

Youth and Environment Europe

Annual Report 2018

Annual Meeting 2019

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Introduction

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is an international platform that unites 43 European youth organisations from 26 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 the 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.

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 an 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 of volunteers, being elected every summer during the Annual Meeting by the General Assembly and is entitled to follow the decisions of the General Assembly.

Youth and Environment Europe

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The 2018-2019 YEE Executive Board was elected in July 2018 during the Annual Meeting:

Chairperson – Elen Karapetian (Yeghvard, Armenia)

Vice-Chair & Treasurer – Daniela Para (Gutta-club, Moldova)

Project Officer – Tea Zeqaj (EDEN, Albania)

Publications and Promotion Officer – Tamara Panic (Young Researchers of Serbia, Serbia)

Member Organisations Officer – Kristine Stikane (Balta Daba, Latvia)

External Relations Officer – Tiarnan O’Doherty (Eco-Unesco, Ireland)

During the period of 2018-2019, the Executive Board had three physical meetings – one right after the AM 2018, the second in December 2018 and the third one in April 2019. There will be one more physical Board meeting, before the AM 2019. There were also 10 virtual Board meetings held during the business year 2018-2019. Additionally, there were working groups (formed by some members of the Board, Secretariat and MOs) working on different issues that met several times during 2018-2019.

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:	Mariam Dzneladze (March 2018-July 2019)
	Bilinc Sezgin (May 2019-Present)
Project Manager:	Natalia Luchko (Until July 2018)
Project Manager:	Cansu Yetişgin (July 2018-Present)
Consultant:	Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull (Until October 2018)

The Secretariat participated in all the physical Board Meetings and in all the virtual Board Meetings that were held in 2018-2019.

European Voluntary Service/European Solidarity Corps (EVS/ESC)

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 2018 YEE office hosted 4 EVS volunteers.

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Volunteers hosted through the EVS programme:

- Coline Malot (France 09/2017 – 08/2018)
- Cristian Riva (Italy 09/2017 – 08/2018)
- Eurgain Phylip (Wales 09/2018 - 08/2019)
- Femke Lootens (Belgium 09/2018 - 04/2019)

Development of the organisation

In 2018 YEE implemented all of the activities of the Work Plan and achieved many of the goals set in the Strategic Plan. Some of the achievements are:

- Active participation in events organised by the European Youth Forum and the European Environmental Bureau.
- Partnerships with new organisations from Albania and Azerbaijan.
- Several Working Groups were formed by members of the Board, Secretariat, the EVS Volunteers and volunteers from MO's, in order to work on specific topics and tasks of the network, such as new membership application, gender mainstreaming guidelines, new structure of Newsletter, new website, YEE Foodprint, Fundraising, etc.
- Short trainings were included in all physical Board meetings (in the topics of moderation and feedback giving).
- We published an online publication as an outcome of the “Active Youth Better Environment” project.
- YEE funded 10 organisations to organise local actions under “Take a Green Stand” Campaign.

Activities from the Work Plan 2018

1. Youth exploring participation

Date and venue: 17-23 March 2018, Kapraluv Mlyn, Czech Republic

Type of activity: Training course

Aim: The aim of this project is to equip young people with the knowledge and the capacity to participate in environmental decision-making processes.

Number of participants: 19 participants

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

2. Campaign - Office cuisine blog

Date and venue: Throughout 2018, 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 2018.

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

3. “Youth for environmental future”

Date and venue: 8-15 July 2018, ecological center Slunakov, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Training course

Aim: To promote youth participation in decision-making process.

Number of participants: 35 participants.

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

4. Campaign: “Take a Green Stand”

Date and venue: April-December 2018, Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Russia and Serbia. 29 November - 2 December Evaluation Meeting with the Local Action Coordinators in Prague, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Local action, evaluation meeting

Aim: The aim of this international campaign was to empower young people to take part in climate change-related decision-making.

Description: Selected partners organised local workshops (with financial support) on various international frameworks, their development and implementation: for example, the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will also support the process with a web page on YEE website which will include articles, videos, materials with examples of young people getting engaged in their communities.

Target group: Youth workers and volunteers from environmental youth NGOs

Number of participants: 10 local actions - around 200 participants

Funding: Coordination supported by project grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe)

5. Youth for the environment - European Voluntary Service

Date and venue: Throughout 2018, 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 (France, Italy, Wales and Belgium)
Funding: Key Action 1, Erasmus+ (Czech National Agency)

6. Publication – Active youth - Better Environment

Date and venue: January 2019, Czech Republic.

Type of activity: Online

Description: The publication “Active Youth-Better Environment” is created by YEE team as a follow-up of the long term project of the same name. This publication was created for all young people and youth organisations who want to create a more inclusive decision making structures for young people, and young people who would like to get involved in these structures but feel that they would like to learn more about how-to participate.

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

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

Funding: Coordination supported by project grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe)

8. YEE newsletter

Date and venue: Monthly, 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 with updates about YEE projects and publications, local actions and news from our member organisations and articles on 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: 7 young people involved in the creation, 229 subscribers.

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

9. YEE Website

Date and venue: Throughout 2018, 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: In the autumn 2018 the new website was launched. Both content and design were improved in comparison to previous one.

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

Number of participants: 7 young people managing the website and its content, an it as 4465 users from the period July 2018 - June 2019.

Funding: Coordination supported by project grants received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe)

10. YEE Social Media

Date and venue: Throughout 2018, online

Type of activity: Online social media

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

Description: Social media strategy was created. YEE has a Facebook page, few Facebook groups for various projects, Youtube, Vimeo, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts.

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

Number of participants: 10 young people managing the social media platforms, over 5649 followers on Facebook, 242 in Twitter, 254 in Instagram, 141 in LinkedIn.

Funding: There is no allocated funding to support social media work of YEE.

Statutory meetings held in 2018

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

Date and venue: 15-17 July 2018 - Czech Republic

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 grant received from the Erasmus+ (EACEA)

- **Board Meetings**

- **Virtual Board Meetings – 10 online meetings**

Date and venue: Throughout 2018, 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 Work Groups took place where members of the Board and the Secretariat in smaller groups discussed on concrete issues, such as the creation of new policies or a new Work Plan idea.

Target group: YEE Board and Secretariat, member organisations.

Number of participants: 10 participants

Funding: There is no allocated funding for online meetings.

- **Physical Board Meetings – 5 meetings**

Date and venue: 24-25 March 2018, Kapraluv Mlyn, Czech Republic; 17 July, Slunakov, Czech Republic; 2-4 December, Prague, Czech Republic; 7-10 April 2019, Dublin, Ireland; 29-30 June 2019, Kapraluv mlyn, 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, Secretariat and EVS Volunteers.

Number of participants: 10-12 participants

Funding: Coordination and costs supported by operating grants received from the Erasmus+ (EACEA)

- **Internal Audit**

Date and venue: 6 June 2019, 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.

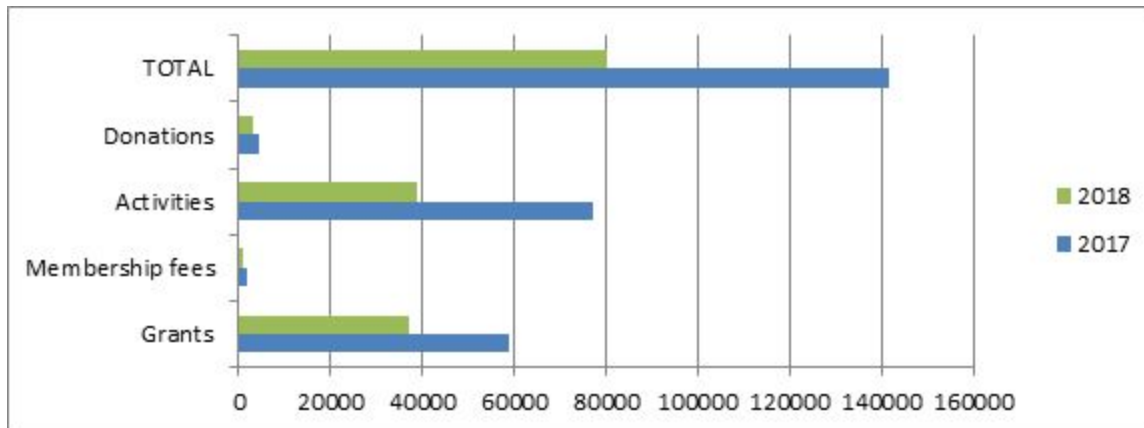
Target group: YEE Board, the Secretariat and EVS Volunteers.

Number of participants: 2 auditors and 10 people interviewed

Funding: Coordination and costs supported by operating grants received from the Erasmus+ (EACEA)

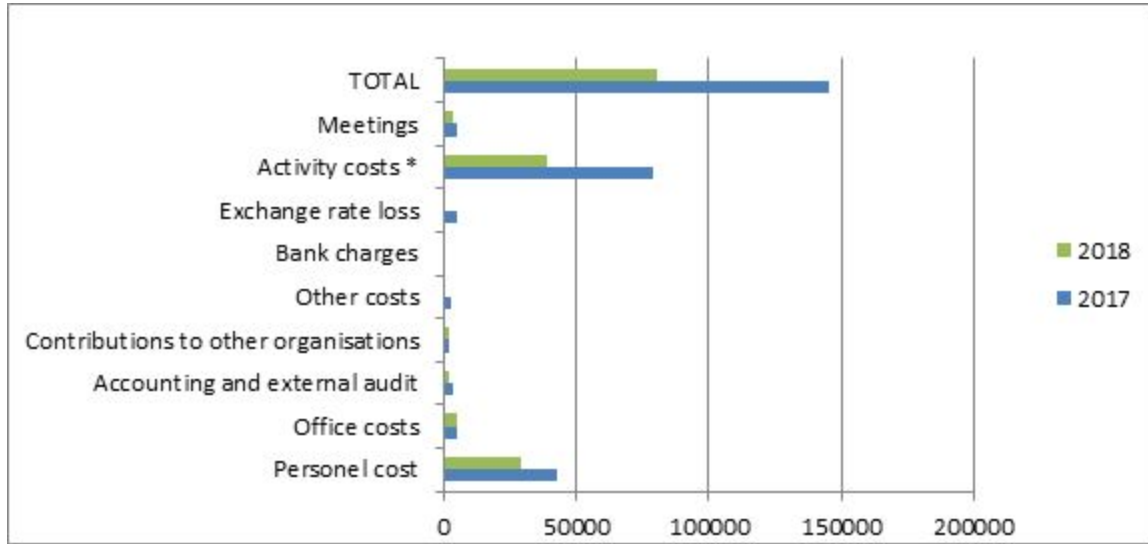
Finances 2018

Income 2018	AMOUNT in EUR
EACEA - Erasmus+	37,220.36
Active Youth Better Environment	38,792.20
Membership fees	1,110.00
Donations	3,046.00
TOTAL	80,168.56



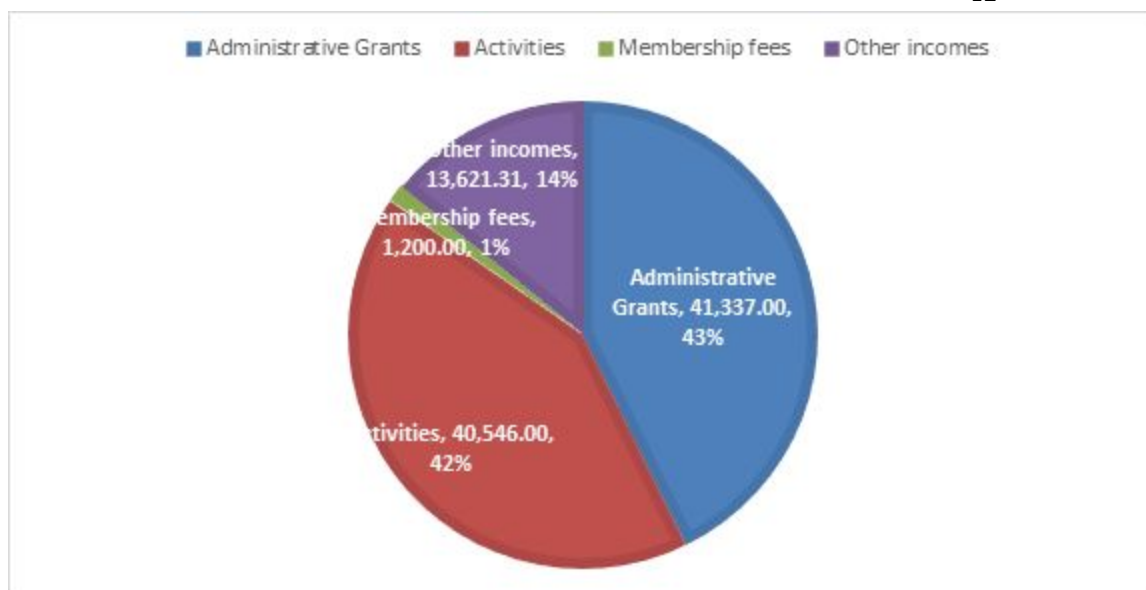
Expenses 2018	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel cost	28,848.39
Office costs	4,706.54
Accounting and external audit	1,877.41
Bank charges	44.12
Activity costs	38,792.20
Contributions to other organizations	1,871.15
Other costs	295.57

Meetings	3,728.46
TOTAL	80,163.84

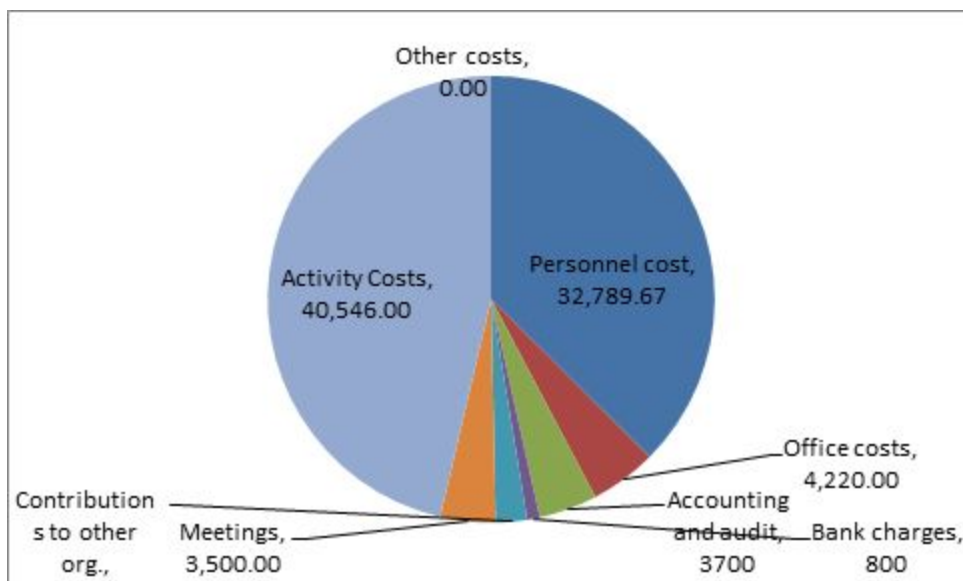


Expected Budget 2019

Sources	AMOUNT in EUR
Administrative Grants	41,337.00
Activities	40,546
Membership fees	1,200.00
Other incomes	13,621.31
Total	96704.31



Expenses 2019	AMOUNT in EUR
Personnel cost	32,789.67
Office costs	4,220.00
Accounting and audit	3700
Bank charges	800
Contributions to other org.	1,975.00
Meetings	3,500.00
Activity Costs	40,546
Other costs	9173,64
TOTAL	96704,31



Member Organisations of YEE in 2018 - 2019

Name of Organisation	Country	Type of membership
Environmental center for Development Education and Networking	Albania	Full
Millieukontakt Albania	Albania	Associate
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia	Armenia	Associate
Khazer	Armenia	Associate
Stepanavan Youth center	Armenia	Associate
Young Biologists Association	Armenia	Associate
Youth Without Borders	Armenia	Associate
Yeghvard	Armenia	Full
Blejan NGO	Armenia	Associate
Public Awareness and Monitoring Centre	Armenia	Associate
Die Österreichische Naturschutzjugend	Austria	Full
Common Sense Youth Organization	Azerbaijan	Full
Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieu	Belgium	Full
Jeunes et Nature	Belgium	Full
Natuur 2000	Belgium	Full
Argonauta	Croatia	Associate
Hnutí Brontosaurus	Czech Republic	Associate
Natur & Ungdom	Denmark	Full
Luonto-Liitto	Finland	Full
Georgia Youth EcoMovement	Georgia	Full

Umbrella	Georgia	Associate
FÖJ-Aktiv	Germany	Full
Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung	Germany	Full
Naturschutzjugend	Germany	Full
ECO-Unesco	Ireland	Full
Mine Vaganti NGO	Italy	Associate
7Arte	Kosovo	Associate
BALTA DABA (previously - Ja visapkart)	Latvia	Full
Eco-Logic	Macedonia	Associate
Let's do it Macedonia	Macedonia	Full
Republican Center for Children and Youth GUTTA-CLUB	Moldova	Full
Oddzial Akademicki Polskiego Towarzystwa Turystyczno-Krajoznawczego w Krakowie	Poland	Associate
Organisation for the promotion of Ecoclubes	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	Russia	Associate
Young Researchers of Serbia	Serbia	Full
Biodiversa	Spain	Associate
Fältbiologerna	Sweden	Associate (Full until 2016)
Look East Wild Earth	United Kingdom	Associate

Ipsa Jure	Ukraine	Associate
InYouth Ukraine	Ukraine	Associate

Organisations applying for membership in YEE

This year there is **one organisation applying for a full membership** at Youth and Environment Europe - **ecological association “JEZERO”**.

Year of foundation: 2004

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Website: Not mentioned

Description Of The Organisation: Ecological association "Jezero" is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-party organization. Their target groups are young people, students of elementary and secondary schools, university students and unemployed.

Youth Organisation: Since 2008, they have a youth center as a part of the association.

Members of the organisation: 80 members. Twice as more volunteers are involved in their activities.

What is the average age of organisation members: The average age of their members is 25-26, no age limit has been set.

Age Limit : No age limit has been stated

Mission / vision: The Mission of Ecological association "Jezero" is the promotion and development of civil society through lifelong non formal education and support to active engagement.

One of the main goals of the Ekološko udruženje "Jezero" is to promote and develop international cooperation among young people on a European level. They want to involve young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of intercultural learning and the participation in European voluntary service in order to achieve the goals settled.

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

Ecological association "Jezero" has **10 years** of experience in the realization of **youth projects** and actions on local and international level that are related to the **work with young people, community development and eco-tourism.**

1) **Local projects** have had the aims on the constructions like sports facilities, playgrounds, local roads and cleaning and decorating the local excursion destinations.

2) **Regional projects** have had the aims on connecting young people from north-east of Bosnia and Herzegovina and education within the program "Youth in Action".

3) **International projects** - they have participated in and organized international projects themselves. For instance, participation in the organization of the Summer School of sustainable development for the South-Eastern Europe was mentioned, also the International Peace Camp in Sarajevo have been organized.

Publications:

- Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) of Municipality Živinice
- Handbook for Composting organic waste
- Mushroom Cultivation Manual for the young people
- Local environmental Action Plan (LEAP) of Municipality Živinice

Connection with the Environmental field :

The Association encourages and coordinates the activities of its members to achieve common goals and tasks, in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other legislation on the basis of its program objectives for which the Association is established that are closely related with the environment.

The goals, objectives and activities of the Association are:

- Protection of potable water springs,
- Protection of water flows, lakes, as well as work to clean them,
- Air protection from all forms of air pollution, as well as work on improving the environmentally friendly industry,
- Protection of flora, and among others, protection of forests and prevention of illegal logging them,
- Protection of plants and endangered rare endemic plants legally protected,

- Protection of fauna, that is, protection of wild life legally protected animals,
- The fight against dirty, outdated and environmentally unfriendly technologies,
- Fight against the consumption and sale of environmentally unhealthy food and drinks,
- Work on protection from ionizing radiation and harmful radiation,
- Working in all fields that may in any way jeopardize the healthy and clean ecological environment.

Review of membership

The following Member Organisations will be reviewed during Annual Meeting 2019:

- ***Eco-Logic (Macedonia)*** — Joined the network 3 years ago (2016). Haven't paid its membership fee for the last 2 years and haven't attended 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.
- ***Let's do it Macedonia (Macedonia)***: Joined the network 3 years ago (2016). Haven't paid its membership fee for the last 2 years and haven't attended 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.
- ***Look East Wild Earth (United Kingdom)***: Joined the network in 2015 (14 years ago) and was actively involved in its activities until 2017. Haven't paid its membership fee for the last 2 years and haven't attended 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.

Funders

In 2018 YEE received the financial support from:

Erasmus+, the European Commission.



European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.



YEE would like to thank the European Commission and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe for the financial support granted for our activities.