



**YEN JEV**

Youth of European Nationalities

Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen

# YEN General Assembly 2024

Documents

**Date:** 28 March 2024

Bautzen/Budysin, Germany

hybrid



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## Invitation

29 February 2024

**Dear Member Organisations, dear Supporting Members, dear Partners,  
Dear Friends!**

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the annual **General Assembly (GA)**, which will take place on **28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Bautzen/ Budyšin, Germany starting at 09:30 am.**

To guarantee that delegates from every Member Organisation can participate, the General Assembly will take a **hybrid form**: attendance will be possible both in-person and online. The General Assembly will take place in the „Haus der Sorben“ in Bautzen/ Budyšin.

Along with this invitation we send you in the attachments the **decision list** of the extraordinary General Assembly and the ordinary General Assembly held in 2023 and the **draft agenda** that amongst others includes the following points:

### **Elections to the Board and Working Groups**

This year, the positions regularly up for election to the Board are the **President, Treasurer, Convenor for Communication and Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics**. We will also elect an **Internal Auditor**.

Please use the following [official nomination form](#).

Also, we are looking for motivated young people who want to enrich the network and promote our activities and YEN through our Working Groups. Please encourage your members to sign up to be elected to one of our three Working Groups "Communication", "Member Integration" and "Minority Rights and Politics". Please use the following [official nomination form](#).

Please check the whole [election procedure](#) on our website.



## Call for events

The Membership of YEN can decide who will host our future events:

1. Kick-Off Seminar 2025
2. Easter Seminar 2025
3. Diversity Festival 2025
4. Autumn Seminar 2025
5. Kick-Off Seminar 2026

A candidature of interested organisations must be made at this year's GA, otherwise these events will not take place!

If you are interested in hosting one of these events, please contact the Board ([board@yeni.org](mailto:board@yeni.org)) prior to the GA and hand in the candidature for the event in the form of a 2 minute video or a poster that will be uploaded to the GA-website.

## Resolutions

We urge every Member Organisation that wishes the General Assembly to adopt a resolution to present it to the membership at the GA. By adopting a resolution, you can raise awareness of issues relevant to your minority or organisation and give YEN the opportunity to disseminate/strengthen that position at the European level.

During the GA, we will also discuss about the amendments to the **Rules of Procedure** (see below) and our **logo**.

### Additional information:

The registration of delegates is open until **22<sup>nd</sup> March**. Every Member Organisation can nominate up to three official delegates using [this form](#).

All the votes of one **ordinary Member Organisation** should be held by one delegate, the two others will have the status as extra delegates. If an ordinary Member Organization cannot participate at the GA, please consider that according to the Rules of Procedure section D.5, for minorities who are represented by more than one organisation within YEN, the organisation is



permitted to **transfer the votes** to the other organisation from the same minority, who is able to attend and to vote on its behalf, using [this form](#).


Furthermore, we would like to remind all Member Organisations who have not paid their **membership fee for 2024** yet, to pay the amount **by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March at the latest**, or if this is not possible, to get in touch with our Treasurer, Luka Olip ([luka.olip@yeni.org](mailto:luka.olip@yeni.org)). In accordance with article E. 3 c. of the Rules of Procedure of YEN, for Ordinary Members who didn't react to any reminders regarding the membership fee the voting rights at the GA could get suspended. Extraordinary Members who didn't react to any reminders regarding the membership fee can be excluded from the GA.

In the coming weeks, the **GA-folder** with all necessary documents will be distributed to all YEN Member Organisations so you have enough time to go through all the reports.

For any further aspects, we have created a [platform on our website](#) regarding the GA 2024 that will be updated regularly. Go and have a look - all the information, documents and candidatures for the Board and Working groups will be presented on this site!

It will be our great pleasure to welcome you all at the General Assembly 2024. We are looking forward to meeting you, to have an exchange of views and to discuss about the past year, but also to plan the future of the YEN network together. If you have any questions regarding registering your delegates or anything else, please contact the Board ([board@yeni.org](mailto:board@yeni.org)) or the Office ([office@yeni.org](mailto:office@yeni.org)) directly.

Best wishes,

  
Andor Barabás  
president

Brussels (Belgium), 28 February 2024



## Agenda

	<p><b>General Assembly of YEN 2024</b>  <i>Hybrid, (Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany and Online)</i>  <i>28th March 2024, 9.30 am (CEST)</i></p>
1.	<b>Opening of the General Assembly</b>
2.	<b>Establishing of the Quorum – Roll Call</b>
3.	<b>Election of the Chair of the General Assembly</b>
4.	<b>Election of Minute Takers of the General Assembly</b>
5.	<b>Election of the Counters of Votes of the General Assembly</b>
6.	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>
7.	<b>Adoption of the Minutes of the YEN extraordinary General Assembly 2023</b>
8.	<p><b>Annual Report YEN 2023/2024</b>            8.1 Report Board            8.2 Report Office            8.3 Report of the External Representative in the Advisory Council of Youth            8.4 Financial Report and Budget            8.5 Internal Auditors Report</p>
9.	<p><b>Discussion on Reports and Discharge of the Board</b>            9.1 Discussion            9.2 Vote on the proposal of the Internal Auditors regarding Board Allowances            9.3 Discharge of the Board            9.4 Adoption of the Budget 2025</p>
10.	<p><b>Adopting Resolutions and Statements</b>            10.1 Discussion and possible votes            10.2 Other Resolutions and Statements</p>





11.	<p><b>Work Plans of YEN 2024/2025</b></p> <p>11.1 Work Plan YEN</p> <p>11.2 Work Plan WG Member Integration</p> <p>11.3 Work Plan WG Communication</p> <p>11.4 Work Plan WG Minority Rights and Politics</p> <p>11.5 Adoption of the Work Plans for 2024/2025</p>
12.	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>12.1 Presentation of Candidatures for Extraordinary Membership</p> <p>12.2 Presentation of Candidatures for Ordinary Membership</p> <p>12.3 Information on the Current State of Supporting Membership</p> <p>12.4 Vote on the Membership Applications</p> <p>12.5 Updates, Discussion and Vote on the Changes in the Membership Status of MOs</p> <p>12.6 Presentation and Vote on Partnerships</p>
13.	<p><b>Suggestions to changes of the Rules of Procedure</b></p> <p>13.1 Discussion and Vote</p>
14.	<p><b>New logo of YEN</b></p> <p>14.1 Discussion and possible Vote</p>
15.	<p><b>Election of the Board and the Auditor</b></p> <p>15.1 President (mandate 2024-2026)</p> <p>15.2 Treasurer (mandate 2024-2026)</p> <p>15.3 Convenor for WG Communication (mandate 2024 - 2026)</p> <p>15.4 Convenor for WG Minority Rights and Politics (mandate 2024-2026)</p> <p>15.5 Internal Auditor (mandate 2024-2026)</p>
16.	<p><b>Election of the Working Group Members (for one year)</b></p> <p>16.1 Election Working Group Communication</p> <p>16.2 Election Working Group Member Integration</p> <p>16.3 Election Working Group Minority Rights and Politics</p>



17.	<p><b>Call Events 2025/2026</b></p> <p>17.1 Presentation of Candidatures for Kick-Off Seminar 2025</p> <p>17.2 Presentation of Candidatures for Easter Seminar 2025</p> <p>17.3 Presentation of Candidatures for Diversity Festival 2025</p> <p>17.4 Presentation of Candidatures for Autumn Seminar 2025</p> <p>17.5 Presentation of Candidatures for Kick-Off Seminar 2026</p> <p>17.6 Vote on the Presented Candidatures</p>
18.	<p><b>Varia</b></p>
19.	<p><b>Closing of the General Assembly</b></p>

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 sind  
 Menschenrechte!



## Glossary

### YEN Member Organisations

Arbeitsgemeinschaft deutscher Jugendorganisationen in Rumänien - <b>ADJ</b>	Germans in Romania	Romania	ord. m.
Bulgarian Youth Association of Hungary – <b>BYA</b>	Bulgarians in Hungary	Hungary	exord. m.
Bund der Jugend der Deutschen Minderheit in der Republik Polen – <b>BJDM</b>	Germans in Poland	Poland	ord. m.
<b>CroV</b>	Croats in Vojvodina	Serbia	exord. m.
Consiliul a Tinirlor Armanj – <b>CTArm</b>	Aromanians in Romania	Romania	ord. m.
Deutsche Jugend in der Ukraine – <b>DJU</b>	Germans in Ukraine	Ukraine	exord. m.
Deutscher Jugendverband für Nordschleswig – <b>DJN</b>	Germans in Denmark	Denmark	ord. m.
Diverse Youth Network – <b>DYN</b>	Roma in Hungary	Hungary	exord. m.
Društvo mladih Slovencev Italiji – <b>DM+</b>	Slovenes in Italy	Italy	exord. m.
Elsass-Lothringischer Volksbund	Alsations and Lorrainians	France	exord. m.
Frysk Ynternasjonaal Kontakt – <b>FYK</b>	West Frisians	Netherlands	ord. m.
Gemeinschaft Junger Ungarndeutscher – <b>GJU</b>	Germans in Hungary	Hungary	ord. m.
Giuventetgna Rumantscha – <b>GiuRu</b>	Romansh people	Switzerland	ord. m.
Grænseforeningen Ungdom – <b>GFU</b>	Danes and Germans in Border Region	Denmark	exord. m.
Grup dla mendranza ladina – <b>GML</b>	Ladins	Italy	exord. m.
Hrvatski Akademski Klub – <b>HAK</b>	Burgenland Croats	Austria	ord. m.
Karpatendeutsche Jugend – <b>KDJ</b>	Carpathian German	Slovakia	ord. m.
Jugendring der Russlanddeutschen – <b>JdR</b>	Russian Germans	Russia	ord. m.
Junge Spitzen – <b>JSP</b>	Germans in Denmark	Denmark	ord. m.
Kenstroll Breizh	Bretons	France	ord. m.
Klub slovenskih študentk in študentov na	Carinthian Slovenes	Austria	ord. m.



Dunaju – **KSSŠD**

Klub Studencki "Pomorania" – <b>Pomorania</b>	Kashubians	Poland	ord. m.
Koroška dijaška zveza – <b>KDZ</b>	Carinthian Slovenes	Austria	exord. m.
<b>Lunjina</b>	Aromanians in Serbia	Serbia	ord. m.
Magyar Ifjúsági Értekezlet – <b>MIÉRT</b>	Hungarians in Romania	Romania	ord. m.
Društvo gradišćansko-hrvatske mladine u Ugarskoj – <b>DGMU</b>	Burgenland Croats	Hungary	exord. m.
<b>MLADA EL</b>	Carinthian Slovenes	Austria	ord. m.
Mladi v odkrivanju skupnih poti – <b>MOSP</b>	Slovenes in Italy	Italy	ord. m.
Organizácia slovenskej mládeže v Maďarsku – <b>MASZFISZ</b>	Slovaks in Hungary	Hungary	exord. m.
<b>PAWK e.V.</b>	Lusatian Sorbs	Germany	ord. m.
Ruotsinsuomalaiset Nuoret Sverigefinsk Ungdom – <b>RSN</b>	Sweden Finns	Sweden	exord. m.
Sudetendeutsche Jugend – <b>SDJ</b>	Sudeten Germans	Germany	ord. m.
Südtiroler Jugendring – <b>SJR / Junge Generation in der SVP</b>	Südtiroler	Italy	ord. m.
<b>Sumnal</b>	Roma in Macedonia	Macedonia	exord. m.
Sydslesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger – <b>SDU</b>	Danish minority of Southern Schleswig	Germany	ord. m.
Union of Hungarian Youth Organisations of Romania – <b>MISZSZ</b>	Hungarians in Romania	Romania	exord. m.
Vajdasági Ifjúsági Fórum – <b>VIFO</b>	Hungarians in Serbia	Serbia	ord. m.
<b>VYCA</b> – Vlach Youth Council of Albania	Aromanians in Albania	Albania	exord. m.
<b>VYCM</b> – Vlach Youth Council of Macedonia	Aromanians in Macedonia	Macedonia	exord. m.
<b>Young ABTTF</b>	Western Thrace Turks in Greece	Greece	exord. m.

\* ord. m. = ordinary members; exord. m. = extraordinary members



## Other Abbreviations

AC	-Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
AGDM	-German Minorities Working Group of FUEN
AGSM	-Slavic Minorities Working Group of FUEN
COMEM	-Council of Members of the European Youth Forum
EACEA	-Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
EC	-European Commission
ECMI	-European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg (D)
EcoSoc	-Economic and Social Council of the UN
EDF	-European Dialogue Forum
EFAy	-European Free Alliance Youth (partner of YEN)
EP	- European Parliament
EU	- European Union
EYF	-European Youth Foundation
FUEN	-Federal Union of European Nationalities
IVS4Peace	-Inclusive Voluntary Service for Peace
MEP	-Member of the European Parliament
MO	-Member Organisation(s)
MSPI	-Minority SafePack Initiative
PC	-Programming Committee of the Advisory Council
UN	-United Nations
VPER	-Vice President for External Relations
VPIR	-Vice President for Internal Relations
WG	-Working Group(s)
YFJ	-European Youth Forum (Youth Forum Jeunesse)



## 1. Annual Report of YEN 2023/2024

### Report and Activity Overview 2023/2024 – Implementation of the YEN Work Plan

Nr.	Action	When	Where	Who
<b>1.</b>	<b>YEN Events and Projects – EYF WPs “Keeping Traditions Alive. Since 2023!” &amp; “ACTivism”</b> (see reports on YEN website)			
a.	Kick Off “traditionally yours”	13.-19. February 2023	Krusevo, North Macedonia	Board, Office, MOs
b.	Easter Seminar “It’s all around you”	31 March - 6 April 2023	Oberwart, Austria	Board, Office, MOs
c.	Diversity Festival “SINERGIJA   SYNERGY”	24 July - 30 July 2023	Trieste, Italy	Board, Office, MOs
d.	Autumn Seminar “Traditions in transition”	16-22 October 2023	Subotica, Serbia	Board, Office, MOs
e.	Activist skill training “Sustainable Activism & Selfcare”	1-4 February 2024	Berlin, Germany	Board, Office, MOs
f.	Study visits	Throughout 2023		Board, MOs, minority organizations
g.	RISE UP	Throughout 2023 (2023-2026)		Board, Office, MOs
<b>2.</b>	<b>Internal Relations</b>			
a.	General Assembly 2023 & Extraordinary General Assembly 2023	6 April 2023 & 6 May 2023	Oberwart, Austria & Online	Board, Office, MOs
b.	Board Meetings	Throughout 2023		Board, Office
<i>I.</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>26-29 May 2023</i>	<i>Rennes, France</i>	<i>Board, Office</i>
<i>II.</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>21-23 July 2023</i>	<i>Trieste, Italy</i>	<i>Board, Office</i>
<i>III.</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>7-10 December 2023</i>	<i>Vienna, Austria</i>	<i>Board, Office</i>



c.	MO activities attended	Throughout 2023		Board, Office
I.	100-year anniversary, SdU	28 September 2023	Flensburg, Germany	VPIR, CC
II.	European Youth Parliament, BJDM	23 August 2023	Online	VPIR, CMI
III.	100-year anniversary, KSŠŠD	4 November 2023	Vienna, Austria	Board, Office
d.	Working Group Meetings (3)	Throughout 2023		Working Groups
I.a.	WG Meeting	Throughout 2023	online	Working Group C
I.b.	WG Meeting	Throughout 2023	online	Working Group MI
I.c.	WG Meeting	Throughout 2023	online	Working Group MRP
e.	Preparatory meetings for YEN seminars	Throughout 2023	Where the seminars took place	Office, responsible Board member
<b>3.</b>	<b>YEN Working Groups 2023/2024</b>			
a.	Member Integration			CMI
b.	Communication			CC
c.	Minority Rights and Politics			CMRP
<b>4.</b>	<b>External Relations</b>			
a.	FUEN Presidium Meeting	22 May 2023	Brussels and online	President
b.	European Youth Forum (YFJ)	Throughout 2023		VPER, President
c.	Advisory Council on Youth	Throughout 2023		<i>Pia S.</i>
d.	EU Youth Dialogue	2023-2024		VPER, CMI
e.	Youth Exchange Minderheitensekretariat	16 June 2023	Berlin, Germany	VPER, Office
f.	YFJ Academy	25.-29. June 2023	Dworp, Belgium	Secretary General
g.	HIGA	17-21 July 2023	Basque Country, Spain	CMRP



h.	EU Youth Conference	October 2023	Alicante, Spain	CMI
i.	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	24 October 2023	The Hague, Netherlands	CMRP
j.	33. Congress on national minorities in Carinthia	7 – 8 November 2023	Klagenfurt, Austria	Treasurer
k.	Theory-practice workshop Identity & Europe	5 December 2023	Online	President
<b>5.</b>	<b>Partner Events and Projects</b>			
a.	FUEN European Dialogue Forum visit to UNESCO and French parliament	5 July 2023	Paris, France	President
b.	Youth Catalyst - Connecting and Amplifying Young Voices of Central Europe, Via Nova	5-9 July 2023	Martovce, Slovakia	President
c.	FUEN Congress & Assembly of Delegates	7 – 10 September 2023	Pécs, Hungary	Board, Office
e.	Council of Europe exchange of views with civil society	15 September 2023	Strasbourg, France	Treasurer
f.	AGDM Tagung	13-14 November 2023	Berlin, Germany	Secretary General
g.	FUEN “Women for minorities”	22-23 November 2023	Vienna, Austria	VPIR
h.	FUEN European Dialogue Forum visit to Council of Europe and European Parliament	12-13 December 2023	Strasbourg, France	President
6.	Management of YEN – Office Report 2023/2024			Secretary General
7.	Finances Report 2023/2024 and Budget			Secretary General, Treasurer
8.	Internal Auditors Report			Auditors, Treasurer





## 1.1 Board Report

### Introduction

Since our last General Assembly in April 2023, we continued to work actively for the preservation and development of the rights of the young people belonging to autochthonous, ethnic, linguistic, and national minorities in Europe. In the following pages, you will find the activities that we have organized and attended, but also the challenges that we have faced in the past YEN-year.

Our reports, plans for the upcoming period, internal and external developments are available here for you to read and consult. We remain at your disposal for discussion and comments, and we encourage you to ask us questions.

The YEN Board and Office wishes to thank all those who have made the YEN-Year 2023/2024 successful and we are looking forward for the upcoming year. Together we are stronger and we will be able to promote better and more efficient the concerns and demands of autochthonous, national, ethnic and linguistic minorities in Europe at all levels.

#### 1.1.1 YEN Events and Projects

##### a. Kick Off "traditionally yours"

Our first big event in 2023 took place from 13.02.-19.02. in Kruševo/Crusuva in North Macedonia. The seminar entitled "Traditionally yours" was hosted by our member organisation VYCM - Vlach Youth Council of Macedonia.

The opening of the seminar took place in the Toše Proeski Memorial House, where our hosts welcomed us with traditional dances and songs. In the memorial house we also learned something about the singer Toše Proeski, who was born in Kruševo and known throughout the Balkan region, and who was also a member of the Aromanian minority.

Participants from minorities from all over Europe participated in the seminar. VYCM prepared a very diverse week with many opportunities to learn about the Aromanian minority, its language and their organisation. The workshop, which took place throughout the week, was led by trainer Pia Šlogar and co-supervised by junior-trainer Anastasija Gorenceva.

The Kick-off seminar was the first part of our work plan "Keeping Traditions Alive Since 2023!". In the workshop, the participants gained awareness about their minorities' traditions and the relation between their identity and these traditions. They learned about different definitions of the term



"tradition" and discussed how traditions are shaped, what forms they take and what impact they can have - with a particular focus on young minority members. In addition, a process of critical self-reflection on the traditions and cultural expressions of their communities and their personal relationships to them was started. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their own identity as a young member of a minority and to find out what elements make them feel part of a minority/community. Towards the end of the workshop, some short videos and small campaigns were elaborated in groups to put what they had worked out into practice.

On our excursion day, the host organisation showed us the town of Kruševo and we visited the monument "Makedonium" as well as the local gallery where paintings by the well-known painter Nikola Martinoski are exhibited, who himself was a member of the Aromanian minority and was born in Kruševo. We spent the rest of the day in Ohrid on the beautiful Ohrid Lake.

### **b. Easter Seminar "It's all around you"**

The Easter Seminar of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is usually YEN's largest annual event, which is organised yearly around March/April with a partnering organisation. It is a week-long activity built around a workshop based on methods of non-formal education, with opportunities for exchange and intercultural learning. In 2023, our member organisation HAK (Hrvatski akademski klub/Croatian academic association - Burgenland-Croatian minority) was the host and co-organiser.

The seminar took place from 31 March to 6 April in Oberwart, Burgenland, with the theme "It's all around you". The aim of the seminar was to bring together young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities from all over Europe and to learn more about the Burgenland-Croatian minority in Austria.

The primary topic of the event was to reflect on and understand the positive and negative impact that traditions can have on minority communities. Participants were encouraged to reflect on what role traditions are playing in their own minorities and the respective challenges and advantages.

The workshop, which took place throughout the week, was led by trainer Pia Šlogar and co-supervised by junior-trainer Angelica Augustin.

On the first day of the seminar, there was the official opening in the Oberwart Open House (OHO) with an introduction by HAK and YEN as well as speeches from local politicians. Our hosts from HAK welcomed the participants with a traditional folklore dance group and organised a world café



with representatives from local minorities: Burgenland Croats in Austria and Hungary, Hungarian minority in Austria and Roma minority.

Later on and also in the following days, the workshop sessions took place at the bilingual grammar school in Oberwart (Zweisprachiges Bundesgymnasium Oberwart - ZBGO) opposite the Hotel Telegraph, where the participants were accommodated. Outside of the workshops a walk through Oberwart to the memorial site for Roma was organised, where participants were able to learn more about the situation of this minority in Austria.

On the excursion day a trip to Vienna was planned. After arrival the participants had a guided tour of the Austrian parliament followed by a discussion about the situation of young people in Austria who belong to various minorities. Afterwards, the trip continued to Mondscheingasse to the Club of Slovenian Students in Vienna (KSSŠD), where the members of the club explained their activities and the situation of the Carinthian Slovenes to the participants. The excursion to Vienna ended at the Croatian Centre (Hrvatski Centar) in Schwindgasse. There, the participants got to know the premises and activities not only of HAK, but also of the Hrvatski Centar and were thus able to understand the situation of the Burgenland-Croatian minority in Vienna.

The seminar concluded with the YEN General Assembly, which also took place on the premises of the ZBGO.

### **c. Diversity Festival "SINERGIJA | SYNERGY"**

The Diversity Festival Seminar took place in Trst from 24 to 30 July under the theme "Synergy | Synergija". It was hosted by DM+ and aimed to provide participants with practical knowledge to support their local minority organisations. Another important aim was to create links between the participants, to create "synergies".

Participants took part in a series of workshop sessions focusing on theatre, scenography/installation, and radio/podcasting. The week began with an opening ceremony, during which DM+ and the Slovenian minority in Italy introduced themselves. During the week, the participants attended the various workshops. The evenings were planned with various fun activities, such as the talent show or the exchange market, which allowed participants to exchange cultural insights and objects. Besides the workshops, there was also a cultural program, which included a tour of Trst and a trip to the Kras region with dinner (at Osmica). On the last day, the participants were able to present what they had created in their workshops in a final show.



#### **d. Autumn Seminar “Tradition in transition”**

The Autumn Seminar 2023, hosted jointly by the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) and the Vajdasági Ifjúsági Fórum (VIFÓ), a youth organization of the Hungarian minority in Serbia, gathered 16 young participants and 15 young team members from 10 indigenous, national, and linguistic minorities across Europe in Palić, Serbia. The event was not only a chance to reconnect with old friends but also an opportunity to make new ones. From October 16th to 22nd, participants engaged in discussions on the theme "Tradition in Transition" and explored the cities of Palić, Subotica, and Novi Sad in Serbia.

The seminar kicked off with a warm welcome from the Hungarian National Council in Subotica on the first day. Welcoming speeches by Dániel Fejel Tóth of VIFÓ, Vera Buranits, Vice-president of YEN, and a representative of the Hungarian National Council were followed by traditional Hungarian music. Participants then embarked on a tour of Subotica, delving into the city's history and visiting its churches and other notable landmarks.

The core activities of the seminar took place in the quaint city of Palić, where trainers Leah Rajchlin, Cihan Kilic, and Felicia Touvenot led participants through a week-long journey using non-formal education methods. The focus was on facilitating intensive exchanges about traditions within the represented minority communities, discussing the necessity of tradition changes to uphold human rights and minority rights, and exploring avenues for further development within minority communities.

In-depth discussions allowed participants to share their perspectives and personal experiences regarding the impact of tradition changes on their lives, with a particular emphasis on human rights and intersectional aspects. Through various activities and warm-up exercises, participants gradually opened up and embraced change more readily, inspiring them to devise strategies for fostering change within their respective minorities.

The participants' thoughts and opinions on change, traditions they wish to alter within their minority groups, and more were captured in videos by media creator Jakob Schäfer, soon to be available on Instagram and Facebook.

In addition to the workshop's intense deliberations, evening events, including an exchange market, provided a welcome break and an opportunity for participants to bond in a fun and adventurous manner. Not only did YEN and VIFÓ introduce themselves, but all participating organizations and minorities also showcased their cultures through music, dance, snacks, and conversations.



Wednesday offered the group a chance to further explore the region, with a tour of Novi Sad (Újvidék) and a journey through the tunnels of the Petrovaradin fortress, providing insights into the fascinating history and culture of Vojvodina.

### **e. Activist Skills Training “Sustainable Activism & Self-care”**

The first edition of the Activist Skills Training took place in Berlin, Germany, from the 1st-4th February 2024. 16 young participants took part in the training weekend, with the focus on sharing their own activist stories, cultures, and backgrounds, and discussing the connections between sustainable activism and mental health. The trainer guided participants through modes of non-formal education, with the aim of creating a safe\*r space in which to share and exchange coping practices. A Cultural Evening provided a welcome space for the young activists to share stories, songs, dances and food from back home.

The following day took the theme of “practicing resilience”, where participants learned how to be more active (in a healthy way) within their minority youth organisations, including writing a “Self-Care Plan” to practice healthier forms of activism. It was interesting to see how everyone dealt with expectations from one’s organisation or community or the expectation one has for one’s own activism. Along with the focus on self-care, the training put intersectionality at the forefront, and despite the participants’ varied backgrounds, they could share their personal activist stories, find overlaps, and feel less alone in their activist journeys and fights for autonomy, recognition, and human rights. We look forward to the following two Activist Skills Trainings in 2024.

### **f. Study visits**

In 2023, the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN/JEV) offered its members the opportunity to go on Study Visits aimed to foster hands-on learning experiences and exchange of knowledge among youth from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities, peers with similar backgrounds. We facilitated the transfer of knowledge about activities, and projects between minority youth organisations and encouraged personal intercultural exchange to create motivation, inspiration, and solidarity within our network.

Four persons, David, Louis, Leah and Sophie, participated in this program with in total 9 study visits to the Breton Minority in Poland, the Breton Minority in Brittany, the Romansh Minority in Switzerland, the „HIGA! 2023-Summit“ in Vitoria Gasteiz/Basque Country, the Sorbian Minority in



Germany, the Assyrian Minority in Sweden, the Roma Community in Greece, the Jewish Community in Bulgaria and the Danish Minority in Germany.

Our participants actively engaged in the Study Visits that prompted the exploration of personal values and identity within the context of various European minority communities. These visits provided a nuanced understanding of the cultural tapestry and its significance. They included in-depth discussions on organisational development strategies, focusing on practical approaches for minority youth organisations to grow, adapt, and effectively address challenges specific to their contexts. The insights into the rights of minority youth, legal frameworks, empowerment strategies, and collaboration opportunities emphasised the need for advocacy and awareness. With those firsthand experiences and insights into effective activism, our participants gained a deeper understanding of the shared challenges faced by minority youth across Europe, fostering meaningful exchange and collaboration.

YEN recognized the importance of establishing strong connections with organisations and linguistic minorities during the study visits. Collaborations were forged through the Study Visits with Dom Britani, HIGA!, GiuRu, and the Assyrian Youth Organization. YEN also aims to keep an eye on valuable connections with linguistic minorities such as Okzitan, Basque, Breton, Tamazight (in France), Friulian (in Italy), Ladino-speaking (in Greece/Saloniki), Basque, Catalan, Valencian, Mallorquí (in Spain), Welsh (in Wales), and Wilmesaurisch (in Silesia).

Through the exploration of different conference and seminar systems by our participants, YEN is drawing inspiration from successful models such as HIGA!. This hands-on approach aims to identify innovative ways of working with and within minorities, tailored to their specific needs and preferences – strategies that YEN intends to keep in mind.

Through these Study Visits, YEN also recognizes the importance of visibility in minority events, including Fest-Noz. This engagement allowed for the effective promotion of YEN's mission and the establishment of connections with potential partners and participants.

We want to thank every participant of YENs Study Visits 2023, you are the ones keeping this network alive! We hope they gave you inspiration and motivation to continue fighting for the rights of minority youth. (More info here: <https://www.yeni.org/2023/12/15/yens-study-visit-in-2023/>)



## **g. RISE UP**

YEN's partner project, Horizon Europe funded RISE UP: Revitalising Languages and Safeguarding Cultural Diversity runs until 2026. Since the beginning of our collaboration in February 2023, the project works towards the revitalising of 5 minoritised languages, focusing on: Burgenland Croatian, Aromanian, Seto, Cornish, and Aranés. Jenny is working in the YEN office as the YEN project manager for RISE UP, ensuring the representation and active participation of minoritised youth throughout the duration of the project. As YEN's first collaboration with such a large-scale EU project, it is going well so far, and YEN's involvement as a project consortium member is extremely valuable for RISE UP. The initial phase of the project was identifying the relevant local stakeholders and preconditions for the 5 language communities, and gathering ideas to create strategies for how to involve the local cultural and creative sectors.

Our continuing focus is engaging young people to use and uphold their minoritised languages through better networks, increased resources, and the use of new technologies. YEN's existing network of Aromanian and Burgenland Croatia MOs have sped up the process of involving youth in the project, and we continue to work on outreach in order to reach as many youth as possible. Jenny has presented RISE UP at all YEN events she attended in 2023, and created activities to aid the project's research and digital development, which she will continue to do in 2024. Dissemination at YEN events, excursions and other minoritised language-related events is extremely valuable for RISE UP, particularly for youth outreach. RISE UP is building its contacts within and around our community study languages, and we can already see growing interest within the communities, and our interactions and feedbacks from young people are increasing. These valuable connections within the field of minoritised languages help us with the foundations of working together to co-organise language-related events and competitions in the coming years.

Since its Kick Off Meeting in Vienna, February 2023, RISE UP has been presented at EUROCALL, HIGA, UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages (WAL), and EIT Culture & Creativity Days in Barcelona. We have established collaborations worldwide with a plan to work together to encourage minoritised language promotion, revitalisation, and digital tool development. As a consortium, we have travelled to Val D'Aran (Catalonia) to meet with Aranés speakers, and will be visiting the Seto Community (Estonia) in Autumn, and Aromanians (Romania or North Macedonia) in Spring 2025. There have been multiple field trips to visit Cornish (UK) and Burgenland Croatian (Austria) speakers.

RISE UP held its first workshop "How to Use Digital Tools to Support Minoritised Languages" in November and was a great success with around 100 online participants, including some YEN MOs.



Between December 2023 and February 2024 we have published language maintenance/revitalisation questionnaires in an initial attempt to gather data. They address our 5 language communities in their home countries and the diaspora and each is translated into all relevant languages to reach as many people as possible. YEN's network has helped a great deal with disseminating as widely as possible.

During the Board Meeting in Vienna, the Board and Office discussed strategies to increase the involvement of youth involved in RISE UP (non-YEN members) in YEN events and seminars in 2024, further awareness raised, and more crossovers between the two networks. The benefits to YEN include increased awareness of the organisation, re-connection to ex-YEN members via RISE UP, and the potential of new youth organisations joining YEN's network via RISE UP.

In March 2024, we travel to Cologne where our technical development team will present the advancements of their gamified language learning tool/app, which aims to also serve as a networking platform and endangered language-archive.

## 1.1.2 Internal Relations

### a. General Assembly and extraordinary General Assembly 2023

**General Assembly 2023** – The annual General Assembly of YEN took place in a hybrid format on 6th April 2023. For this occasion, more than 15 Member Organisations, partners and guests signed up their delegates to decide on the plans of the YEN network in the next years and to elect new Board Members, Working Group Members and an Auditor. Due to that some organisations needed to leave during the GA, we couldn't get through the whole agenda because of a missing quorum. **Therefore, we had an extraordinary General Assembly on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

The Board of YEN welcomes **Vera Buranits** (Vice President for Internal Relations, HAK) and **Louis Albert Becker** (Convenor of minority rights and politics, Kenstroll Breizh) to the YEN family. They are joining **Andor Barabás** (President, ADJ), **Christoph Graf** (reelected as Vice President for External Relations, PAWK), **Alexander Wukovits** (Convenor for Communication, HAK) and **Felicia Touvenot** (reelected as Convenor for Member Integration, PAWK). We wish them all the best for the new chapter ahead and a lot of energy for the work in the new year.





When electing new Board Members, it's also always time to say goodbye to the Board Members who ended their mandates. We really want to say thank you to **Linea Kopf** (Vice President for Internal Relations, SdU) and **Sebastian Jepsen-Thomsen** (Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics, SdU) for their time, energy, work and effort they put into YEN. We would also like to thank last year's auditors **Pia Šlogar** and **Gianna Beeli**.

We postponed elections of a Treasurer, working group members, internal auditors and hosts for upcoming events at the online extraordinary GA on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

We also voted on a **Code of Conduct**. A code of conduct is an agreement on rules of behavior for a group or organisation. This is a set of conventional principles, expectations that the members of the group or organisation must follow. With it, we want to protect participants at our events and create a positive, safe environment, to raise awareness regarding our values/ values of YEN and to have a way to address problematic behavior and know how to react to it.

To plan the next years the Member Organisations also adopted the YEN workplan and budget.

**Extraordinary General Assembly 2023 (hybrid) – On the 6th of May 2023**, the hybrid extraordinary General Assembly took place to elect one Board position, the position of an Auditor and the Working Group members which remained vacant after April 2023. 17 member organisations joined for this occasion to participate and vote for the candidates for the positions of the Treasurer and the Internal Auditor. **Luka Olip** (Mlada EL) has been elected as Treasurer and **Martina Jazbec** (DM+) as Internal Auditor.

During the extraordinary General Assembly, YEN elected new Working Group Members for the mandate 2023-2024 as follows:

- **WG Communication:** Nantke Toben (SdU), Polina Wolkowa (JDR), Andjelo Pavloski (VYCM), Jakob Schäfer (PAWK), Stine Korff (Junge Spitzen)
- **WG Member Integration:** Olesia Vdovina (JDR), Mojca Petaros (MOSP), Linea Kopf (SdU), Clara Carstensen (SdU), Petra Strejcek (PAWK support), Martina Jazbec (DM+), Filip Jan Buder (PAWK), Leah Rajchlin (supported by PAWK), Ema Šimala (supported by PAWK), Aaron Clwyd (supported by PAWK)
- **WG Minority Rights and Politics:** Helena Lupinc (DM+), Lea Vouk (KSSŠD), Katharina Kley (Junge Spitzen)



During the extraordinary GA, we decided the **Easter Seminar 2024 will be hosted by PAWK in Bautzen**. During the Varia a follow-up discussion took place around the decision made during the GA in Oberwart that Andor should no longer represent YEN in the FUEN presidium. The discussion can be read in the minute of the GA.

## **b. Board Meetings**

Last year, the Board continued to meet regularly online between physical meetings. Our online meetings were a good way to keep up to date on projects and work distribution. Of particular note here would be YEN's finances last year and the final preparations before the respective seminars and planning for the Anniversary.

### **1. Board meeting 26-29 May 2023 in Rennes, France**

The then newly elected Board and office came together for a Handover meeting in Rennes, to get to know each other and get acquainted with the procedures and documents of the YEN. During the Board Meeting, although the agenda was packed, no decisions were made due to the unexpected lack of quorum. Nevertheless, several crucial discussion points were addressed: Firstly, the new Board received an introduction to the fundamental rules and tools regarding organisational procedures, reporting mechanisms, data storage protocols, visibility strategies, and other essential aspects. Furthermore, the Board engaged in discussions regarding their vision for their upcoming mandate, exploring their goals and aspirations for their mandate. Additionally, the Board deliberated on the core roles, functions, and tasks assigned to each Board position as outlined in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

Lastly, the Board discussed the next steps following the decisions made at the GA in Oberwart. Specifically, they decided to invite the FUEN for a discussion concerning the relations between YEN and FUEN. Moreover, they resolved to inform FUEN about their intention to propose changes to the statutes during the upcoming FUEN GA.

### **2. Board meeting 21-23 July 2023 in Trieste, Italy**

This meeting was all about the work plan for 2024 and our upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we were happy to welcome Van Lam, our new office member, personally. The board brainstormed and came up with the topic of ACTivism to empower and encourage young people from minorities to play an active role in the youth sector and within their communities. We distributed the tasks for the upcoming work plan so that it can be sent out on time. We also used the time to evaluate the



year so far and plan upcoming events and kept up to date on projects and tasks. These include the Code of Conduct, the relation between YEN and FUEN, the RISE UP Project, the YENiversary and YEN finances. After the board meeting, we were also able to participate at the Diversity festival and to know the local Slovenian community. This was an awesome experience.

### **3. Board meeting 7-10 December 2023 in Vienna, Austria**

Between 7th and 10th December 2023, the Board had its last Board Meeting of the year in Vienna. In the recent board meeting, we covered a lot of ground and made some important decisions. We started off with updates from different departments, including the Board, Office, and the RiseUp project.

A big topic we tackled was our "Code of Conduct." We looked at the experiences we had during the last seminars and brainstormed ideas for making it better in the future. We also agreed to explore some new management tools to help us (board and office) work more efficiently.

On the staffing front, we decided that Jenny has been doing a great job and again welcomed her to the team and decided to adjust her salary to reflect her contributions.

We were making progress on collaborating with FUEN, with plans for a joint online discussion in the works. Financial matters were also on the agenda, including applying for funding for the next year and approving a bonus for YEN staff.

We discussed membership dues and decided to accept the request to reduce by 50% the membership fee for a Member Organisation. Plus, we decided to propose downgrading MIÉRT to extraordinary members and Lunjina to inactive members at the next GA.

The board also decided that DYN – Diverse Youth Network will be the host for the Autumn Seminar 2024.

We also took a moment to reflect on past projects like the Autumn Seminar and Diversity Festival to learn from our and your experiences during our events.

Looking forward, we're focusing on planning for our upcoming YEN Anniversary and related activities. This includes talking about the plans for the Networking event, logo changes and working on a new website to improve our online presence and branding.

All in all, it was a productive meeting where we were able to bond as a team and made decisions that will help us achieve our goals in the months ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback received after our events in 2023. This gives us confidence that we are going in a good direction with our activities and we hope we will enjoy 2024 together even more. This year we are looking forward to elections at the General Assembly, exciting events under our "ACTivism" Workplan and our Anniversary, so feel free to contact us anytime for questions, requests or proposals.



### **c. Updating YEN Logo**

You are probably aware that the YEN logo has been with us for many years, therefore the YEN Board has started a process to update the YEN logo. In December 2023, the Board hired a design-company and took part in a workshop to discuss what YEN means to them and what qualities a YEN logo should have. Since then, we have held several meetings to discuss the design concepts that were prepared after the workshop. In February 2024 we sent out a survey to get the feedback of the YEN MOs on the different concepts we were considering.

After the end of the survey, we gave the feedback back to the designers so, the concept preferred by most can as a next step be further adapted based on the comments we collected from YEN MO representatives, and Board members.

The new Logo proposal will be presented at the General Assembly 2024.

### **d. MO activities attended**

#### **I. 100 Years Anniversary SdU**

Our member organisation SdU (Sydslesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger - Danish Minority in Germany), which is also a founding member of YEN, celebrated its 100th anniversary on 28 September last year. Vice-President for Internal Relations Vera Buranits and Convenor for Communication Alexander Wukovits represented the Youth of European Nationalities at the festive anniversary event.

After the welcoming address by the Chairman of SdU, the ceremony began in the large hall with numerous speeches and a colourful supporting programme. The speakers talked about the history of SdU, revisited it and reflected on the organisation's many fantastic activities and projects. The two YEN board members present at the event also addressed the guests with a few words. In their speech, they thanked SdU for the many years of good cooperation, for actively helping to shape YEN as an organisation and for always sending committed, motivated young activists to events. The official ceremony was followed by a cosy get-together in the Flensborghus courtyard, where the evening was accompanied by atmospheric music.



## II. European Youth Parliament, BJDM

The organisation BJDM, youth of the German minority in Poland, took part in a four-day project in August 2023: a simulation of the European Parliament with discussions about important topics such as digitalisation, environment...as well as minority rights. About 150 young people from different European countries took part in the project. BJDM invited YEN's members as experts to take part in an online discussion about minority rights and ethnic minorities.

Our Vice President for Internal Relations and our Convenor for Member Integration answered several questions that the students had on the topics. They could give their inputs on ways that the European Union can strengthen regional and minority languages. As examples and amongst others were mentioned legislation, funding, education, media and communication, cooperation with institutions as areas where actions can be enhanced. They could also give concrete examples of YEN's Member Organisations and their own knowledge and experience with minority rights, language preservation, and youth empowerment.

## III. 100-year anniversary, KSŠŠD

Another member of YEN celebrated its anniversary in 2023, KSŠŠD - (Klub slovenskih študentk\*študentov na Dunaju) the student organisation of Carinthian Slovenes in Vienna (Austria) celebrated hundred year since its founding. They invited friends and supporters to celebrate this occasion with a ball (typical for Vienna) in November 2023. From YENs side, Vera Buranits, Alexander Wukovits, Luka Olip and Eva Schubert joined the joyful event. Even in the festive ball settings, guests were invited to wear different styles from Jogging pants to suits and dresses. The program included a performance of the KSŠŠD choir, various bands and a short theatre by the members of KSŠŠD summarizing the history of the organisation. The night ended with an aftershow party in the KSŠŠD – club rooms.

## e. Working Group Meetings

A big thanks to all Working Group members and the Convenors for their tireless effort in favour of YEN. We really appreciate their work and energy invested. For detailed reports, see point 1.1.3.



## f. Preparatory Meetings for YEN Seminars

Each year, YEN Board and Office members travel through Europe to visit the hosts of the upcoming YEN Seminars. At these meetings the representatives of the different hosting organisations and the representatives of YEN meet in the place where the YEN events will take place to get to know each other, prepare the Seminar and visits the accommodation. These events are great opportunities to become a better team for the Seminars, clarify open questions and ensure we can have a great experience when implementing Seminars. We want to thank all host organisations for their great effort and motivation.

### 1.1.3. YEN Working Groups

#### a. Member Integration

**Convenor:** Felicia Touvenot (PAWK)

**Working Group members:** Olesia Vdovina (JDR) , Mojca Petaros (MOSP) , Linea Kopf (SdU) , Clara Carstensen (SdU), Petra Strejcek (PAWK support), Martina Jazbec (DM+), Filip Jan Buder (PAWK), Leah Rajchlin (supported by PAWK), Ema Šimala (supported by PAWK), Aaron Clwyd (supported by PAWK)

At the General Assembly in April 2023, ten working group members were elected. Two months later, a first online meeting was organised to discuss the goals throughout the year. This was the first opportunity to exchange views and divide tasks and groups in Europe to contact and consider as potential new members.

During the diversity festival in July, some of the working group members were present and made possible a physical meeting, which is usually hard to hold, regarding the geographical disparity. The working group will hold its last meeting during the Easter Seminar 2024 to round-up the yearly activities and develop ideas for future work.

After the GA, the first online meeting will be organised. The members will get to know each other, brainstorm on new projects and on how they imagine being involved in YEN's work. If they are present at events and seminars, working group meetings will be held on spot. The working group members are expected to regularly and closely communicate with the Convenor, who supervises the implementation of the work plan, throughout the year.



## b. Communication

**Convenor:** Alexander Robert Wukovits (HAK)

**Working Group members:** Nantke Toben (SdU), Polina Wolkowa (JDR), Andjelo Pavloski (VYCM), Jakob Schäfer (PAWK), Stine Korff (Junge SPitzen)

During the extraordinary YEN General Assembly on 6 May 2023, the composition of the Communications Working Group was decided. Since then, we have worked on a number of projects, created content for YEN, shared stories and looked after the social media channels.

During the last YEN events, the working group used photos and short videos to document the workshops as well as the evening events and additional supporting programmes. The working group members also produced reports and interviews with participants, for example after workshops. YEN's Facebook and Instagram channels were also regularly updated.

Joint online meetings were held, allowing some members to get to know each other, discuss ideas and plan specific projects. Not only were the seminars documented, but the members also supported Convenor Alexander Wukovits in documenting other YEN events or events in which YEN members took part. The focus was on regularly updating the YEN network and summarising and documenting the organisations' activities on social media.

At the kick-off seminar in Kruševo, the video documentation of YEN's work plan was also discussed with the working group members. Interviews were conducted last year with people who took part in the seminars. These interviews were shared as short-form videos on the channels. Thematically, the interview series is based on the slogan "Keeping Traditions Alive Since 2023!" and reflects what was worked on in the workshops at the seminars and what the participants think about the topic of "traditions".



### c. Minority Rights and Politics

**Convenor:** Loeiz Albert Becker (Kenstroll Breizh)

**Working group members:** Helena Lupinc (DM+); Lea Vouk (KSŠŠD); Katharina Kley (Junge SPitzen)

I was elected to the position of Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics at YEN/JEV in April 2023 during the General Assembly in Oberwarte, Austria. My mandate followed that of my predecessor. My candidacy was motivated by a desire to link politics and the status of minorities.

My flagship project would have been to set up a global survey on the conditions of different communities in Europe. The Working Group and I did not manage to meet in person, but were in contact regularly via email. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to set up a meeting in person. One year wasn't enough to get started as a convenor and start putting projects in motion. What was important as a topic for the Working Group in 2023 was addressing the issue of sexism within YEN/JEV, for which we started developing a series of proposals. The same goes for this year's European elections.

I also represented YEN/JEV at a number of events in Europe during 2023. Among other things, I represented YEN/JEV at the FUEN conference in Osijek, Croatia, on the subject of anti-gipsyism at the beginning of June 2023. I was here in name of YEN/JEV and discovered the political issue about the Roma community in western Balkan countries. After the Diversity Festival and the board meeting in July, at the request of some of the participants, I left for Södertälje on 7 August to commemorate the Assyrian genocide and find out more about the organisation. I then went to Pécs in Hungary to represent YEN/JEV at the FUEN General Assembly at the beginning of September. We were there to convey YEN/JEV's opinion and decisions to the FUEN presidium. I was here to carry the decision of the general assembly with my colleagues.

Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of representing YEN/JEV and its member organisations at a number of events. I've also had the greater pleasure of taking part in the running of the organisation. The only negative thing I've taken away from this year is the lack of time to put projects in place. My primary project was to set up a data collection system and format it so that it could later be used to produce a global report on our rights. The fight against sexism must continue to be explored, whether in terms of parity in elections or training for elected representatives, to name but a few examples. The issue of politics and our existence and place in tomorrow's society must also be addressed. There are still many projects that I would like to explore further. The university and the place of minorities. The emphasis on greater cooperation between communities and an expansion towards the West. International reflection, because





Europe is not the world and we have comrades beyond our borders, and until we are all free, none of us is.

#### 1.1.4. External Relations

##### a. FUEN, Board Meetings

According to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of YEN and FUEN, the YEN President is also a member of the FUEN Presidium and participates at its meetings. However, in 2023 the General Assembly decided that Andor should not participate anymore at the FUEN Presidium meetings and this was communicated to the FUEN Presidium at their meeting in May 2023. On 9 January 2024, YEN and FUEN held a meeting to discuss how YEN can be further represented and it was decided that another person from the YEN Board can join the FUEN Presidium meetings to present the YEN report until Andor's mandate ends. Felicia (C MI) was delegated by the YEN Board to the FUEN Presidium meeting which will happen on 27 February 2024, which is after the time of writing this report. For further details, don't hesitate to contact the YEN Office or YEN Board.

##### b. European Youth Forum (YFJ)

As an official member, YEN has had its representative present at the events of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), biggest platform of the national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs') in Europe that works to empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live, and in improving the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world. The meetings of YFJ are a great way for YEN to not only strengthen its cooperation with already existing partners but also to meet potential new partners and exchange practices with organisations that work on minority topics.

The overall objective of YEN's membership in the European Youth Forum is to mainstream the topic and interests of national, ethnic, linguistic & autochthonous minorities. Therefore, establishing a strong cooperation to other minority youth organisations in the YFJ like the European Union of Jewish Students and Phiren Amenca is necessary. In times of rising antisemitism, it is even more important to make a strong stance for young Jewish people. Phiren Amenca should get further support by YEN within the YFJ to be more visible as organisation advocating for Roma people.



Furthermore, YEN is part of the block of INGYOs' working and advocating in the field of mobility (Exchange Group). When it comes to elections and voting we try to vote as block, thus having a stronger voice and pushing our overall agenda together.

It is vital to establish personal relationships to all delegates coming from INGYOs' and national youth councils to push our interests accordingly. YEN as organisation can push its agenda in the YFJ by sharing a strong voice within the Exchange Group. YEN should be the voice, that is strengthening the YFJ as youth organisation advocating for youth rights. When advocating for minorities, inclusion, and diversity especially in times of rising antisemitism, there is also the necessity of a strong INGYOs' pillar.

For the advocacy of YEN with its focus on minority youth the membership on a platform as the YFJ is essential. Mainstreaming minority topics on a broader scale is central for the interests of our Member Organisations.

### **c. Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe (CCJ)<sup>1</sup>**

With 2024 the four-year mandate of Pia Šlogar, YEN's external representative in the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe (CMJ) comes to an end.

While Pia's Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) mandate has ended on 31 December 2023, she still continues to Chair the Programming Committee (CPJ) on Youth till 7 April 2024 to ensure the continuation of the work until the new CPJ is elected. This report marks not just an end of her work in the Council of Europe but also a reflection on the past two mandates as well as hope for continuous work of YEN in the priorities of the Council of Europe and its bodies.

Throughout her two mandates Pia has been leading the work on the portfolio 'Roma and other autochthonous minorities' (a section within the Advisory Council on Youth). As member of the Programming Committee (CPJ) on Youth she also participated in the working group for expected

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<sup>1</sup> [The Advisory Council on Youth](#) is the non-governmental partner in the co-management structure called Joint Council on Youth which establishes the standards and work priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector and makes recommendations for future priorities, programmes and budgets. It is made up of 30 representatives from youth NGOs and networks in Europe and its main task is to advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions relating to youth. Specifically, the Advisory Council helps to ensure youth policies are mainstreamed into the Council of Europe's programme of activities by providing opinions and proposals to all of the Organisation's bodies. It also ensures that young people are involved in other activities of the Council of Europe and promotes the policies beyond the Organisation.

The Advisory Council on Youth promotes the co-management system in decision-making processes at all levels as a good practice for youth participation, democracy and inclusion, whilst preparing and encouraging young generations to take responsibility to build their desired society.



results for the work on Priority 3 of the Council of Europe youth sector: 'Inclusive and peaceful societies' before becoming its Chairperson for years 2022-2024. This is the first time a representative of YEN has been elected to chair such committee. Regarding policies in the field of minority rights the following has been achieved in the past two mandates with Pia's direct involvement:

- Adoption of [Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation](#), to ensure substantive participation, representation and inclusion of Roma youth in all spheres of society and decision-making processes, as well as to combat structural racism.
- Adoption of [Recommendation on the active political participation of national minority youth](#), encouraging European states to take legislative and other measures to enable representatives of national minority youth to meaningfully influence political decision-making at local, regional and national levels.
- Draft Recommendation on Equality for Roma and Traveller Women and Girls.

She has been actively representing the CMJ and YEN at the meetings of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). On several occasions she has directly involved also the membership of YEN in the work of those committees.

Numerous achievements have to be outlined that have been reached also in this mandate of CPJ; primarily the increase of the maximum amount the European Youth Foundation (EYF) grants to international activities and annual work plans, as well as of the EYF structural grants for youth organisations. Youth organisations will be also able to use EYF grants to cover their project coordination staff costs and benefit from an increased VTR (voluntary time recognition) in their co-funding. Several changes have also been initiated when it comes to digitalisation of reporting that will be finalised by the new CPJ in 2024, allowing the organisations to submit their reports online and limit the amount of paper trails.

This is just a fragment of work that has been done in the past four years. Pia is open to further discussions with YEN Membership to answer any potential questions or identifying other areas where YEN can be more present especially after not having its official representative in the upcoming mandate, so don't hesitate to contact her ([pia.slogar@yeni.org](mailto:pia.slogar@yeni.org)).

Finally, switching from third person reporting narrative to the first - all of this would not have been possible without Klub Studencki 'Pomorania' that gave me the space to start exploring non-formal



education and the field of minority rights. This led to involvement in YEN, first in 2017 as a member of the WG on Minority Rights and Politics and finally its Vice President for External Relations. Thank you also to the predecessor in the CCJ, Matic Ž. Germovšek that has laid great basis for the achievements that have followed.

Two YEN Boards, three YEN secretary generals, two mandates in the CCJ later and two heads of the Youth Department, I prepare to step down from my final role as a YEN representative. And while I leave the youth field proud of the work that has been done, I also have to acknowledge the amount of work that is still in front of us when it comes to minority (youth) rights. As a society, as governments, as international institutions, but also as youth organisations, we continue to fail when it comes to upholding Roma youth rights. While the Council of Europe prides itself in defining and setting standards, there is still a lot desirable when it comes to concrete implementation of these policies on national levels. This is where YEN's role as one of the rare organisations working on national minority youth rights remains relevant.

After 8 years of continuous involvement of YEN in the Youth Department and the Council of Europe's work, we won't have a self-representative in place that will continue to raise the experience and expertise of minority youth. I can only hope that we have established enough base that such topics will continue to be raised in the youth space until a new representative of YEN is ready to take on the role, and I will be happy to support that person with the same amount of passion and energy as those that supported me in this demanding work. On this occasion I also wish YEN, the Council of Europe and its Youth Department, a courageous and self-reflective leadership, more diverse activists and less young white bureaucrats in suits, and myself courage to find new ways to resist even louder.



*Picture: The final 50th meeting of CPJ in December 2023*



#### d. EU Youth Dialogue

In January 2024 the INGYOs participating in the 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue with the Youth Goal #3 "Inclusive societies" hosted a group discussion. With this recorded event we shared with the audience and each other our knowledge regarding inclusion and marginalised communities.

The EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) is a forum for continuous joint reflection and consultation of young Europeans on the priorities, implementation, and follow-up of European cooperation in the field of youth. Next to its specific policy objectives, the dialogue supports the implementation of EU youth policy and constitutes the most important and most elaborate youth participation mechanism in policymaking in the Union. This participatory process with young people and youth organisations involves policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers, and other relevant civil society actors from all over the European Union.

The dialogue is organised in 18 months' work cycles during which national consultations of young people and youth organisations are conducted across Europe on a specific topic. The 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue will run from 1st July 2023 until 31st December 2024 under the trio Spain – Belgium – Hungary. The dialogue contributes to the realisation of the ambition of the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

After the introduction of the topic by the facilitator and the presentation of the participating organisations, we answered the following questions regarding Youth Goal #3 "Inclusive societies":

1. According to INGYOs how do we enable and ensure inclusion in society? What is an inclusive society, according to INGYOs? What is the contribution to build inclusive societies of INGYOs? 2. What further actions need to be taken to enable the inclusion of all young people in society, especially young people with fewer opportunities? 3. How can the youth work and the youth field better enable the full inclusion of all young people within society, especially young people with fewer opportunities?

YEN is an active member of the European Youth Dialogue contributing to the process with its experience on advocating for minorities. Overall, it is essential to build up continuously the capacities of YEN in the field of inclusion to have more influence and a strong voice within the mechanism. With this circle also focusing on training of educators to strengthen their capacities to work with marginalised young people, YEN was able to share its experience on non-formal education and its general knowledge on working with marginalised youth.



### **e. Youth Exchange Minderheitensekretariat**

The German secretariat of the recognised minorities in Germany “Minderheitensekretariat “ organised a youth exchange in Berlin in June 2023. They invited young members of the recognised minorities in Germany to a 4 day event in Berlin with a theatre- workshop and various moments where participants could meet with political stakeholders and civil society organisations.

On the 16th June, the organisers planned an open exchange with different actors and YEN was invited to participate as well. Christoph Graf and Eva Schubert participated in the “World Café” and presented the work of YEN to the young minority members present. It was an interesting afternoon where we could exchange about our activities and the work we do.

### **f. YFJ Academy**

The European Youth Forum which is the platform of youth organisations in Europe organised a capacity building event in Belgium. The European Youth Forum Academy 2023 took place in Dworp, Belgium on 25-29 June and YEN’s Secretary General Eva Schubert participated in the event on behalf of YEN.

This 3-day capacity building event aimed to strengthen the work of YFJ Member Organisations. The academy offered a selection of topics from which participants could choose, all aiming to support the day-to-day running of the various youth organisations gathered in Dworp. The sessions addressed among others the following topics, Campaigning & Communication, Fundraising or Diversity & inclusion. It was a pretty intense and effective event where the participants gathered from both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations. Besides the productive sessions, the participants also had a chance for networking and enjoyed the informal part of this event in the beautiful nature of Dworp.

### **g. HIGA 2023: Summit of Young Speakers from Minoritized Languages, 17-21 July 2023; Basque Country, Spain**

Louis Albert Becker (C MRP) took part in the HIGA in Euskadi/Basque Country. The HIGA is an international project bringing together speakers of minority languages in Gasteiz, the capital of Euskadi/Basque Country. This week in July was a great opportunity to make contacts and discover new horizons. Louis: As I presented YEN/JEV and the RISE UP project, I realised that communities outside Europe were interested in the YEN/JEV organisation and wanted to create an organisation based on the same model in their own countries.



## h. EU Youth Conference

Together with decision-makers, delegates from national youth councils and a network of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, YEN is part of the EU Youth Dialogue and invited to participate in the different cycles. Each cycle includes three conferences meant to engage the youth together with decision makers on one of the European Youth goals.

In October 2023 was the first conference of the 10th cycle of EU Youth Dialogue focusing on the goal #3 "Inclusive Societies". Our Convenor for Member Integration (C MI) took part in the conference in Alicante, Spain where the discussion on inclusive societies was enhanced through different working groups.

The different groups worked on the barriers that limit inclusion of marginalised people or with fewer opportunities such as : language barriers, lack of information or access to it, lack of knowledge and awareness on different situations that the people are living, lack of knowledge of the rights and how to access them, bad infrastructures for rural areas which leads to bad access to opportunities to be part of community's life, mobility, social and economic backgrounds...

They also discussed the different changes needed in societies such as: the need to meet marginalised people and to get to know their situation to discuss it with awareness, to make the laws more accessible and clear for all, to have training for trainers, to have a minimum income from 18 years old on, the housing situations, better infrastructures (example public transportation), spaces for dialog including the target groups to the discussions, with youth check, recognition of non-formal education and more inclusive and adapted education.

## i. 30th Anniversary of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

On the 24 October 2023 Louis Albert Becker (C MRP) participated in the 30th anniversary of the OSCE HCNM (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe High and Commissioner on National Minorities). Louis: I was invited on behalf of YEN/JEV via contacts made during the FUEN General Assembly. As I was invited at the last minute and was not scheduled to attend, I had little time to present YEN/JEV individually to those present. It is important to note, however, that the former UN representative for minorities, Mr Fernand De Varennes, was of interest to YEN/JEV's objectives and take a part in the process in the future. I meet some people who discovered YEN/JEV and they been happy to see was young people want to take a part in the minorities issues.



### **j. 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of national minorities in Carinthia**

The congress was dedicated to address the concerns of national/autochthonous minorities, with this year's focus on the issues and perspectives of minority youth. The event, held annually in Klagenfurt/Carinthia, marked its 33rd iteration and was organized by the 'Volksgruppenbüro.'

The first panel discussion featured representatives from various minority youth organizations representing different minorities, including Salvatore Napoletano for the Italians in Slovenia & Croatia, Maria Junesch for the Germans in Romania, Benjamin Bergan for the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland, Jakob Schäfer for the Sorbian minority, and Felix Nagler for the Ladins in South Tyrol/Italy. The discussion addressed challenges such as youth outmigration, demographic transition and the impact of modern media on minority languages.

The second panel discussion focused on young Carinthian Slovenes, including Jan Ogris-Martič, Meta Vouk, Simon Rustia, Manuel Jug, and Nadja Kramer. They discussed the theme 'Kärnten/Koroška 2050 – The future of Carinthian Slovenes,' highlighting issues and the visions of the young Carinthian Slovenes on the panel discussion.

### **k. Theory-practice workshop Identity & Europe**

The "Theory-practice workshop Identity & Europe" online event, organized by Prof. Dr. Andreas Eylert-Schwarz from the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Marina Peter from NETZ Südtirol, and Verena Hafner from the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Jugenddienste Südtirols, took place on December 5, 2023, as part of the transnational project "Diskurs" This event brought together approximately 50-70 representatives from open youth work across Europe and provided an important platform for exploring the role of open youth work in fostering European identity. During the event, specialists provided input sessions, practical examples, and dialogues conducted in various topic groups. Notably, Herbert Dorfmann, Member of the European Parliament, delivered a welcome address, setting a conducive atmosphere for the discussions that followed.

As the President of YEN, Andor had the opportunity to deliver a presentation focusing on the European identity of young people and the significant contributions of YEN and European national and linguistic minorities in this regard. This presentation provided a compelling narrative of our organization's efforts and achievements in nurturing European identity among youth.





## 1.1.5. Partner Events and Projects

### a. FUEN European Dialogue Forum visit to UNESCO and French parliament

On 5 July 2023, the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) delegation of FUEN visited UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. YEN President Andor Barabás highlighted efforts to revitalize endangered languages and introduced the Rise Up project, establishing a connection between YEN's initiatives and UNESCO's goals. Discussions with UNESCO officials focused on strengthening cooperation in preserving linguistic diversity, recognizing the important role of autochthonous and linguistic minority NGOs in potentially contributing to the UNESCO World Atlas of Languages.

Following the UNESCO meeting, the delegation met with members of the French National Assembly to discuss political participation and challenges faced by minority communities. Topics included mechanisms to enhance minority political participation, challenges related to identity and rights of minorities, and endorsement of the Minority SafePack initiative in France. The visit facilitated meaningful exchanges and laid the groundwork for future cooperation in preserving cultural and linguistic heritage and promoting minority rights.

### b. Youth Catalyst - Connecting and Amplifying Young Voices of Central Europe, Via Nova

Between 5-9 July 2023, YEN President Andor Barabás participated at the event called "Youth Catalyst - Connecting and Amplifying Young Voices of Central Europe" organized by our partner organization Via Nova in Martovce/Martos, Slovakia. The event fostered dialogue between youth organizations to support inclusive democratic participation and youth involvement in Europe with a particular emphasis on discussing and defining traditional values, such as "Family and small communities", "The right to national identity" and "Regionalism vs. globalism". Andor gave a presentation about the work of YEN and made the participants aware of the challenges that autochthonous and linguistic minorities face. It was also a good opportunity to connect with youth organizations that were not focused on minority issues.



### c. FUEN Congress & Assembly of Delegates

The FUEN congress and assembly of Delegates took place in 2023 in Pecs (Hungary) from the 7th of September to the 10th September and was attended by Felicia, Luka, Louis, and Van-Lam. Aim of YEN at the FUEN Congress was to discuss about a change of the FUEN statutes to allow for a more flexible representation of YEN at FUEN board meetings. This proposal stemmed from the decision of the YEN GA 2023 to preclude the president of YEN from participating in the FUEN board meetings due to its working relationship with the FUEN President in the European Parliament. YEN submitted beforehand a draft proposal to amend the FUEN statutes via email and have an extra agenda point to change it, unfortunately went unacknowledged by FUEN. An explanation of FUEN afterwards was, that there was no agenda point for statute changes, because they are planned already in 2024. At this FUEN congress a focus was put on non-kin state minorities.

The FUEN Congress began on the 7th of September, with the official opening. After the official opening there were 2 panel discussions: "Minority protection in the EU neighbourhood – Perspectives, opportunities and challenges", after that followed the panel discussion "The participation of minorities in democratic processes". On the first day YEN had the chance to connect to other FUEN member organisations, that supported YEN's matter. On the next day the participants of the FUEN congress split up in their working groups. Also, the YEN delegates had the chance to choose between the various working groups. There they had the chance to get to know the respective working groups more and establish contacts to various working group members.

The Assembly of delegates took place on the 9th of September, where YEN had its annual report. There were also debates about changes of the FUEN statutes in different regards of other member organisations. YEN tried to also bring in its cause of a change of the FUEN statutes, but it got only little attention. From conversations with various members, YEN heard that the FUEN presidium does not see the need to change their statutes according to YENs request.

After the Assembly of Delegates FUEN has started an "Ad-Hoc Working Group on Statutes and Rules of Procedure" to follow up on the different requests to change FUEN's statutes and Rules of Procedure. YENs secretary general represented YEN in this working group and brought forward YENs request (i.e. making it more flexible who can represent YEN in the FUEN presidium, currently only the YEN president can do so). In the course of the work of the ad-hoc working group YEN again officially handed in our suggestions to amend the FUEN statutes.



#### **d. Council of Europe exchange of views with civil society**

The debate took place on 15 September and was attended by the Treasurer Luka Olip. The exchange was organised by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, where various international NGOs were invited to discuss civil issues. The debate started with an introduction round of each NGO. Then the debate started with the topic of democracy and what democracy means to the different NGOs. Then the debate continued with the topic of how the Council of Europe could be more open and inclusive. After that, a lunch was organised where each NGO could network with each other. After that the debate continued with similar topics. YEN was able to contact the Secretary General of the European Youth Forum and the Slovenian youth delegate of the United Nations. Together we could raise different issues that are important for young people but usually go unnoticed.

#### **e. AGDM Tagung/Annual meeting**

From the 12th-15th November the members of the AGDM (the Working Group of German Minorities in FUEN) met in Berlin for their annual meeting. Part of this meeting are internal discussions between the members of the working group, meetings with political stakeholders and actors as well as networking opportunities. YEN's secretary general Eva Schubert took part in the selected elements of the meeting to connect with the present youth representatives and present the work of YEN. It was great to re-connect with youth from German minorities from various countries who have been to YEN events before but also to get to know youth representatives that did not know much about the work of YEN. We hope to welcome them at a future YEN event.

#### **f. FUEN "Women for minorities" 21-22 November 2023**

During the first workshop in the still-young FUEN project Women of Minorities titled "Gender Equality Standards as a Tool to Combat Discrimination," held on November 21-22 in Vienna, Austria, our Vice President for Internal Relations participated. The workshop was organized by FUEN and brought together approximately 20 participants from ten countries, representing various minority groups across Europe.

Diverse perspectives and innovative ideas were witnessed by participants from different minority communities, including the Catalans in Spain and the Montenegrin community in Albania, which was inspiring. The workshop commenced with a thought-provoking panel discussion on



international equality norms, providing valuable insights into existing standards and practices. Views on the current state of equality standards within minority organizations were exchanged, identifying challenges and proposing solutions to promote gender equality effectively. During the workshop, contributions were made to discussions on implementing practical measures to advance gender equality within minority organizations. Suggestions such as quotas for women on boards of directors, establishing women's networks, and conducting regular surveys to monitor progress were enthusiastically discussed and received.

On the second day of the workshop, active participation was observed in collaborative sessions aimed at developing concrete strategies and initiatives to foster greater gender equality within minority organizations. Emphasis was placed on the importance of ongoing monitoring, advocating for parity in decision-making bodies, and raising awareness through informative campaigns and networking events. Furthermore, the significance of broader societal change to challenge traditional gender roles and perceptions was highlighted. Initiatives such as the production of informative videos showcasing women who have made significant contributions within minority communities, as part of the FUEN project "Women of Minorities," were particularly well-received. In conclusion, commitment to continuing efforts to promote gender equality within minority organizations is expressed. It is believed that by working together and sharing best practices, positive change can be created and women within communities can be empowered.

### **g. European Dialogue Forum visit to Council of Europe and European Parliament**

National minority issues took center stage during European Dialogue Forum's (EDF) meetings in Strasbourg between 12-13 December 2023, where representatives engaged with leaders from the Council of Europe (CoE) and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from across all political parties.

#### **Council of Europe Meeting:**

YEN President Andor Barabás emphasized the importance of keeping minority rights high on the agenda and treating them as human rights during discussions with CoE leadership. YEN's significant role in the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) study on minority language protection was highlighted, fostering cooperation between YEN and CoE.



### **Meetings with Members of the European Parliament:**

The EDF delegation engaged in a roundtable discussion with MEPs and members of the French National Assembly, focusing on political participation and representation of minorities in national and European elections. YEN's projects for 2024 were presented, emphasizing initiatives aimed at promoting minority rights and cultural heritage preservation. The future of the Minority SafePack Initiative was a key topic, with participants stressing the importance of minority representation in the new European Parliament after the 2024 elections. Collaboration between minority representatives and majority MEPs was deemed essential for advancing minority protection goals at the European level.

## **1.2. Management of YEN – Office Report 2023/2024**

The full-time Office of YEN has been located in Berlin since 2012. Since 2019 the Office has been located in Charlottenburg (Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 90, 10585 Berlin). We share the office space with the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV) and the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN). Sharing of the common space usually has a positive impact on the work in the minority field and fosters better exchange and transfer of knowledge. The Office is always open to the representatives of our Member Organisations, who want to visit and say “hello”.

### **Staff**

In 2023 the YEN office saw several changes. Secretary General Eva Schubert with an unlimited full-time position has been with YEN for a while now. She manages the YEN Office and supervises the other YEN employees. Project Manager Jakob Stadler left YEN after the end of February. The YEN Board and Secretary General want to thank Jakob for the two years he was working for YEN, for his ideas, his creativity and the knowledge he brought to our network (again). We hope to see him at future events!

In March 2023 YEN welcomed Jenny Browne as a project manager for the new EU project called “RISE UP: Safeguarding endangered languages” in which YEN is a partner from February 2023-2026. Jenny is employed for 30h/week with a limited contract until the end of the EU project. Jenny’s main task is ensuring YENs participation in the RISE UP project, while also supporting some of the regular activities of YEN.

In July 2023 YEN employed a part-time Project Manager for YEN’s regular activities. We are happy to have Van-Lam Trinh in the team. They are employed for 32h/week with an unlimited contract.



Due to these changes and the need to focus on introducing the new employees to YEN, the tasks and working structures in the office, YEN did not have any interns in 2023. We hope we will find opportunities to welcome interns again in 2024. Having a YEN office of three people is a great development for YEN, ensuring the work can be implemented more effectively and with shared responsibilities. The work in the YEN Office in 2023 was shaped a lot by the new employees joining the team with time being used to focus on training the new members and getting to know each other's working styles. A great bonus is the new ideas and views Jenny and Van-Lam bring to YEN and we are looking forward to 2024.

### Tasks of the Office

- Supporting the Board and Member Organisations;
- Application writing, accounting and reporting of the project applications and administrative grants from EYF, EACEA, the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tyrol, as well as Schleswig Holstein and the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community;
- Assistance in the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the projects and activities of YEN;
- Accounting and care of the accounts in the Netherlands and Germany, as well as of the cash register;
- Preparation of the annual financial statements;
- Supervision of the Office including the corresponding administrative and technical matters.

The Office would like to thank all volunteers, Working Group Members and Board Members for their cooperation and support. We are looking forward to the upcoming year with you.

## 1.3. Finances Report 2022/2023 and Budget 2024/2025

### Overview

After the challenging situation in 2022, 2023 was a much better year in terms of YEN's financial situation. We again applied for a structural grant with Erasmus+, which in the past covered a big part of our administrative costs (staff, ongoing costs such as rent etc.) and in early April 2023 finally received the information that we did receive the grant. The grant includes an agreement



that allows YEN to apply for a structural grant in 2024 and 2025 as well, thus providing a major part of YENs financial security.

The budget for the financial year 2023 ended with a plus of 11314,15€ which we'll use to increase our reserves (i.e. such reserves should be about the sum it takes to pay staff costs for up to 3 months as risk prevention – as we currently have more staff members than in the past years, such an increase in reserves is advisable). On our account at the end of the year, we have a big plus due to the prepayment of the project "Rise-Up", these will be used to fund the project costs (including salaries for project manager Jenny Browne in 2024).

- The solvency of YEN was not at risk in 2023 at any time. Salaries were paid on time and in full.
- The annual financial statements for 2023 will be prepared together with our tax office in March.
- You can find the budget update for 2024 and the budget proposal for 2025 in the Appendix.

### **Membership fees re-calculation**

In 2023 treasurer Luka Olip contacted all YEN member organisation via Email to ask for their most recent number of members. The YEN membership fee is calculated based on the number of members as well as on the country the organisation is active in (see YEN's Rules of Procedure point E.). Based on the feedback from the member organisation, the treasurer re-calculated the membership fees before sending out the invoices in 2024. The new total of maximum membership fees is 10.900€ (12.275€ in 2023). The change is not only due to recalculation but also as one MO sadly was dissolved in 2023. We encourage organisations that did not reply to this email to also contact YEN in 2024 if your membership number has changed and you believe your membership fee should be updated.

### **Inspection of the financial management and the accounts**

An inspection of the financial management and the accounts was conducted by the (internal) auditors on the 17th of February in Berlin.



## Membership Fees 2023

- The letters and invoices for the membership fees (to all organizations and supporting members) were sent by the Treasurer.
- 21 out of 41 organizations have paid their contribution for 2023. (in 2022: 26 MOs paid)
- The number is lower than in the previous year. We are aware that some organizations still struggle due to the impact of the Corona pandemic and the reduced/limited activity of our MOs. But we do need to increase communication to reach those who did not pay, especially as there are MOs among them who were active in YEN in 2023. 8-9 out of 20 MOs that didn't pay, are sleeping MOs.
- For 2023 a total of 6945€ in membership fees was paid – out of 12.275€ (8745€ in 2022; 7520€ in 2021; 7320€ in 2020; 8.970,93 € in 2019; 8.120 € in 2018; 8.555 € in 2017).
- One organisations –KSŠSD asked for a reduction of the fee in 2023, the requests was granted and paid.
- Besides them, also Elsass-Lothringischer Volksbund paid a reduced fee (since many years) but we received no requested documentation for a reduction.
- The Treasurer did not receive any official request for a deletion of the debt from the MOs. However, we keep in mind the difficult financial situation of some of the MOs and the YEN Board tries to regularly contact the MOs who missed to pay.
- 3 Supporting Members have paid their fees for 2023. 3 have not, now for the 4th year in a row, and are thus no longer counted as supporting members. With the anniversary 2024 is a good year to try and find more supportive members (and update our strategy in this area).
- In 2023 we sent an email to all MOs to ask them to review if the number of members, we use to calculate their fee, is still correct and accordingly calculate the MO fees new if necessary.

## Bank / Cashbox

At present, YEN has an account in the Netherlands and at the Sparkasse in Bautzen. A cash register is in Berlin (cash office) and is managed by the Secretary General. In the Sparkasse Bautzen we have a credit line of 15.000 € which has not changed and is available to YEN.





## FUNDING

### 1. Administrative Budget

With these funds we can cover the costs related to the running of the organization (staff costs, rent, costs for Board Meetings etc.). YENs administrative budget comes from various sources. Currently Erasmus+ (EU), the EYF (European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe), the state of Schleswig Holstein, the Autonomous Region of South Tyrol-Trentino. All of the sources rely on regular re-application and reporting.

#### (EU) Erasmus+ structural funding 2023

- YEN applied for and was granted 75.000€ for 2023.
- The reporting for the Structural Grant for the year 2023 was handed in in February 2023, we do not have any feedback on it yet.
- This grant is part of a 3-year partnership agreement (2023-2025) under which any grantee can apply for yearly funding, which we now can do for 2024 and 2025 as well.

#### (EU) Erasmus+ structural funding 2024

- YEN applied for and was granted 100.000€ for 2024.

#### EYF Structural Grant 2022 & 2023

- For the years 2022-2023 we have been granted 50.000 € (25.000 € per year). In comparison for 2020-2021 the grant was 46.160 € (23.080 € per year).
- The Final Report for the Structural Grant for the years 2022-2023 is due mid of 2024.

#### EYF Structural Grant 2024 & 2025

- For the years 2024-2025 we have been granted 47264,24€ (23632,12€ for each year). In comparison for 2022-2023 the grant was 50.000 € (25.000 € per year); 2020-2021 the grant was 46.160 € (23.080 € per year).
- The Interim Report for the Structural Grant for the years 2024-2025 is due February of 2025.



### **Funding by the Autonomous Region of South Tyrol-Trentino 2023 & 2024**

- We receive 10.000€ per year from the autonomous region of South Tyrol-Trentino. Application procedure is easy and is done in cooperation with FUEN. We apply for the funding of the running year in spring and usually receive the funding towards the end of the year.
- The application for 2024 was handed in in spring 2024, the report for 2023 will be handed in in early summer 2024.

### **Funding by Schleswig-Holstein 2023 & 2024**

- Since 2022 we receive 15.000€ per year (previously 10.000€). Application procedure is easy, we apply directly at the State of Schleswig Holstein.
- We applied for and received 15.000€ for 2023. The application for 2024 and report for 2023 has not been submitted yet. We will do so latest mid of 2024.

## **2. PROJECT FUNDING**

### **Financing of YEN activities by the European Youth Foundation (EYF) in 2023**

The final report for the Work Plan 2023 was submitted in February 2024.

- In 2023 funded through the EYF as part of the Work Plan were the Kick Off in North Macedonia, the Easter Seminar in Austria and the Autumn Seminar in Serbia.
- The Work Plan was closed with YEN having spent almost all the granted money, the final installment of the grant will be paid out in mid of 2024.

### **Financing of YEN activities by the European Youth Foundation (EYF) in 2024**

For the deadline on the 1st of October 2023, in cooperation with the Board, the application under the title "ACTivism" has been prepared and handed in. The work plan includes two big seminars and a series of three small trainings.

- Topics: minority youth activism
- the Easter Seminar in Germany with PAWK
- the Autumn Seminar in Hungary with DYN
- the Activist Skills Training Series in Berlin, Strasbourg and Budapest (places to be confirmed)



The requested grant was 60.000 € for these activities, which was approved in the full amount. This sum is not enough to fully finance all events but is a great foundation for the year of 2024. 60% of the grant has already been paid. The payment of the remaining grant follows after examination of the interim and final reports.

### **Funding by the German Federal Ministry of Interior in 2023**

In 2023 we applied and were granted funding for the Easter Seminar, the Diversity Festival and the Autumn Seminar. The report for the Easter Seminar and the Diversity Festival have been submitted and were approved without remarks. The report for the Autumn Seminar has not been submitted yet (deadline mid of June)

### **Funding by the German Federal Ministry of Interior in 2024**

As in the last years we can apply for Project Funding from the German Federal Ministry of Interior for up to 40 000€.

We applied for funding for the Easter Seminar.

- We plan to apply for funding for the Autumn Seminar and possibly the YEN Anniversary networking weekend in July.

### **Financing of activities within the YEN network by EACEA/ Erasmus+ (Youth Exchange)**

- We will not apply for funding through the Erasmus+ program in 2024.

### **Erasmus+ Horizon Europe - "RISE UP: Safeguarding endangered languages".**

From February 2023 until end of January 2026 YEN is partner in a project called "RISE UP: Safeguarding endangered languages". To fulfill its tasks in this project YEN employs from March 2023 onwards a Project Manager for 30h/week, whose salary is funded through the project. In January 2023 YEN Board and Secretary General opened an application process and employed Jenny Browne, we welcome her and are looking forward to see her input to the work we do. Any other related costs will also be funded by the project. The aim is to support endangered languages through various actions, such as academic research on the impact of language revitalizations projects, policy recommendations or digital tools. It is also an aim of the project to create a network of stakeholders and supporters in this field.



### 3. Future of YEN funding

Erasmus+ funding (concerns mainly structural grant)

From 2023-2025 YEN has a partnership agreement that allows us to apply each of these 3 years for structural funding (this does not guarantee a yearly funding but makes it much easier). For the immediate future, this is a very positive development for YEN giving us more financial stability.

However, this funding option for European youth organizations through the Erasmus+ program has changed a lot in the past years. These changes have not always been positive for YEN and other European youth organizations; therefore, YEN will continue to cooperate with the YFJ to follow up on the developments of these funds. The YFJ is trying to establish better communication with the respective decision makers to ensure that the voice of youth organizations is heard.

The other funding options of YEN are (for now) stable or are even becoming more flexible. This offers for example good opportunities for YEN to combine project funding with staff costs – from the EYF or the German ministry of Interior. This was not possible earlier and through the flexibility creates the opportunity to make YENs overall funding situation more stable.

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sind  
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## 1.4. Internal Auditors Report 17 February 2024, Berlin

**Present:** Giuanna Beeli (Auditor, GiuRu), Martina Jazbec (Auditor, DM+), Luka Olip (Treasurer, YEN), Eva Schubert (Secretary General, YEN)

### Notes on the revision process

Following the remote audit of YEN's finances in the previous year, the Internal Audit for 2024 was conducted in person in Berlin once again. As of the Auditor's meeting, the financial year 2023 had not yet been fully closed. Nevertheless, the anticipated changes in the budget had already been duly considered and incorporated.

### General remarks

The Auditors express great satisfaction in observing the positive turn-around that the year 2023 has brought for YEN concerning both financial stability and the longer-term perspective. This positive trajectory reflects the effectiveness of strategic financial management and positions the organization favorably for future endeavors.

The Auditors are genuinely pleased with the current financial standing of YEN. Regular funding could be increased, after the organization has demonstrated resilience and adaptability during the previous accounting period. Moreover, there are promising opportunities to explore new funding sources that could further enhance YEN's financial capabilities. The Auditors recommend a proactive approach in seeking and acquiring additional funding to support the organization's continued growth and impact.

The positive development of the Office is noted with appreciation, signifying a commitment to operational excellence and efficiency within YEN. A well-functioning office is crucial for the seamless execution of the organization's mission and objectives.

The partnership in the three-year HORIZON project is identified as a valuable opportunity for YEN to showcase itself as a reliable partner organization. This project not only adds to the organization's credibility but also positions YEN favorably for potential future projects. The Auditors encourage leveraging the success of the Rise UP project to strengthen partnerships and explore new collaborations in line with YEN's overarching goals.



## Accounts

The Secretary General presented all the documents regarding the cashbox and YEN's accounts in Germany and the Netherlands. The Auditors examined the accounts randomly and critically. They noticed the meticulous care and order. All the receipts were present, and all the expenses could be explained. The expenses were found to be reasonable and sustainable.

## Funding

The year 2023 marked a substantial improvement over 2022, particularly in terms of securing structural funding. Notably, there was an increase in available European funding, contributing significantly to the financial stability and development of YEN. The Auditors also acknowledge that the cuts to the annual budget of Germany did not have any negative repercussions on the funding of YEN.

The Auditors noted positively that as the year concluded, remaining funds were allocated to essential items, including a 13th salary for employees, necessary office supplies, and PR materials. Going forward, we recommend anticipating a raise in staff costs and to incorporate a 13th salary within the regular annual budget for structural funding.

A minor flaw in an otherwise excellent financial year was that the funding from the European Youth Foundation (EYF) could not be fully utilized. EYF grants of 47,000 euros have been secured for 2024 and 2025, a slight decrease compared to the previous funding cycle but relative to historical averages. It is evident that the current funding level is constrained by the geographical imbalance of the organization. To address this, it is recommended to consider a strategic initiative to rectify the geographical imbalance, potentially by exploring partnerships or initiatives that can enhance the organization's presence and activities in underrepresented regions. This proactive approach may open avenues for increased funding opportunities and further align the organization with the diverse geographical landscape it serves.

## Budget

We commend YEN for achieving a favorable result in the financial year 2023. The organization's prudent and sustainable financial management has contributed to this positive outcome.

The updated budget for 2024 reveals a substantial increase of approximately €25,000 compared to the initially adopted budget. This financial boost presents a valuable opportunity for the organization. We recommend utilizing the surplus funds judiciously.



There are allocations within the budget that could be used better. In particular, we encourage YEN's Working Groups to make use of the resources allocated for them. Do not miss the opportunity to organize constructive and impactful gatherings.

It is commendable that funds have been earmarked for interns. Still, we suggest exploring the possibility of applying for the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) to further enhance the internship program.

Moreover, the inclusion of funds for honorary contracts is a positive move, providing the flexibility needed to execute essential tasks such as website updates, logo enhancements, and engaging PR initiatives.

While the preliminary budget for 2025 is in its early stages, it appears to be reasonable. We acknowledge that the details are subject to refinement, and we recommend ongoing diligence in developing a comprehensive and sustainable budget for the upcoming financial year.

In conclusion, YEN's financial management has demonstrated prudence and adaptability. The increased budget for 2024 offers exciting possibilities for the organization's growth and impact. We look forward to witnessing the effective utilization of these resources for the betterment of YEN's mission and objectives.

## **Membership and fees**

In 2023 it was observed that there was a significant decrease in membership fees. This decline is notable, in part, due to the impactful reminder campaign executed in 2022, during which a considerable influx of fees was successfully achieved.

It was identified that 19 MOs did not fulfil their membership fee obligations. It's crucial to acknowledge that the non-payment of membership fees serves as an indicator of the financial health and commitment levels of the respective organisations. To address this issue, Internal Auditors suggest initiating direct contact with specific individuals within these MOs. Establishing and maintaining strong relationships with individuals within the organisations is deemed essential for upholding a strong affiliation with YEN.

To ensure that MOs are apprised of possible changes to their status and give them the opportunity to respond proactively, the Internal Auditors recommend to inform all members who might be directly affected by decisions taken prior to the upcoming General Assembly. Such a proactive



approach aligns with principles of open communication and collaborative decision-making within YEN.

In 2023 the Treasurer conducted a survey within the MOs to assess membership numbers for potential fee adjustments. Regrettably, only approximately 15 organisations responded to the survey. In light of this, the Internal Auditors commend YEN's initiative to review membership fees but stress the MOs to be more responsive and communicative, as active participation in such initiatives is crucial to an accurate understanding of the organisational landscape.

The Auditors acknowledge also positive developments, including the reconnection with several MOs that were inactive for an extended period. Recognizing the significance of personal connections, the Internal Auditors recommend the Board's active presence at events in the form of study visits to foster stronger connections with people. The recommendation extends to MOs, urging them to invite the YEN Board to events hosted in their regions.

Even though the number of active Supporting Members remains unchanged, the Auditors are satisfied with the ongoing nature of the solidarity fund initiative, providing young individuals with fewer opportunities to participate in YEN events. Suggestions from the prior year are reiterated, underscoring the merit of the social fund concept. The Auditors recommend initiating a promotional campaign to attract more Supporting Members and increase the solidarity fund, particularly leveraging the significant occasion of the 40th YEN anniversary YEN.

The Auditors commend the efforts of the Board and the Office in reaching out to new organizations and minorities through ongoing projects, which might lead to new partnerships and memberships, contributing to the overall growth and diversification of YEN.

## **Staff**

The Auditors express great satisfaction in observing the highly positive development within the Office over the past year. Following the uncertain circumstances at the beginning of 2023, the Project Manager's position was successfully secured. Additionally, a second Project Manager position is currently funded by the EU-project Rise Up until early 2026.

The Auditors positively note that in 2023, a 13th salary was disbursed for employees, and the remuneration for one Project Manager position was adjusted to align with the other. It is





recommended to proactively anticipate an increase in staff costs and to include a 13th salary as a regular component within the annual budget for structural funding.

Recognizing the impact of inflation, the Auditors strongly advocate for salary increments to counteract its effects. The Board is encouraged to formulate a strategy with the goal of increasing salaries for employees, aiming to retain individuals within the organisation and foster stability. Furthermore, the Auditors invite the Board to explore additional avenues for compensation, such as the provision of annual public transport tickets.

### **Board allowances**

The Board reached a consensus to allocate 300 € per person for board allowances. The Auditors concur with this decision and recommend the General Assembly to approve and grant these allowances.

### **Final Observations**

Finally, the Auditors reiterate last year's recommendation, urging MOs to keep putting forward volunteers for the Board. This is essential to ensure a fully operational Board with balanced dynamics and guaranteed transparency in the organisation and its activities.

Furthermore, the Auditors kindly advise the Board to carefully consider and incorporate the Auditors' recommendations into the forthcoming internal strategy or action plan, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with best practices.

**The Internal Auditors recommend to the General Assembly to discharge the Board.**

11 March 2024

**Gianna Beeli (GiuRu)**

**Martina Jazbec (DM+)**



## 2. Resolutions and Statements

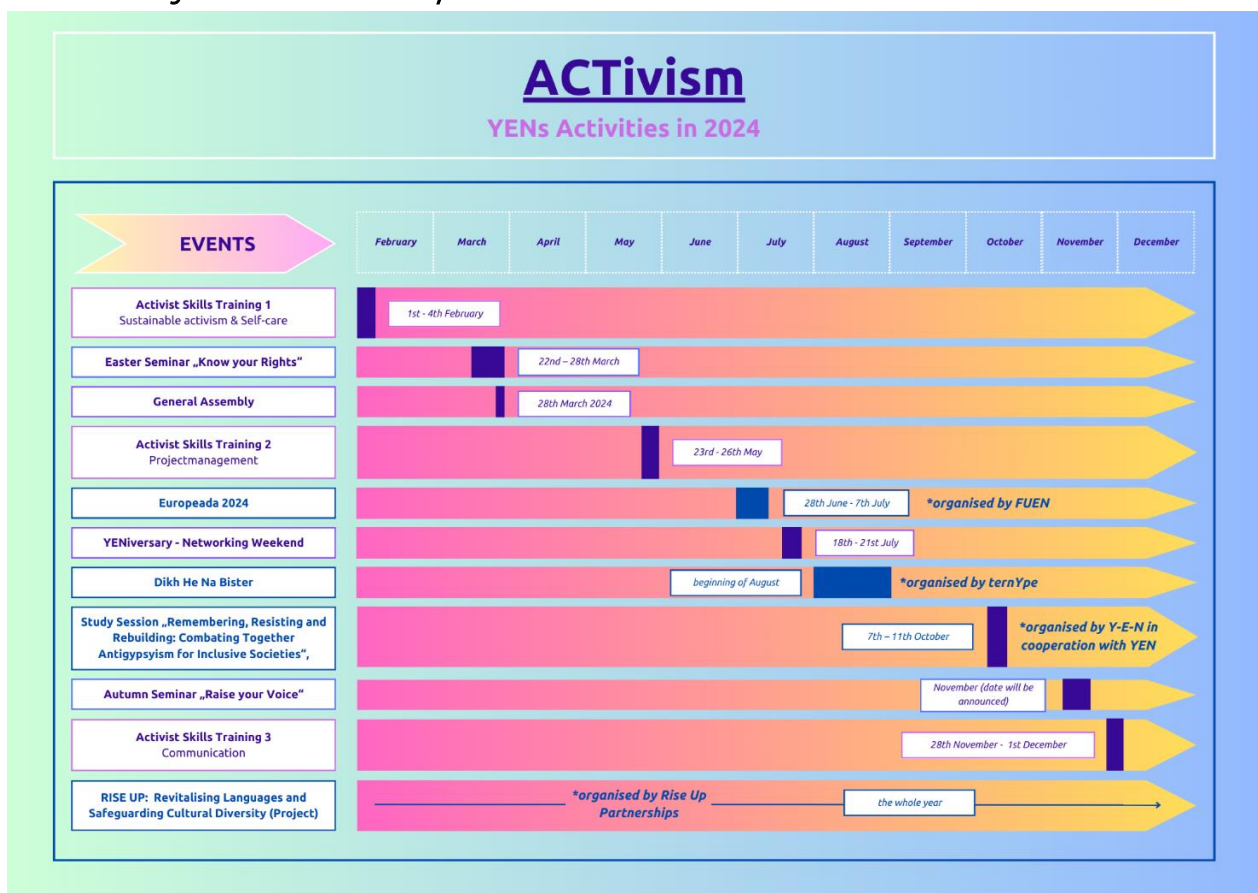
There were no resolutions adopted at the General Assembly in 2023. A resolution is a formal expression of opinion, will, or intent that is voted for by the General Assembly. It can be proposed to the GA by the YEN Board, a YEN Working Group, or a Member of YEN. It shall be submitted in both working languages before the GA.

There are no resolutions submitted to this date.

We urge every Member Organisation that wishes the General Assembly 2024 to adopt a resolution to present it to the membership at the GA. By adopting a resolution, you can raise awareness of issues relevant to your minority or organization and give YEN the opportunity to disseminate/strengthen that position at the European level.

## 3. YEN Work Plan 2024/2025

### 3.1 Activity Overview 2024/2025



You can find more detailed information [here](#) or on YENs [www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org) - Search for “YEN in 2024”.



### 3.1.1 Host of the Autumn Seminar 2024 – DYN

At the General Assembly 2023, there was no candidate to host the Autumn Seminar 2024, so the General Assembly gave the Board the power to decide on a host for the Seminar themselves.

To follow up on this, in autumn, the YEN Board sent out an email to all YEN member organizations to ask if someone wants to host the Autumn Seminar 2024. We were very happy to receive a reply from the [Diverse Youth Network](#) (DYN) from Hungary. They have not been active in YEN for a few years but are now eager to re-engage in international exchanges. After an initial meeting, YEN decided on DYN to be the hosts of Autumn Seminar 2024. Since then we already had another meeting to start the planning process. The Seminar will take place 4th-10th November in Pécs, Hungary.

### 3.2. Work Plan YEN – Strategic Priorities

The mission of YEN continues to be to *work for the preservation and development of the rights of national, ethnic, and linguistic minorities with a special focus on young people*. To realize our mission, we have developed a strategy during our Board Meeting in the Summer of 2023 that reflects current developments, challenges, and opportunities of our changing society. You can consult the whole YEN Strategy 2024/2025 in the Appendix.

### 3.3. Work Plan WG Member Integration 2024-2025

The aims of the working group are :

1. Build a solid creative working group

For the working group to achieve its goals, it is important for the members to be motivated, inspired and to have a good relationship between each other. For this to happen, the communication between the members will have to be regular, fluid and entertained.

This will be influenced by :

- established online communication : Whatsapp group, Skype / Zoom meetings, phone calls, e-mails...
- physical meetings if possible : at our events and joint with other WGs



- constant motivation for ideas, projects, creativity
- strong solidarity between each other, the members being part of different member organisations in Europe and having to face different issues

2. Rebuild and strengthen our Member Organisations (MOs) network

- Stay in contact with our MOs and be aware of their problematics, needs and projects in a way to support them as much as possible
- Get in contact with members we didn't hear from for a long time to rebuild the connection
- Keep the MOs informed about our events in order to meet physically during events that strengthen our connection and common work
- Organise visits of MOs and participate at their events
- Get in contact with potential new members for a common work that could be beneficial for both, the organisation and YEN's network
- Research and / or be aware of marginalised groups in Europe

3. Expand our network and raise our voices beyond Member Integration and YEN organisation.

The working group will mainly focus on Member Integration. The work will also consist in a close collaboration with the other working groups, support each other's work and keep in mind the general aims YEN is working for.

Besides that, the work will not only be internal but also external. It is important to keep an open mind on what we can do beyond our organisation and how we can integrate YEN in European relations. This means :

- a close work with the Vice President for External Relations
- researches and awareness about contacts we can build and maintain all over Europe
- keep a database about those contacts, update it and keep each other informed about it
- being ambassadors of YEN online and at external events.



### 3.4. Work Plan WG Communication 2024-2025

In the course of the next period, the members of the Working Group Communication will focus on the following three objectives:

#### 1. Teamwork "Creative-Cooperative-Constructive"

- a. For teamwork to be possible in the working group, it is important that the members establish a good relationship with each other. To achieve this, communication between members will be regular and at eye level.
- b. There will be regular communication through online channels: WhatsApp group, Zoom meetings, emails....
- c. When possible, physical meetings will also be held, for example at YEN events. There will also be the possibility to collaborate with members of other working groups.
- d. The ideas of the different working group members will be discussed in the group as well as elaborated with creative methods and members will also be involved in projects. The focus is on teamwork.
- e. The convenor coordinates these projects and respects the ideas or wishes of the working group members.
- f. Solidarity among the working group members is also important: they belong to different member organisations in Europe and are confronted with different circumstances and/or problems.
- g. Working group members are also YEN ambassadors and inform their communities about YEN-events.

#### 2. "Creative Visibility"

- a. The working group develops ideas for YEN's communication in the group. The implementation is also planned and the tasks are distributed in the group. Efforts are being made to increase YEN's visibility and reach in order to also further expand YEN's communication.
- b. This can be achieved, among other things, with social media campaigns or with posts on international commemoration and action days - the exact focus is set in the group together with the convenor.
- c. The group produces creative output using methods such as taking photographs, creating graphics, filming and editing, writing texts, etc.
- d. Established formats are continued. These formats appear regularly and demonstrate continuity, which is particularly important for visibility on social media.
- e. The working group members will cooperate with the other working groups in order to develop content across topics. The members will support each other in this and keep the general goals of YEN in mind.

#### 3. Documentation and information

- a. The working group members will support the convenor in:



- i. Documenting YEN events as well as other activities and events on YEN social media channels Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
  - ii. Updating the social media channels
  - iii. Informing members and member organisations so that they can be kept up to date.
- b. Creative methods are also used in these tasks, such as creating graphics, filming and editing, writing texts, photography and, for example, creating short videos.

### 3.5. Work Plan WG Minority Rights and Politics 2024-2025

The Working Group Minority Rights and Politics of YEN (WG) is the body within YEN structure, which supports YEN board, especially the Vice President for External Affairs, to increase awareness on minority and youth rights alongside minority youth and the society, to raise the voice of minority youth within public institutions and to promote a sustainable, inclusive and peaceful society. Moreover, the WG gives the opportunity to all its members to develop their personal skills and knowledge on youth and minorities, which can be re-transmitting to their own communities.

The WG is formed by one coordinator (convenor) and three members. The convenor is part of the YEN board. All members must actively participate to the enhancing of the working plan by proposing action points and initiatives, which can help the achievement of the following overall objectives and concrete goals. At the beginning of the new mandate, all members are invited to read and comment this document and to bring their own expertise and expectation.

#### Overall objectives:

Objective 1: Defending the political rights of minorities and young people

Objective 2: Supporting YEN's work

Objective 3: Reflecting on political rights and the status of minorities

#### Concrete goals:

- Goal 1: Supporting the external affairs strategy of YEN
- Goal 2: Opening up minority issues to contemporary questions
- Goal 3: Develop international cooperation and the union of the oppressed
- Goal 4: Include the members of the working groups in the process as well as the members



### Overall objectives for members of the working group

- To develop greater cohesion and a greater role for the working group;
- Enriching knowledge and debate on politics and minorities;
- Discovering politics and minorities (kin-state and non-kin-state situation);
- A reflection on activism and a critical look at today's societies;
- Develop links between different individuals and communities at international level;
- Helping your and others community;
- Discovering politics and diplomacy;
- Improve and develop their activism skills and advocate for minority rights and an inclusive and peaceful society;
- Staying active with YEN outside the seminars weeks;
- Developing their personalities and their self-confidence.

### For YEN

- Promoting YEN's work in external events and among external actors;
- Promoting YEN's HUB Report and White Paper on Minority Rights;
- Supporting the Vice President of External Affairs;
- Supporting YEN Board;
- Applying on contemporary issues and trends;
- Lobbying for implementation of YEN adopted resolutions;
- Reflect on the future of YEN in terms of policy, actions and place.

### For minority youth

- Improving visibility of youth from minorities;
- Following up on the Minority Safe-Pack Initiative and other European and international minority policies and programs development;
- Supporting YEN's work against multiple discrimination (i.e. sexism, adultism, homophobia etc.);
- Fight against all forms of discrimination and oppression (i.e. xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, etc.);
- Give a voice to young people and minorities;
- Open up the debate on other current issues related to minorities (i.e ecology, social issues, etc.);
- Reflect on the world of tomorrow and the ways in which it will be governed.



## 4. Membership

Sadly we were informed that our Member Organisation Rökefloose (of the Frisian minority in Germany) has been officially dissolved in 2023. The YEN Board was in contact with members of the Frisian adult minority organisation to assure them that we would be happy to welcome Frisian youth to YEN events.

### 4.1. Extraordinary Members

“Via Nova - Alliance for the Future” (an association of civic associations with a focus on Hungarian minority youth in Slovakia) has applied extraordinary membership to the Board this year. Via Nova had a partnership agreement with YEN for the period from January to December 2023.

### 4.2. Ordinary Members

There have been no applications for ordinary membership to the Board this year.

### 4.3. Supporting Members

Currently there are three Supporting Members – in alphabetical order Madlena di Sarno, Roman Kühn and Judith Scholze. The Supporting Members do not need to represent a minority organisation, but their participation in YEN should appear to be reasonable and they have to support the aims and interests of YEN. The membership fees of the Supporting Members go into the YEN Social Fund, which aims to help and support participants of YEN events financially.

### 4.4. Discussion and Vote on the Changes in the Membership Status of Non-active Mos

The YEN Board proposes to the GA 2024 to vote on downgrading MIERT to extraordinary member as they have not paid their membership fees for four years in a row (2020,2021,2022,2023) and have repeatedly ended conversations with the board to resolve this issue by not replying to emails or following up on, in phone calls, agreed steps anymore.

The YEN Board has informed MIERT that they would propose to the GA 2024 to vote on downgrading them to extraordinary members.





## 4.5. Presentation and vote on Partnerships

The newly formed youth organizations of the Czech minority in Croatia would like to apply to become a partner. Some of the founding members were already present at YEN events in 2023.

## 5. Proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure

The YEN Board proposes to amend the YEN Rules of Procedure in several ways.

- One change in the section **G.3 The President**, which describes the tasks of the YEN president. The changes relate to the task of the YEN President to represent YEN in the Board of FUEN. The proposed changes are to add a sentence that allows the YEN Board to appoint a different YEN Board member to fulfill this task if they deem it necessary.
- Several changes in section **I. The Seminars; 1. General Provisions** to clarify and adapt who can be a host of a YEN Seminar. The proposed changes would make it possible for a minority youth organisation that is not a member of YEN to host a seminar. The right of the General Assembly to vote on the hosts is not affected. In the German version there would be more changes necessary as the text is not consistent in the current form.
- One change in the section **K. The General Assembly; 1. General Provisions** removing some regulations concerning the possibility to hold hybrid General Assemblies. This reflects the reality of the past years in which it was necessary to hold the General Assembly in a hybrid form to reach the Quorum and ensure participation of more YEN member organisations.

You can find all the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure in **Appendix 4**.



## 6. Elections of the Board

The Board consists of the President, two Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and three Working-Group Convenors that shall be elected by the General Assembly. The positions within the Board shall be occupied by people from different member organisations and not more than two of them shall belong to one minority from one country. The term of office shall be two years for each member of the Board. It shall not be possible to re-elect a Board member more than once. It is the task of the Board to manage YEN.

This year, the following positions are to be (re-)elected:

- **President (for the mandate 2024-2026)**
- **Treasurer (for the mandate 2024-2026)**
- **Convenor for WG Communication (for the mandate 2024-2026)**
- **Convenor for Minority Rights and Politics (for the mandate 2024-2026)**

In addition, the GA needs to vote on the position of one: **Internal Auditor**

who, will be responsible to inspect the financial management and the accounts. The Internal Auditors report to the General Assembly on the outcome of their inspection and give a recommendation regarding the discharge of the Board.

## 7. Elections of the Working Group Members

The Working Groups' aim is to develop ideas and conduct projects for YEN in accordance with their main working focus and to advance the strategic orientation and the content of YEN's work. Every WG consists of up to 10 members and is headed by the responsible Convenor. The WG members must be supported by their member organisation and are elected for 1 year.



## 8. Call Events 2025/2026

We are looking for hosts for our events which are coming up soon:

1. Kick-Off Seminar 2025
2. Easter Seminar 2025
3. Diversity Festival 2025
4. Autumn Seminar 2025
5. Kick Off Seminar 2026

A candidature of interested organisations must be made at this year's GA, otherwise these events will not take place!

If you are interested in hosting one of these events, please contact the Board ([board@yeni.org](mailto:board@yeni.org)) prior to the GA and hand in the candidature for the event in the form of a 2 minute video or a poster that will be uploaded to the [GA-website](#).

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