



NEWSLETTER

Special edition
Annual Meeting 2010



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Editorial team:

Gosia Zubowicz, Gemma Tracey, Paulina Piasecka

Editorial

Dear Readers of the YEE Newsletter,

To improve the environment you can work on anything that allows you to interact with your surroundings and help to improve them. This means that cleaning up your surroundings, energy saving etc. can all form part of your work for a more environmentally friendly society. Indeed, even thinking about improving your surroundings, writing about it, and telling others is work to improve the environment. So let's work together to create an environmentally aware public!

This issue of the YEE Newsletter is dedicated to the Annual Meeting, which was held this August in Josefov-Adamov, Czech Republic. The meeting resulted in many fruitful outcomes and these will ensure the new Board of YEE will work with even more enthusiasm to achieve YEE's strategic and development goals, as well as allowing the organisation to explore opportunities for securing funds.

YEE is like a web, which embraces and unites more than 40 organisations from all over Europe, and at the Annual Meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming some new members. Five organisations applied to join our federation, and two applications were successful with

EcoCenter Zapovedniks from Russia and Baobaby from Czech Republic joining us as associate members.

This year I think it is important to strengthen YEE's role as a direct link between Member Organisations. This linking role ensures that there is a platform where Member Organisations can work together, thus resulting in effective mutual cooperation.

In your work over the coming year I call on you to be positive in your approach. Rise above the negative things and make them irrelevant. This is how nature works.

On behalf of the Board I would like to extend my many thanks to all of you who are realising the idea of YEE and who have been greatly contributing to it with your ongoing support.

YOUTH need to be given the opportunities to learn and develop lifelong eco-friendly habits and skills to protect the environment. So let's make it happen with the united effort of YEE!

All the best,
Nazineh Khalafyan
Chairperson of YEE

Top Secret Diary of the Annual Meeting 2010

Have you ever wondered what happens at the YEE Annual Meeting? Are you interested in how we spent our days deep in the Moravian countryside this August? Well, you are about to find out! We are going to let you read our diary of the whole event, which will give you a detailed, day by day account of what was happening at the Annual Meeting 2010.

Arrival, Sunday 8th

On Sunday evening all the participants arrived in Josefov - Adamov, Czech Republic and more specifically at the "Švýčárna" ecological center run by Hnutí Brontosaurus (section Modry Kamen), and the Annual Meeting was officially opened.

First day, Monday 9th

On Monday morning, the participants

had the opportunity to get to know each other better and to introduce their Member Organisations with some ice-breaking and team-building games, including an environmental treasure hunting that allowed us to explore the area around Švýčárna, and learn more about the nature in this region.

In the afternoon, each delegate introduced his/her Member Organisation through games and presentations, and of course all of the participants increased their knowledge of the other MOs. This is the first important step to building tighter connections between MOs so as to make our network more effective and to ensure we cooperate together!

Second day, Tuesday 10th

After everyone got to know the other participants and MOs through lots of fun



games on Monday once the sun rose on Tuesday morning we started working seriously.

The morning session was focused on the role of the Member Organizations inside the YEE network. We pointed out together what are the opportunities, the rights and the duties of every YEE member organization, refreshing everyone's knowledge as well as learning even more about what being a member of YEE actually means.

A very concrete way for the participants to get to grips with their rights and responsibilities as members of YEE was examining the proposed changes to the Member Organisation Policy (you can read more about the changes to this and other policies and documents on pages 24-25 of this newsletter). We all divided up into small groups and discussed the policy, reflected on our role within the federation, and raised any concerns we

had about the proposed changes.

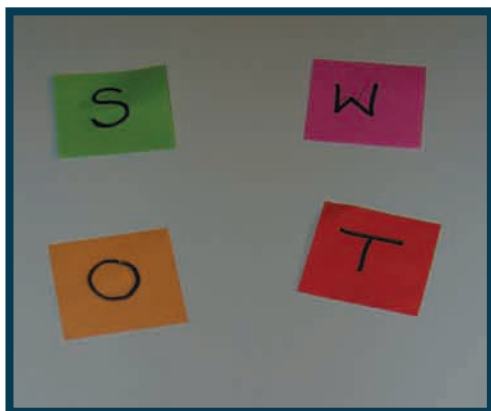
In the afternoon we got even more "real" with a session about projects. We started working on proposals of projects for the Working Plan 2011, and each participant prepared a draft project and presented it at the Project Fair. Then some of the projects were chosen for further development, and everyone selected the preparatory team to join and work in. Thanks to lots of hard work some of these projects were selected to be included in the YEE 2011 Working Plan.

This fruitful day ended with the popular Intercultural Party. Everyone had the opportunity to talk about his/her home country, we created some art pieces to describe where we come from in an interesting way and everybody had the pleasure to taste some local dishes and drinks... Well, intercultural learning includes good food too, why not?

Third day, Wednesday 11th

After the fun of the night before, Wednesday's serious sessions were about strategies.

In the morning, the participants worked on the YEE strategies: they split into small groups; they analyzed different problems and discussed how to solve



them. So, in the next months YEE will have a lot of good ideas to implement in order to improve its publications, its finances, its environmentally friendly behaviour and more.

Similar kind of work was done in the second morning session, but on a different level: this time it was about the strategies of the Member Organisations and the personal strategies of the participants for the coming year.

The afternoon activities were led by Hnutí Brontosaurus, our hosting organization for this Annual Meeting. After the demanding working groups of the morning session, the participants were

definitely ready for a healthy walk in the forest around Švýčárna, a visit to one of the many caves in this area and some relaxing environmental games. Kristy was a wonderful guide!

Just after dinner we welcomed the representative of Baobaby, one of the NGOs applying to become a member of YEE. Katka gave a presentation about her organization and answered questions from the Board and the delegates. The decision about applications for membership was taken on Friday – and Baobaby is now a new Member Organisation of YEE!

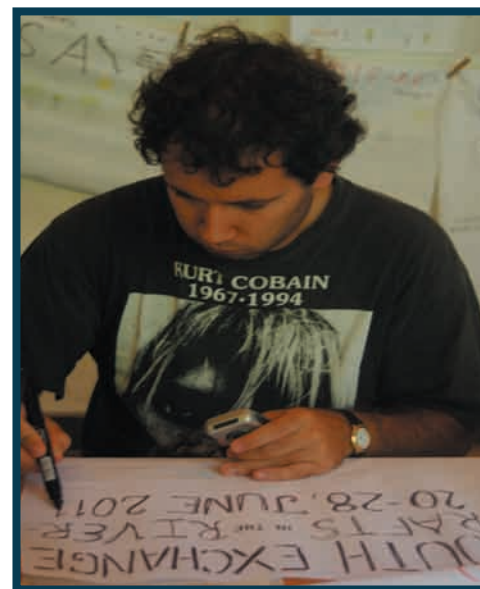


Fourth day, Thursday 12th

The morning sessions were reserved for discussing and preparing the draft project plans. The Secretariat organized a really useful session about applying for grants and funding. After this the delegates split up into small groups for a simulation of applying for a grant for their project. At the end of the morning we all got together and presented our projects to

a "Funding Committee" so that their proposals could be discussed in depth and any problems ironed out. Although it was hard work and quite intense, it was a very fruitful session and we were able to see how new projects were taking shape and get them ready for inclusion in the Working Plan 2011.

After lunch, the "official" part of the Annual Meeting was opened. Lots of serious stuff took place: the voting rights of the delegates from Full Member Organisations were verified (only Full Members can vote during the Annual Meeting, although Associate Members can take part in the discussions), a Chairperson for the Meeting was elected, the Electoral Committee was selected, and two hard-working volunteers offered to take the minutes. The participants then listened to the



Annual Report about the projects carried out last year by the federation, with the participation of many of the project leaders. Then Adriana, the Secretary General, presented the Financial Report. Finally, the Chairperson Anne and the other Board Members presented their personal reports for the last year, and the Board was officially cleared of their responsibilities. We gave them a big round of applause to thank them for their hard work, and they all looked quite relieved!

Democracy is good, but following all the correct procedures can be tiring... so, at the end of the day, participants deserved some relaxation in front of a fire here in Svycarna! And trying to make a bonfire out of wet branches and damp timber was a challenging team-building exercise!



Fifth day, Friday 13th

The day started with the Secretariat report: the office team gave an account of their work during the last year.

In the morning, a representative from another organization applying for membership, EcoCenter Zapovedniks from Russia introduced their NGO to all the participants. Then the Membership Acceptance and Membership Cancellation issues were discussed. Two organisations – Baobaby from Czech Republic and EcoCenter Zapovedniks from Russia – were accepted as Associate Members. Welcome to our team!

The afternoon session (about the approval of the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure) was long and hard but very fruitful. After a couple of years of work, discussions and proposals, finally a lot of important amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure were discussed and adopted. Hopefully, these changes will help the Federation to be more effective, more transparent and will bring it closer to the needs of its MOs.

The nominations for the new Executive Board Members were opened at the end of the day. The next day the representatives of Full Member Organizations had the responsibility to elect a new YEE board.

Sixth day, Saturday 14th

Another day of the official Annual Meeting. This turned out to be a long day of many discussions. Although many of us were very tired, we also realized that the discussions were very important for the future of the organisation.

We started the day with the approval of a new Working Plan for 2011. Each preparatory team had to present the project that they prepared together during the previous days, explain the aims of the project and describe it. YEE has many interesting projects to realize in the following year.

The General Assembly discussed the proposition of new policies, which are very detailed and help to regulate the work of the Federation. Furthermore,

many short-term strategies were approved so now we all have to work hard to realize our goals.

The day finished with the most exciting part – the election of a new board for 2010/2011. Candidates presented themselves, answered questions and in this way 7 new board members were elected.

Seventh day, Sunday 15th

After very intensive days of the discussion and decision-making the participants needed to find some last bits of energy for the interesting activities that had been prepared for the final day.

The new board members joined the experienced, old board for a training course – to learn how to manage the federation, which tasks to implement and how to organize work in the most effective way. They also took part in the first board meeting and already took some decisions!

The rest of participants have visited a nearby cave (the second longest system of caves in the Czech Republic, which is usually closed to the public) and the nearby steelworks museum.

Later the project teams met again to create a creative call for partners for their projects. It will help them to find partners and participants for their projects.

All participants met in the afternoon for a workshop about the YEE website. The website is designed to be very interactive and all sections are open for con-



tributions from member organisations. Participants discovered many useful tips and tools that the website offers and discovered how to co-create the website with us.

After a week of hard work, our YEE meeting finished with an important ingredient: evaluation. Participants were able to express their impressions and comments from the Annual Meeting in many ways: physically, orally and on paper. We all particularly enjoyed attaching a bit of paper to our backs and using them to write messages to other people – it was important to share nice and touching thoughts with our new friends.

At the end, we stood together one last time in a circle (our favourite shape) and connected the whole group with a string while sharing our wishes for the future with each other. It was a symbol of our network – the connection, cooperation and friendships that we hope to keep for the whole upcoming year.

Francesco Ballone (EVS, YEE Office)
Gosia Zubowicz (YEE Main Coordinator)



Meet the YEE Executive Board 2010-2011

Each year at our Annual Meeting we elect the new Executive Board of YEE. Over the following year they guide, support and develop the organisation. So, who are the people looking after YEE this year? Where do they come from and what are their aims as Executive Board members? The Newsletter team asked them each 8 important questions. So, without further ado, I introduce you to the Youth & Environment Europe Executive Board 2010!

Nazineh Khalafyan Chairperson



- 1) What is your name?
Nazineh Khalafyan
- 2) How young/old are you?
25

- 3) Where do you live?
Yerevan, Armenia
- 4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I have two degrees: a MA in English Linguistics and a LLB (Bachelor of Laws). At present I am conducting training and seminars on combatting human trafficking; working as the External Relations Development Coordinator at the Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia; and of course have recently started coordinating and continuing the development of YEE as Chairperson.

- 5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia

- 6) Why did you want to be a member of the the YEE Board?

Being a YEE board member is a mutually beneficial transaction since I put in my strength and knowledge to cultivate the organization, and meanwhile feel as young as possible by being a part of YEE.

- 7) What is your main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member?

Contributing to the further development of YEE.

- 8) And one last question for you Nazineh: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

I would take the following items:

1. knife
2. compass
3. water
4. dehydrated food
5. medical kit
6. solar powered ipod/radio
7. a pregnant chicken (it will lay eggs, so I won't stay hungry and in several months I will have a chicken industry)
8. somebody who would know how to get me off the island :)

Anna Yelisseyeva Treasurer



- 1) What is your name?
Anna Yelisseyeva
- 2) How young/old are you?
23
- 3) Where do you live?
I'm from Ukraine and I currently live in

Brussels.

- 4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I have a Master's degree in economic statistics from Dnipropetrovsk National University, Ukraine, and a second Master's in pure economics from Bologna University, Italy. I am currently working in Brussels.

- 5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

My mother organisation is Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovya (MELP), Ukraine and I have been involved in the environmental movement since 2003.

- 6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

I decided to become a member of the YEE Board since I am eager to implement all the ideas included in the policy documents which we adopted during the Annual Meeting this year.

- 7) What is your main aim as a 2010-2011 Board Member?

I am sure that with such a perfect board we can improve the internal structure and enhance the external visibility of the organisation, not forgetting to enjoy life at the same time.

- 8) And one last question for you Anna: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

If I was sent to a Desert Island I would take my friends with me, as long as they agreed :)

Jana Prochowski
Member Organisation Officer
(EU countries)



1) What is your name?

Jana Prochowski

2) How young/old are you?

21 years

3) Where do you live?

I live in Marburg, Germany

4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I study psychology

5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

I am a member of DJN (this stands for Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung in German which translates as "German Youth Club for Nature Observation")

6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

Because I understood that it is important to take on responsibility if I want our net-

work to stay as good as it has been... and maybe to develop it even further.

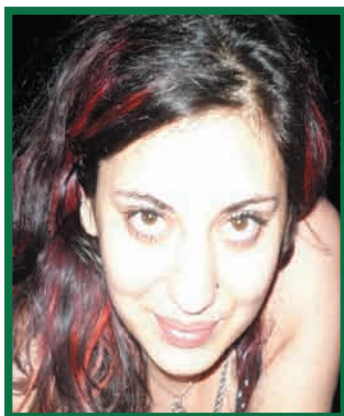
7) What is your main aim as a 2010-2011 Board Member?

As I am one of the Member Organisation Officers, I will do my best to get you more involved ;)

8) And one last question for you Jana: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

Well, I would like to break the rules of a desert island and take people with me... also a guitar, an ecological farm and a solar oven from Portugal! :)

Yana Muradova
Member Organisation Officer
(non-EU countries)



1) What is your name?

Yana Muradova

2) How young/old are you?

26 years old

3) Where do you live?

Tbilisi, Georgia

4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I work in business.

5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

SAEM - Georgia Youth EcoMovement

6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

I decided to become a YEE Board Member to get to know YEE better from the inside and also to bring my own contribution to the organisation

7) What is your main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member?

My main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member is to develop the cooperation between youth organisations with the help of YEE.

8) And one last question for you Yana: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

Well, I would take something practical with me, something like a good Swiss army knife!

Irena Oupicova
Projects Officer



1) What is your name?

Irena Oupicova

2) How young/old are you?

21 and half, approximately

3) Where do you live?

I live in the Czech Republic, mostly in the capital - Prague. However, I am able to call my tent "home" wherever it is.

4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I study Biochemistry at Charles University in Prague. I also do voluntary work whenever it is possible.

5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

Hnutí Brontosaurus (which translates as Brontosaurus Movement) from the Czech Republic

6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

It is a soup of many ingredients: a litre of desire to help YEE, a heaped spoonful of curiosity, one big wish to be a part of such a good team, a slice of responsibility and a pinch of masochism. Cook the soup for three days to eliminate doubts!

7) What is your main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member?

As many successful projects as possible.

8) And one last question for you Irena: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

Oh, I have a very clear answer: of course I would take a laptop with a satellite connection so that I could fulfil my YEE responsibilities, The Mysterious Island

written by Jules Verne, and a packet of Smarties. Not necessarily in that order of importance!

Kyrylo Ivliev **External Relations Officer**



1) What is your name?

Kyrylo Ivliev

2) How young/old are you?

21 years

3) Where do you live?

I live in a big industrial city called Dnipropetrovsk which is situated in the eastern part of Ukraine

4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I have recently graduated from the Dnipropetrovsk National University with a Bachelor of Laws degree and now I'm studying in Moscow towards the degree of Master of Laws.

5) Which YEE Member Organisation are you a member of?

I'm a member of Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia (MELP)

6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

I wanted to become a member of YEE Board for a variety of reasons. First of all it is a great opportunity to work together with the other motivated young people on a range of interesting projects and to help other people with the implementation of their projects; secondly it is a great opportunity to spread the idea of the importance of environmental protection through such a large and strong federation as YEE; thirdly it is a way to multilaterally develop my personality and to gain lots of useful knowledge and many other skills.

7) What is your main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member?

My main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member is to continue representing YEE at various international events and in relations with others organisations as well as to encourage Member Organisations to represent our federation in their own countries.

8) And one last question for you Kyrylo: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

If I were sent to a Desert Island, I would take many things with me! Of course I would take my favorite music, such as Andrea Bocelli, Schiller and Moby. I would also take books written by my favorite authors: Paulo Coelho, Lev Tol-

stoy, Mikhail Bulgakov etc. As for food, I would take many spices, as I prefer spicy food, and my favorite kind of rice – Basmati. As for drinks, I would take lots of tea, especially green tea.

Gemma Tracey **Publications & Promotion Officer**



1) What is your name?

Gemma Tracey

2) How young/old are you?

28 (I feel quite old ...)

3) Where do you live?

London, United Kingdom

4) What do you do (studies and/or work)?

I work as a researcher, conducting surveys of politicians, and am also studying for a Master's degree in Russian Studies. My aim is to do research into why there are so few women in politics.

5) Which YEE Member Organisation

are you a member of?

Look East Wild Earth

6) Why did you want to be a member of the YEE Board?

This year's Annual Meeting gave me 3 reasons to become a YEE Board Member. Reason number 1: the activities, seminars and discussions made me really enthusiastic about the work of YEE. Reason number 2: I was inspired by the hard work and enthusiasm of the 2009-2010 Board and the members of the Secretariat. Reason number 3: I saw that I cannot expect other people to do all the hard work to make YEE strong, so wanted to make my own contribution.

7) What is your main aim as a 2010-11 Board Member?

I think the YEE publications are a great way for us to share the results from our projects, training courses and exchanges. My main aim over the next year is to work with Gosia and others in the Secretariat to ensure our publications share this knowledge far and wide, and to make others see that YEE is an organisation they should be involved with too.

8) And one last question for you Gemma: If you were sent to a Desert Island what would you take with you?

I would take a lifetime's supply of coffee, a big and comfortable armchair, and a "teach yourself Czech" book, because I really liked hearing the Czech language at the Annual Meeting but sadly could not understand very much!

Welcoming new members to the YEE family

One of the most pleasant responsibilities of the Annual Meeting is to approve applications from organisations to become members of YEE. This year five organisations applied to join, and two organisations were approved and welcomed as new members. In this article we wanted to give space to the two

new Member Organisations to tell us a bit about themselves.

And if your organisation is not yet a member of YEE but would like to join, then take a look at our website (www.yeenet.eu) where you can find out more as well as the email addresses to contact if you have any questions.

O.S.BAOBABY



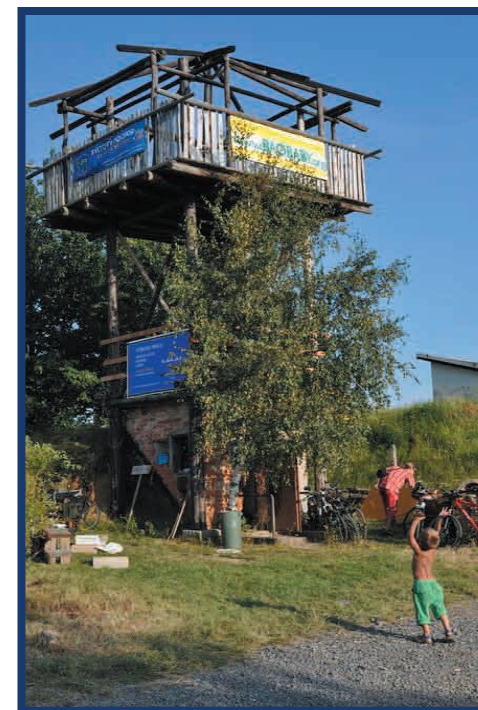
BAOBABY

O.S.BAOBABY is an interest group of friends and youth associations participating in the development of environmentally friendly construction. Members of Baobaby see the potential in a gradually evolving field of natural building, which uses straw, clay, wood and scrap items as the main building materials. The main mission of O.S. Baobaby is the development and promotion of this sector in the context of sustainable development and a socially equitable and moral lifestyle.

We are trying to study the available information (books, media, internet) about this field and we also actively meet with young people who are involved in this kind of construction. However, we gain most of our experience from helping

these people construct their own buildings. Baobaby is based in the village of Hostišová in the Zlín area of Czech Republic, where we have land on which we can build our experimental facilities. So far, we have completed a small children's playhouse, a family house, an observation tower made of natural materials, as well as a playground.

Last year we held 5 weekend work-



shops, involving a total of 110 young participants. We shared basic information about natural building and participants tried out for themselves working with clay plaster (see image on the previous page). Our workshops continue! We also give presentations and this year it was our great joy to hold a course called Building with Nature, supported by Youth in Action, together with other nongovernmental organisations from the Czech and Slovak Republics – O.S. Konopa and O.S. Silezika and the student group End of Concrete. Over 9 days, 40 young people worked on the construction of a building with clay and straw using their skills in art, permaculture, renewable en-

ergy use and composting. These practical exercises complemented lectures given by Czech and Slovak experts, games, intercultural and artistic activities.

In Hostišová we also created an experimental low energy house of straw, surrounded by natural gardens, which uses rain water and solar and wind power. The house was constructed from locally sourced renewable or recycled materials, all at minimal cost and with a certain degree of improvisation! During one workshop we built a playground from mud, wood, stone and planted grass.

Participants presented the results of the course during the Composed Hostišová Festival, which provides a forum for important topics related to sustainable development through lectures, film screenings, presentations given by non-governmental organisations and businesses with an environmental focus. There is information about our activities and work on our website – www.baobaby.org - which is also a space for people to ask technical questions about construction and to have discussions.

Through our work in sustainable construction we have been able to reach a wide range of young people, and we continue to cooperate with many of the participants in our courses by assisting them with their own construction projects.

We also work with other non-profit environmental organizations, such as the Ecological Institute Veronica, O.S.Konopa, CZ Biom, Earthen Architecture Association, Ekodům and others, as well as with universities – in particular the Faculty of Architecture and Building from Brno and Bratislava Universities. We work with regional media, eco-minded companies and municipalities in Hostiřová, and this cooperation provides us with support, including in the form of land. Both within and around Baobaby there is a gradual development of a community of people who want to both professionally and personally contribute to increasing the quality of our life, and the effectiveness of our actions, in our region.

As Baobaby President Viktor Karlik

explains about our activities: “The study of natural engineering is still in its infancy and this is why it needs to develop. The basic idea is to work on creative projects and meet young people from related disciplines, which will enable future cooperation and create the conditions for the interconnected development of natural building and society towards sustainability”.

We want to share information and knowledge with young people from across Europe who are looking for an organic and ecological way of life.

Katka Hanacikova
(Baobaby, Czech Republic)



Environmental Education Centre “Zapovedniks”, Russia



EcoCentre “Zapovedniks” is a Russian NGO that was established in 1997. The organisation’s work is focused on Russia’s “Zapovedniks”. So, what is a “Zapovednik”?

Zapovedniks are nature reserves protected by strict regulations – “protected areas” is probably the best translation for them in English. As Natalia Dalinina, Director of the EcoCenter, explained these Zapovedniks are arguably the most traditional and most important form of natural protected area in Russia. Their existence ensures the preservation of flora and fauna in Russia, such as European bison and the last remaining areas of virgin steppe. The people who work in the Zapovedniks focus not only on the preservation of nature but also on education for local people, especially schoolchildren. (Source: Natalia Danilina, The Zapovedniks of Russia, George Wright Forum, Volume 18, No.21, 2001.)

EcoCenter Zapovedniks seeks to provide support to these Protected Areas and environmental education to the public. The organisation does this in a number of ways:

- Providing help to run environmental education activities;
- Organising volunteer activities in the

Protected Areas;

- Organising activities aimed at ensuring the public understand the importance of the protected areas;
- Organising volunteer activities in the Protected Areas;
- Capacity building and training of specialists so that they can provide environmental education in the Protected Areas;
- Co-ordination of biodiversity conservation projects which involve a wide range of local stakeholders;
- Development of pro-biodiversity business in Protected Areas;
- Consultation work for local companies and residents;
- Seeking stronger political support for PA regionally and nationally;
- Organising workshops and training courses about environmental education;
- Publication of literature about the Protected Areas;
- Organisation of various events (exhibitions, festivals, etc.) in order to raise awareness about the Protected Areas.

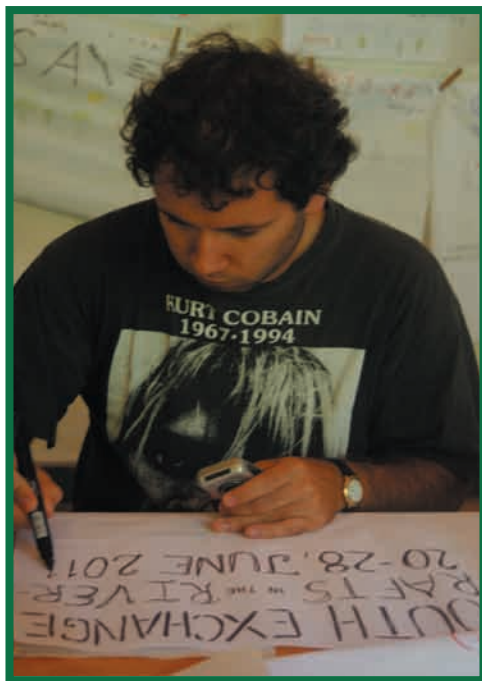
If you want to find out more about EcoCenter Zapovedniks then check out their website: <http://www.wildnet.ru/>



What I thought of the YEE Annual Meeting 2010 Comments from participants...

What is it like to participate in Youth & Environment Europe's Annual Meeting? The newsletter team asked a group of veterans from this year's Annual Meeting to share their thoughts and memories with us.

Paulo de Morais
(OPE, Portugal)



First of all, I have to say that I didn't really know what YEE was before this year's Annual Meeting. I was a bit

disappointed with my organisation because sometimes I felt so "lost"; I expected some more preparation for this AM but, actually, they didn't know much about it either... Anyway, we are a "baby" organisation with just one year of YEE membership and from now on I'm sure we will articulate some new words!

I really liked the meeting but now, some weeks later, I like it even more (!), because I can see the importance it will have to the future of our organisation, OPE. We are now motivated as never before; the ideas that Filipe and I brought from the Czech Republic to Portugal were enthusiastically accepted.

About the AM itself I could say a lot, starting with the beautiful country that hosted us, the good organisation of the AM, but I prefer to emphasize the unique group of people brought together during that one week. I felt some good spirit connecting all of us, if you want call it determination to achieve the same goal: to have a better Environment!

That's what we all want, isn't it?! Yes, it is!

Michal Svec
(YEE Office)

I have only been working at YEE since 1st July this year and the Annual Meeting was my first outdoor activity. I really appreciated having the opportunity to work in nature instead of sitting behind the office computer. The meeting venue was very well chosen; it is always nice to go to the middle of the forest, breath clean air, drink fresh water and have a rest from the



hectic everyday life in the overcrowded and polluted cities we live in. Of course, a nice meeting venue is not enough for a successful and fruitful Annual Meeting. The most important element was the participants with their active attitude to work. I was amazed how quickly different people, from many different countries

and with different cultural backgrounds, can start effectively working together on projects and develop them quite fast. We only spent one week together, but everybody who actively participated and contributed to the programme gained a huge amount of experience and knowledge as a reward. In such a short time we managed to do a lot of important work, strengthen our network, find new friends and – last but not least – have loads of fun! I hope everybody enjoyed the AM as much as me!

Anna Zhdanova
(LUGA, Russia)

The 2010 Annual Meeting of YEE took a place in Švýčárna, Czech Republic. It was my first time in the Czech Republic and I really liked being there. I visited Prague, Brno and a nature reserve. Indeed, the Annual Meeting itself took place in a nature reserve. It was a great



place with great people. We enjoyed participating in a lot of funny games and very interesting excursions in nature. It was my first YEE Annual Meeting and I learned a lot of useful information. Thank you to the organizers for this event!

Kristyna Ondrejova
(Hnutí Brontosaurus, Czech Republic)

First of all I want to say I really enjoyed being at the YEE Annual Meeting.

I was invited as a guest to Švýčárna

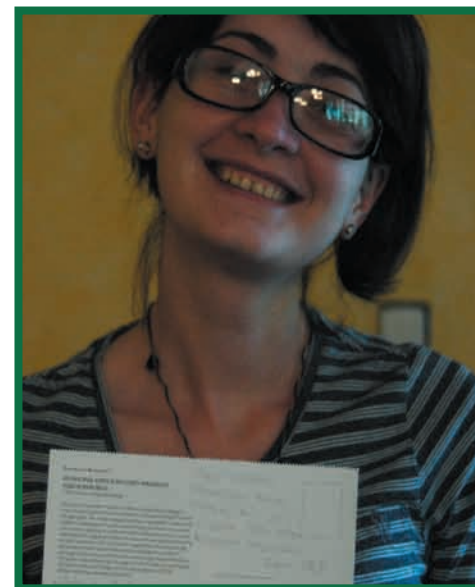
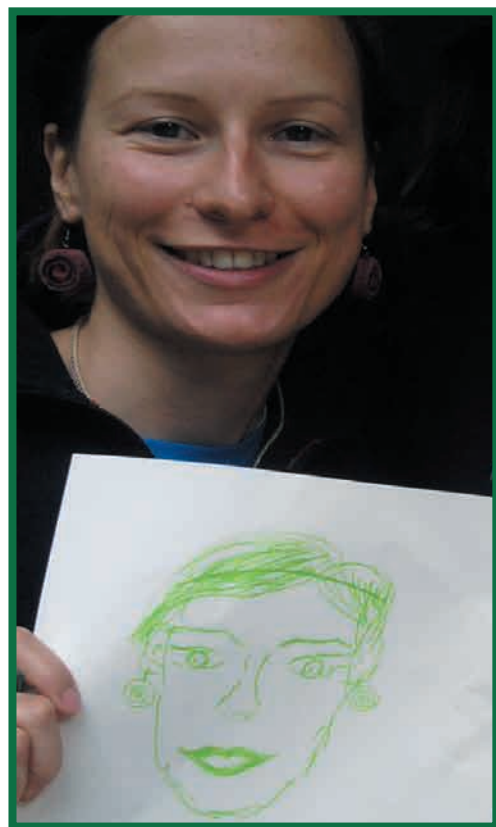
(the location for the AM) to provide some tours and free time activities for the rest of the team. It was an easy job for me as I am a representative and a volunteer of the Brontosaurus Movement, with knowledge of the surrounding Moravian Karst area – I really enjoyed showing all the participants around!

It was also easy to get involved in everything that was happening within the YEE AM. I appreciated the structure of the AM, which let everyone get involved. It was a pleasure to meet many interesting and enthusiastic people involved in ecology and youth work. It is great to connect mutual interests and create common international projects together. I wish for the success of these projects as well as the development of Brontosaurus Movement at the international level over the coming year.

The most inspiring thing about the AM for me was the enthusiasm, commitment and daring of some of the Board members and Secretariat. You guys were working to the maximum. Thank you for giving your best!

Nino Kheladze
(ASA, Georgia)

Hello to everybody who now reads my opinion about the Annual Meeting 2010. I could express my feelings about the meeting in three words: "It was Fantastic!" However, I was asked to write



day I realized that I liked not only the place but the people as well. I met wonderful people from other organisations and we shared our experience and ideas, which was really useful for me and for my organisation. We discovered that we all have similar problems, we discussed them and started to think about how we could solve them.

As for the Annual Meeting itself, I can say that it was well organised by the Secretariat and the Board members, who did their best to answer all the questions that I had during the meeting. With their help, I learned more about YEE itself, its objectives and structure and also some other useful things that will assist me to do my job properly. Besides the serious part of the Annual Meeting, Hnutí Brontosaurus had some funny and interesting activities for us.

Everything that I mentioned above: people, place, YEE staff and Board Members made my stay there unforgettable. I want to say thank you to all of them for this.

more than 3 words, so now I will try to say a little more...

This was my first time as a participant in the YEE Annual Meeting, and so I would like to begin by thanking YEE and my organisation for giving me the chance to spend a week in a fantastic place with fantastic people. I arrived at the amazing Švýčárna, which is surrounded by beautiful forests and caves and on the same



New YEE official documents

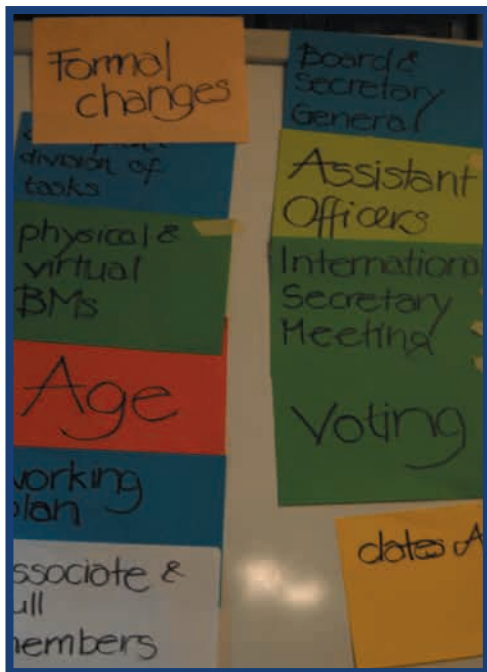
During this year's Annual Meeting participants discussed a set of proposed changes to the YEE official documents: Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Policies.

The process of making changes to these official documents actually began two years ago, when it became obvious that there was a need for clearer and more detailed documents. However, it took a lot of time to prepare these changes and even though they were discussed at the 2009 Annual Meeting, still more corrections and clarifications were needed to

make these key documents clear, correct and useful. The old set of official documents were created in 2004 and since then we have discovered that some things are not clearly explained, that others do not match the changing times and that other things were even contradictory.

To facilitate the process of discussing new changes the board divided the changes into the following themes: formal changes, division of tasks, physical and virtual board meetings, age, working plan, Associate and Full Member Organisations, Board and Secretary General, Assistant Officers, international secretary meeting, voting and dates of the Annual Meeting.

As Anne Kollien, the previous YEE Chairperson wrote in her email to Member Organisations before the meeting: "WHY all this? The proposals for changes that you receive this year are based on those that were made by the board of the previous year. In summary, we are trying to approve a new structure and version of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure that does not have to be discussed again year after year but will serve us for a longer time. The old one has - at least to some extent - become obsolete and at the present time there are several contradictions



between the YEE official documents. We really would like to solve these problems before our next business year!"

Anne Kollien dedicated lots of time to explaining the changes to all the delegates at the Annual Meeting – this was particularly helpful since she had been working on the changes during her time as YEE Chairperson and understood them inside and out. The participants in the Annual Meeting then discussed the changes, analysed them, asked for clarifications, and suggested corrections. The new official documents were then approved by the General Assembly (the General Assembly consists of the representatives of the Full Member Organisations attending the

Annual Meeting). If no Full Member Organisations oppose the changes in writing, then these will become the new YEE official documents.

These documents have been sent to all Member Organisations by email and you can also download them from our website. If you are not sure how something works within YEE, if you would like to understand better your role as a Member Organisation or you would like an explanation of terms like Annual Meeting or General Assembly then we recommend you take a look at these important documents.

Gosia Zubowicz
(YEE Main Coordinator)

Gemma Tracey
(Publications & Promotion Officer)



If you want to read all official documents from the Annual Meeting 2010, log in to the internal part of our website www.yeenet.eu and check the section **Annual Meeting 2010 - AM 2010 Final Documents.**

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) Working Plan 2010 - 2011

Adopted by the General Assembly, in Josefov-Adamov,
Czech Republic, August 14th 2010

Projects and Activities

Projects and activities of YEE for the executive year 2010-2011 will include a number of training courses, trainings for trainers, youth exchanges, seminars, networking projects, campaigns, local activities and annual events. YEE will continue to produce publications and the website will be updated and improved. During the previous years YEE has used “youth” and “environment” areas for funding and for setting up activities and will continue to apply for such funds for the activities in this Working Plan. Hopefully all activities will be implemented.



Training Courses

• Sustainable Tourism

(August 2011, Ohrid - Macedonia)

A training course which goal will be to define the role of NGOs in promotion of sustainable use of touristic potential in EU and non-EU countries (lakes, national parks, protected areas).

• I can lead! I can facilitate!

(July 2011, Czech Republic)

The training course ‘I can lead! I can facilitate!’ is projected for young people who are leaders, coordinators, youth workers in their organisations and want to improve their skills in leading projects, actions, managing groups. It will focus especially on young people working in the field of environmental protection.

Seminars

• European environmental law and youth participation

(Brussels or Strasbourg)

The aim of the seminar is to get to know European environmental law, raise awareness on youth participation in decision-making process and share best practices.

Youth Exchanges

• Waste Management and Renewable Energies

(June 2011, Portugal)

A youth exchange for young people to share experience on environmental management issues (waste management and recycling), ways of usage of renewable energy sources.

• Biodiversity – Let’s go to the roots

(July 2011, Armenia)

Youth exchange dedicated to awareness raising activities about biodiversity, information exchange and sharing of experience over current issues of conversion and wise use of wetlands and wetland biodiversity, endemic species of plants.

• Learning from each other – methods of environmental education

(April 2011, Czech Republic)

The Youth Exchange will present the best practices that youth environmental organisations use in their work with youth (for example: environmental and educational games, workshops, various outdoor activities) – all connected with methods of environmental education.

Networking Projects

• Environment and volunteerism / Together for environment (Partnership Building Activity - PBA)

(Late spring 2011, Armenia)

This PBA will connect youth organisations interested and working on environmental issues from European Union and Eastern European/Caucasian countries to discuss current environmental issues and the good practices of their organizations, to develop partnerships and to create new environmental joint projects.

• YEE Day

(One day in 2011, in each country of MOs)

By celebrating the YEE day we would like to strengthen networking and the feeling of being part of the YEE network as well as promote YEE. The idea is to organize the same action in each country and exchange experience.



Campaigns

• Schools go for green Europe

(August 2011-July 2012)

The main aim of the project is to raise awareness of sustainable lifestyle in Europe. It will be achieved by eco campaign

at primary and secondary schools with diverse eco activities in international context involving children and youth to take care over European nature and their living environment.

• Caring for the future? Caring for the forest!

(July-December 2011)

As year 2011 is declared by the UN the International Year of Forests, the main goal of this international information and education campaign is raising awareness about the importance of caring for the forest. By this campaign we aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of the role, impact and many benefits that forests have and bring into everyday life.

• Sunny Campaign

(web page update and upgrade)

The project will focus on updating the Sunny Campaign webpage with inputs from different countries of Europe with help of volunteers. Topics to cover: local, organic food, eco-clothes, housing, energy.



Local projects and activities

In order to spread information about YEE, raise awareness about environmental top-

ics in the Czech Republic, establish volunteer base in Prague and participate in world days celebrations and environmental campaigns and projects, we would like to organize several low-cost activities in Prague, especially in Toulcuv Dvur, seat of YEE office.

YEE in Toulcuv Dvur eco farm – joining 2 events / year:

- YEE stand at Toulcuv Dvur activities (e.g. Biodozinky, Day of the Earth etc.)
- Promotion of YEE, information about environmental topics, competitions for children

World Water Monitoring Day

- YEE water monitoring team measuring the quality of water
- Spreading information about WWMD through YEE webpage
- Call for public to join water monitoring team, communication with Czech media



Working weekends – Brontosaurus weekend

- YEE joining the weekend activities of Hnutí Brontosaurus

YEE promo at fairs and festivals

- NGO market (March/April 2011, Prague)
- United Islands of Prague music festival (June 2011)

Workshop for Czech eco centers and environmental NGOs

- One day / afternoon, Toulcuv Dvur
- Information about YEE and possibilities of international activities

World Days celebrations

- Information campaigns at YEE webpage

Publications

Y&E Magazine

2010 - 2011 – two issues per year

- First half of the year – ‘Learning from each other – methods of environmental education’ (connected with the Youth Exchange)
- Second half of the year – to be decided

YEE Newsletters

2010 - 2011

In a new format as e-newsletter, 4 issues per year



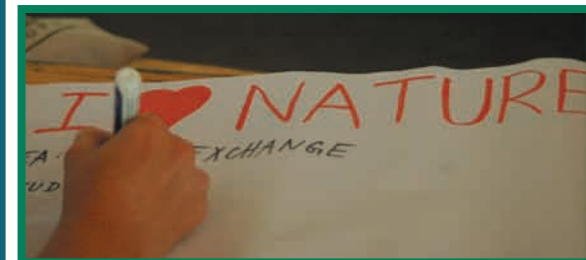
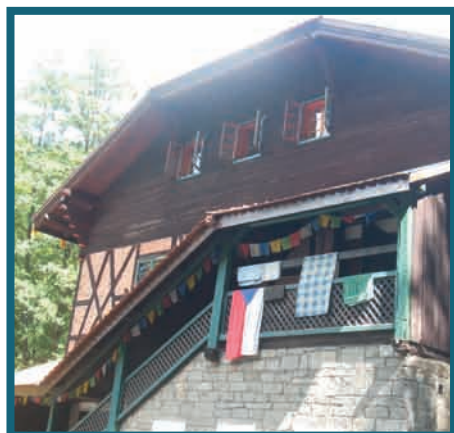
Website

Improvement of the interactive YEE website



If you want to read the whole YEE Working Plan 2010/2011, log in to the internal part of our website www.yeenet.eu and check the section **Annual Meeting 2010 - AM 2010 Final Documents.**

If you have some questions about YEE projects or you want to be a partner for our projects, contact YEE office at: yee@yeenet.eu



Publication of Youth and Environment Europe

**YEE Office
Toulcov Dvur
Kubatova 1/32
102 00 Praha 10 - Hostivar
Czech Republic**

**www.yeenet.eu
yee@yeenet.eu**

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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