
Minutes of the 8th Virtual Board Meeting
Business year 2012/2013;
May 28, 2013
Minutes prepared by: Kyrylo Ivliev

Participants:

Board members:

Kyrylo Ivliev – Chairperson
Girts Baranovskis – Treasurer
Zaruhi Stepanyan – External Relations Officer
Christiane Klemm – Project Officer
Tijana Ljubenovič – Member Organizations Officer

Secretariat members:

Mercedes Fioravanti – Secretary General
Malgorzata Zubowicz-Thull – Projects, Publications, EVS Coordinator
Natalia Luchko – Coordinator
Maria Dokupilova- outgoing Secretary General

Missing:

Tomasz Janiak – Publications and Promotion Officer, Vice-chairperson

Agenda:

1. General overview on the work done and activities planned
2. New office of YEE
3. Last week of Maggie in YEE
4. Budget 2013
5. Preparations for the AM 2013
6. AOB

Abbreviations:

1. **AM – Annual Meeting**
2. **AOB – Any Other Businesses**
3. **BM – Board Member**
4. **EYF-European Youth Foundation**
5. **GA – General Assembly**
6. **MO – Member Organization**
7. **SG – Secretary General**
8. **TC – Training Course**
9. **YEE – Youth and Environment Europe**

Results:

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORK DONE AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED

- update from the Secretariat

Maggie informed the Board that the handover of the current matters to Mercedes who will take over the office of YEE SG has been successfully completed. The Secretariat had an office meeting where all the current matters have been discussed. Maggie updated Mercedes on the ongoing and upcoming projects and passed her authority of managing the YEE bank account.

The Board was informed that a project “Snapshot for Environment” would soon start in Armenia.

Natasha told the Board that she is still waiting for the applications for the TC to be held on the eve of the AM. She sent out the call repeatedly.

Mercedes will start next week part time as SG. She will mainly focus on the AM and taking over from Maggie.

Gosia reminded the Board that June is going to be her last month in YEE and called on Board to brainstorm on the tasks for her for this period.

- update from the Board

Christiane continued negotiations with her university on the water project where YEE agreed to get involved. She will meet with the university authorities on Friday to see what can be done and will then update the Board on the matter.

Girts said he is going to prepare amendments to financial documents, namely policy and will send them first to the office and then to board and MOs.

Zara found a network dealing with environment. She thinks that would be nice to join them. She also informed that she contacted Sara Svensson who used to work for UNEP, regarding our application to the Organization. She got back saying that the request has been forwarded to UNEP Secretariat. We are waiting for reply.

2. NEW OFFICE OF YEE

The YEE Secretariat was informed by the owner of Toulev Dvur – an ecological centre where the headquarter of YEE used to be located for the past years – that the office will not be available from January 1, 2014. That means it is needed to find another place.

The owner has offered some options which the Board and the Secretariat discussed during the meeting. All of them have their pros and cons. Final decision has been

postponed till the time when we get a final proposal with the indication of conditions, including financial ones.

3. LAST WEEK OF MAGGIE IN YEE

Maggie thanked the team for great cooperation and informed the Board that she would be taking part in the upcoming YEE project “Women for Planet” and will join the AM 2013.

4. BUDGET

We managed to save some money and got a bigger grant from the EYF. Membership fees were paid to two organizations YEE is a member of. BM point is closed too. The version of the budget we have got by the time of the AM is balanced. The Board took decision to have a proper look at the presented budget once again and vote till Monday, June 3.

Regarding the EYF grant, it was agreed that Kyrylo would ask EYF secretariat about whether we can expect such a grant next year too.

5. PREPARATIONS FOR THE AM 2013

- preparation of sessions for the AM

Gosia and Mercedes will meet to have an overview of all the session outlines. They will elaborate a set of comments and suggestions in regard to what might be changed. A general comment was made that the description of each session should be more precise with the indication of concrete steps and time frames.

- drafting short and long-term strategies (deadline for sending strategies out to MOs is June 17)

For now there are two draft versions of long term strategies: one from the last period and another prepared this year. The Board agreed to have a proper look at both versions with the view of picking up the most relevant points and bringing them to the AM 2013 for discussions with the GA. It was agreed that the deadline for evaluating the two draft versions would be June 1, after which a final version will be prepared by June 13.

June 17 is established as a deadline for sending the final version of strategies to the MOs.

Short term strategies by turn are supposed to reflect on long term strategies and should contain concrete steps on implementation of goals set out therein.

- review of membership of current MOs

Tijana should send a letter to each MO informing them of our decision to review their membership. The agreed deadline is 4-th of June. There is a letter that was sent last year and that can be used as a template.

- applying organizations – how to proceed with their applications

This year YEE has received 4 applications for membership. Tijana and Mercedes provided Board with their opinion in regard to the applying organizations.

Youth Without Borders (Armenia). They applied for full membership in YEE. However they do not fit criteria for full membership, as they are first of all not entirely youth and secondly focus not only on environment. Therefore they might be considered only as potential associate members.

Yeghvard (Armenia). Applied for full membership and according to the information in their statutes they fulfil the criteria for being granted a status of full member.

InYouth (Ukraine). Applied for associate membership. However the information indicated in their statutes and contained at their webpage does not allow to come to clear conclusion in regard to their activity. Hence it was decided to ask additional questions of clarification in order to be able to make concrete recommendations to the GA.

Biodiversa (Spain). Applied for associate membership. Neither Mercedes nor Tijana have so far been able to study carefully their application coming making up their mind on a recommendation. Therefore it was decided that both of them will take additional time to consider the four applications and to draft a report to be sent for approval to the whole Board. The report is to be sent till June 5 with the Board providing its comments till June 12.

- celebration of YEE 30-th anniversary

At the AM 2013 YEE will celebrate its 30-th anniversary. The Board and the Secretariat want to prepare something special to have the event memorable. It was agreed to create a shared doc to collect ideas on what can be done for celebration.

6. AOB

There have been no other businesses brought up for discussion.