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## **Narrative Report 2009**

### January 9-11, 2009

Consultation "Europe, Art and Spirituality: Building up Intercultural Identity"

*Vienna, Austria*

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the hosting and preparatory committees the opportunity to meet together in person, become better acquainted with the conference venue, network, create a database of various experts in relation to the themes and sessions, and to make other various preparations. This meeting was a space for leadership training for all the young participants who were involved. Additionally, the overall aims of the conference were planned, including an analysis of the interaction between art and religion and art and society; a study of different European identities and their common ground; an exploration of the use of art as an intercultural language; and the development of tools for intercultural dialogue.

### January 10-14, 2009

Financial meeting

*Budapest, Hungary*

This meeting between the Regional Secretary and Treasurer allowed time to finalise the 2008 accounting, and schedule and prepare the 2008 financial reporting. Time was also dedicated to careful planning of financial strategies and managing for the 2009 financial year and meeting the external accountant.

### February 3, 2009

Board meeting

*Trieste, Italy*

A meeting between the Regional Secretary, Chairperson, Vice-chair and the Treasurer was held to ensure that all of the WSCF-Europe (WSCF-E) programmes were running as scheduled, to deal with any foreseen issues, and to prepare the agenda of the forthcoming European Regional Committee meeting. Personnel management and staff support was also a part of the meeting's agenda.

### February 3-9, 2009

European Regional Committee (ERC) meeting

*Trieste, Italy*

This was the first statutory and thematic meeting of the ERC of WSCF-E in 2009. The committee consisted of twelve people covering positions of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, two regional representatives to the global executive committee, five coordinators for thematic work (namely Theology, Gender, Culture, and Higher Education, Solidarity and Links Coordinators), a co-opted member, and two staff. Regional and denominational balances were respected in their elections.

Along with reflecting and evaluating the 2008 year and planning for the upcoming year, this meeting also gave the committee an opportunity to visit the local student movement. This allowed a stronger contact to be developed and an opportunity for movement building. The meeting also addressed the ERC's priority to focus more on southern European movement building and on the possibility of developing sub-regional

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activities there. Careful planning of the European Regional Assembly, held in October 2009, was also a part of the meeting agenda.

### February 15, 2009

Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS)

*All over the world in over 105 countries*

This is one of the longest established ecumenical events. The first UDPS was in 1898 at the second meeting of the General Committee of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). The early leaders of the Federation called on Christian students around the world to join together in February each year for observance of the UDPS. During the World Wars, when it was impossible to hold WSCF meetings, the major bond of unity between those separated from one another by the ravages of war was the annual observance of the Day of Prayer for Students.

For more than a century, students and friends of WSCF have observed this day as a way to express their common commitment as witnesses of our faith in God and in each other, to the world both inside and outside our academic communities. In 2009, the liturgy of the UDPS was composed by the Middle East region of the WSCF, and followed the annual theme of the global federation, "Identity, Diversity and Dialogue".

### February 12-15, 2009

NCC Winter Meeting "What Did Moses Say to a Giraffe? - Religious Humour: Not a Threat But a Tool"

*Espoo, Finland*

18 students from Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Lithuania gathered together to explore the topic of religious humour. The conference explored religious humour in its various forms and its effects on societies; it aimed to create an understanding of the relationship between the sacred and the funny and how this varies in different contexts; and explored the potential of religious humour and how to use it in religious youth work.

The most important aspect in the programme was to discuss the theme as a group: to explore and to analyze how religious humour is presented and tolerated in different countries and the role personal and cultural similarities and differences have in its interpretation. Both debates in the past and present on the subject were investigated as well. By the end of the seminar the participants formulated, in a workshop, how the line between what is funny and what is insulting can be drawn. The participants also learned the basics skills used to draw comics, especially on religious subjects. These skills could be used once they returned home to widen other peoples' understanding of religious humour and in renewing the materials of their organisations.

### February 13-19, 2009

Inter-regional Staff meeting

*Geneva, Switzerland*

This meeting was the annual gathering of the inter-regional staff of the WSCF. Meeting at the headquarters of the WSCF interregional office, provided the opportunity for everyone to meet other ecumenical and organisational partners based in Geneva. In addition to this, the meeting offered the staff a space for practical follow-up of events.

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Part of the time was dedicated to planning for the future, movement building, and to the organization of the upcoming inter-regional programme later during the 2009 on the annual theme "Identity, Diversity and Dialogue".

#### February 18-22, 2009

CESR Winter Seminar "Stay in Touch: Media Innovations and Influences in Central Europe"

*Kremsmünster, Austria*

The seminar consisted of a series of lectures, working groups, workshops, small group discussions, and plenary discussions, which actively engaged the 34 participants (including one guest) to focus on media and communication and their effects on contemporary Central and Eastern Europe. Students from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, USA and Romania were invited on a guided tour of Kremsmünster and its Benedictine monastery, giving them the opportunity to explore the local culture. Other creative working methods included, intercultural evenings, a movie screening, and games. CESR sought to provide a forum that fostered dialogue among participants and encouraged future cooperation. It was organized by a group of seven people from the participating countries and they invited five external lecturers.

The main outcome of the meeting was an increased intercultural understanding among the participants, as they examined similarities and differences in approaches towards media from their own contexts. By spending a week together in a trans-national environment, they managed to deconstruct some prejudices and misinformation, which had existed amongst these nations, allowing participant to broaden their horizon and to explore common struggles and common goals. Because media and communication was the focus, the student organisers from the various countries learned problem-solving and communication skills and methods, which they can continue to use at the national or international level.

#### February 21-23, 2009

Planning meeting for Agape theological and political camps

*Budapest, Hungary*

The Agape ecumenical centre was established after WWII for reconciliation work and for facilitating intercultural dialogue, and communal life-style. As a long-term partner organisation of WSCF, staff of the centre with the volunteer preparatory committee for the two annual international summer camps, were invited for a planning meeting in Budapest. In addition to planning for the camps, time was dedicated for strategising for better cooperation between the WSCF and Agape centre, and for meeting local students.

#### March 19-22, 2009

European Regional Staff meeting "Identity, Diversity and Dialogue"

*Prague, Czech Republic*

The staff and officers meeting was an opportunity for training the coordinators of the local SCMs on current issues of WSCF-E, and it gathered together 14 SCM staff members and volunteers. Many of the participants work alone and this meeting gave them a chance to meet with others in similar positions to share the joys and difficulties of working for a non-profit, volunteer driven organization. Participants shared movement

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reports, activities, and their struggles, enabling them to better cooperate and network together, as well as to share helpful information. During the meeting there were practical workshops on dialogue, in particular the “LARA” method, and on the use of affirmative questions, thus training the staff members and coordinators to become better facilitators of dialogue within their local movements. Part of the programme also was to meet with local students and senior friends, thus strengthening the contacts with the local member movement, and supporting their activities. A Czech Senior Friend of WSCF-E and a professor of sociology from the Charles University in Prague, Jirina Siklova, also gave an exciting and informative lecture about identity and nationality in Central and Eastern Europe.

#### March 22-26, 2009

Financial meeting

*Budapest and Veszprém, Hungary*

This meeting between the Regional Secretary and Treasurer allowed time to finalise auditing and reporting of 2008 finances. Also, a meeting with the external auditor and accountant of WSCF-E were organised in Veszprém. Time was dedicated to careful planning of financial strategies and managing for 2009.

#### April 28 – May 5, 2009

European Regional Conference “Europe, Art and Spirituality – Building up Intercultural Identity”

*Tulln, Austria*

31 participants gathered from throughout Europe for the Culture and Higher Education conference to study how art, religion and society and their interaction throughout history have potential to be a tool for intercultural learning, sharing and dialogue. The themes were examined from the point of view of European cultural heritage including discussions on various cultural identities and their common ground and influences; the impact of EU enlargement on the cultural identity of minorities and ethnic groups; art as an intercultural language, a means of universal expressions that everyone understands and the way art has been and can be used in society and religious institutions both positively and negatively.

The conference promoted intercultural dialogue and appreciation of diversity among young people in Europe. It empowered students to raise their own views through artistic mediums in society, as well as to be able to critically examine artistic influences and their use, becoming multipliers in their own communities.

#### May 1-3, 2009

European Senior Friends meeting

*Tulln, Austria*

During the thematic student conference, 20 formerly active members of WSCF Europe who desired to remain involved in the life of WSCF-E through their volunteer work as resource persons, ability to help fundraise or through their support for other various initiatives in their current networks gathered for the first intergenerational senior friends meeting in Europe. The aims of the meeting included planning and developing the network of senior friends in Europe and providing a forum for exchange between the

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current student generation and those of the past. The participants left the meeting energized and motivated to make the Senior Friends' network stronger.

May 15-17, 2009

Strategic planning meeting with EYCE

*London, United Kingdom*

Furthering the cooperation with EYCE (Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe), the executive secretaries and treasurers of both organizations met together to both formally and informally discuss and plan future cooperation, fundraising, and events. This meeting also provided a chance to meet the staff members of the WSCF-E British member movement and strengthen cooperation.

May 21-24, 2009

Consultation on "Gender, society and religion – Exploring Diversity in Expanding Europe" and the European Regional Assembly

*Iasi, Romania*

The purpose of the meeting was to allow the hosting and preparatory committees the opportunity to meet together in person, become better acquainted with the potential conference venue, network, create a database of various experts in relation to the themes and sessions, and to make other various preparations. This meeting was a space for leadership training for all the young participants who were involved. Additionally, the overall aims of the conference were planned and the members of the international preparatory committee were introduced to the local Romanian context of the conference topic, gender, society and religion.

May 20-24, 2009

32nd German Church Days: "Mortal, where are you?"

*Bremen, Germany*

Kirchentag 2009 was a forum for dialogue, a festival for encountering faith and fellowship and a chance for participants to explore what moves them as Christians beyond their denominational and national borders. There were close to 100 000 visitors. Kirchentag was not planned from the "top down," but rather "from below" and close to half of all the participants were also contributors. They actively helped to plan the programme through their music, theatre, performance art, worship services or in choirs. The German Student Christian Movement of WSCF, ESG, contributed greatly to the programme and they had representatives from nearly all their local groups present. Additionally, there were various international guests including participants from the Swedish Student Christian Movement, KRISS, and the Norwegian Student Christian Movement, Forbundet. The WSCF General Secretary from the international regional office in Geneva represented the federation on a more "official" level.

May 29 - June 2, 2009

Young delegates pre-assembly for CEC General Assembly

*Lyon, France*

WSCF-E co-facilitated this program and training gathering participants from across Europe and from many denominations. This group of the young participants were able

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to get to know each other, share their experiences and grow together as a community. They participated in team games, intercultural activities and shared in times of prayer. Through presentations from The Ven. Colin Williams and Ms. Smaranda Dochia, General Secretary and Assembly Secretary of CEC respectively, they learned about the CEC as an organisation and about the upcoming Assembly, its programme and agenda. Furthermore, they became more familiar with their role as delegates, simulating an Assembly session and practising voting procedures in an imaginative scenario.

Starting from experiences of hope in their own lives, the young delegates began to reflect on the theme of the Assembly, "Called to One Hope in Christ". With the help from the input of the theological essay competition for young people, they created a pathway of hope. By the end of the meeting, the young delegates were looking forward to the upcoming Assembly and felt that from then until July, together with those young delegates who were unable to join them, they would be able to prepare for their role at the Assembly in a constructive and effective way.

#### May 25-30, 2009

Ecumenical Leadership training "Religious Freedom as a Human Right"

*Lviv, Ukraine*

25 participants from throughout Central and Eastern Europe gathered at this conference for an opportunity to discuss the freedom of churches, religions and individuals in today's Central and Eastern Europe post-communist society. The conference focused on student's responsibility and responses to human rights violations. Through various interactive seminars, workshops and lectures, participants identified current rights violations and studied how to work and campaign for the observance of an essential human right - religious freedom. Discussions throughout the week also focused on the question of what each individual's role and responsibility is to protect the religious freedom of those who one might not agree with as well as our responsibility to campaign and challenge societal structures that restrict human rights.

Panel discussions and sessions were held on issues faced by local member movements as well as on nonviolent campaigning. These helped to further develop networks between movements. Throughout the week, participants joined in ecumenical and denominational worships, giving them the opportunity to share their own traditions with each other. The programme raised awareness and promoted the feeling of solidarity among the youth. Participants were challenged to work and campaign for, not only their own freedom upon returning home but, the freedom of their neighbours.

#### June 22-29, 2009

WSCF Ecumenical Assistance Programme Excellence team training

*Amman, Jordan*

First training event of the EAP Excellence team of WSCF, formed of students from the EAP commission and local students, gathered in Amman, Jordan, for a training in project cycle management, evaluation and coordination. The programme consisted of a field trip to a project funded by the WSCF EAP, and a practical leadership training consisting of an evaluation of the project through desk study, interviews and internal reporting.

#### July 11-22, 2009

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## Stewards' programme for the CEC Assembly

*Lyon, France*

During the CEC Assembly a stewards' programme for 50 young people from all over Europe was organised by the CEC and their associated youth organisations, whose expertise in organising youth projects had a crucial role in the programme. WSCF-E participated both in the planning and implementation of the programme by co-facilitating and by sending participants.

### July 15-21, 2009

The General Assembly of Conference of European Churches "Called to One Hope in Christ"

*Lyon, France*

In the assembly, the CEC and its various commissions and member churches reflected on its past events and planned for its future work and participation in the European society. The leadership for the next four years was elected. During the assembly the CEC celebrated its 50th anniversary, and the merger between the CEC and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe.

WSCF-E participated in the assembly at all its levels from various working groups and preparatory committees to official delegation and the stewards' programme. In addition, WSCF-E together with two other CEC-associated youth organisations, EYCE and the YWCA, organised a Youth Hearing for the assembly delegates on the topic "Concrete actions and strategies of Hope in Europe and European churches". WSCF-E played a significant role during the meeting both at the policy-making level and in lobbying and advocating for bigger and more inclusive participation of youth within CEC and the member churches.

### July 28 – August 2, 2009

Lingua Franca training seminar "Stop Being Silent!"

*Novi Sad, Serbia*

28 students gathered for the second instalment of the three part program, "Stop Being Silent!", to study the often hushed and hidden cycle of domestic violence. The group engaged with this topic through many different mediums. Lectures informed participants on issues such as: the impact of war trauma on domestic violence in post-conflict societies; how to respond to domestic violence and react when encountering myths surrounding the topic; and how to raise awareness about domestic violence and hold a public dialogue on the issue. Theatre techniques and a play reading was used to show how theater can be a tool to fight stereotypes on gender roles and domestic violence. Students also engaged in a film study on the film "North Country" examining sexual harassment in the workplace. A panel discussion was held about the situation of domestic violence and how government, NGO, and other social structures are providing services which revealed the successful developments and challenges facing different regions in Europe. There was also an intercultural evening, where participants shared stories, food and drinks from their home counties and an excursion into the city of Novi Sad.

Lingua Franca is aimed at breaking down linguistic barriers between East and West so language lessons were held where participants examined the meanings,

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connotations and implications of the terms victim, abuser and observer (and their synonyms, survivor, perpetrator or offender, and bystander). Through brief lectures and games, all examined the use of gender-neutral language.

Participants were empowered to be multipliers in their own communities, and the methods used throughout the seminar will be further strengthened and developed in the last training of the campaign in 2010.

#### August 2-9, 2009

WESR summer programme

*Táize, France*

This was the second event organised by the WESR since its launch as a subregion in 2008. They felt that the Taizé community, with its ecumenical and international links, would be a beneficial place for their members to meet and share together. Since Taizé's early days, the community has welcomed young people from across the world to join them in community and share their Christian journey. Five participants from the British SCM, five participants from ESG, the German member movement, and one WSCF-E staff member, were present

The participants shared together in the regular pattern of prayer and work that Taizé requires, joined in with small group discussions and workshops on various topics, such as community and decision making, and met together in the evenings to better get to know each other and share experiences from their own SCMs. Topics of conversation included ecumenism, social justice, vocation and how to take what they had learnt home with them.

#### August 3-10, 2009

Agape International Theological Camp "Apocalypse: A world of fears and dreams or an encounter with reality?"

*Prati, Italy*

38 participants from all over the world were invited to participate in a workshop on an intercultural reading of the Bible. The camp's aim was not to be a course on the Bible or a series of consultations with experts; rather its goal was to create a week of encounters and exchanges prepared by an intercultural team of pastors that alternated between moments of Bible study in small groups, with plenary debates, creative workshops, moments of informal encounters, games, and songs. All members were able to participate in these activities as one of Agape's positions towards faith is that all who believe are welcomed and respected.

This year's theme explored the Book of Revelation. Following an introduction to the book's language and structure participants were invited to confront their thoughts towards it, through their different perspectives. They were able to recognise that Revelations was not just simply a herald of catastrophes and therefore an invitation to back away from the contradictions in our reality, but rather it is an instrument to sharpen our views on society in order to act.

#### August 9-16, 2009

NCC Summer meeting "Sweating with God, a pilgrimage for a healthy climate".

*Sweden/Norway*

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SCM Sweden (KRISS) invited 11 participants from Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Lithuania to participate in a pilgrimage from Stiklestad to Nidaros, Trondheim. They carried tents and food and walked through nature the whole way. Every day the group had a time for prayer, silence and meditations on the theme of climate and care in Creation. The group learned how to help each other and meet each person's basic needs without the facilities that they had grown accustomed to having.

The participants were welcomed at their final destination on 15 August in Trondheim by the Pilgrim Centre and by Forbundet, the Norwegian Student Christian Movement. As a final celebration the group celebrated mass with Anders Carlmark, a former SCM member in Norway and current pilgrim priest in Trondheim.

### August 11-18, 2009

#### Agape International Political Camp

##### *Prati, Italy*

Agape's political camp is an international political conference that takes place every year on issues related to globalization. The camp promotes analyses of global affairs together with common strategies for local and global political participation. It nourishes human relationships based on respect and solidarity as it aims to set in motion processes of transformation of the human experience.

This year's camp looked at the ongoing issue of migration, carrying over from their previous conference. Some of the main questions they sought to answer were: "what are the local and global processes that cause people to migrate?", and "how do geographical and mental borders change in a globalized and paradoxical world in which migration is functional but the rights of migrants are not fully recognized? "

The political camp hosted 83 people from 24 different countries with different geographical and social realities. Participants in political camps come from groups within the ecumenical world, secular agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. For everyone, it was a place for dialogue, intercultural exchange and mutual listening in a context of community life.

### August 30 – September 5, 2009

#### ESG International Students' Meeting "Where Are the People – Ecumenical Summer School"

##### *Waldsiefersdorf, Germany*

17 participants gathered from Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia, Romania, Germany, Poland, Lebanon and Denmark to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989 political changes in Eastern European countries. In working groups, the students discussed these changes and created a timeline from 1949-2009 marking the important historical events in their own countries. This provided a visual display of the history and how each event was a catalyst for the next event. The students also followed a bible study on Revelations 21:3. There was an excursion to the Bertold Brecht and Helene Weigle House, where participants learned about the famous German authors who had lived there. There was also a guided tour of the Berlin wall foundation on a trip into the city. The various morning prayers and the intercultural evening gave all members an understanding of the differences between the religious communities and cultural diversity that were present

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### September 16-21, 2009

CESR Summer conference "Paving My Path for the World - The choice of a vocation"

*Balatonföldvár, Hungary*

40 participants gathered from Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the USA to discuss their personal vocations. This topic allowed the students and young adults the opportunity to reflect on how to choose a path for their lives that will make a positive difference in their communities at multiple levels: local, national, and global. The conference provided a forum for critical reflection on imminent decisions that young adults face about their future. Included in the program were lectures, discussion groups, a cross-cultural evening, a group excursion to Tihany, Hungary, participant-led workshops, a film-screening and ecumenical worship.

The main results from the meeting were the effects on the individual lives of the participants who took the opportunity to reflect on the direction that their life was going and consider their up-coming decisions in a supportive environment. The participants were encouraged to return to their local youth organizations and lead similar workshops to multiply the conference's results. Another outcome will be the publication of the annual CESR anthology which is related to the theme of the conference and the previous CESR conference in Kremsmünster, Austria, which will be distributed throughout Central Europe and beyond after its final publication in March 2010. This includes contributions from participants and lecturers, which encourages further reflection on the seminar theme after the conferences.

### October 4-6, 2009

Regional Committee meeting

*Sambata de Sus, Romania*

Prior to the European Regional Assembly, the Regional Committee gathered to make the final preparations of the statutory issues of the Assembly, and to report and evaluate the work done during their two year mandate.

### October 5, 2009

Board Meeting

*Sambata de Sus, Romania*

A meeting between General Secretary, Chairperson, Vice-chair and the Treasurer was held to ensure that all of the WSCF-E programmes were running as scheduled and to deal with any foreseen issues in the upcoming regional assembly. Staff support and management, and financial issues were also discussed.

### October 6-10, 2009

WSCF regional conference "Gender, Society and Religion – Exploring diversity in expanding Europe"

*Sambata de Sus, Romania*

40 students from throughout Europe gathered to explore the topics of gender, society and religion. The conference looked at various ways that people's daily lives, identities and social structures are shaped by our conception of gender. Participants examined how, as a result of migration and globalisation, Europe is becoming more heterogeneous,

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multi-religious and multi-cultural and traditional conceptions of gender roles are in flux. They analysed experiences related to definitions of gender in modern Europe and wrestled with how this situation brings great challenge and promise for European citizens, communities and institutions.

Various lecturers and workshop leaders gave insight into gender issues in an assortment of contexts including in the Romanian Orthodox Church, university life, and the media. Panel discussions were another forum through which participants could discuss denominational differences in their views of sexuality, and challenges faced when discussing this topic. Gender issues were also explored through theological discussions as well as through explorations of how other faiths and religions broach the discussion. Participants worshiped together and followed a bible study entitled "Gender, Sexuality and the Bible" that had been created for the conference. The group created a safe community for dialogue and fellowship through intercultural evenings and a market place to share their local SCM experiences. Excursions also gave the group the opportunity to better know the region.

#### October 11-13, 2009

WSCF European Regional Assembly

*Sambata de Sus, Romania*

The 11<sup>th</sup> European Regional Assembly (ERA) of the WSCF met following the thematic conference. The ERA is the highest decision-making body of WSCF-E. The outgoing ERC gave reports on their work for the past two years. A brainstorming session was held about increasing member movement and student participation. There was also an opportunity to give feedback and plan the future of the Lingua Franca program. The 2009-2011 Policy Paper was also developed by working groups focused on the WSCF-E working areas: theology, gender, solidarity, culture and higher education, and links. This document will direct the work of the region over the course of the next two years. The new ERC was also elected.

#### November 2-4, 2009

Strategic planning meeting with EYCE and Geneva-based partner organisations

*Geneva, Switzerland*

WSCF-E Regional Secretary and Treasurer together with the EYCE General Secretary and Treasurer held a meeting where they discussed the financial planning strategies of European ecumenical youth organisations, and met with partner organisations at the Ecumenical Centre (Conference of the European Churches, the World Council of Churches, WSCF Global office, and the Brethren Voluntary Service). There was also some time dedicated to planning the WSCF-E and EYCE joint thematic study session to be held in September 2010 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, and other joint programmes and cooperation.

#### November 5, 2009

Financial and cooperation meeting

*Birmingham, United Kingdom*

The Regional Secretary and Treasurer of the WSCF-E discussed and revised the 2009 budget, and the internal financial development plans and fundraising strategies for the

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year 2010. The Regional Secretary also had an opportunity to visit the office of the British member movement, SCM Great Britain, and meet with the staff members, sharing information and planning for the SCM and WSCF activities in 2010.

#### November 19-22, 2009

Theology Conference preparatory meeting

*Berlin, Germany*

This was the preparatory meeting for the upcoming spring 2010 Theology conference entitled "Religion, Politics and Ethics: God and the use of power". Its main function was to give the preparatory committee and staff the opportunity to meet in person to discuss the conference together. The committee became better acquainted with each other and the conference venue. The hosting and preparatory committees were also able to network and create a database of various experts of the field, and for other preparations. This meeting allowed for leadership training for all young participants involved.

#### December 1-12, 2009

Inter-regional event "Identity, Diversity, Dialogue"

*Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand*

Two students from Georgia and Slovakia represented the European region at the Inter-regional event which brought students together from all six regions of WSCF. The students studied and engaged with these three themes through the following activities: lectures on ethnic minorities and conflict in border regions, workshops on dialogue and storytelling, theological reflections, bible studies, worship, exposure trips, a cultural evening, and community building. This programme allowed students and senior friends to consider, celebrate and wrestle with the blessings and challenges of our global diversity.

The group determined that there should be three main areas for the WSCF to focus on (though not limit themselves to): ethnic and cultural minorities, religious diversity and inter-faith dialogue, and sexual minorities and LGBT issues. All parts of Federation, global, national and local, have been encouraged to incorporate these issues into their future programmes and events. The delegation agreed to improve the contact between the regions on different levels and through various channels of communication and networking. The personal experiences and skills gained from the conference will be disseminated through each participant's network by writing for various publications, leading workshops, reporting and storytelling.

#### December 6-19, 2009

Copenhagen Climate Summit

*Copenhagen, Denmark*

At the COP15 conference in Copenhagen, students from the Nordic member movements of the WSCF-E gathered together to participate in the demonstrations, going in the block of the Countdown to Copenhagen campaign, walking under WSCF-E banderol with the message "Yes, we COULD!" Several Danish, Norwegian and Swedish SCMs participated in the demonstrations and other events of COP15 also as part of their local churches'

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delegations. The students took time to meet each other and network with other groups participating at the COP15, particularly with the Speak/Time to Turn network.

On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the student groups participated in a festive ecumenical celebration at the Copenhagen Cathedral, organised by the National Council of Churches in Denmark. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered a sermon in the event to a large audience consisting of politicians, officials, the Queen of Denmark, bishops and ministers of different denominations, and Desmond Tutu among the others. Follow-up of the COP15 continues in WSCF-E on all various levels from local branches of national SCMs to the global activities.

### **Internships**

Rachael Weber from Virginia, USA, worked in the regional office through the ecumenical voluntary organization, the "Brethren Voluntary Service." Her tasks included the various aims of the publications coordinator (editing Mozaik, etc.). The other half of her time went to coordinating the ecumenical leadership training programme *Lingua Franca*, aiming at developing young leadership, and especially the leadership of young women. Rachael concluded her three year internship and returned to the USA in December.

Jill Piebiak from Alberta, Canada, joined the regional office team in October 2010 through the ecumenical voluntary organization, the "Brethren Voluntary Service." Her tasks, as the office and publications intern, include the various aims of the publications coordinator including editing the *Mozaik*, WSCF newsletters and the upkeep of the region's website. The remaining half of her time is spent working on general office tasks and upkeep including bookkeeping, archiving, daily correspondence, editing, assisting the regional committee and other various tasks.

Laura Szűcs from Hungary coordinated the Central European sub-region of WSCF Europe until September 2009. The aim was to strengthen young people's engagement in and ownership of society in Central European countries and to encourage analysis of social and political phenomena. Part of Ms. Szűcs working time was dedicated to assisting in the administration of the regional office, and this provided leadership and management training.

Mariann Molnár began working for WSCF Europe in November 2009. She assists in the administration of the regional office and provides Hungarian translations and correspondences

### **Publications**

*Mozaik* (established in 1992) is the Ecumenical Journal of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF, 1895) Europe Region, and comes out two or three times a year. It aims to reflect the wide variety of opinions and points-of-view present among the different Student Christian Movements in dialogue. The contributors are all attached to national Student Christian Movements, representing various Christian denominations (Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic). In 2009 two issues of *Mozaik* came out, one of them as a double-issue, focusing on themes "Just Life", "Intercultural and Interreligious



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Dialogue” and “Art and Spirituality”. The issue following up the conference on “Gender, Society & Religion” held in October 2009, will be published in April 2010.

An informative electronic newsletter came out 4 times in 2009 and was sent to member movements, partner organisations, contact groups, etc.

Annual ecumenical anthology of the WSCF Central European Subregion followed the themes of the two conferences and was dedicated to modern media and vocation.

### **Working Groups and Representations**

Conference of European Churches (CEC), Joint Committee between CEC and Youth Organisations - Torbjorn Askevold

Executive Committee of global WSCF – Hannah Satlow and Torbjørn Askevold

CEC Gender Advisory group – Jaanus Teose

CEC Central Committee and the General Assembly– Alessia Passarelli

Faith Based Expert Group under the Umbrella of the European Youth Forum –Mirka Bukovinska

World Conference of Religion and Peace – Jaanus Teose

World Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on Status of Women, UN – Sara Thorvik Anderson

CEC Assembly planning committee – Michel Charbonnier (EYCE)

CEC Assembly worship committee – Jooa Vuorinen

CEC Planning committee for the young delegates meeting – Torbjorn Askevold

CEC Planning committee for the stewards programme – Markus Sidoroff

YFJ activities – Members of the Regional Committee

EYCE General Assembly - Jooa Vuorinen

European Youth Forum CoMem and General Assembly - Myroslava Bukovinska and Aneta Kordala

YFJ Open Doors - Jooa Vuorinen

Consultation between European Youth Forum and Youth Organisations – Rachael Weber

WCC consultation "Movers for Gender Justice for Peace" - Jooa Vuorinen

Churches Commission on Migrants in Europe hearing on migration - Jill Piebiak

WCC Advocacy and Solidarity week, UN - Vaida Krisciunaite

WSCF Global Advocacy and Solidarity Committee - Vaida Krisciunaite

WSCF Global Ecumenical Assistance Programme Commission - Hannah Satlow

International Planned Parenthood Federation - Joseph Nagle

WSCF North America region launching event – Martin Bonde Christensen

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