

YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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Introduction

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 43 European youth organisations from 25 countries that study nature and/or are active in environmental protection. 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 links 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 YEE Statutes valid since 2016, 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 2017-2018 YEE Executive Board was elected in August 2017 during the Annual Meeting:

Chairperson – Stefan Rudel (FÖJ-Aktiv, Germany)

Vice-Chair & Project Officer – Jovana Mirjanic (Young Researchers of Serbia, Serbia)

Treasurer – Aram Mnastakanyan (Yeghvard, Armenia)

Publications and Promotion Officer – Daniela Para (Gutta-club, Moldova)

Member Organisations Officer – Ketevan Kochladze (SAEM, Georgia)

External Relations Officer – Niall Barrett (Eco-Unesco, Ireland)

During the period of 2017-2018, the Executive Board had three physical meetings – one right after the AM 2017, the second in November 2017 and the third one in March 2018. There will be one more physical Board meeting, before the AM 2018. There were also 7 virtual Board meetings held during the business year 2017-2018. Additionally, there were working groups (formed by some members of the Board, Secretariat and MOs) working on different issues that met several times during 2017-2018.

Secretariat

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

Secretary General:	Mercedes Fioravanti Álvarez
Main Coordinator:	Natalia Luchko
Networking Coordinator:	Roxana Nica
Consultant:	Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull
Intern:	Oguzhan Kamberoglu (June-August 2017)

The Secretariat participated in all the physical Board Meetings and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in 2017-2018.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EVS (European Voluntary Service) is a project within the European Commission's Programme "Erasmus+". 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 2017 YEE office hosted 4 EVS volunteers.

Volunteers hosted through the EVS programme:

- Aljaz Malek (Slovenia 06/2016 - 06/2017)
- Diana Podgurskaia (Russia 09/2016 - 09/2017)
- Coline Malot (France 09/2017 – 08/2018)
- Cristian Riva (Italy 09/2017 – 08/2018)

Development of the organisation

In 2017 YEE implemented most of the activities from the Work Plan and achieved many of the goals set in the Strategic Plan. Some of the achievements reached were:

- Creation and approval of the new "HR Policy".
- Active participation in events organised by the European Youth Forum and the European Environmental Bureau.
- Partnerships with new organisations from Hungary, Italy and Azerbaijan.
- Several Work Groups formed by members of Board and Secretariat were successfully created, in order to work on specific topics and tasks of the network, such as new membership application, gender mainstreaming guidelines, new structure of e-Newsletter, new website, etc.
- Short trainings were included in all physical Board meetings (in the topics of public speaking and improvisation).
- New partnership with the Climate Action Network and participation in the European Youth Event 2018.

Activities from the Work Plan 2017

1. Eco-mapping of YEE office

Date and venue: June - August 2017, Prague, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Local activity

Aim: To find out the environmental impact of different elements in the office, identify problems and propose practical solutions to solve them in order to ensure that the office is run in the most sustainable way possible.

Number of participants: 6 participants

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

2. Campaign - Office cuisine blog

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, online

Type of activity: Online campaign

Aim: The aim of the campaign is to promote healthy eating habits and lifestyle based on YEE's vegetarian and sustainability principles and with a focus on aspects such as multiculturalism, sense of community and food sovereignty.

Description: The blog (launched in 2012) with healthy vegetarian recipes was developed and updated with new entries from many young people. Four seasonal recipes competitions were organised.

Target group: Young people, youth organisations, public in general.

Number of participants: 10 people contributed to the campaign, over 3000 visitors in the blog in 2017.

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

3. Campaign “The Right to Be(e)”

Date and venue: April – December 2017, Czech Republic and other countries in Europe

Type of activity: International campaign

Aim: To support the survival of bees and raise awareness about the disappearance and well-being of bees in Europe.

Description: In the frame of the campaign we planned a planting actions throughout Europe, encouraging people to organise activities that help the bees in urban areas. We collected materials from all teams, promoted them within the YEE network and included them in the bee competition for best activity to help the bees. We also closed the campaign by summarizing all activities and created materials and promoting them on social media.

Target group: Young people caring for the environment and local communities

Number of participants: 30 young people directly involved in the activities.

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

4. Training course “Uniting Youth for Ecotourism”

Date and venue: 6-13 November 2017, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Training course

Youth and Environment Europe

Kubatova 1/32 | 102 00 Praha 10 | Czech Republic | www.yeenet.eu | yee@yeenet.eu | tel/fax +420 271 750 643

Aim: To strengthen youth participation and active citizenship through ecotourism and related projects.

Description: The six-day international activity focused on defining the role and importance of ecotourism, creating a common understanding about youth participation in local communities and providing skills for young people to organise ecotourism related projects in their communities.

Target group: Youth workers and volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 32 participants

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

5. Youth exchange “Postcards from Nature”

Date and venue: 19-26 May 2017, Albania

Type of activity: Youth exchange

Aim: To explore ways of promoting awareness about the value of natural resources in the environment and ecosystems, through art and creative tools and to increase knowledge and interest of young people in environment through new creative methods of environmental education.

Description: The youth exchange brought together young creative people that used art as a tool to discover nature through creating postcards. Postcards were: photos, sketches, paintings, installations, etc. using elements from the natural and cultural environment. We provided knowledge to young people on the importance and values that natural resources have on the environment or ecosystem.

Target group: Youth workers and volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 25 participants

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

6. Partnership in the project STEP (Societal and political engagement of young people in environmental issues)

Date and venue: 1 June 2015 - 31 December 2017, Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Sweden, U.K., Germany, Turkey, Italy, etc.

Type of activity: Research, campaign and creation of e-platform

Aim: To develop and test an eParticipation cloud platform, which will promote the societal and political participation of young people in the decision-making processes on environmental issues.

Description: In 2017 the final version of the online platform was launched and pilot tested in 5 different municipalities and with a EU show case. Using the platform, YEE was disseminating among young people the dialogues on the topics: 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals, tackling Climate Change, air quality. In August, STEP project was promoted during Sziget festival in Budapest. We talked with young people from all over the world about their environmental concerns, their views on e-participation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

YEE, together with the rest of STEP partners, took part in the summit about youth e-participation organised by the H2020 project EUth in Berlin. The main outcome was the list of recommendations for the youth eParticipation development created by the participants of the summit.

Target group: Young people interested in environmental issues, municipalities and policy makers.

Number of participants: 50 people working on the project, at least 7500 young people reached

Funding: Horizon 2020 (European Commission), funds coordinated by Draxis (Greece).

7. Training course “YEE-include: Inclusion in environmental youth projects”

Date and venue: 2-9 April 2017, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Training course

Aim: To provide youth workers with knowledge and skills in addressing inclusion in order to organise quality environmental projects and activities that ensure equal support, participation and learning.

Description: This project helped youth organisations learn how to develop environmental projects that overcome different social, economic, cultural, geographical, educational, physical or mental obstacles that

young people might face. We also explored the role of non-formal education as an essential and effective tool in promoting inclusive work in the youth field.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 28 participants

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

8. Study session “Exploring gender equality in environmental projects”

Date and venue: 5-12 March 2017, France

Type of activity: Study session

Aim: To explore the topic of gender equality and gender perspective in environmental youth projects and the ways of addressing this topic in work of environmental youth organisations.

Description: The change in the attitude of environmental youth organisations was introduced with this study session - by exploring the topic of gender in youth work and specifically in environmental projects. We drew the attention of our member organisations that gender issues are always present in any kind of youth work. With this project we looked into ways on how to include gender perspective and gender mainstreaming in our future projects.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 29 participants

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

9. Training course “International environmental action days”

Date and venue: 8-14 July 2017, Finland

Type of activity: Training course

Aim: To provide space for environmental youth organisations to share their experience and develop various competencies needed for successful environmental campaigns.

Description: The training course was designed for young environmentalists motivated to strengthen civic advocacy skills and create successful environmental campaigns in their organisations. Activity programme consisted of different themes for each day: strategic planning, project management, lobbying, communications, social media, organising events, youth participation and motivation, fundraising, time management etc.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 30 participants

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Finnish National Agency) - funds managed by the organisation Luonto Liitto (Finland)

10. Strategic Partnership “Environmental challenge accepted”

Date and venue: June 2016 – October 2017, Latvia, Portugal, Estonia, Lithuania and Czech Republic

Type of activity: Strategic Partnership

Aim: To explore innovative approaches for development of youth active citizenship by fostering youth ability to convince stakeholders of the need to implement their proposed solutions for environmental protection.

Description: The project aims to promote direct youth involvement in solving local environmental problems. Each partner organisations chose a real issue in their local community (for example, river pollution, waste management, habitats protection, etc.) and is working on these issues together with youth groups which they coordinate during the project. An international competition was coordinated by YEE- there were 16 entries and the winners received prizes from Patagonia.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from youth environmental organisations.

Number of participants: 50 organisers and participants

Funding: Key Action 2, Erasmus+ (Latvian National Agency) – funds coordinated by the organisation Balta Daba (Latvia).

11. Youth for the environment - European Voluntary Service

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, Czech Republic

Type of activity: European Voluntary Service

Aim: To develop competences of young people needed in environmental youth work.

Description: We hosted 4 volunteers who were developing their various competences in the office of the network in Prague.

Target group: Young people between 18-30 years old.

Number of participants: 4 (Slovenia, Russia, France and Italy)

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

12. Publication – Inclusion in environmental youth projects - guide for youth organisations

Date and venue: July 2017, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Online and printed publication

Description: This online booklet was created as a follow-up of the training course "YEE-include: inclusion in environmental youth projects". It not only aims to help youth workers, youth and environmental organisations to understand the topic of inclusion better, but it also suggests some practical ideas for making projects and activities more inclusive.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs, youth organisations, public in general, especially youth

Number of participants: 10 young people created the publication, shared with over 250 people and organisations.

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

13. Publication – Polluting darkness - a quick guide to light pollution and what you(th) can do about it

Date and venue: June 2017, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Online publication

Description: The booklet (online) contains short history of lighting, information on what light pollution is and perhaps most importantly, tips on how one can address this phenomenon.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs, youth organisations, public in general, especially youth.

Number of participants: 3 young people created the publication, shared with over 200 people and organisations.

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

14. Publication – E-waste

Date and venue: August 2017, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Online publication

Description: The booklet describes what e-waste is, the types of e-waste, overview of its disposal. At the end you can also find the useful tips on how you can deal with e-waste in the most sustainable way.

Target group: Youth workers and active volunteers from environmental youth NGOs, youth organisations, public in general, especially youth.

Number of participants: 3 young people created the publication, shared with over 200 people and organisations.

Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

15. Pool of Representatives

Date and venue: Throughout 2017

Description: The Pool of Representatives (PoR) of YEE is a group of volunteers who work closely with YEE Secretariat and Board. The PoR helps with the tasks of representation of the network in external events.

Target group: Active volunteers from YEE member organisations.

Number of participants: 5 young people joined the pool

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

16. Local actions

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Local actions

Aim: To raise awareness about various environmental issues, to foster youth participation and to promote YEE activities.

Description: Local actions included participation in the Water Monitoring Day, Sziget Festival, Czech National Agency events and other activities representing YEE.

Target group: Young people interested in environmental issues and public in general

Number of participants: 50 young people involved in the actions

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

17. YEE electronic newsletter

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, Prague, Czech Republic and online

Type of activity: Newsletter

Aim: To provide the network with the platform for sharing news connected with the work on YEE and member organisations.

Description: Regular publication (6 issues per year) with updates about YEE projects and publications, local actions and projects of member organisations, environmental news and articles about environmental issues. The design and structure of the newsletter was updated to fit the needs of member organisations and other target groups.

Target group: Public in general, especially youth and youth organisations

Number of participants: 20 young people involved in the creation, over 900 subscribers.

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

18. YEE Website

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, Prague, Czech Republic and online

Type of activity: Website

Aim: The aim of the website is to share news from the network and its members, and to spread news and information about environmental issues, non-formal education and youth work, news about Europe, its institutions and opportunities for young people.

Description: The section for ongoing projects was improved. The working group to create a design for the new website was created.

Target group: Young people, youth organisations, environmental organisations, public in general.

Number of participants: 20 young people managing the website and its content, an average of 1260 visits per month

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

19. YEE social media

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, Prague, Czech Republic and online

Type of activity: Online social media

Aim: The aim of YEE presence in social media is to share news from the network and about environmental and youth issues.

Description: YEE has a Facebook page, few Facebook groups for various projects, Twitter and Instagram account.

Target group: Young people, youth organisations, environmental organisations, public in general.

Number of participants: 8 young people managing the social media platforms, over 3650 followers in Facebook, 148 in Twitter, 42 in Instagram.

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

Statutory meetings held in 2017

- **Annual Meeting (YEE General Assembly meeting)**

Date and venue: 14-16 July 2017 - Finland

Type of activity: Statutory Meeting

Aim: The aim of the Annual Meeting was to gather representatives of YEE member organisations, take important decisions about the network, adopt official documents, plan and approve the Work Plan and Budget, monitor the progress of the Strategic Plan, accept new members and elect the new Executive Board.

Target group: Young people representing YEE member organisations.

Number of participants: 40 participants

Funding: Coordination and costs supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

- **Board Meetings**

- **Virtual Board Meetings – 7 online meetings**

Date and venue: Throughout 2017, online

Type of activity: Statutory Meetings

Aim: The aim of the Virtual Board Meetings was to gather the Board and Secretariat once per month and discuss the ongoing issues of the network, take needed decisions and plan tasks and responsibilities.

Additionally, many skype meetings of special Work Groups took place where members of Board and Secretariat in smaller groups discussed concrete issues, such as creation of new policies or a new structure of Work Plan.

Target group: YEE Board and Secretariat, member organisations.

Number of participants: 10-12 participants

Funding: Coordination supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

- **Physical Board Meetings – 4 meetings**

Date and venue: 13-17 March (Czech Republic), 13 July (Finland), 16 July (Finland), 14-16 November 2017 (Czech Republic)

Type of activity: Statutory Meetings

Aim: The aim of these meetings was to discuss the main issues of the network, share the progress of the Board Work Plans, Strategic Plan and YEE Work Plan, plan the Annual Meeting.

Target group: YEE Board and Secretariat.

Number of participants: 10-12 participants

Funding: Coordination and costs supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

- **Internal Audit**

Date and venue: 16-18 June 2017, Prague, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Statutory Meeting

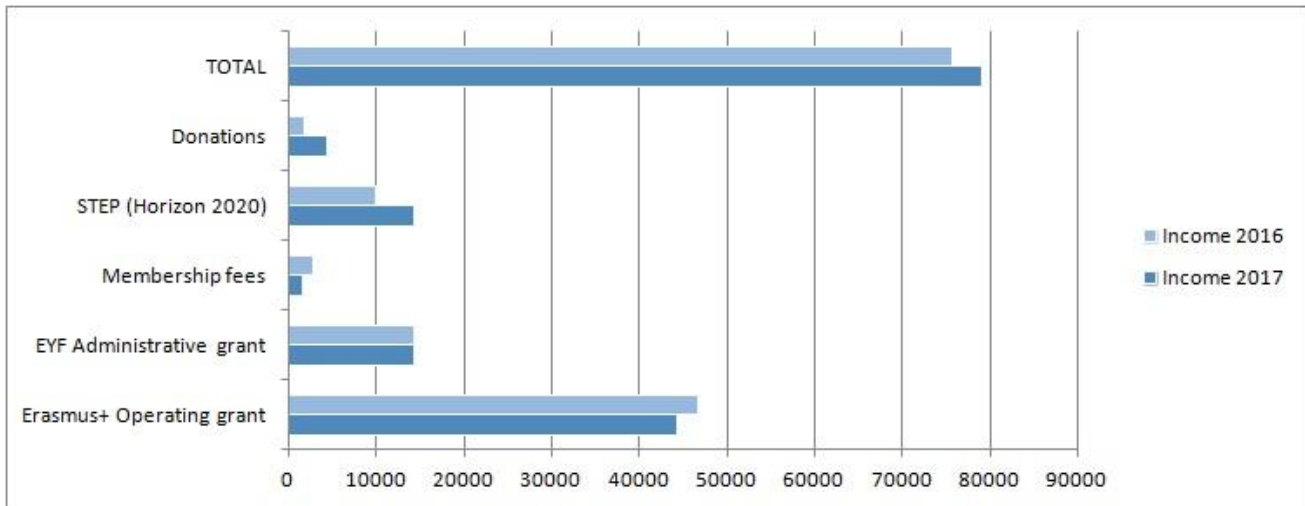
Aim: The aim of the Internal Audit is to control the work of the network by interviewing members of the Board and Secretariat and assessing projects' reports and questionnaires.

Target group: YEE Board and Secretariat.

Number of participants: 2 auditors and 10 people interviewed

Funding: Coordination and costs supported by operating grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) and Erasmus+ (EACEA)

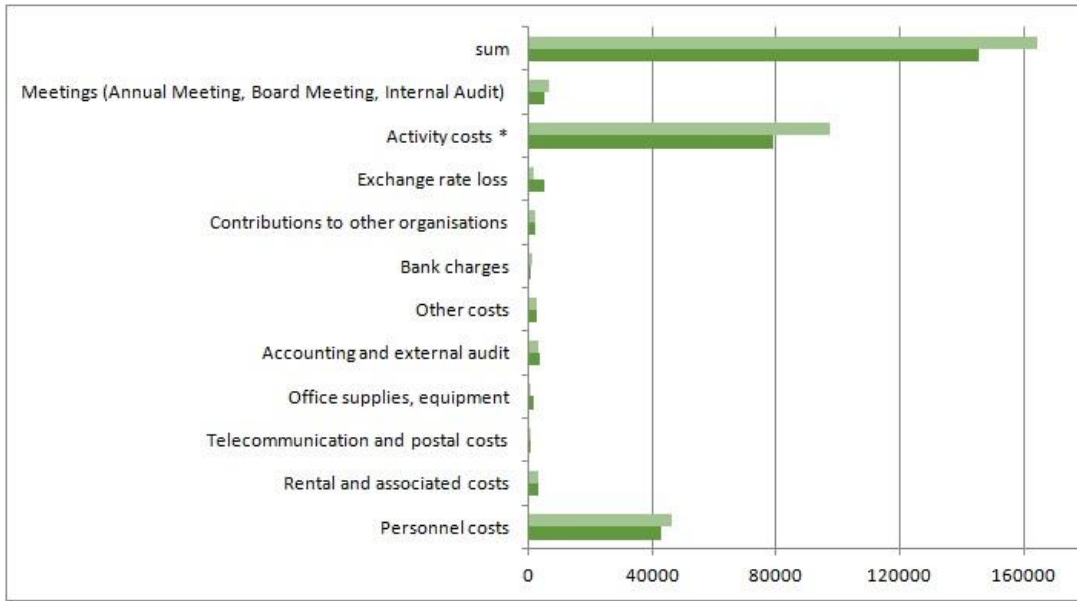
Finances 2017



Income 2017	AMOUNT in EUR
Erasmus+ Operating grant	44237
EYF Administrative grant	14410
EVS (Erasmus+)	14357
Membership fees	1630
STEP (Horizon 2020)	14392
Donations	4330
TC Uniting Youth for Ecotourism (Erasmus+)	15679
YE Postcards from nature	9800
TC YEEinclude - Inclusion Erasmus+	9940
TC YEEinclude - Inclusion EYF	6610
Environmental Challenge Accepted	6277
TOTAL	141662

Note: YEE Secretariat and Board worked on the implementation of the following projects but they were grass-root projects or the funding did not go through YEE accountancy:

- *Office Cuisine (Throughout 2017)*
- *Campaign “The Right to Be(e)” (Spring 2017)*
- *Training course “International environmental action days” (Summer 2017)*
- *Study session “Exploring gender equality in environmental projects” (Spring 2017)*

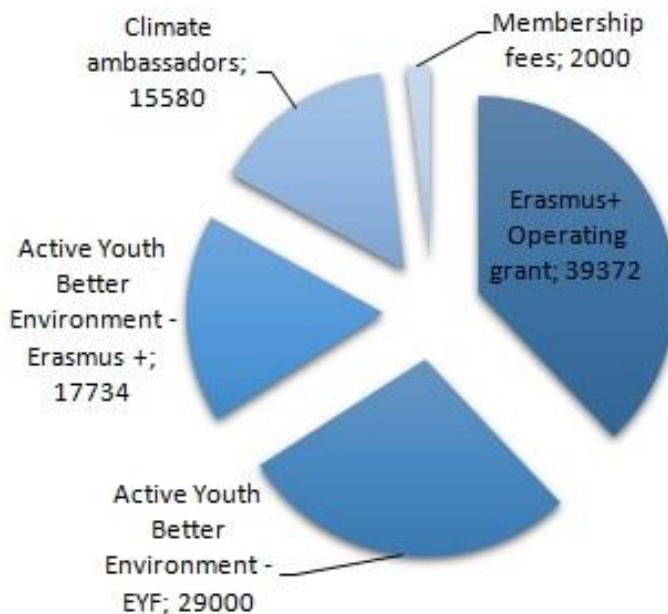


Expenses 2017	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	42644
Rental and associated costs	3293
Telecommunication and postal costs	330
Office supplies, equipment	1451
Accounting and external audit	3479
Other costs	2745
Bank charges	586
Contributions to other organisations	1844
Exchange rate loss	4948
Activity costs *	79095
Meetings (Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Internal Audit)	5262
TOTAL	145677

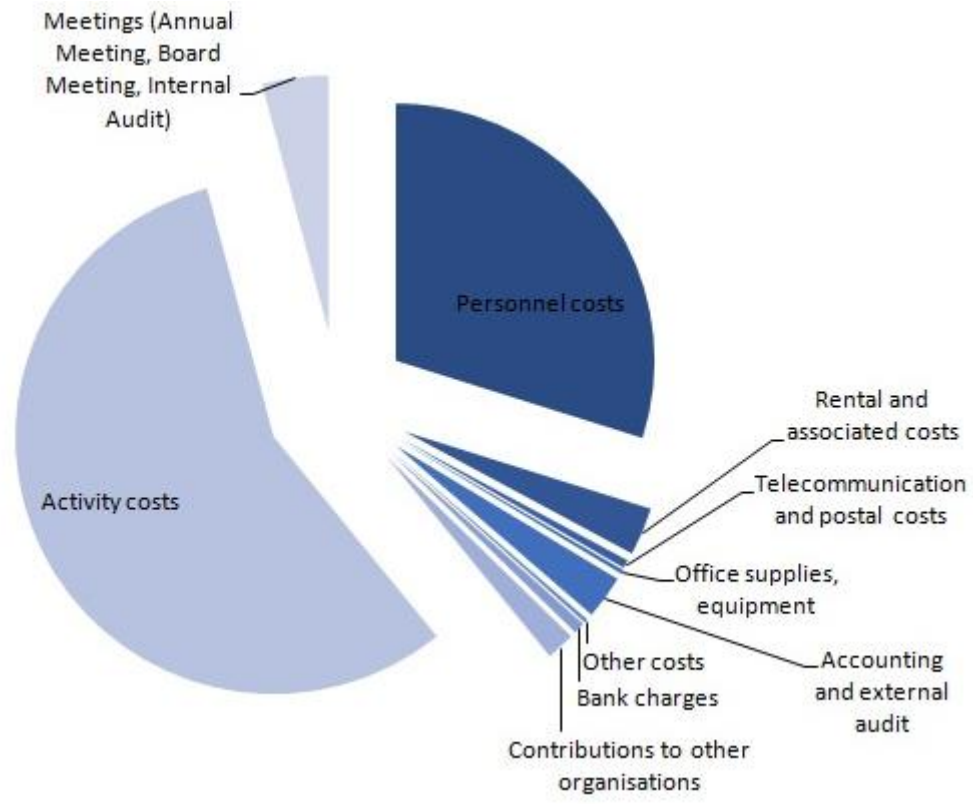
RESULTS 2017

Loss	4015 EUR
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Expected Budget 2018



Sources	Amount in EUR
Erasmus+ Operating grant	39372
Active Youth Better Environment - EYF	29000
Active Youth Better Environment - Erasmus +	17734
Climate ambassadors - Erasmus +	15580
Membership fees	2000
TOTAL	103686



	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel costs	32789
Rental and associated costs	3300
Telecommunication and postal costs	576
Office supplies, equipment	270
Accounting and external audit	3000
Other costs	258
Bank charges	800
Contributions to other organisations	1975
Activity costs	62314
Meetings (Annual Meeting, Board Meeting, Internal Audit)	4600
TOTAL	109882

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Member Organisations of YEE in 2017 – 2018

Name of the organisation	Country	Type of membership
EDEN Centre	Albania	Full
IPAS Association	Albania	Associate
Active Young Citizenship Initiative – AYCI	Armenia	Associate
Blejan NGO	Armenia	Associate
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia – FYCA	Armenia	Associate
Khazer	Armenia	Associate
Stepanavan Youth Center – SYC	Armenia	Associate
Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO	Armenia	Full
Young Biologists Association	Armenia	Associate
Youth Without Borders	Armenia	Associate
ÖNJ - Die Österreichische Naturschutzjugend	Austria	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Youth Organisation for Nature and Environment – JNM	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
Argonauta	Croatia	Associate
Hnuti Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Associate
Natur & Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement – SAEM	Georgia	Full
Umbrella	Georgia	Associate
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung - DJN	Germany	Full
FÖJ-Aktiv	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend – NAJU	Germany	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
Mine Vaganti NGO	Italy	Associate
7Arte	Kosovo	Associate
Balta Daba	Latvia	Full
Let's do it Macedonia	Macedonia	Full
Eco-Logic	Macedonia	Associate
Gutta-Club	Moldova	Full
Oddział Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK	Poland	Associate
O.P.E - Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubs	Portugal	Full
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
Association Biodiversa	Spain	Associate
Libertas International	Spain	Associate

Fälbiologerna	Sweden	Associate
Look East Wild Earth (LEWE)	UK	Associate
InYouth Ukraine	Ukraine	Associate
Ipsos Jure	Ukraine	Associate

Organisations applying for membership in YEE

This year there are **two organisations applying for membership** in Youth and Environment Europe for full membership:

1. *Common Sense Youth Organization*
2. *Milieukontakt Albania*

1. Common Sense Youth Organization

Year of foundation: 2006

Country: Azerbaijan

Website: <http://www.csyo-az.org/>

Description Of The Organisation: CSYO is actively involved in Erasmus+ and strongly encourages local youth to take part in European mobility by promoting Erasmus+ opportunities at universities. The organisation has begun to implement projects in the framework of EU programs since 2013 (Youth in Action, and then Erasmus+). CSYO has been accredited as a both sending (since 2012) and host (since 2016.) EVS organisation whose license is valid till 2020.

Youth Organisation: Yes, Common Sense is a youth organisation and organisations decision-making bodies are between 18-30 age

Members of the organisation: 120 members. Their members are individuals. Most of them are students.

What is the average age of organisation members: The average age of their members is 23.

Age Limit : 18-35

Mission / vision:

- to make the youth be aware of their civic responsibility and increase active citizenship;
- to advocate for human rights and equality;

- to promote social inclusion for the young with special needs;
- to promote healthy lifestyle and show the consequences of bad habits;
- to raise environmental awareness and the significance of ecological protection among the youth;
- to underpin peace building and conflict prevention;
- to support local schoolchildren and students in their self-development process.

Types of projects organised (e.g. campaigns, training courses etc.)

Find Your Rights with the nature TC (1-8 September 2013, Sheki, Azerbaijan) This training course was aiming at empowering and developing competences of young people using outdoor as a tool in the topics of human rights and youth participation.

Let's Define Our Rights through outdoor TC (16-22 September 2013, Sheki Azerbaijan) - 7-days project brought together activists, youth workers/leaders and multipliers with fewer opportunities and youth from culturally diverse backgrounds from Turkey, Azerbaijan, England, France, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, and equipped them with various tools and methods of outdoor education, and taught how to transfer their knowledge in their countries.

Youth in Conflict Prevention and Peace building (22-29 January 2014, Sumgait, Azerbaijan) – During 8-day program, participants had a chance to reflect how to make TC one of the main directions of their organizations and to explore the benefits of using training as a tool when promoting human rights, peace building and environmental conflict issues.

Projects implemented by “Common Sense” Youth Organization in Azerbaijan with the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission:

“Sport 4 Change” Youth Exchange (12-18 May 2017, Baku, Azerbaijan) was aiming to mobilise sport for development to promote skills, encourage cultural engagement among people of different backgrounds and conflict resolution.

Connection with the Environmental field :

Common Sense organised “ **Share your Road**” velo tour with Nature Friends organisation. The main aim of this project was enlightening both drivers and cyclists about their rights and duties.

CSYO organised **Eco camp for pupils with NGO council**. The purpose of this camp was informing pupils, and creating responsibility about ecology and to organise environment protecting activities with using their potential.

*One of the main direction of **Common Sense Youth Organization** is protecting environment and ecological education. They do believe the solution to the ecological problems is not the job that one organisation can do by itself. Organisation is always keen to cooperate with other*

organisations that share same interests with them. Common Sense Youth Organization is following the YEE activities in last two years. Organisation's members have participated in the training course of YEE in the Czech Republic in November 2017 and gave positive feedback, the board of Common Sense Youth Organization decided to apply for the YEE membership.

As **Common Sense Youth Organization** fulfils all the necessary criteria (youth organisation, dealing with environmental topics) we recommend the General Assembly **to accept their application for full membership**.

2. Milieukontakt Albania

Year of foundation: 2009

Country: Albania

Website: <http://www.milieukontakt.org/>

Description Of The Organisation: Milieukontakt Albania works with civil society on environment, nature and sustainable development issues in Albania. In all programs Milieukontakt Albania conducted, three elements were leading: building capacities, involving citizens and solving environmental problems. They provided training, coaching, support and advice for organisations working for sustainability.

Milieukontakt Albania stimulated and supported the involvement and empowerment of citizens and developed processes of participative strategy development and decision making. Milieukontakt Albania's approach, competences and projects have:

- Served as an awareness and advocacy tool for ensuring local ownership over capacity development processes;
- Fostered environmental CSOs participation in policy making process and capacity development;
- Provided a framework for active environmental CSOs involvement and integrating civil society feedback to major national priorities and policies;
- Served as a platform for NGO-government dialogue and increasing demand for public participation, transparency and democracy.

Initiating and maintaining dialogue: The strategy of Milieukontakt Albania is based on the development of dialogue and partnership between different stakeholders in the fields of nature and environment protection.

In Albania organisations assisted in strengthening dialogue and partnership between civil society, authorities, business and other stakeholders on different levels (local, regional, national and international).

Youth Organisation:	No, but the vital part of Milieukontakt Albania is a volunteer group composed of students and other young people from local communities where they work.
Members of the organisation:	Milieukontakt is a foundation and according to the legislation it is not membership based.
What is the average age of organisation members:	27
Age Limit :	No age limit
Mission / vision:	Organisation strategy is characterised by an integrated approach, democracy, and a common strategy and implementation at local level. Milieukontakt Albania fosters a participatory approach in developing an environmental movement in Albania.
Types of projects organised (e.g. campaigns, training courses etc.)	<p>Monitoring and assessing urban waste management service in Kruja, Permet and Saranda Municipalities;</p> <p>Green lungs for our cities – alternative and bottom-up monitoring platform for air quality, noise pollution and urban greenery for policy influencing at local level;</p> <p>Education For All by practicing Sustainable Development Goals (EFA);</p> <p>CSOs practicing EIA in all phases Civil Society Act for Development of Socio-Economic Basis of a Healthy Environment;</p> <p>The School that I Love;</p> <p>HELP-CSO - Horizontal Enforcement Legislation Promotion-CSO Financially supported by REC in the frame of ACHIEVE Project;</p> <p>Waste Management Plan in Shijak Municipality;</p> <p>Environmental alternative for the small HPPs in Albania.</p>
Connection with the Environmental field :	The long-term goal of the organisation.

Milieukontakt Albania wants to share experience and get to know other youth organisations and people around Europe with similar interests, exchange information and ideas in the fields of

nature and environment protection, take part in high-quality training courses, find reliable partners. At the same time the organisation wants to offer opportunity to their volunteers to participate in European initiatives and learn from positive examples all over Europe.

***Milieukontakt Albania** applies for full membership. According to Statutes of YEE organisations that apply for full membership should be youth organisations, youth groups or the autonomous youth sections of organisations. Milieukontakt Albania is not a youth organisation. As they showed huge motivation (working with youth, dealing with environmental topics) to become a member of the network, we recommend the General Assembly to accept their application for associate membership.*

Review of membership

The following Member Organisations will be reviewed during Annual Meeting 2017:

- **Active Young citizenship initiative - AYCI (Armenia)** - Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 2 years. Since 2017 organisation can not send delegate whose age will be under 30. According to Statutes of YEE, the representatives of the Annual Meeting shall be dually accredited by their organisations and shall be under 30 years of age. (Article 5, The Annual Meeting and the General Assembly). The board and secretariat have used all possible means to invite an organisation to represent AYCI by a young representative. However, they failed to find a person younger than 30 to represent them at the Annual Meeting.
- **Association for Environmental Integration and Social Progress - IPAS (Albania)**: Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 2 years. The Board and Secretariat have used all possible means of contacting them. We did not receive any reply.
- **Natuur 2000 (Belgium)**: Did not pay its membership fee for the last 3 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 3 years. Organisation was reviewed at Annual Meeting 2017. The General Assembly during Annual Meeting 2017 voted against cancellation of their membership. Office and Board were contacting them during 2017 and 2018. Organisation still has difficult financial situation.
- **Oddział Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno - Krajoznawczego w Krakowie - OA PTTK (Poland)**: Did not pay its membership fee for the last 2 years and did not attend the YEE Annual Meeting for the last 2 years. The Board and Secretariat have used all possible means of contacting them. We did not receive any reply.

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