

Youth and Environment Europe

Annual Report

2013 – 2014

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 45 European youth organisations that study nature and/or are active in environmental protection. These member organisations come together from 26 countries. The mission of YEE is to unite environmental youth non-profit organisations in Europe in order to enhance international cooperation, increase knowledge about nature, raise awareness of environmental problems and to strengthen participation of youth in environmental decision-making. We aim to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection and to provide a platform where these organisations can work together.

In 1983 YEE derived from the European branch of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) which was founded in 1956 under the sponsorship of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). After the first Annual Meeting in 1983 YEE office was settled in Denmark. Then in 1990, the headquarters was moved to Utrecht in the Netherlands. Finally, the office was moved to Prague in 1998, as the Czech Republic was more central and more accessible to the growing number of NGOs from Eastern part of the European continent. Now it is based in the Ecological Centre Toulcův Dvůr, what provides a big advantage in organising joint events, campaigns and trainings.

Our objective is to offer young people the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and experiences, and to learn more about the protection of nature. For this, YEE is linking activities of member organisations on international level. Another aim is to raise public awareness on environmental problems through international actions.

A large number of YEE activities are carried out on international, national or local level, by YEE Member Organisations and the YEE Secretariat. These activities include exchange of information through our publications, training courses, youth exchanges, work-meetings and campaigns on topics our Member Organisations deal with.

YEE realises that taking care of the environment means taking care of our future. Young people that YEE works with are the future and in YEE they have the voice. That is why thanks to YEE they can work together for a better future.

Structure

Executive Board

According to the YEE Statutes valid since 2013, the Executive Board of YEE consists of six people – members of the YEE Member Organisations representing at least four different countries. The Board is made up from volunteers, being elected every summer during the Annual Meeting by the General Assembly and is entitled to follow the decisions of the General Assembly.

The 2013-2014 YEE Executive Board was elected in July 2013 during the Annual Meeting:

Chairperson – Anja Wilken (FÖJ-Aktiv, Germany)

Vice-Chair & External Relations Officer – Zaruhi Stepanyan (Khazer, Armenia)

Treasurer – Francesco Chiechi (Mine Vaganti NGO, Italy)

Projects Officer – Bianca Badea (Green Echoes Association, Romania)

Publications and Promotion Officer – Vasily Bashutkin (EYC, Russia)

Member Organizations Officer – Lira Hakani (EDEN Center, Albania)

During the period of 2013-2014, the Executive Board had two physical meetings – one right after the AM 2013 and the second in January 2014 in Prague. There will be one more physical board meeting, right before the AM 2014. There were also 13 virtual Skype meetings held during the business year 2013-2014.

Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of paid employees who are appointed and guided by the Executive Board and of the EVS volunteers. The work of the Secretariat is coordinated by the Secretary General.

Secretary General: Mercedes Fioravanti Álvarez

Main Coordinator: Natalia Luchko

The Secretariat participated in both physical Board Meetings and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in the period of 2013-2014.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EVS (European Voluntary Service) is a project within Action 2 of the European Commission's Programme "Youth in Action". The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU.

The EVS project in YEE consist of three parts: work in the YEE office, work at Toulcův dvůr (the ecological centre where the YEE office is located) and on a personal project.

During 2013-2014 YEE office hosted 4 EVS volunteers.

Volunteers hosted through the EVS programme:

- Jessica Massucco (UK - until 04/2014)
- Jesus de la Hoz Trapero (Spain - until 04/2014)
- Kristina Huda (Albania - since 04/2014)
- Roxana-Maria Nica (Romania - since 04/2014)

Development of the organisation

Internally

- Experience from the previous Board was transferred to the new Board elected in the Annual Meeting 2013, resulting in the fulfilment of the Working Plan 2013-2014 and close cooperation between Board and Secretariat.
- New members of YEE accepted at the Annual Meeting 2013 have already contributed to the work of the federation by means of cooperation with old Member Organisations and participation in YEE projects.
- YEE involved more Member Organisations in the work of the federation, now we have more active members participating in international actions.
- Internal Audit was successfully carried out in June 2014. Recommendations from this Internal Audit and the one from the previous year had been taken into consideration and when possible adopted in the Secretariat and when organising projects.
- Media tools were developed: further improvements of the official YEE webpage; development of the official YEE page on Facebook and other social networks.
- A Pool of Representatives for external events has been created. The Board and Secretariat selected 5 representatives according to motivation, experience and geographical and gender balance.

Externally

In the period from August 2013 to July 2014 YEE has been represented in the following events:

- EEB Annual Conference and Annual Meeting held on 18-20 October 2013 in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Anja Wilken, Chairperson of YEE.
- Black Sea Youth Forum held on 6-12 November 2013 in Sochi, Russia.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum held on 22-24 November in Thessaloniki, Greece.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- Seminar “Meet Erasmus +” organised by the Czech National Agency on 16 January 2014 in Prague, the Czech Republic.
YEE was represented by Mercedes Fioravanti and Natalia Luchko, Secretariat of YEE.
- EYF (R)evolution organised by the European Youth Foundation and held on 11-14 March in Strasbourg, France.
YEE was represented by Mercedes Fioravanti, Secretary General of YEE.
- Council of Members of the European Youth Forum held on 25-26 April in Brussels, Belgium.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- European Youth Event held on 9-11 May 2014 in Strasbourg, France.
YEE was represented by Kristina Huda, EVS volunteer in YEE.
- World Conference on Youth held on 6-10 May 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
YEE was represented by Zaruhi Stepanyan, External Relations Officer of YEE.
- United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held on 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.
YEE was represented by Sara Svensson, YEE Board member in 2006-2008.

Contact with new organisations and making new partnerships

Four new organisations became members of YEE at the Annual Meeting 2013. More than 12 new organisations took part in YEE projects getting to know our network better and establishing stronger partnership with us.

Activities from the Working Plan 2013

The following projects were implemented in the second half of 2013 and are part of the 2013 YEE Working Plan:

Training Courses

1. ***“Youth participation for the environment”, July 13-19, Svycharna, Josefov, Adamov, Czech Republic (Title in the Working Plan: Study Session “Youth participation”)***

The Training Course “Youth Participation for Environment” was especially designed for youth leaders in YEE's member organisations. The course focused on methods that motivate young people to participate in environmental actions. The participants were trained in how to attract youth to their organisations by appealing to the needs of their target groups. They shared ideas on how to increase the visibility of their projects and inspire youth for more involvement in the protection of the environment. The programme included practical examples and group work to ensure participants could practise certain techniques. A dedicated session about funding opportunities informed participants about financial and logistical possibilities.

It was also an opportunity for the YEE Secretariat to discover the current needs of its member organisations.

The project was organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with Hnutí Brontosaurus, the hosting organisation. Hnutí Brontosaurus received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme.

2. ***“Youth for Rivers”, October 6-13, 2013, Aghveran, Armenia (Title in the Working Plan: “River restoration”)***

The main aim of the project was to provide participants with practical tools and knowledge to be able to contribute to the development and improvement of the state of European river systems.

This project gathered 22 young Europeans from over 10 countries for one week to learn about river ecosystem improvements and to create a youth partnership for a more sustainable Europe.

The origins of the project lie in the objectives of its organiser and partners to put efforts into raising young people's awareness of existing environmental problems, in particular of river ecosystems, as well as making youth knowledgeable, skilled and capable of properly addressing those problems and providing solutions such as river restoration. Armenia, a vivid example for countries where river ecosystems are in a ragged state, was

chosen as host of the project with the aim of providing participants with useful information on how local NGOs and government have been fighting the issue as well as giving them an opportunity to apply knowledge and techniques on river restoration they obtained during the project.

A booklet was created as the follow up of the training course.

The project was organised by Khazer (Armenia), Balta Daba (Latvia) and Youth and Environment Europe. Balta Daba received funding from the Latvia National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme.

3. “Saving Energy”

Not realized – Italy

The project aimed at raising awareness of young people on energy sector and its management, developing skills of young people and promoting green jobs, and creating a space to discuss energy efficiency analysing the current situation all around Europe, taking into consideration the environmental impact.

Under the name ‘Green Power’ it was applied to the May 1st deadline and October 1st deadline of the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission. The project attracted partners from YEE as well as other organisations from more than 7 countries who were supposed to take part in the project. Unfortunately, as the project did not fully match the priorities of the programme, neither of the applications was approved. That is why we were not able to implement this project.

4. Teaching people on sustainable living

Not realized – Macedonia

The aim of the training course was to exchange opinions of young people as active actors in projects towards more sustainable living and educating about sustainability, to elaborate reasons of environmental pollution and too big waste production, to learn about different materials and their impact on environment. The participants were supposed to learn how to use the resources from the environment without being harmful to it. Main planned method was learning by doing.

Under the name “Let’s live sustainably”, the project was applied for 1st February deadline of the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission. Due to a formal mistake in the application, it was not approved. The project was applied again for 1st May deadline. Unfortunately it was not approved either, due to lack of funds. We improved the project’s design and application and applied for 1st October deadline, but the project was again not approved. Since we did not manage to receive financial support, we were not able to implement this project.

Campaigns

1. “30 years of volunteering for the environment” international campaign and promotional materials, April-September 2013

In the year of 30th YEE anniversary we wanted to promote the concept of volunteering for environment. With promotional ecological materials we aimed at reaching more young people and making the work of YEE more visible and known. This international project helped us develop youth participation within YEE member organizations both by involving participants of the international team working over the project and establishing stronger contact with member organisations by distributing the materials.

Six youth organisations were directly involved in the project: AYA (Russia), Look East Wild Earth (UK), EDEN Centre (Albania), OA PTTK (Poland), Oficina de Accion Solidaria y Cooperacion - UAM (Spain) and YEE (Czech Republic).

The project was organised by Youth and Environment Europe. It received funding from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe – 1548 EUR.

2. Office Cuisine Blog - Campaign about healthy cooking for small offices *Throughout the year 2013*

YEE promoted the method of everyday common team healthy cooking. It supports creativity and team spirit, the idea of healthier eating habits and cost-efficiency. In international teams, as in the case of YEE, the intercultural learning becomes another benefit. The blog has been updated by the members of the Secretariat of YEE. The campaign was blog-based: <http://officecuisine.wordpress.com//>

3. Sunny Campaign (web page update and upgrade) *Throughout the whole year 2013*

The main aim of the update of the Sunny Campaign website was to increase the access to information on ecological products and services in various countries and regions of Europe (topics covered: local, organic food, eco-accommodation, etc.). It has been a long term project which has been carried for many years. The Green Catalogue (database and map) which was made available online in September 2010, has been continuously updated in 2013. We added entries on new countries like Moldova, Russia, Spain and the UK.

Since it was hard to involve member organisations in the update and promotion of the website and database in order to make it really useful, during the Annual Meeting 2013, this campaign was not longer included in the Working Plan of YEE.

Activities from the Working Plan 2014

Training Courses (TC)

1. TC “Environmental Education for Sustainability” 13-20 April 2014, Sremski Karlovci, Serbia

The training course was organised for active young environmentalists in Europe who are interested in becoming environmental educators for sustainability.

During the training course we used non-formal education methods to develop the participants' skills and understanding of the topic and explore how they can gain valuable experience by volunteering for environmental organisations. For young people from YEE network this was a good starting point in becoming environmental educators in relation with sustainable lifestyle. The participants took part in interactive sessions where they practised the type of activities that environmental educators typically do. They shared their experiences from their own countries and discussed the role of young people in environmental education in Europe.

A booklet was created as the follow up of the training course.

The project was organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with Young Researchers of Serbia, the hosting organisation. It received funding from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe – 10000 EUR and co-funding from the Youth in Action Program of the European Commission – 11329 EUR (the final amounts will be known after submitting the final report).

2. TC “Step Up – Ensuring Quality in Project Management” 13-20 June 2014, Stepanavan, Armenia (Title in the Working Plan “Project Management”)

This training course gathered 26 young participants from 12 different countries (Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Hungary). They were volunteers, youth workers and youth leaders working in environmental organisations or in organisations that serve disadvantaged youth in their communities.

During the 7-day training, participants explored several tools and theories for project management, team work, feedback, crisis management, SMART objectives, etc. They could put their new knowledge into practice thanks to the planning of a day-project with Stepanavan local community. The last days of the training were devoted to the planning of future international projects. With the help of the trainers, participants started planning several projects, setting their objectives and finding partners. Many of these projects will hopefully become part of YEE's Working Plan 2015.

The project was organised by Stepanavan Youth Center in cooperation with Hnuti Brontosaurus. Hnuti Brontosaurus received funding from the Youth in Action Programme.

3. TC “Sustainable Construction” *Postponed to 2015, Portugal*

This training course aims at the development and promotion of new skills to implement sustainability on daily local living. The main goal of this TC is to strengthen and develop the ability of participants in the adoption of technologies with minimal environmental impact in construction through architectural techniques appropriate to the climate, which enhance energy efficiency, proper treatment of waste and the use of local raw materials resources.

The methodology will involve theoretical and practical sessions that include the planning and construction of different building structures. The Training Course will focus - on the different techniques of sustainable construction, based on the concept of bio-construction and participants will have the opportunity to experience many of the different techniques. The management and life cycle of natural resources will be explored throughout the course, as well as the integration and adjustment to local environmental conditions, which are the basis for any sustainable design.

We applied for funds for this project to the Youth in Action Programme on 1st October 2013 deadline but it was not approved. The organising and hosting organisation OPE plans to apply again for funds to the Erasmus+ Programme on 1st October 2014 deadline.

4. TC “Follow up and Impact in International Projects” (Title in the Working Plan: Partnership Building Activity “Environmental Project Planning”) *It will be realized on 8-15 August 2014 in Latvia*

The aim of the training course is to train youth workers and volunteers in creating projects with successful and measurable follow-up and impact.

It will gather 28 participants from 11 different countries who are involved in the work of their organisations: they are either employees or active volunteers who are planning to organise an international project. The working methods will be based on non-formal education and intercultural learning principles.

The objectives of this project are to exchange experiences of organising international and local projects, to explore methods and tools of creating a project with the planned follow-up, to discuss the methods of working with young people, to train youth workers in skills of motivation, to share various tools of dissemination and to share good practices of successful follow-up experience.

The project will be organised by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with Balta Daba, the hosting organisation. YEE received funding from the Czech National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme – 18732 EUR.

Youth Exchanges (YE)

1. YE “EcoPhoto” 30 May – 7 June 2014, Stepanavan, Armenia (Title in the Working Plan “Environment and Photography”)

The youth exchange “Eco Photo” connected 40 young people from 4 European Union (United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary and Czech Republic) and 4 EECA (Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Moldova) countries from 30 May to 7 June in Stepanavan, Armenia.

The tool of the YE was photography. Photography promoted creativity among participants, created an encouraging space for youth to freely express, share opinions and learn from each other. As environment is universal, it served as the platform for promoting peace building and active citizenship. Participants shared experience, developed knowledge and skills on environment, water and sustainable development issues. The project engaged and empowered them to advocate and participate in solving local environmental issues. Methods used included taking photos in communities, creative presentations, simulation, discussions, workshops on quality in photography, street photography, developing skills in eco-campaigns, event management, etc.

The project culminated with an outdoor exhibition in Yerevan where selected photos were shared with larger public – through photos transferring concern and the message of participants to locals. Follow up activities included – organising local exhibitions and online exhibition through a website created for the YE by participants.

The project was organised by Stepanavan Youth Center with funding from the Youth in Action programme.

2. YE “Water Cycle” July 2014, Latvia Cancelled

The aim of this youth exchange is to raise awareness about the water quality issues, and in cooperation with local municipality to organise a one-day event for local people to show them that they can drink water from the tap. During the YE participants will get knowledge about different water treatment systems.

Balta Daba, Latvian member organisation of YEE, applied for funding for this project to the Erasmus+ programme (Latvian National Agency). The project was approved. Due to the expected delay in the payment of the first installation from the National Agency and the lack of financial resources from Balta Daba to assume costs in advance, Balta Daba decided to cancel the project.

3. YE “In Love with Energy Efficiency” October 2014, Albania (Title in the Working Plan “Energy”) To be realised

This project will gather 25 participants from 5 different countries. The YE aims to increase the knowledge of young people on renewable energy resources and energy efficiency, to develop simple daily practices for the reduction of energy expenditure, to exchange experience and best practices, and to foster youth’s creativity, entrepreneurship and networking.

The methodology will be based on non-formal education and learning by doing, including various workshops, visits, work with the local community and public actions.

YEE applied for funding to the Youth in Action Programme on 1st October 2013 deadline, but the project was not approved. We applied again to the Erasmus+ programme on 30th April 2014 deadline. We are currently waiting for the results. If the project is approved, it will be organised in October 2014 by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with EDEN Center, the hosting organisation.

4. YE “Three Rs for the Environment” October 2014, Moldova (Title in the Working Plan “Waste Management”)

To be realised

This youth exchange aims to promote recycling and upcycling, to increase the awareness among youth about the need of recycling and upcycling, to share good experiences and to develop green skills and behaviours, through non-formal education and learning by doing.

YEE applied for funding to the European Youth Foundation on 1st October 2013 deadline, but the project was not approved. We applied again to the Erasmus+ programme on 30th April 2014 deadline. We are currently waiting for the results. The project will be organized by Youth and Environment Europe in cooperation with GUTTA-CLUB, the hosting organisation.

Campaigns

1. “The Right to Be(e)” international information and education campaign Throughout 2013 and 2014

This grass-root campaign aims to attract more attention to the disappearance and well-being of bees in Europe. In 2014 YEE prepared seven workshop guides. We launched the “Bee competition” for the best workshops about bees. The results will be published at the end of July and the best organisers will receive eco wall stickers as a prize. YEE office team prepared some games for children about bees for the Day of the Earth 2014.

2. “Insecta Rules” campaign on biodiversity, August 2014 – August 2015 (Title in the Working Plan “Biodiversity campaign”)

To be realised.

The main goal of this campaign is to raise people's awareness about the biological and ecological importance of insects and suggest to the participants of the campaign solutions and means how the species chosen can be protected. Activities will take place locally and will be shared and promoted on an international level.

The project will be organised by OPE (Portugal) and it will be a grass-root campaign. Youth and Environment Europe and some of its member organisations will take part in the project as partners.

Local projects and activities

1. **World Water Monitoring Day**

24.10.2013 - Krivoklat, Czech Republic

As in the past years, YEE took part in the worldwide project called 'World Water Monitoring Day' (WWMD). The YEE office team travelled to the area of Krivoklat castle in order to measure the quality of water in rivers and streams in this region. The World Water Monitoring Day aims to raise awareness on protecting water resources all around the world and encourage people to do the basic water monitoring in their countries. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18, but the time for monitoring was extended from World Water Day (March 22) to the end of the year (December 31).

WWMD is an international project where you can share the results with participating communities around the world through the website. After analysing the water, we uploaded the results on the WWMD website.

2. **Day of the Earth**

26.04.2014 – Prague, Czech Republic

On 26th of April YEE office participated in the "Day of the Earth" festival organised in Toulcův Dvůr ecological centre, which YEE closely cooperates with, as the office is located there.

Our stand was focused on promoting the Right to Be(e) campaign. It was full of informative materials, games about bees and face paints to draw bees on faces. Our visitors could also plant a seed for a flower and take it home with them.

3. **Volunteering days in the eco-center Toulcův Dvůr**

02.11.2013 – Prague, Czech Republic

08.05.2014 – Prague, Czech Republic

On 22nd of November 2013 YEE organised together with "Tamjdem" a volunteering day in the ecological center Toulcův Dvůr. A group of 15 young people from different countries helped with autumn gardening activities like cleaning leaves, feeding rabbits, repairing paths and arranging the museum exposition. The EVS volunteers presented YEE, its aims and activities.

On 8th of May 2014 YEE organised one more volunteering day with "Tamjdem". The volunteers worked with horses and collected the grass for compost, peeled logs and did other kind of maintenance work on the farm.

"Tamjdem" is an NGO whose main activity is organising volunteering weekends for young volunteers in NGOs all over Czech Republic.

4. **Urban Gardening workshop**

20.03.2014 – Prague, Czech Republic

As part of his personal project, the EVS volunteer in YEE office, Jesus de la Hoz Trapero, organised a workshop on urban gardening and growing vegetables in small spaces. A group of 15 international young people joined the workshop. They were provided with some theoretical background and with some materials for practical activities, like building their own pot, obtaining seeds from vegetables and planting them. This activity was planned to encourage the people to grow vegetables at home and be more connected with nature.

5. YEE promotion at the International Volunteer day
5.12.2013 – Prague, Czech Republic

YEE office team took part in the NGO Market organised by INEX-SDA in the Technical Library in Prague. We promoted YEE aims and activities through our promotional materials. We got to know other youth organisations working in Prague, established links for future cooperation and celebrated together the International Volunteer Day.

6. Documentary screening
3.07.2014 – Prague, Czech Republic

As part of “The Right to Be(e)” campaign, YEE office team organised the screening of the documentary “Vanishing of the bees”. A group of 12 young people joined the screening and the discussion about the disappearing of bees that was organised afterwards. This event was a chance to promote the bee competition and inspire other organisations and people to run their own bee workshops.

Publications

1. Booklets

• ***Youth for Rivers – December 2013 (from the Working Plan 2013)***

This booklet was created as a direct follow-up of the training course "Youth for Rivers". The training course took place in Armenia in October 2013 and was organised by Balta Daba, Khazer and YEE. The idea of this booklet is to provide young people with introductory information on river restoration – what is river pollution, what is river restoration, why do we need restoration and how do we do it.

More information: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/news/982-booklet-qyouth-for-riversq>

• ***Environmental Education for Sustainability – July 2014***

The booklet “Environmental Education for Sustainability” is a follow-up of the training course with the same title. It is a booklet for young people who are interested in becoming environmental educators and would like to know more about sustainability, environmental education and learn some new methods for their activities. This booklet was prepared by YEE Secretariat and participants of the training course.

2. E-Newsletter

YEE e-Newsletter is a regular bimonthly publication that is published online on our website and sent by e-mail to our Member Organisations. 6 newsletters have been published in 2013-2014: Annual Meeting 2013, October 2013, December 2013, February 2014, April 2014 and June 2014.

The YEE e-Newsletter is a way/an instrument for YEE members and other interested organisations to publish reports from activities they made, pictures from them, plans for future actions, calls for partners for different youth projects, articles about environmental topics, about issues that their organisations are dealing with and presentation of their organisation. The role of the YEE e-Newsletter is also to inform about the European Community activities in the field of environment and youth, and to invite young people to training courses, seminars, conferences and other events.

Website

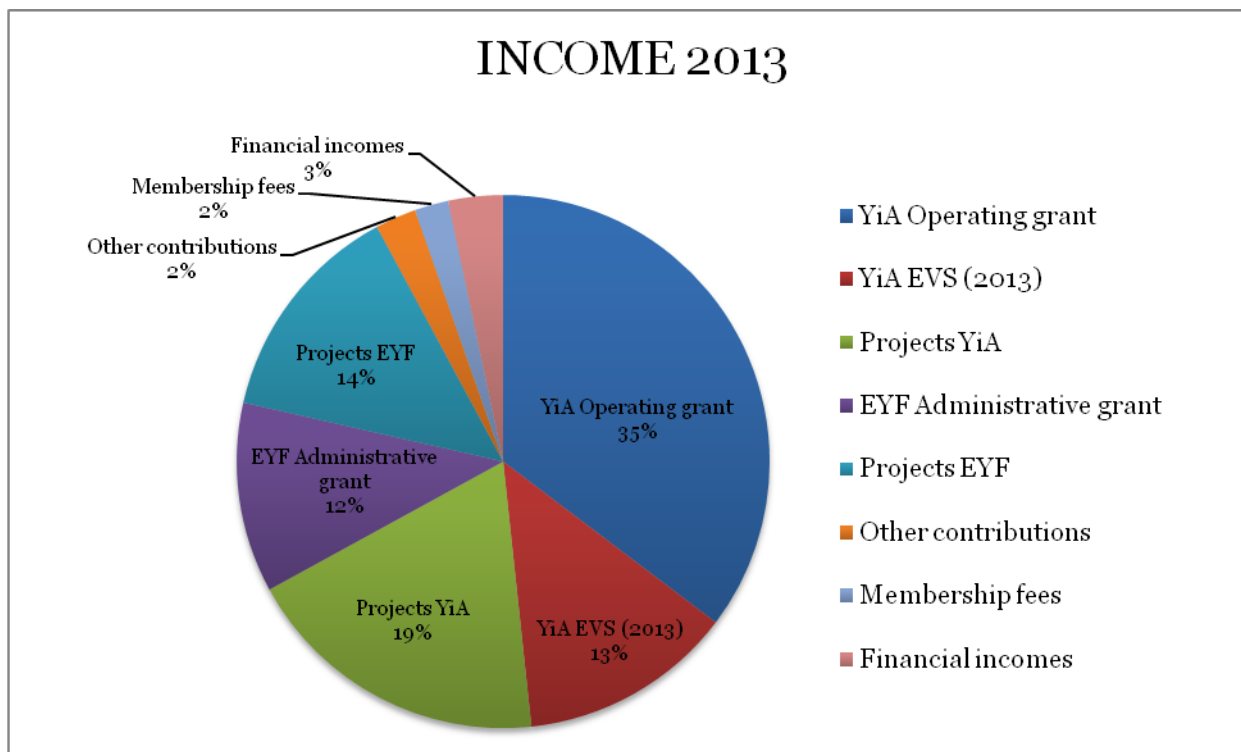
The interactive YEE website (www.yeenet.eu) has been gradually improved during this year. Several sections have been developed further, e.g.:

- *What you can do*: This section was upgraded during 2013. It gives an overview of many global environmental issues and many resources in order to decrease our negative impact on the environment.
- *Campaigns*: It provides information about the previous and current YEE campaigns (in 2013 especially the “Right to Be(e)” sub-section has been developed)
- *YEE Board and Office*: In this section there was a new concept included: presentation of Board members through a video.
- *Projects*: The ongoing and completed projects were regularly updated, providing visitors with an overview of the projects that the network is or has been working on.

The website is interactive – the content is gained from young volunteers from all around Europe, who can provide their experience and views on environmental protection in their country. It serves to exchange information among them and by sharing the experience it provides a valuable knowledge pool.

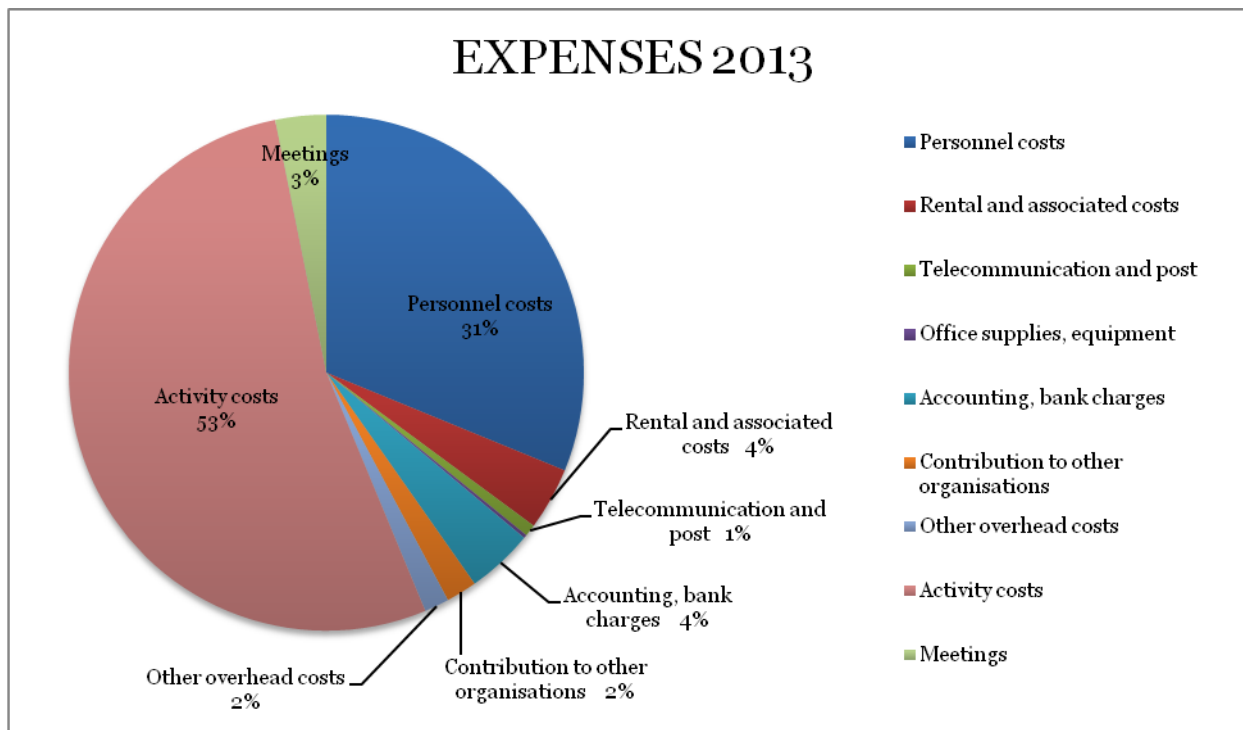
The number of visitors on the web site checked through internet analytic – 14 930 visitors from 163 countries in 2013 (69.4% of new visitors and 30.6% of returning visitors); 21 179 visits; 58 350 page views; country of origin (predominantly Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, UK, Albania, Armenia, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Russia, France and Romania).

YEE FINANCES



INCOME 2013

	AMOUNT in EUR
YiA Operating grant	35000
YiA EVS (2013)	12890
YiA YE: Snapshot for Environment	18560
EYF Administrative grant	11426
EYF Campaign: Upcycling	3244
EYF Campaign: 30 years of volunteering for the environment	1548
EYF TC Women for the Planet	8672
Other contributions	2463
Membership fees	2041
Financial incomes (Interests, exchange rate profit)	3287
TOTAL	99131



EXPENSES 2013

	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	29312
Rental and associated costs	3691
Telecommunication and postal costs, copying	692
Office supplies, equipment	200
Accounting, audits, bank charges and other costs	3926
Contribution to other organisations	1820
Other overhead costs *	1456
Activity costs **	49891
Meetings (Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Internal Audit)	3000
TOTAL	93988

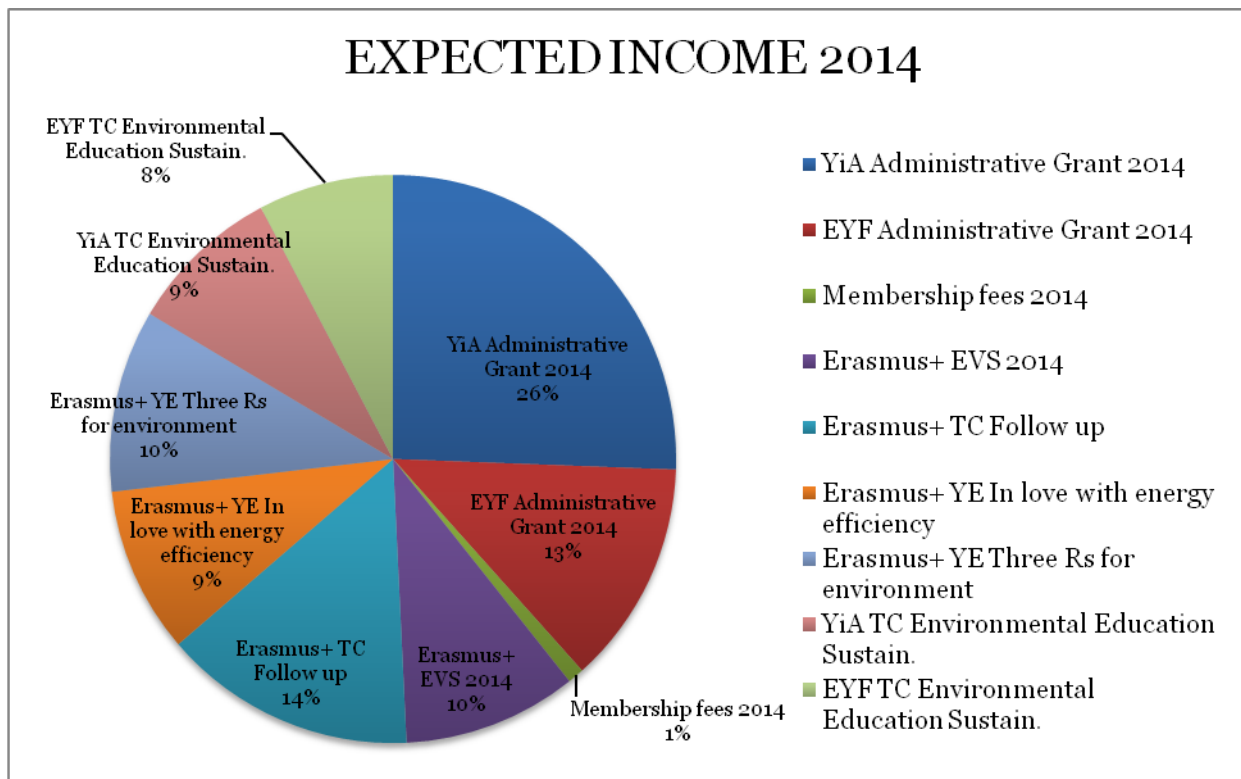
* Other overhead costs include exchange rate loss, etc.

** Activity costs include costs for projects, EVS and other activities

Note: YEE Secretariat and Executive Board worked in the application and implementation of the following projects but the funding did not go through YEE official accountancy:

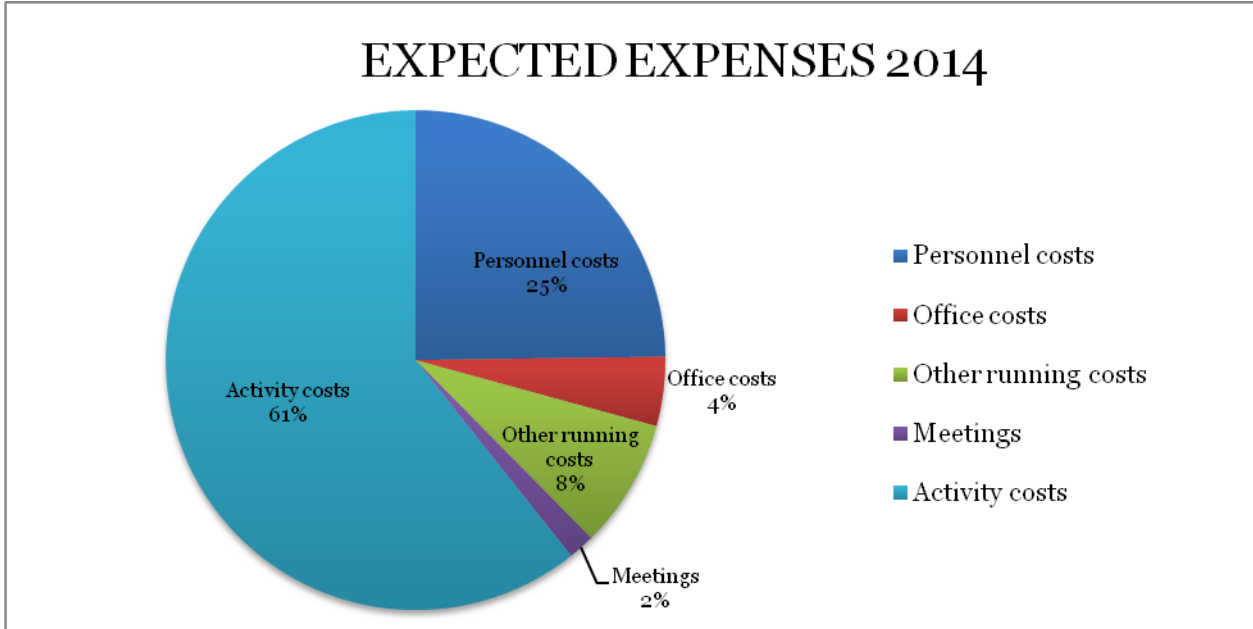
- TC Youth participation for the Environment (Czech Republic, July 2013)
- TC Youth for Rivers (Armenia, October 2013)
- TC Women for the Planet – YiA funding (Slovenia, June 2013)

PREVISION 2014



Expected income 2014

	AMOUNT in EUR
YiA Administrative Grant 2014	33209
EYF Administrative Grant 2014	16600
Membership fees 2014	1200
Erasmus+ EVS 2014	12890
Erasmus+ TC Follow up	18732
Erasmus+ YE In love with energy efficiency	12300
Erasmus+ YE Three Rs for environment	13500
YiA TC Environmental Education Sustain.	11329
EYF TC Environmental Education Sustain.	10000
TOTAL	129760



Expected expenses 2014

	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	32160
Office costs	5806
Publications	0
Other running costs	10822
Meetings	2221
Activity costs	78751
TOTAL	129760

Member Organizations of YEE in 2013 - 2014

Name of the organization	Country	Type of membership
EDEN Centre	Albania	Full
EPER Center	Albania	Full
Active Young citizenship initiative – AYCI	Armenia	Associate
Stepanavan Youth Center – SYC	Armenia	Associate
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia – FYCA	Armenia	Associate
Khazer	Armenia	Associate
Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO	Armenia	Full
Young Biologists Association	Armenia	Associate
Youth Without Borders	Armenia	Associate
ONJ - Die Österreichische Naturschutzjugend	Austria	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Youth Organisation for Nature and Environment – JNM	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
YEO Rhodope	Bulgaria	Full
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Full
Natur & Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement – SAEM	Georgia	Full
Alliance For Society Advancement – ASA	Georgia	Associate
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung - DJN	Germany	Full
FÖJ-Aktiv	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend – NAJU	Germany	Full
Club of Young Naturalists – FTK	Hungary	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
Mine Vaganti NGO	Italy	Associate
BALTA DABA	Latvia	Full
Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia – DEM	Macedonia	Full
Gutta-Club	Moldova	Full
WoesteLand	Netherlands	Full
Oddzial Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK	Poland	Associate
GAIA	Portugal	Associate
O.P.E	Portugal	Associate
Green Echoes Association	Romania	Associate
Regional non-governmental organization for development of volunteering «AYA»	Russia	Associate
EcoCenter Zapovedniks	Russia	Associate

Environmental Youth Club –EYC	Russia	Associate
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Full
Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde	Spain	Associate
Association Biodiversa	Spain	Associate
Libertas International	Spain	Associate
Fälbiologerna	Sweden	Full
Look East Wild Earth (LEWE)	UK	Associate
InYouth Ukraine	Ukraine	Associate
IPSO JURE	Ukraine	Associate
Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia – MELP	Ukraine	Full

Organizations applying for membership in YEE

This year there are **two (2)** organisations applying for membership in Youth and Environment Europe, **one** is applying for full membership and **one** for associate membership.

Full membership:

- *Digital Future (Italy)*

Associate membership:

- *Argonauta (Croatia)*

1. Association of Social Promotion “Digital Future”

Digital Future is an Italian association established in February 2013. It is an independent association, non-profit organisation that operates according to the principles of social solidarity and voluntary participation of those who accept the European dimension of culture and the relationship between institutions of the Territory. The association is located in the south of Italy and it was born from the desire of young professionals, inspired by the idea that the basis of well-being is based on the human solidarity, on the expansion of knowledge, and on the exchange of knowledge and experience in life.

Digital Future has experience in social and European project management, in planning and providing services for young people at risk of marginalization. Digital Future works with the support of technologies in order to reduce the digital gap. It promoted the creation of concrete actions and employment opportunities through education and training.

Its aim is to create a network for the exchange of information and best practices in training, guidance, local development, promotion of European citizenship, national and European youth policy, cultural and intercultural education, digital gap and cooperation between Mediterranean countries.

Country: Italy

Applies for:	full membership
Number of members:	4 members, 6 expert project managers, 10 volunteers and 150 other young people involved
Age limit:	20 - 40
Aims to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Promote the development of human capital, knowledge and intellectual property in digital or other formats.❖ Improve the quality and access of the mobility within the European Union.❖ Reduce the digital gap at local and global level.❖ Promote the responsible use of communication tools, information technology and telecommunication networks.❖ Promote the exchange of knowledge between organisations, institutions and people from social networks and internet in general.❖ Work with local educational agencies, promoting multimedia creative workshops to bring people closer to technology.❖ Promote mobility, intercultural and social inclusion through the use of technologies in order to reduce the digital gap.❖ Promote the dissemination of open sources and systems, free software and wi-fi hotspots as tools for sharing, technological awareness and appreciation of diversity, innovation and local sustainable development.

Activities: It offers project management services and information-training services in the context of EU Programmes. Its main areas of intervention are European programmes, project management and inclusion, local development, cooperation and training.

Digital Future applies for full membership. Their aims and activities focus on the promotion of information technology and the reduction of the digital gap. The organisation does not include any reference to the protection of the environment or the study of nature. As their orientation does not correspond with the objectives of YEE we recommend the General Assembly to postpone their acceptance until showing more ecological interest.

2. Association for Nature Protection and Environment and Promotion of Sustainable Development “Argonauta”

Argonauta is a non-political, non-profit and non-governmental organization. It was founded in 2005 by Croatian citizens and friends of the Association, to promote social and environmental objectives in the area of Murter and Sibenik-Knin.

Country:	Croatia
Applies for:	associate membership
Number of members:	99

- Age limit:** no age limit (most members, volunteers, employees and board members are under 30)
- Aims:**
- ❖ Protection of the environment and natural resources.
 - ❖ Promotion and protection of cultural heritage and traditional values in accordance with special regulations.
 - ❖ Informing citizens about topics in the field of nature conservation and environmental protection.
 - ❖ Establishing and improving quality of life.
 - ❖ Education of young people in order to strengthen environmental awareness.
 - ❖ Promoting sustainable development.
 - ❖ Promoting cooperation and partnership as a prerequisite for a safer and more prosperous future.
 - ❖ Promoting the interests and activities of young people in line with other goals.
- Activities:** Their main activities are trainings, field work, research, awareness raising activities, local actions, etc. These activities focus on:
- Conservation of natural and cultural heritage.
 - Protection of nature and environment.
 - Education and awareness raising about protection of nature.
 - Promotion of sustainable development.
 - Development of tourist local heritage.
 - Stimulation of youth activism in local community.
 - European youth networking and education.
 - Promotion of volunteerism.
 - Raising awareness about sea ecosystem and its species.
 - Development of local community social capital.

Argonauta applies for associate membership. As they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organization, dealing with environmental topics), we recommend the General Assembly to accept them as an associate member.

This year there are **two (2)** member organisations that want to change their type of membership in YEE network.

From associate to full membership:

- *Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubes (OPE) - Portugal*
- *Youth Without Borders (YWB) - Armenia*

1. Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubes (OPE)

OPE is associate member of YEE since 2009. During their five years of membership they have been a very active member, proposing and organising several international projects in the frame of YEE, taking part in many of the campaigns organised by YEE and attending all the Annual Meetings of the network. They are a youth organisation dealing with environmental topics.

OPE applies for full membership. As they showed during their five years of membership that they fulfil all the criteria necessary (youth organization, dealing with environmental topics), we recommend the General Assembly to accept them as a full member.

2. Youth Without Borders (YWB)

YWB applied for full membership during Annual Meeting 2013. The General Assembly accepted them as associate members as their main activities were not entirely connected with environment, but they deal with “green economics” and some environmental issues. They have been in regular contact with the Board and Secretariat of YEE but they did not have the chance to take part in any project organised by YEE yet.

YWB applies for full membership. As YWB has been member of YEE for only one year and they did not have enough time to proof the focus on environment of their activities and aims, we recommend the General Assembly to decline their request to become full members and keep them as associate members until they take part in more activities and proof their environmental focus.

Review of membership

In the following a list of YEE Member Organizations is provided, whose membership rights should be reviewed in 2014. It is followed by our suggestions together with a brief explanation of the decision:

Review of membership:

- *GAIA (Portugal)*
- *Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde (Spain)*
- *Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyja – MELP (Ukraine)*

Unless they are willing to become active again, we need to review their membership and possibly withdraw them from the list of our Member Organisations, as:

- **GAIA (Portugal):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 3 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 5 years. YEE Office and Board have used all possible means of contacting them but they could not reach them.
- **Asociación Ambiental y Cultural Oro Verde (Spain):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last year and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 4 years. YEE Office and Board have used all possible means of contacting them but they could not reach them.
- **Youth Environmental League of Prydniprovyia – MELP (Ukraine):** Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years, did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 3 years and we did not receive any message from them.

A letter asking for explanation of the inactivity of the above mentioned NGOs was sent. In case they will not respond to this call, the General Assembly will decide how to proceed with them during this year's Annual Meeting.

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Erasmus+, the European Commission.



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