for young YFU volunteers throughout Europe to keep in touch and exchange ideas on European and international events and issues.

EEE-YFU increasingly uses this platform as a pool of volunteers interested in helping to organise the various European activities that EEE-YFU facilitates. The network currently contains close to 200 members.

## Grants and funding

Without organisational and financial support from our funders, EEE-YFU would not have been able to operate in 2006. Aside from activity related grants, EEE-YFU receives administrative grants supporting general decision making structures and bodies together with the day to day running of the office.

### In 2006 we received the following administrative grants:

European Commission, YOUTH Programme	€ 32.770
Belgian State, Ministry of Education	€ 5.000

## Communication with members

EEE-YFU updated its website in 2006 with the help of two Swiss volunteers, Daniel Widmer and Niccolo Camponovo. It now includes an online resource section for our newsletters and documents, together with an updated calendar of activities. It is our aim to further develop the site so as to incorporate an exclusive volunteers' section and a members section. A big thank you to both Daniel and Niccolo for their ongoing support in developing the site!

EEE-YFU also improved the format, content and accessibility of its monthly electronic newsletters for volunteers. The newsletter contains up to date information on the activities of EEE-YFU, together with information on European level developments of relevance to YFU volunteers. In addition, it contains calls for participation to many European level events for our volunteers.

In order to improve communication with our member organisations, we developed a new quarterly newsletter for National Organisations in 2006, which includes information about relevant EU policy developments, funding possibilities and updates from the board.



# OUR MEMBERS & PARTNERS

## **YFU Austria**

office@yfu.at  
www.yfu.at

## **YFU Azerbaijan**

kenanj1@hotmail.com  
www.yfu-az.narod.ru

## **YFU Belarus**

yfubelarus@yahoo.com

## **YFU-Belgium**

info@yfu.be (Flanders)  
www.yfu.be  
info@yfu-belgique.be (Wallonia)  
www.yfu-belgique.be

## **YFU Bosnia and Herzegovina**

fatima\_smajlovic@yahoo.com  
www.yfu.org/ba/main\_ba.html

## **YFU Bulgaria**

yfu-bg@cmfnd.org

## **YFU Croatia**

ikovacev@ffzg.hr

## **YFU Czech Republic**

info@yfu.cz  
www.yfu.cz

## **YFU Denmark**

yfu-danmark@yfu.dk  
www.yfu.dk

## **YFU Estonia**

yfu@yfu.ee  
www.yfu.ee

## **Suomen Youth for Understanding**

yfu.finland@yfu.fi  
www.yfu.fi

## **YFU France Echanges Internationaux**

infos@yfu-france.org  
www.yfu-france.org

## **YFU Georgia**

nino\_shara@posta.ge  
www.yfu.org/ge

## **Deutsches Youth for Understanding**

Komitee e.V.  
info@yfu.de  
www.yfu.de

## **YFU Greece**

charaphi@otenet.gr  
www.yfu.org/gr

## **YFU Hungary**

yfu@yfu.hu  
www.yfu.hu

## **Free Culture Youth for Understanding**

info@freeculture.it  
www.freeculture.it

## **YFU Kazakhstan**

lingyfu@kaznet.kz  
www.pfling-yfukaz.org

## **YFU Latvia**

ieva@yfu.apollo.lv  
www.yfu.lv

## **YFU - Lithuania**

info@yfu.lt  
www.yfu.lt

## **YFU Moldova**

violetta\_avram@web.de  
www.ournet.md/~yfu

## **YFU the Netherlands**

info@yfu.nl  
www.yfu.nl

## **YFU Norway**

post@yfu.no  
www.yfu.no

## **YFU Poland**

monika.sch@op.pl  
www.yfu.org/po/main\_po.html

## **YFU Romania**

info@yfu.ro  
www.yfu.ro

## **YFU Russian Federation**

info@yfu.ru  
www.yfu.ru

## **YFU Slovakia**

info@yfu.sk  
www.yfu.sk

## **YFU Sweden**

info@yfu.se  
www.yfu.se

## **YFU Switzerland**

info@yfu.ch  
www.yfu.ch

## **YFU Turkey**

www.yfu.com

## **YFU Ukraine**

ukraine@yfu.relc.com  
www.yfu.org/ua

## **Youth for Understanding - U.K.**

yfu@holliday123.freemove.co.uk

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### **Office address:**

Chaussée de Wavre 214 d  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 647 86 06 • Fax: +32 2 626 95 01

Email: [office@eee-yfu.org](mailto:office@eee-yfu.org)

[www.eee-yfu.org](http://www.eee-yfu.org)