



The World Student Christian Federation in Europe

Annual Report 2012

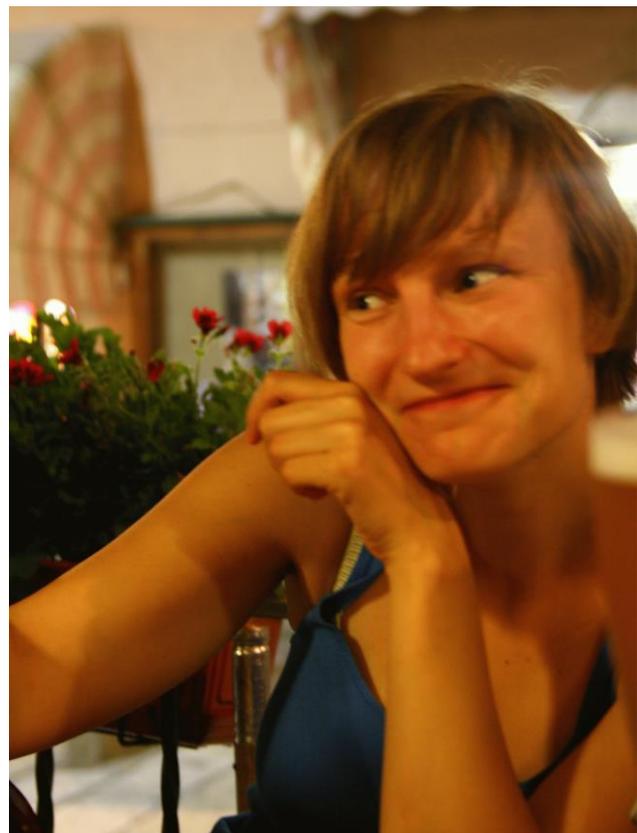
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Greetings from the Chairperson

Dear Friend,

I am happy to present the Annual Report of the World Student Christian Federation in Europe (WSCF Europe) for the year of 2012. The report will tell you of our events and trainings, projects and meetings throughout the year. You will also find our Financial Report included, where you will see our income and expenditure.

2012 has been an busy year for the WSCF Europe. After the European Regional Assembly in Autumn 2011 the newly elected European Regional Committee (ERC) met for their first in-person meeting in January 2012 in Berlin. Shortly after this, in February, our Staff and Officers Meeting for our SCMs took place in Bremen, kindly hosted by our German member movement. The spring of 2012 brought the Theology Conference in Slovakia "Guilty or Not Guilty?" that looked at the concepts of sin, guilt and social responsibility in today's world.



In May our region hosted the global board meeting of the WSCF in Berlin, where people from all six regions gathered to discuss the life of the Federation and to plan its future. In this connection we welcomed our new Regional Secretary, Hans Hommens, who took over the seat from our Regional Secretary interim Katarina Babicova. A warm "thank you" should be said here, to Katka for her great work for the WSCF-E. She was stepping in and taking responsibility for the Federation in Europe in a time of transition, both in terms of ERC leadership and the office move from Hungary to Germany. All of this brought many challenges, which she was willing to face and take on.

On July 9-14, the ERC met for the second time on the island Elba, Italy. Among other things, the ERC continued the Strategic Planning that had been started by the former committee.

In August we welcomed Miroslav Pastorek in the office. He took over as Publications and Office Intern from Jill Piebiak who has worked with us for three years. Jill's contributions have been of great value for our work and her professionalism and



dedication have benefited our events and our work as a team enormously.

In September we also ran three small Capacity Building Trainings, one in each subregion; for the Northern Baltic Subregion in Helsinki, Finland, for the Central and Eastern European Subregion in Białystok, Poland, and for the Western Subregion in Galbally, Ireland. The three trainings were very important for the bonds between our member organisations and proved to be very different, though emerging from the same framework.

In autumn, on October 27 to November 1, SCMerS gathered in Velletri, Italy, for a conference dealing on migration and xenophobia, which was organised in cooperation with the European Interfaith Youth Network (EIYN) of Religions for Peace. Our practical activities in campaigns work on xenophobia also started here.

Our activities for the year closed in November (11-18) with a Joint Study Session organised together with the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) and the European Youth Centre in Budapest. Under the title "Gender revised!?", participants discussed the implications of the concept of gender plurality for theological and legal interpretations of gender.

On the issue of funds, you'll notice that our key support has come from the European Union and the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation (EYF). In comparison, our fundraising with church donors has lagged behind, especially due to funding constraints and priority shifts in some of our long-term partners. The additional challenges of the office move and the rupture in institutional knowledge due to the staff transitions complicated this situation even more. This has created problems for us to find the co-funding for our events that we need for our programmatic grants. Therefore, developing our fundraising activities and strengthening the message that we send out to established and new partners will have to be a priority for our future work. For this, the support of local contacts, pointing out funding opportunities for European level work will be important as will be our ability to strengthen our capacities for grass-roots fundraising. Nevertheless, churches will remain key partners for us and we very much hope to win their support again!

The work during this year could not have been done without the support from a number of people; committed volunteers, excited participants at our conferences, Senior Friends that supported us on Search Committees, at events and trainings as speakers and workshop leaders ect., students in the local movements around Europe that put lots of time and work into building ecumenical awareness. In this way, the WSCF continues to be a dynamic and active faith community that is renewed and sustained every time we meet.

On behalf of the European Regional Committee
Many warm and grateful greetings to you all!

Sofie Eriksen
Chairperson

Headline Projects

Guilty or Not Guilty

Programme: Theology Conference
Location: Bratislava, Slovakia
Dates: 27 March – 2 April 2012
Participants: 32
Total Cost: 16,565.04 EUR
Funders: Council of Europe, Youth in Action
Resources: Mozaik 30, September 2012

The Theology conference brought together around 25 young people, who were curious to discuss topics of the relationship of morality, responsibility and legality in European societies and value systems.

Two WSCF-E Senior friends started out the conversation. P. Sajda gave a lecture about the general judgement models – based on considerations about values or consequences - that we employ in different situations. Another Senior Friend S. Nagypal brought this down to a more empirical level and gave examples about how other world religions may take different stances to what is right or ethical. This outline was brought down to a more personal level by a series of discussions on topics like the (il)legality and (im)morality of prostitution and abortion as well as the question of the circumstances under which civil disobedience against state laws is justified or even necessary.



Anna Abram then continued to engage us in discussing how imagination can play a role in forming our ethical stances. She looked at the poem *Campo dei Fiori* by C. Milosz and pointed out how action can form ethics that bring rationality and emotions together, an approach that was a good starting point to address the conference topic, as participants were very well able to relate to it. One of the hardest topics to discuss was the question of what responsibility rests with descendants of people guilty of war crimes and the ensuing discussion was controversial and intense thanks to the challenging contributions of resource person Nenad Dimitrijevic. This was a difficult part of the conference, but the atmosphere remained good and we could continue with a fun and engaging approach to the topic of the economic crisis and its main actors. This was achieved in a role play about the role of Wall Street investment bankers and their customers and other stakeholders, which was informative and fun at the same time.



The last topic that we touched upon was climate change and our very behaviour towards ecology and nature. Alastair McIntosh facilitated our discussions on these matters and enriched them with thoughts on today's advertisement industry and its psychological impact. He also devoted a session to screening visual material taken in war environment. As the conference was taking place in Slovakia, we had a chance to explore more of her history through visit to the Slovak State's Memory Institute. This was a deep experience not just for everyone involved to learn about injustices that happened some decades ago during the communist era. The conference brought up a lot of heavy topics, but we also could have fun during intercultural evening night as well as dance nights and free time in the capital of Slovakia enjoying specialty food.

Who Is My Neighbour: Migration and Xenophobia in Europe

Programme: Solidarity Conference

Location: Velletri, Italy

Dates: 25 October – 1 November 2012

Participants: 39

Total Cost: 27,464.70 EUR

Funders: Council of Europe, Youth in Action, Federazione Giovanile Evangelica Italiana

Resources: Mozaik 31, Spring 2013

The conference was another effort to create a forum for young Christians to discuss and understand deeper one of the key challenges facing European societies today: xenophobic responses to immigration and to the presence of cultural and religious minorities. Although the topic is a European one and one of the main aims was to help participants to identify examples of marginalisation of ethnic minorities, it is also clear that the different national contexts vary considerably, which led to a fascinating exchange of perspectives and experiences.

Martin Putna, Bernadett Lehoczki and Imam Ibrahim Mogra gave interesting presentations about the idea (and its contradictions!) of Europe as a basis for a post-national identity, xenophobia as a substitute mechanism to deal with social tensions as well as a perspective of Islamic Sunni theology on cultural diversity and co-existence. Further, Rabbi Tanya Segal, Bashy Quraishy and Krzysztof Gil (as a representative of the Roma community in Poland) were part of an engaging panel discussion on the life-realities of different cultural and religious minorities in Europe today.



The excursion day provided an opportunity for participants to meet volunteers in social projects and organisations working with migrants in Rome, bringing the topic to a more practical level of engagement and personal empowerment. Visits to the Servizio rifugiati e migranti of the Protestant Church in Italy as well as to the Community of Sant' Egidio were impressive examples of solidarity and community.

The last day of the conference was devoted to encouraging continued personal engagement of participants with the topic, spreading their insights and strengthening their own advocacy on the topic of social inclusion and against xenophobia.

The event was especially enriched by our cooperation with the European Interfaith Youth Network of Religions for Peace (EIYN), which opened up to us a wealth of contacts to resource people and provided links to different faith and interfaith youth organisations. In this way, we could welcome four Muslim and one Jewish participant to the event and were able to celebrate an interreligious closing worship that will remain a lasting inspiration for everyone who was part of it.





Gender Revised!?

Programme: Joint Gender Study Session with the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Dates: 11-18 November 2012

Participants: 26

Total Cost: No costs to WSCF Europe

Funders: European Youth Centre

Young people from 19 European countries gathered in Budapest to discuss different aspects of gender and its perception in modern society. The leadership team that had prepared the study session consisted of three representatives of EYCE, two of WSCF Europe and one educational advisor of Council of Europe. The event focused on the theological reflection of the concept of gender plurality as well as on approaches to the protection of human rights concerning gender identities.

Methodologies of the study session included lectures by resource persons, small group and plenary discussions, Bible studies, interactive and creative workshops and role-plays. There was a strong focus on informal learning, aimed at making the approach to the topic as personally relevant to the participants as possible. In this way, the event was full of thought-provoking discussions and was successful in providing participants with an introduction to the topic and current discussion about it. An inclusive view of all gender identities, including a vision (not entirely shared by everyone) of overcoming of gender bipolarity were the guiding ideas of the event. The study session provided a lot of food for thought, especially regarding the exchange of perspectives from different cultural and religious contexts.

Nataliya Rudnichenko, a participant from Ukraine, summarised her thoughts on the event as follows: "The best thing for me was great international communication on such serious things as gender identity." Commenting on her experience of the multicultural context of the event, she added: "Coming from Ukraine, a country with a strong Orthodox Christian background, I listened with great interest to all opinions about difference of gender and sex in a modern European society".

Universal Day of Prayer for Students

Programme: Bible study, Prayer and Worship Service

Location: 105 countries around the world

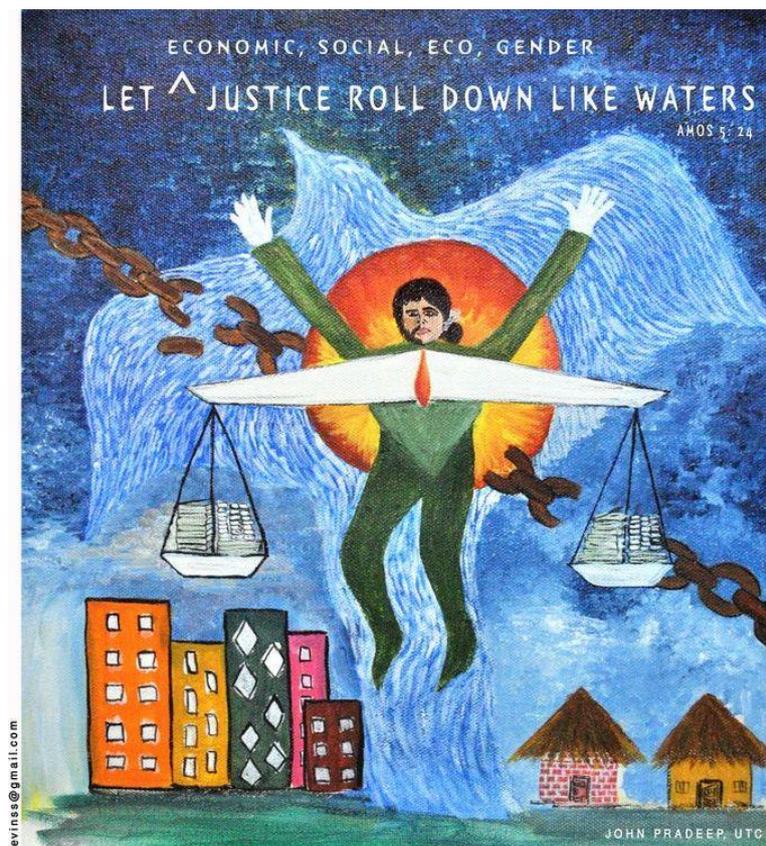
Date: 26 February 2012

Total Cost: No cost to WSCF Europe

Funders: World Student Christian Federation interregional office and the World Council of Churches

Resources: Bible study, video study and worship service available online

The Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) is one of the longest established ecumenical events, first celebrated in 1898. The 2012 theme was Economic Justice, a key concern for the global Federation of the WSCF since its beginning. It related and answered to the popular movements for sustained economic and social change going on at the time, like Occupy Wall Street and other youth led movements. Thus, the 2012 UDPS aimed to strengthen awareness and confidence among young Christians in Europe and worldwide that alternatives to economic injustice, poverty and exploitation are possible.



Observe Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2012
SCMI Sunday on 26th February 2012

Leadership Training and Development

European Regional Staff and Officers meeting

Location: Bremen, Germany
Dates: 23-26 February 2012
Participants: 13
Total Cost: 4.534,29 €
Funders: Youth in Action

The 2012 Staff and Officers meeting was hosted by our German member ESG and again brought together active volunteers and staff people from our member movements. It provided a forum to hear how work with Christian students was going in different countries, the successes and the challenges. Apart from this, the 2012 Staff and Officers meeting had a strong focus on capacity-building. Natallia Vasilevich, WSCF Europe's delegate to the Human Rights working group of the Conference of European Churches, presented the CEC manual on Human Rights education and advocacy. Also, former WSCF-E Regional Secretary David Masters gave a workshop on fundraising and the editor-in-chief of our journal Mozaik, Paweł Pustelnik, led a session on social media strategies for Christian youth organisations. Further, Katarína Babíková, the Regional Secretary interim at the time, gave a workshop on volunteer recruitment and motivation. Overall, the meeting was a success and it helped to strengthen the commitment of our members to continue to work together as well as their capacities to do so.



Central European Capacity Building Training

Programme: Networking Project
Location: Białystok, Poland
Dates: 14-16 September 2012
Participants: 15
Total Costs: 1,757.35 EUR
Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

The training provided a space for members of Student Christian Movements from all over Central and Eastern Europe to meet and exchange experiences on their work and the challenges as well as the success stories that they encountered. The exchange was facilitated by a number of resource persons, among them Petra Körmendy, David Masters and Mirka Bukovinska, and dealt with topics such as defining and promoting a youth group's aims and values, winning new members and creating a welcoming community, finding funding for youth work among students and developing a social media strategy. Participants enjoyed community together, in conversations as well as in prayer, while the evenings offered an opportunity to get to know Białystok and the special situation of Polish Orthodox Christians.



Western European Capacity Building Training

Programme: Networking Project
Location: Galbally, Ireland
Dates: 21-24 September 2012
Participants: 10
Total Costs: 2,788.60 EUR
Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

The training in Ireland assembled members of Western European Student Christian Movements. It was characterised a lot by the strong presence of members of the emerging Student Christian Movement in Ireland and an intense and productive exchange on the potentials and the challenges of building an inclusive ecumenical network of young Christians in the country. Members of the Student Christian Movement in the UK contributed valuable insights from their organisation, which, comparatively, is very well-established, active and locally rooted in many parts of the country. The agenda was more informal and open, allowing for conversations to take the

time they needed. One key topic that was discussed in depth was the challenge of creating spaces of community that are both radically open and inclusive and meaningful and engaging.

Nordic/Baltic European Capacity Building Training

Programme: Networking Project
Location: Helsinki, Finland
Dates: 25-27 September 2012
Participants: 6
Total Costs: 1,525.80 EUR
Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

The training in Finland brought together members from three Nordic-Baltic Student Christian Movements. A broad range of topics was discussed such as how to deal with volunteer turnover, how to strengthen cooperation between WSCF-E member movements within the subregion and how to cooperate fruitfully with other youth or civil society organisations. The conversation was led and inspired by resource people from our Finnish member movements, such as Kate Sotejeff-Wilson, Henri Järvinen, Aura Nortomaa and Marita Mattila. The event was a space for productive networking and re-strengthening existing cooperation. Further, there was an insightful exchange of experiences regarding the question of how to combine efficacy in student work with the continuous inclusion and empowerment of new members.

Member Movement and Sub-Regional Projects

In Partnership with WSCF Europe

“With all your mind” – SCM UK Annual Conference

Partner: Student Christian Movement, UK
Location: York, UK
Dates: 10-12 February 2012
Participants: ca. 100

Members from all across our national movement in the UK as well as some international participants met in York for a long weekend of conversations and reflection about knowledge, inspiration and faith.



In the midst of education cuts and tuition fee hikes, SCM invited participants to reflect on questions like: What is Higher Education for? What does my degree have to do with my faith? Does wisdom only come with age? Can knowledge be dangerous? Where does theology meet everyday life? Is education a human right? Can science and religion coexist? What does it mean to live mindfully? How can I make a difference in the world?

Joined by guest speaker Kester Brewin, mathematician and acclaimed author, participants enjoyed lively debates as well as safe spaces of community and openness.

The main highlights included a panel discussion that explored what it means to love God with all your mind, and the ‘Scratch University’ skills share session, where students led their own mini workshops on a variety of topics, including hospitality, campaigns issues, knitting, essay writing and facilitating group discussions.

Despite the snow and the cold weather, everyone had a great time in York and enjoyed spending the weekend together!

Who is Jesus Today?

Partner: Norges Kristelige Studentforbund
 Location: Dokka, Norway
 Dates: 22-27 June 2012
 Participants: 40



International students gathered together with members from the nine local movements from our national member organisation in Norway for a week-long summer camp. During the seminar they explored together how to do ecumenical student work today, and what it means to follow Christ in 2012.

There were creative workshops on a variety of topics associated with being a follower of Christ today: How should we respond to the climate crisis? How we can include different minorities in our work? And how should we meet students with other beliefs? The question of how to combine openness and inclusivity in our work with clear and radical visions for change and transformation of injustice in our lives and our societies was at the heart of many discussions.

The seminar was very much enriched by the participation of a group of youth

representing the newly established WSCF member movement in Palestine. Their contributions to our discussions and the experiences they shared about their work and struggle for peace and reconciliation in their home Palestine was very inspiring.

Subregional Taizé prayer meeting

Partner: Suomen Kristillinen
Ylioppilasliitto
Location: Helsinki, Finland
Dates: 28-30 September 2012
Participants: 4,000 overall



Photo: Tuomas Elenius

4,000 youth and young adults from 26 countries came to Helsinki for the ecumenical Taizé prayer meeting, which took place on 28-30 September. The programme consisted of workshops, seminars, prayers, church services and evening activities. The event was organised mainly by volunteering youth and young adults, up to a third of whom came from our Lutheran member movement in Finland. Visitors from abroad were accommodated in 270 host families in Helsinki region. The event received economical support from Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic churches in Finland, the City of Helsinki and the Nordic Committee for Children and Young People (NORDBUK).

Global Projects

In Partnership with WSCF Europe

Advocacy and Solidarity Meeting

Dates: 1-7 February 2012
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Participants: 14
Cost: No costs for WSCF Europe

A meeting of the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee of the global WSCF to discuss strategies and approaches of campaigning and advocacy work within the Federation.



Publications and Resources

Mozaik

Copies: 500 of each issue
Cost: €3,250 per issue
Funder: Included in the relevant conference budget

Mozaik (est. 1992) is the flagship publication of WSCF Europe, through which we share the resources and ideas developed at our conferences. As such, the themes of Mozaik follow the themes of our conferences. It is written and edited by students and young people, and reflects the diversity of our members from all Christian denominations in Europe.

E-Newsletter

Subscribers: 1,500

Our monthly e-newsletter updates our members and member movements on the work and activities of WSCF Europe. We invite readers to take part in campaigns, events and partner events

Website

Cost: 6,880.59 EUR
Funder: European Youth Foundation

In January 2012, WSCF Europe launched a new, interactive and more approachable website. It has features that facilitate commenting and sharing ideas and it includes a blog section to give a space for members to share their ideas and inspiration about our work.

Social Media

In 2012, WSCF Europe regularly participated in Twitter and Facebook as a more accessible way to share our news with anyone interested in our work. We have continued to use Flickr, uploading pictures from all events on an online platform that is easily to access.

Governance & Statutory Meetings

Staff Members

Interim Regional Secretary:	Katarína Babicová, Slovakia (till June 2012)
Regional Secretary:	Hans Hommens, Germany (from June 2012)
Publications Assistant:	Jill Piebiak, Canada (to August 2012)
Publications Intern:	Miroslav Pastorek, Slovakia (from August 2012)
Mozaik Editor-in-Chief:	Paweł Pustelnik, Poland
Hungarian Assistant:	Balazs Kalydy, Hungary

European Regional Committee in 2012

Chair:	Sofie Eriksen, Protestant, Denmark
Vice-chair/Events Coordinator:	Zuzana Babicová, Catholic, Slovakia
Treasurer:	Libby Lewin, Protestant, UK
Events Coordinator:	Márta Várnagyi, Protestant, Hungary
Campaigns Coordinator:	Shannon Phillip, Catholic, UK
Links Coordinator:	Sophie Lønne Hundebøll, Prot., Denmark (till Jan '12) Artturi Hirvonen, Orthodox, Finland (from May 2012)
Fundraising Coordinator:	Kristin Kölbl, Protestant, Germany
Global Executive Committee:	Vera Papp, Catholic, Hungary
Global Executive Committee:	Marco Fornerone, Protestant, Italy





European Regional Committee Meetings

Dates:	27-31 January 2012	9-14 July 2012
Locations:	Berlin, Germany	Rio Marina, Italy
Participants:	10	9
Cost:	c. €3,000 per meeting	

Meetings of the European Regional Committee, who oversee the work of WSCF Europe. The regional committee is made up of nine student volunteers and three staff members.

Board Meetings

Dates:	26 January 2012	8 July 2012
Locations:	Berlin, Germany	Rio Marina, Italy
Participants:	4	4
Cost:	c. €800 per meeting	

Meetings between Regional Secretary, Chairperson, Vice-chair and the Treasurer of WSCF Europe, who oversee the work of the European Regional Committee.

Global Staff and Officers Meeting

Dates:	8-13 February 2012
Location:	Nairobi, Kenya
Participants:	11
Cost:	No costs for WSCF Europe

A meetings of the WSCF Staff and Officers, who oversee the work of WSCF staff and Executive Committee. The six regional secretaries, the General Secretary and officers were all present to discuss their work and meet with partners and funders.

Global Executive Committee Meeting

Dates: 20-27 May 2012

Location: Berlin, Germany

Participants: 25

Cost: Costs incurred have been reimbursed by the Inter-regional Office of WSCF

A meeting of the WSCF Executive Committee, the key decision-making body of the global Federation. The Executive Committee with two delegates for each of the six regions, six Regional Secretaries, the General Secretary as well as some representatives of partners and donors were present to evaluate the work of the Federation and engage in strategic planning for the future.



Meeting with EYCE

Dates: 27-29 April 2012

Location: Brussels, Belgium

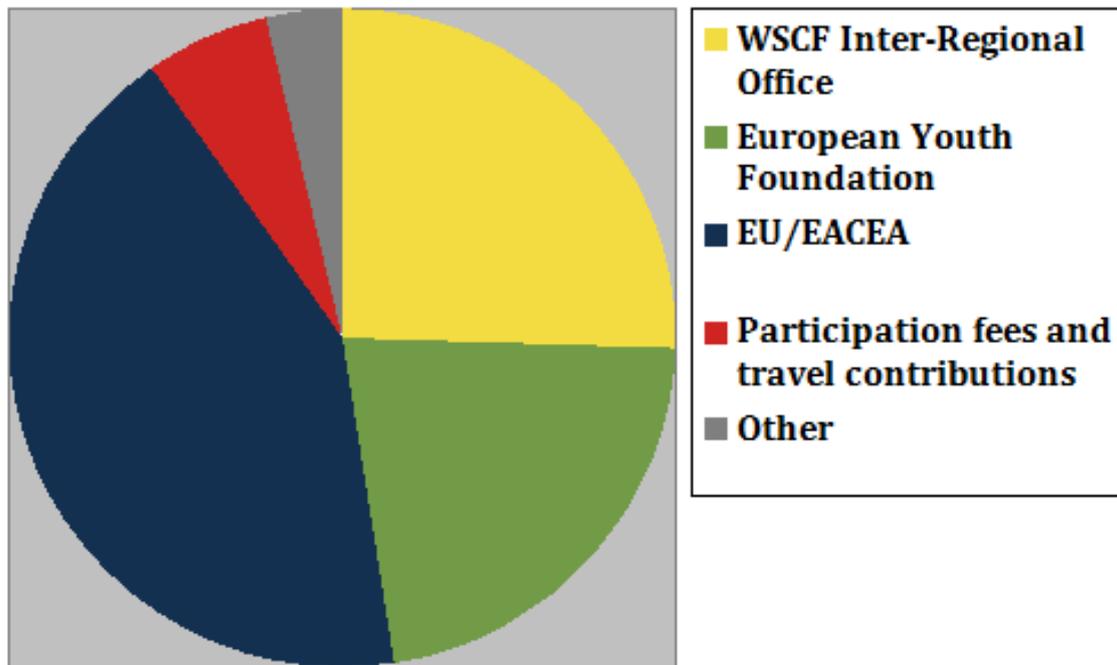
Participants: 4

Cost: 510.65 EUR

A meeting between the treasurer and general secretary of WSCF Europe and the general secretary EYCE (Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe) to both plan future cooperation on fundraising and events.

Finances

Income	in Euros
WSCF Inter-regional Office	44,173.28
European Youth Foundation	38,293.00
EU/EACEA	74,029.74
Participation fees and travel contributions from participants	10,464.30
Other	6,313.07
Total	173,273.39



Expenditure	in Euros
Salaries	56,020.48
Office Costs	9,379.72
Events and Campaigns	44,424.74
Staff Travel Expenses	5,894.21
Governance, partner relations and Staff and Officers meeting	16,415.56
Publications	7,115.81
Financial Services	6,158.32
WSCF global ExCo meeting	15,509.39
Miscellaneous	1,027.05
Total	161,945.28

