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ECYC Newsletter – June 2010

Dear ECYC friends

It has been a while since last ECYC newsletter. This has, of course, everything to do with the fact that we have been short in staff for a few months, as you probably already knew. Luckily we have found a fresh and new Secretary General with exactly the skills and ambition that ECYC needs right now: Carmen Paun. Many of you will have the pleasure to meet her during the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting, in that case I will leave further impressions up to you. For the others, there is of course the "Editorial from our Secretary General", which sets off our newsletter as always.

Furthermore, this newsletter covers the 2 past ECYC seminars, provides information about upcoming events, shares the activities of other MO's, and brings you some news from the European Commission. Special thanks to those who have sent in articles. Enjoy your reading!

Ben Quirynen
ECYC Secretary

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Editorial from our Secretary General

Dear friends,

I am happy to address you in my first ever editorial as a Secretary General of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs. This comes just a few days after meeting Annina, ECYC former Secretary General, whom I thank for taking the time to travel from Finland to Belgium just to make sure I understand how things work. After a day spent with Annina I understood not only how things work, but also the legacy left to me. I hope I won't disappoint anybody's expectations. Coming after Annina, I know that will be difficult.



In approximately a week from now, I will meet many of you in the Executive Committee and General Assembly of ECYC. It will be a great moment to associate names, e-mail addresses and organizations with faces, persons, impressions. I am very much looking forward to it. I will take advantage of this meeting to get "the feel of the organization" and to discover things and people that will motivate me to do my job every day in the office.

As in every community and organization in this world, changes are not always the most easy to cope with. I am bringing a change for you and ECYC brought a change for my life here in Belgium. I do hope that we will help each other embrace these new changes after next week's meetings and that we will do a great job together for ECYC, which I am very proud to work for.

I am also hoping that after next week the communication between your international officers and the ECYC Secretariat in Belgium will run smoothly: e-mails will be answered from both sides in due time, new ideas of projects will be implemented, new skills created and new great memories acquired.

But until next week I will leave you with the great materials that Ben has gathered for you: reports from past ECYC seminars, last updates about the ExCom and GA, information about new opportunities coming to you this year.

Looking forward to a great Executive Committee and General Assembly meeting!

Carmen Paun
Secretary General



I. Past ECYC events

1. *Europe – Russia – Asia (ERA) – Conference on intercultural dialogue and youth participation – 19-25 April 2010, Moscow, Russia*



From 19-20 April 2010, RUY hosted a conference of a huge geographical scale: Europe-Russia-Asia. People with totally different cultures and backgrounds were given the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas about human rights.

Unfortunately, in the end most participants were from Eastern Europe and a few from Asia, because the entire airspace in the Western and Northern part of Europe was shut down due to the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland. As a result, the prep team members of ECYC were not able to attend the seminar. Nevertheless, the participants that were present have had an interesting, useful and fun seminar.

The outline of the week was:

- ✓ Teambuilding activities and energizers;
- ✓ Training module on human rights education and intercultural dialogue;
- ✓ Exploring human rights issues;
- ✓ Master class on youth participation;
- ✓ Meetings with the Deputy Minister on sport, tourism and youth policy of the Russian Federation, with the Chairman of the Commission on youth and tourism affairs of the Council of Federation, and with representatives of the Council of Europe, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation;



- ✓ Discussions about intercultural dialogue, human rights education, youth policy and the role of youth in youth policy;
 - ✓ Exploring intercultural differences between participants;
 - ✓ Development of the appreciation of different working methods in open youth work internationally;
 - ✓ Comparing differences and similarities in youth policies in Europe, Russia and Asia;
- ✓ Creation of a declaration to the Directorate of youth and sport Council of Europe and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, as a result of their work and to the participants of 5th World Youth Congress.

A big thank you to everyone who has made this event possible, despite the difficulties we have encountered. Nastrovje!

Ben Quirynen
ECYC Secretary

2. *Spice up your leadership!* – Study session on leadership for youth workers and volunteers – 16-23 May 2010, Budapest, Hungary

„All spiced up“

Spice up your leadership! A study session in the European Youth Center of Budapest.

In the middle of May, 34 participants from 17 European countries arrived in Hungary with one common task, to attend the study session „Spice up your leadership!“. The session was a cooperation between ECYC, Rural Youth Europe and the Council of Europe. The prep team were getting a little nervous because the Icelandic ash cloud was affecting the travel schedule of many participants. In the end all the participants made it safely to Budapest, even though some were delayed.



The aims of the study session were:

- ✓ Provide youth leaders and current or potential board members from across Europe with the skills, knowledge and tools to become effective leaders of their organisations.
- ✓ Support our MO's through capacity building and explore together how to lead youth organisations.
- ✓ Exchange good practices on leadership in youth organisations.
- ✓ Provide youth leaders and current or potential board members with a European perspective on youth work.



Here are some participants' thoughts:

„Undescribable experience filled with unique methods, amazing talented people. Excellent people with experience and personal charm who had colourful impact on the seminar. I noticed what kind of a leader I want to be and not and that is magnificent!!!“

Sigurlaug Vordís Eysteinsdóttir (Silla),
Samfés (Iceland)

„A fruitful experience that surely worth it. All the participants had the opportunity to learn and teach the others by their experiences.“

Theodora Panayi,
CYCO (Cyprus)

„It was one of the best international workshops in my life.“

Denys Tkachenko,
NGO "Our children" (Ukraine)

„An interesting and amazing week with a lot of impressions.“

Anna Nord,
Fritidsforum (Sweden)

This week we spent together in the European Youth Center in Budapest was a great time and I hope everyone arrived home with their backpack full of methods, ideas and better leadership skills. I want to thank all participants and prep team for a wonderful week.

Bjarni Þórðarson
Vice president of ECYC and prep team member.

II. ECYC updates

1. Executive Committee Meeting & General Assembly 19-20 June 2010, Edinburgh, UK

Within less than a week, many of you will be attending the Executive Committee Meeting and General Assembly in Edinburgh, UK. I'm sure it will be a warm, interesting, constructive, useful and fun gathering. ECYC and UK Youth (with special thanks to Youth Scotland!) have prepared a weekend which should definitely redeem these expectations.

Let's have a look at the programme:

Thursday 17/06/2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Arrival delegates➤ <u>19h00 – 20h30</u>: Evening Reception at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by Aileen Campbell, Scotland's youngest Member of Scottish Parliament
Friday 18/06/2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <u>09h30 – 17h00</u>: Vision Not Division Conference The Vision not Division Conference forms part of a UK wide programme promoting the holistic approach to education and valuing the role of non-formal learning as part of a broader vision for 21st century education. More info: www.visionnotdivision.org. This Conference will deliver a Scottish context for the benefits of valuing a holistic approach to education and support the sharing of good practice across Europe. Delegates will develop their understanding of the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence and hear practical examples of how youth workers, teachers and young people have benefitted from collaborative approaches.
Saturday 19/06/2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <u>09h30 – 18h00</u>: ECYC Executive Committee Meeting➤ <u>20h00 – 23h30</u>: Ceilidh Event for delegates and invited guests
Sunday 20/06/2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <u>09h30 – 14h00</u>: ECYC General Assembly➤ Departure delegates

The [agenda and documents](#) for the Executive Committee and General Assembly can be found online at: www.ecyc.org. Just log in to the ECYC website and click on Links – Executive Committee. If you have lost your password, please e-mail to ben@ecyc.org.

**The ECYC Bureau and Secretariat is looking forward
to meeting you in Edinburgh!**

2. Seminar: "Role of youth work and intercultural learning in peacebuilding" – 20-26 September 2010, Tsakhkadzor, Armenia

Do you want to discover new trends in the intercultural learning discourse and education? Do you want to understand the relationship among youth work, peace building and intercultural learning?

The European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) together with Federation of Youth Clubs – Armenia (FYCA) is organising a seminar aimed at building capacity of youth workers to address challenges created by existing realities of conflicts in Europe and its regions. The seminar is financed by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and will look at peace and coexistence not only in conflict regions, but also in communities and societies, where social and cultural unrest exists. It builds on the experiences of youth work, its role and tools in tackling the issues, and provides means for organising work and implementing projects targeted at a wider peace building concept.

Background

The seminar is an idea developed by FYCA and the ECYC and agreed by the ECYC membership at the Executive Committee meeting in Slovenia. It is a follow-up and contribution to the work in promoting intercultural learning and dialogue and fits into a wider context of work to ensure solidarity, dialogue and peaceful coexistence in Europe. ECYC has had a number of initiatives tackling the issue through its educational activities such as the study session (in cooperation with the European Youth Centre Strasbourg of the Council of Europe) on the Role of youth work in addressing areas of significant conflict (Strasbourg, France 2004).

Youth work has always been one of the powerful tools in capacitating young people with competences needed to work and make their contribution to building peace in the societies. The need of young people to be involved in the wider peace building processes is evident and cannot but contribute to not only peaceful coexistence but also to building space for development, growth and prosperity.

We aim to:

- Analyse the potential of youth work to contribute to the peace and conflict resolution in the Caucasus region and across Europe
- Exchange good practices regarding formats and models of co-existence and mutual understanding in multicultural, multi-religious and multinational environments, especially when it comes to the current challenges set by globalization and migration;
- Map the needed activities in the contribution to peace building and peaceful coexistence;
- Explore and promote the role of intercultural learning in peace building initiatives and through common actions
- Promote youth peace initiatives and joint planned activities in the region

The full call for participants and application form can be found online at:

<http://www.ecyc.org/index.cfm?link=news.cfm>



III. Articles from MO's

Youth Network MaMa: Footprints of Youth 2010 **Seminar about opportunities of young people in nowadays' society** **22-23 April 2010, Brežice, Slovenia**



After introductions and team building we talked about concrete challenges (distance from urban cities, fear of public appearance, cooperation with local communities, permissive education ...) and through graffiti art we introduced how we could tackle these issues.

One of the main aims of the seminar was to motivate young people for being courageous, active and persevering. For this purpose we invited 4 successful people, who told their stories about their few opportunities and how they surmounted difficulties and became highly satisfied. We hosted Faila Pašić Bišić (ambassadors of European year of combating poverty and social inclusion), Martina Hudorovič (very young creatress of short films, active volunteer from Trbovlje), Taja Metličar and fairy tale writer Franci Rogač. After their presentations nobody was stoical, because these people are eloquent proof, that most of the doors are wide open for all of us.

On the second day we experienced how it is to have power (and vice versa) through one long, but very educational activity, at which representatives of municipalities joined and discussed the relationship between youth and local society. They confirmed that clear ideas and perseverance will repay all efforts.

In two days of intensive sharing opinions we added our new small piece in mosaic of opportunities of young people in Slovenia.

This seminar for young people and youth workers who work with youth with fewer opportunities, was organised by The Youth Network MaMa and National Youth Council of Slovenia, provided with funds of ESS in two Slovenian regions (Spodnjeposavje and South East Slovenia). In these two days participants and trainers discussed challenges and barriers in these two regions.

Petra Aškerc
Youth Network MaMa, Slovenia



CYCO: News updates from Cyprus

GOOD NEWS FOR CYCO! Youth in Action Programme has reopened for Cyprus!! Cyprus Youth Clubs Organization is looking forward to organizing new exciting programmes.

In the meantime, CYCO has involved the Cypriot youth in several Youth Exchanges: "Equal non Equal" in Poland, "Play your life, know the difference" in Italy, "Art for Europe" in France and "Lifestyle is on Stage" in Germany.

On a national level, two Pancyprrian Campaigns have taken place in April, a centralized "Campaign against Poverty" collected clothing and shoes for those in need. The response was incredible and thousands of clothing items were collected and donated to less fortunate citizens. Also CYCO has signed the European Road Safety charter and has committed in organizing various awareness seminars. The first seminar took place in April 2010 at the Youth Club of Kornos hosting it.

In March CYCO organized its first seminar entitled "Emotional Intelligence and Youth Leadership" in the coastal city of Larnaca, while the Youth Club of Agros village organized the seminar "Youth Clubs in Action".

CYCO also proudly participated with one trainer/member of the preparatory team and two participants in ECYC's and RYE's Study Session "Spice Up Your Leadership!" in Budapest.

Giwrgos Seraphin & Anna Dalosi
CYCO

FYCA: Charity action dedicated to Easter

On April 1-2, 2010, the volunteers of the Yerevan Youth Bank implemented a charity action dedicated to Easter. The action was held in the Zeitun, Avan and Toumanyan branches of the supermarket "STAR". Apart from their usual shopping, people bought additional food as well, such as rice, pasta, sugar, raisins, vegetables, oil and donated it to the charity box of the Yerevan Youth Bank.

The responses by our compatriots differed. Many think that this action is of importance and necessity, others approached the initiative skeptically. It's a pity that some people didn't realize the importance of this initiative.

On 3 April the volunteers handed the food over to 26 needy families of Adjapniak and Malatia-Sebastia, including mothers of many children, disabled people, veterans, pensioners, etc.

The charity action was organized within the framework of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and "Youth Bank" Project of the Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia.

Gayane Asatryan
Federation of Youth Clubs Armenia



IV. European news

1. European Alcohol and Health Forum: Invitation to test on-line resource on alcohol and youth projects

Based on the suggestion and concept outline of the EAHF Task Force on youth-related aspects of alcohol, the Commission services, assisted by an Advisory Board comprising members of the Forum and others, have been developing an on-line resource ("clearing house") to capture projects relating to young people and alcohol.

The objective of the resource is to capture information on projects to prevent under-age drinking or drink-driving, to educate young people in alcohol issues, to protect them from the consequences of alcohol abuse by others, or to encourage responsible practices among sellers and servers of alcoholic beverages.

A prototype of an on-line resource is now available for testing by interested parties. Testing involves entering information on genuine completed projects in the domains listed above. The purpose is to get user feedback on the functioning of the on-line projects database before the public launch. Test users may request their projects to be removed from the database before launch. In the absence of such request the project/s will be published in the database provided the information entered meets the basic requirements.

If you are interested in acting as test user, you can send an e-mail to Marjatta Montonen, in order to get instructions for accessing the online resource and for registering as a user: marjatta.montonen@ec.europa.eu.

Further background information (notably the Task Force's report to the EAHF) is available in the Commission's web site: http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/forum/forum_details/index_en.htm#fragment3

2. European Alcohol and Health Forum: Share your organisation's best practices with the world!

RAYPRO, a Resource on Alcohol and Youth Projects is now online, open to contributions from all organisations working on alcohol and young people. To access RAYPRO, click the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/policy/index_en.htm#promotion

To enter projects in RAYPRO you need to register. Just access the database, click "register" and follow instructions. Once registered, you can login and enter details of your project to share proven good practice. For technical assistance, please turn to the help desk sanco-raypro@ec.europa.eu.

No registration is needed for searching information in RAYPRO. DG Health & Consumers has set up RAYPRO for a pilot phase through to 2011. Continuation and further development will hinge on whether information seekers find RAYPRO a useful source of practical advice for tackling alcohol-related harm among young people.

Your contribution may make a difference!

DG Health & Consumers
European Commission

V. ECYC Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
16-17/06/2010	Bureau Meeting	Edinburgh, UK
18/06/2010	Non Formal Learning Conference	Edinburgh, UK
19/06/2010	Executive Committee Meeting	Edinburgh, UK
20/06/2010	General Assembly	Edinburgh, UK
20-26/09/2010	Role of Youth Work and Intercultural Learning in Peacebuilding	Tsakhkadzor, Armenia

