

Report of the YEE External Relations Officer Zaruhi Stepanyan Work year 2013-2014

Dear Colleagues,

This is my second mandate as the External Relations Officer of Youth and Environment Europe.

Throughout these twelve months being in YEE Board a lot of things have happened and a lot of actions have been taken.

Right at the beginning of my mandate, together with the Secretariat and other members of the preparatory team we started working on the project Youth for Rivers which took place 6-12 October 2013. We worked very hard on it and since my organization was the hosting one, I was responsible mostly for the logistics. Finally, the project went very well and was quite successful.

This year, during my mandate, I had to attend four events for representation (General Assembly of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Board Meeting and two Council of Members of European Youth Forum (YFJ)). It was possible for me to attend only the Board meeting of YEE which took place in January 2014, the Council of Members of YFJ which took place in Thessaloniki in November 2013 and the other COMEM which took place in Brussels in April 2014. Furthermore, in October 2013 I also represented YEE by substituting Kyrylo Ivliev in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe meeting, where YEE was a member in 2012/2013. Unfortunately, I could not attend the General Assembly of EEB in October 2013, however, we managed to organize the representation, which was done by the Chairperson of YEE Anja Wilken. In June 2014 we also organized representation of YEE in the United Nations Environmental Assembly, where YEE was represented by Sara Svenson.

Trying to keep track on EEB, YEE Board also decided to become member of one of the working groups of EEB. So, I did become a member of the Energy Savings working group, which unfortunately is not that active yet.

Another good thing which we made happen as a Board of YEE this year is that we started working on the creation of the Pool of Representatives (PoR) of YEE. I was responsible for making the call and contact with the applicants. We had quite a lot of applications and finally we selected five members of the PoR. The work on the Pool started in mid June so hopefully the members will soon start already representing YEE in External Events.

I was also selected to participate the World Conference on Youth which took place in May 2014 in Sri Lanka. The aim of this conference was to gather youth from all the countries to discuss the Post-2015 agenda together. I made a lot of new contacts there, which hopefully will have its result for YEE.

As the Vice-Chairperson, I was responsible for one skype call which the Chairperson could not attend. Also, I was responsible for the collection of monthly action memos and plans which I tried to send and collect every month.

During the Physical Board Meeting, with almost all the Board Members and the Office we created the agenda of the Annual Meeting 2014 and divided the agenda into several parts on which we are now working. Additionally, I took part in e-mail discussions in case if some problems needed solutions.

I also wrote articles for the webpage and the newsletter about the external events I had the chance to attend.

This is the short overview of the work done by me during my second mandate in Youth and Environment Europe. I am very proud to be a part of YEE and am grateful to the Board and Secretariat for their hard work and support.

In case you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Zaruhi Stepanyan