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# **The World Student Christian Federation in Europe**

*Annual Report 2013*

World Student Christian Federation of Europe  
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## Greetings from the Chairperson

The year of 2013 was the year of changes once again as it happens every two years in WSCF-E: a new Regional Committee took up their positions in October. Apart from the changes it was also a year of strong commitment and input, both from volunteers and our staff, which made the achievements reached possible. Further, it was a year full of experiences with the people for whom we work, our members all over Europe.

At the beginning of 2013, the leadership group met in Sheffield (UK) to plan our work. The meeting was very productive as we thought through the preparations to hand over work to the next generation of WSCF-E leadership. We also met our members from our member movement in Sheffield, which built new connections and helped us to understand another context of our members' grassroots work.



In February our first thematic event of the year went on in Vienna. It was designed for staff as well as committed long-term volunteers working for our member movements. We dedicated much of our time to discussing an important topic that we at WSCF-E find very common in our member organisations and other student organisations in general: decreased participation as well as the necessity to keep broadening our social inclusiveness. The student world is changing and therefore new trends in studying and living have an impact on approaches to engage students internationally. These staff and officers meetings are always encouraging: sharing of successful strategies makes our work better as we learn what others need and then leave better informed to help each other.

In spring, the first big event of 2013 approached as we organized Lingua Franca – a summer camp for Central and Eastern European students. What we had on the program was engaging our participants in social projects and create a community



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of young people over a 10 days stay in Romania. Our Lingua Franca Coordinator Lucian Cirlan, together with a preparatory team, did a great job to run this popular program and we owe them a big thanks for that. Even those who only heard about it from others, like myself, wished they could have made it!

Shortly after Lingua Franca ended, the European Regional Committee met in Denmark to plan the upcoming European Regional Assembly scheduled to happen in October. Our chairperson at the time, Sofie Eriksen, welcomed the whole group in her house in the Danish countryside, which made the meeting very pleasant. The preparations for the Regional Assembly were fruitful, so that our members in a productive atmosphere to formulate new thematic priorities for next two years. Further, new people were elected into leadership positions, among them myself as WSCF-E's new chairperson. The Assembly was very fruitful as we had a chance to discuss key questions such as fundraising as well as themes that are important for our member organisations to reflect on and dedicate our program to. A recurring theme in this regard was how we include people who do not belong to our member organizations and how to become more inclusive and open to people interested in our work. With the increase of such people that has started in 2013 more tangibly already, our next generations will be more diverse and open as is our vision. We will discuss how to continue to facilitate this at WSCF-E's level of organisation and governance in the coming years.

After the Regional Assembly, the handover processes between the outgoing and the incoming Regional Committee went on, so that the new leadership team got a positive start. In November, we welcomed our new Lingua Franca Coordinator, Bernardo Cañas Hernández, who started his fundraising efforts right away. In December we recruited two new staff persons – the new Editor in Chief for WSCF-E's journal Mozaik, James Jackson, and Kathryn Cammish, our new Office and Publications Intern. Therefore, the year 2013 ended with a lot of changes in our staff team as well as the leadership committee, which leave us, we are confident, in a good position to take up the opportunities and challenges that 2014 will bring.

Zuzana Babicová  
WSCF-E chairperson

## Headline Projects

### **Invisible Slavery. Human Trafficking in Europe**

Programme: Solidarity Conference

Location: St. Gilgen, Austria

Dates: 6-12 October 2013

Participants: 32

Total Cost: 19,169.01€

Funders: Council of Europe, Youth in Action

Resources: Mozaik 33, March 2014

This conference encouraged discussions on a topic that is both extremely serious and constitutes a widespread crime and is often off the radar of young people and public awareness in general. Reliable statistics on Human Trafficking are hard to come by due to the many cases that still evade police investigations, but it is estimated that it is the fastest growing source of income of organised crime. Globally, it is a multi-billion Euro business. This conference brought together young people from all over Europe to discuss the European dimension of this topic. Specifically, the goal was to raise awareness among young people for the connection of this crime with the social and economic ambitions of young people as well as to ask



what young people can do to fight human trafficking and support its victims. Further, as human trafficking affects women and men differently, with most women trafficked for sexual exploitation, while most men are trafficked for labour exploitation, another question addressed the gender images that underlie this crime.

The conference opened with a general introduction to the theme, which outlined the European networks of human trafficking and the distinction between countries of origin, transit countries and destination countries. It made clear that victims of human trafficking often, initially, consent to work for who later turn out to be their abductors, as they are promised attractive, well-paid jobs. Further, it described the psychological and physical violence that victims suffer and that is intended to traumatise them in a way that makes it very difficult to even consider escaping. Then, they are often moved around Europe, from one country to another, to evade the police. This introduction was a harsh experience for many participants and great care was taken leave no-one alone with personally challenging questions.



As the conference went on, it took up the topic of gender and human trafficking and asked in how far certain societal gender stereotypes, e.g. of women as sexual objects, contribute to their victimisation through crime networks. This proved to be a controversial discussion, which was broadened during the excursion day when the group visited an organisation that works with legally registered voluntary sex workers and lobbies for their rights, while it works to raise

awareness for human trafficking and sexual exploitation, too. Some participants felt challenged by the moral presupposition that sex work in general is work as any other work, while others strongly affirmed that view. We made sure that there were enough safe spaces to discuss these different perspectives, among other things also in Bible studies on different topics related to the conference theme.

Further, participants went beyond educational discussions and went into questions about what young people can do in their local and national contexts to address the crime of human trafficking. The general role of civil society actors in combating human trafficking, going beyond purely police-centred approaches was explored. In this light, different approaches to awareness-raising were talked through as were ways to support and be in solidarity with victims of sexual violence. Ideas for campaigns were shared and awareness-raising resources were produced in order to illustrate that participants have got what it takes to take action on the subject. All this was great fun and rounded off a conference that was a transformative experience for everyone involved!



## **Encountering the Other. Community-building and ecumenical leadership training in Central and Eastern Europe**

Programme: Lingua Franca summer camp

Location: Miclăușeni, Romania

Dates: 20-30 July 2013

Participants: 25

Total Cost: 12,939.03€

Funders: GBGM – United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Finnish Orthodox Church, Lund Mission Society

The 2013 Lingua Franca summer camp took place in Romania and continued the established approach of previous WSCF-E summer camps of combining English language teaching with learning about a topical social theme. This year, in response to the growing wave of xenophobia and right-wing populism in many European countries, the theme was “Encountering the Other”. It was aimed at looking at the practical foundations of intercultural dialogue, helping participants to understand the challenges in opening up to people of different social and cultural backgrounds as well as understanding and speaking out against the recent wave of xenophobia.

An essential part of the concept of the event was again the building of a community among the participants, young people from all over Europe, mainly from Central and Eastern Europe. This community-building effort was closely linked up



with the theme of the summer camp and was intended to provide a practical example of multi-cultural fellowship for a group of people among whom many had not been part of international meeting environments before. To facilitate this community-building the 2013 Lingua Franca summer camp contained a third element, namely working together on a common social project. This social project aimed at creating a tangible benefit for the community hosting the camp, the Sturdza castle conference centre and the monastery of Miclăușeni. Therefore, participants worked on different small projects developing the park surrounding the castle and the monastery, such as making a map of the area and setting it up in the entrance area or cleaning and freshly painting a little tower that is a part of the castle compound.

The language sessions, which formed another essential part of the project, were led by five volunteers from the UK and the US, some of them SCM members or Senior Friends. Different teaching groups were created to cater for the various skill levels among participants. The lessons were a combination of recapitulating some features of the thematic session, open conversation and skills development for key communication situations, like presentations or job interviews. Our teachers did an excellent job in working with a very diverse group of people. According to everyone's feedback the language sessions were very effective. Additionally, most of the time, they were also very entertaining. ☺



The thematic sessions of the summer camp started out with addressing a conversation on what identity meant for participants: how did they define who they are? On that basis, the experience of encountering others, who are different, was explored: who is the other for you and in your society? What does that mean for their social standing? These issues were then connected to questions of Christian identity and ethics. In a fascinating Bible study, Father Hrisostom, our host from the local Orthodox Church, presented Christian spirituality as a spirituality of

encounter with the other, in other people, in God, in death and also in transformation and new life. In order to connect with the local context and explore the topic from a local perspective, too, the group visited both the nearby monastery, which offered another opportunity for questions concerning Christian vocations in the world of today, and went on a day-long excursion to Iași. There, we visited different religious and ethnic communities and heard stories about how they lived together in a diverse society.

The final part of the programme looked at the role of young people in bringing about social change. There were sessions on non-violent communication in order to learn more about how to address differences in a constructive way. Further, ideas were exchanged among the group about how to address concrete examples of social exclusion in people's home communities. Participants shared stories about the work of their own youth organisation in engaging social problems and plans were made to stay in contact after the camp in order to continue to exchange experiences and ideas.

Overall, the 2013 Lingua Franca summer camp was a big success. It created a close and lasting community among young people from many countries and successfully addressed a challenging topic in a safe and empowering environment.

Many thanks to everyone involved, especially to our Lingua Franca Coordinator Lucian Cirlan, to the whole Lingua Franca preparatory committee, and to our Romanian hosts, first of all Father Hrisostom of the Metropolis of Moldavia and Bukovina of the Romanian Orthodox Church!



## Universal Day of Prayer for Students

Programme: Bible study, Prayer and Worship Service

Location: 105 countries around the world

Date: 17 February 2013

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 2013 theme was “God of Life, lead us to Justice and Peace”, taking up the motto of the WCC General Assembly in November 2013 and developing a youth perspective and input on the topic.

### Pelas dores deste mundo

Rodolfo Gaede Neto, Brazil



Im - plo - ra - mos tu pie - dad, oh buen Se - ñor, \_\_\_\_\_  
 For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world,  
 — por quién su - fre en es - te mun - do, \_\_\_\_\_ a  
 God, we call u - pon your mer - cy: the  
 u - na gi - me to - da la crea - ción.  
 whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain!  
 Tus o - i - dos se in - cli - nen al cla - mor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lend an ear to the ris - ing cry for help  
 — de tu gen - te o - pri - mi - da, \_\_\_\_\_ a -  
 from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple. Come!  
 pu - ra, oh Se - ñor, tu sal - va - ción.  
 Has - ten your sal - va - tion, heal - ing love!

## Leadership Training and Development

### European Regional Staff and Officers meeting

Location: Vienna, Austria  
Dates: 21-24 February 2013  
Participants: 21  
Total Cost: 4,556.00€  
Funders: Youth in Action

The 2013 Staff and Officers meeting took place in Vienna, Austria, and offered a space for staff persons and active volunteers of our SCMs to meet, exchange experiences about the work of the past year and the year ahead as well as to build their skills for leadership in a Christian youth organisation. The key focus of this year's meeting was the evaluation of the ongoing networking project within WSCF-E, through which three sub-regional capacity-building trainings had been organised



in 2012 and in whose framework, three further such trainings as well as other activities were scheduled in 2013. Meeting participants discussed the potential of the current format of the networking activities until then and thought through ways of increasing their relevance to SCMs. They also planned a number of

exchanges between SCMerS of different countries, which were to take place during the summer (see below).

Apart from this planning and evaluation sessions, the meeting also had a capacity-building component of its own with a session on volunteer motivation. Further, there was a preparatory session on the WSCF-E Regional Assembly, which took place later in October 2013 as well as on the work of the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee of the global Federation of WSCF. Moreover, there was an excursion to a synagogue, where we met a volunteer, who introduced us to the life and work of the liberal Jewish community in Vienna. This created a nice experience of solidarity and provided a beautiful interfaith encounter, which rounded off the meeting.

## **Nordic/Baltic European Capacity Building Training**

Programme: Networking Project

Location: Klaipėda, Lithuania

Dates: 14-17 June 2013

Participants: 8

Total Costs: 1,155.18€

Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

While this meeting was planned as a sub-regional event for the Nordic-Baltic sub-region, apart from Libby Lewin as the ERC's representative and the two WSCF-E staff people, in the end all the participants came from our Lithuanian member organisation. While this took away from the international atmosphere of the event a bit, it also offered a great opportunity to focus more intensely on the specific local context and the relationship between SCM Lithuania and WSCF Europe. We analysed similarities and differences in the approaches to our





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common work among Christian students and explored ways of creating stronger links between the local and national work of SCM Lithuania and the work of WSCF-E on the European level. Further, we learnt about the ways in which the work of our Lithuanian member organisation is connected to the wider structures of the church and the potential concerning professionalism and intergenerational dialogue that lies in this.

Overall, though it went differently than planned, this meeting left everyone involved with a lot of inspiration about how to deepen and broaden our work in its different contexts, locally, nationally and on the European level.

## **Central European Capacity Building Training**

Programme: Networking Project

Location: Bosnek, Bulgaria

Dates: 6-9 September 2013

Participants: 10

Total Costs: 2,272.80€

Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

This sub-regional meeting for students from Central and Eastern Europe aimed at developing the relationship between the national and the local level of SCM work with the European dimension of the WSCF-E network. Further, it worked on raising awareness for the resources available for this work at the different levels and the ways in which they can be used more efficiently and with greater mutual benefits. We exchanged experiences regarding fundraising and other ways of outreach for support for different projects and shared advice concerning promising approaches in this area. Ideas of community in the face of an obvious diversity regarding the expressions of Christian identity were discussed critically and questions were pondered about how WSCF-E can make good to a greater extent on its vision to create an inclusive space for people of all Christian denominational backgrounds. In this light, the potentials of different ways to create community between WSCF-E member movements as well as approaches to create awareness for shared values were discussed.

Overall, the meeting was a good experience that helped deepen everyone's understanding of the implications of working together in a European-wide Federation.

## Western European Capacity Building Training

Programme: Networking Project

Location: Berlin, Germany

Dates: 20-23 September 2013

Participants: 8

Total Costs: 2,029.72€

Funders: Youth in Action, individual donations

This meeting aimed at strengthening the connections between the different SCMs in WSCF-E's Western European sub-region, inspiring them to work together more closely as well as to building shared visions of development and growth. The sessions happened in an informal setting, shaped by creativity and free thinking.



Issues treated were the organisational management and developmental aims of SCMs and WSCF-E, ways of engaging with new channels of communication and outreach to potential members as well as fundraising from new sources especially small, non-institutional donations. Further, participants discussed the challenges for communicating the vision and goals of Christian student work in their organisations in the context of secular and increasingly non-Christian environments. One conclusion was a need for a new language to express the values of this work, while also learning to address anti-religious criticism in an open and positive way.

Generally, the meeting was successful in developing ideas about how to make Christian student work more professional and intentional about engaging long-term challenges in a number of key areas.

## Member Movement and Sub-Regional Projects

*In Partnership with WSCF Europe*

### **“Seeds of Liberation” – SCM Britain Annual Conference**

Partner: Student Christian Movement Britain

Location: Manchester, UK

Dates: 1-4 March 2013

Participants: ca. 80

SCM Britain's 2013 'Seeds of Liberation' conference was a joyous and international celebration of theology and social action! The main addresses were from Bruce Kent (speaking on protest movements and nuclear disarmament) and Revd. Raj Bharath Patta (the head of SCM India, speaking on Dalit theology and solidarity with the oppressed). More than a dozen workshops let students explore different aspects of 'liberation', and the conference as a whole had a strong international theme with input from SCMs all over the globe. The weekend culminated with a positive protest at a Costa Coffee shop, where we thanked the company for paying their fair share of taxes with cheers, party hats, and whistles.



## NBCC summer meeting

Partners: Suomen Kristillinen Ylioppilasliitto, Ortodoksinen Opiskelijaliitto

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Dates: 27-30 June 2013

Participants: 15

The event was organised by WSCF-E's two Finnish member organisations, SKY and OOL. It brought together young people from Northern Europe to discuss the topic of social exclusion among young people. The meeting focused on young people with immigrant backgrounds, but also opened up the theme to consider social marginalisation in general. Issues of discrimination, identity and the struggle for rootedness and social recognition were some of the key themes discussed, while the gender dimension of discrimination was pointed out as well. The event served as a space of encounter between young people from different countries, who shared their experiences as well as for Finnish youth of immigrant backgrounds, who were invited to share their stories of struggle, but also of empowerment.

Further, the meeting was part of an SCM exchange between Polish and Finnish SCMerS, as a group of Polish students participated in the event and took part in a meeting programme to get to know Christian student work in Finland.



## SCM exchange Lithuania-Georgia

Partner: Vilniaus Akademinio Evangeliku Liuteronu Jaunimo Draugija, Young Christians for Peace and Democracy  
Location: Helsinki, Finland  
Dates: 18-23 & 25-30 September 2013  
Participants: 16

This was an exchange between members of WSCF-E's Lithuanian and Georgian member movements. The hosting SCMs prepared a programme for their visitors that presented the general work of the SCM, its objectives and aims, as well as the social and cultural context of Christian student work. Further, a sightseeing programme was also included in the programme. For everyone involved it was a great experience of fellowship and solidarity, as participants learnt about each other's vision, achievements and struggles in Christian student and youth work in the different contexts. Moreover, the exchange was a great experience of intercultural encounter, as many shared interests and common perspectives were discovered, while differences could be explored in a safe space. Therefore, a commitment for further exchange was made





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## 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: 1,200

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

The WSCF-E website continued to be a hub of information and updates concerning the work of the Federation in Europe, offering news on upcoming events, solidarity statements and prayer requests in topical social and political issues as well as resources for our members to use in their local contexts.

### Social Media

In 2013, 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

Regional Secretary:	Hans Hommens, Germany
Publications Intern:	Miroslav Pastorek, Slovakia
Mozaik Editor-in-Chief:	Paweł Pustelnik, Poland
Hungarian Assistant:	Balazs Kalydy, Hungary

### European Regional Committee in 2013

Chair:	Sofie Eriksen, Protestant, DK (until Oct 2013) Zuzana Babicová, Catholic, SLK (from Oct 2013)
Vice-chair/Events Coordinator:	Zuzana Babicová, Catholic, SLK (until Oct 2013) Annika Foltin, Prot., DE/AT (from Oct 2013)
Treasurer:	Libby Lewin, Protestant, UK
Events Coordinator:	Márta Várnagyi, Protestant, HU (until Oct 2013) Ellie Peacock, Protestant, UK (from Oct 2013)
Campaigns Coordinator:	Shannon Phillip, Catholic, UK (until Oct 2013) Krista Autio, Protestant, FI (from Oct 2013)
Links Coordinator:	Artturi Hirvonen, Orthodox, FI (until Oct 2013) Maria Kozhinova, Orthodox, FI (from Oct 2013)
Fundraising Coordinator:	Kristin Kölbl, Protestant, DE (until Oct 2013) David Cleary, Catholic, IE (from Oct 2013)
Global Executive Committee:	Vera Papp, Catholic, HU
Global Executive Committee:	Marco Fornerone, Protestant, IT





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## **European Regional Committee Meetings**

Dates:	29 January – 3 February 2013	7-11 August 2013
Locations:	Sheffield, UK	Ødsted, Denmark
Participants:	10	10
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:	28 January 2013	6 August 2013
Locations:	Sheffield, UK	Ødsted, Denmark
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:	13-20 February 2013
Location:	Cairo, Egypt
Participants:	11
Cost:	No costs for WSCF Europe

A meeting 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 October 2013  
Location: Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Participants: 25  
Cost: No costs for WSCF Europe

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.



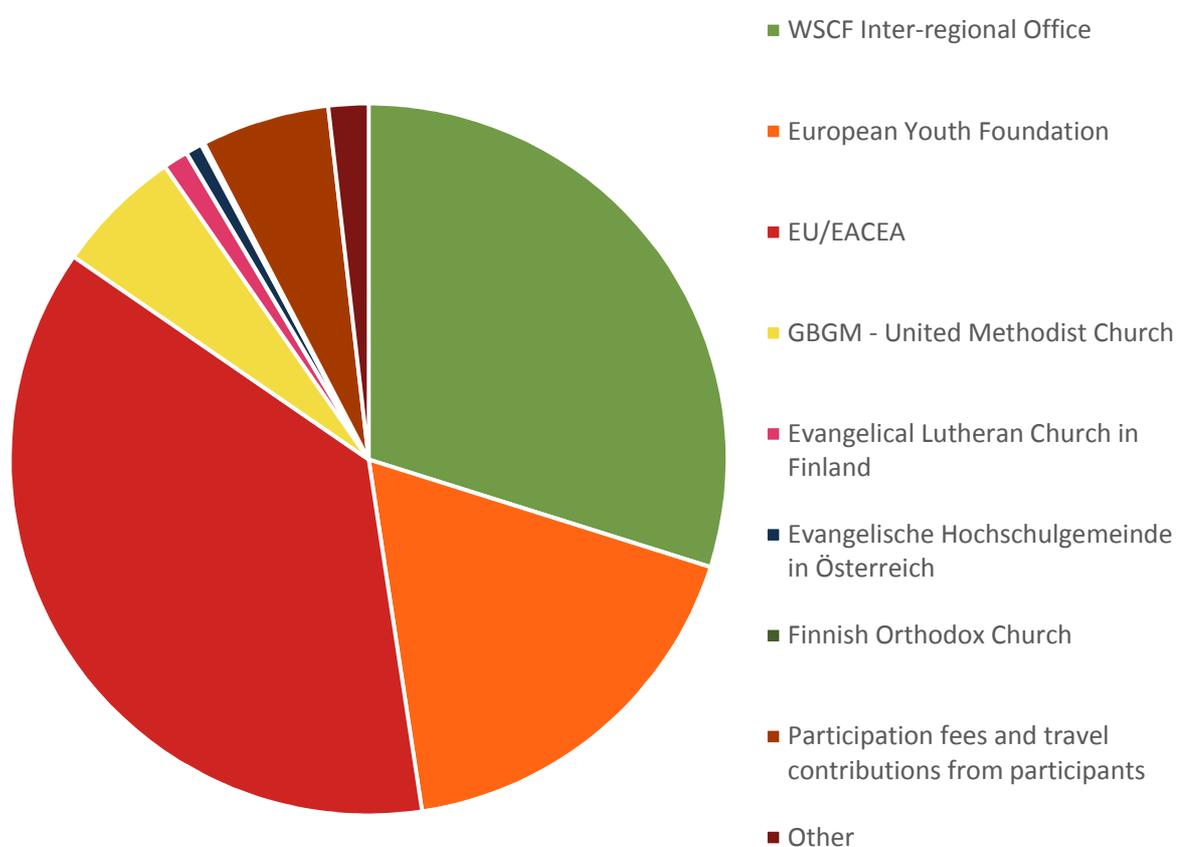
## Meeting with EYCE

Dates: 9-10 July 2013  
Location: Berlin, Germany  
Participants: 4  
Cost: 187.41€

A meeting between the chair person and the regional 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	39,593.86
European Youth Foundation	23,490.00
EU/EACEA	49,048.94
GBGM – United Methodist Church	7,612.26
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland	1,500.00
Evangelische Hochschulgemeinde in Österreich	1,000.00
Finnish Orthodox Church	200.00
Participation fees and travel contributions from participants	7,642.73
Other	2,387.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,475.39</b>



<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>in Euros</b>
Salaries	60,485.11
Office Costs	7,157.64
Events and Campaigns	40,062.18
Staff Travel Expenses	4,199.85
Governance, partner relations and Staff and Officers meeting	12,938.38
Publications	7,091.83
Financial Services	5,703.03
Miscellaneous	532.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,170.12</b>

