

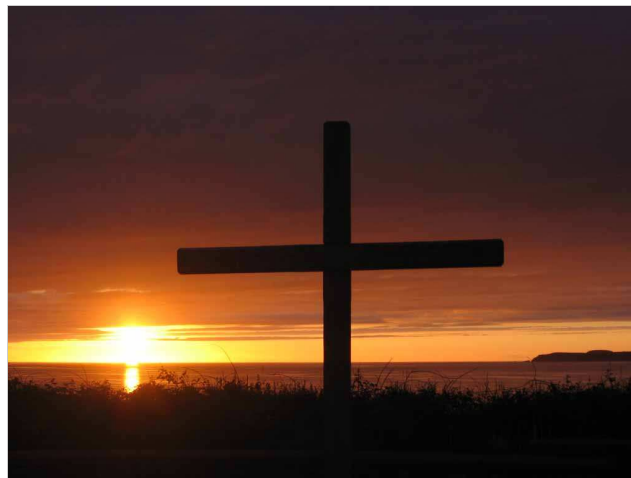


# ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN EUROPE



## Activity and Development Report 2008

EYCE THEME OF THE YEAR 2008  
“YOU WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM” (Galatians 5.13)



►►► Contact EYCE

### ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN EUROPE

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# 1. Introduction

The year 2008 can be summarised as a year of construction and reconstruction for EYCE. Construction, because in the year 2008 EYCE has worked on reconciliation and building the bridges between different views more than ever. Most of the events, which were organised by EYCE tackled themes, where there is always a bridge to build and understanding to reach - such as understanding between religious communities, reconciliation between communities in disagreement, difference between genders and finally reaching beyond stereotypes on religion, nation or social background.

All the planned activities were carried out successfully and with remarkable results. For all activities the participants gave very positive feedback. While there are always items that can be improved, the overall satisfaction with EYCE's activities has increased – thanks to the impressive work young volunteers have put into developing and implementing EYCE's seminars, training courses and study sessions.

Reconstruction, because some structural changes have touched EYCE, such as changes within Executive Committee and Secretariat General. Regardless or even thanks to all the structural changes, which were brought by year 2008, the work of EYCE has been successful and development oriented - the organisation always sought new ways and areas of work, developed new ideas and angles of view. This has been a healthy and positive development and made it possible for EYCE to reach out to even more young people across Europe. EYCE was able to establish various new contacts thanks to tremendous efforts of the members of the Executive Committee, the secretariat and volunteer from various member and partner organisations. Above all the Leadership Team of the EYCE Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism has to be highlighted as this team of young volunteers shared their views, passion and energy in order to make this world a better place and reach out to young people in the areas, where revision of one's views and reconciliation is needed.

There was more focus brought on the relations with member organisations during the year 2008, which brought more strength within the structure, as well as external relations of EYCE. The identity of the council was reviewed and updated according to the developments in the world and the needs of young people in the EYCE network.

With the memory of a positive year 2008 EYCE is moving onwards full of energy and is confident to continuing a good and healthy development also in the years to come.



## 2. EYCE activities

### **EYCE Training course “Tearing down the walls – a training course on overcoming conflict and stimulating reconciliation in Europe”**

**Corrymeela, Northern Ireland**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of June, 2008**



"It is easier to tear down the walls of bricks than the walls in the heads of people." This reflection of a person actively involved in the armed conflict in Northern Ireland inspired EYCE to the title for this training course. What do young people need to actively contribute to tearing down walls of conflict and inequality but creating a culture of peace, respect for diversity and solidarity? How can violence be overcome and reconciliation of conflicting parties be achieved? Which tools do young people need in order to actively contribute to a reconciliation process in Europe?

Answering these questions were the key objectives of this training course.

The main themes in order to reach this aim were: introduction to theories on overcoming conflict, case studies and lectures on the involvement of churches in creating and promoting conflict, churches' contributions to reconciliation, the psychology of reconciliation and a practical training in reconciliation and peace building projects.

The TC was carried out in cooperation with the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle who hosted the event. The Corrymeela community was represented in the planning committee and volunteers from the centre took part in the implementation of several activities.

The target group were young people, male and female aged 18-30, active in youth work, who could act as multipliers in their church and/ or organizational networks.

Methods and reflections encouraged by the "Compass" on peace education were used widely. Also the experience of the Corrymeela Community in reconciliation work was available to participants. The results of the "All different - all equal" campaign were taken into consideration by the International Planning Committee (IPC).

A high level of participation and sharing of experience in all discussions and practical tasks during the TC was one of the good achievements in the project.

The whole project was implemented by a team of six volunteers from different countries. One of them was working as an intern in the EYCE Office in Brussels. The team was supported by EYCE General Secretary, who also ensured the practical and administrative implementation of the project, under the supervision of EYCE Executive Committee.

As working for and towards reconciliation is a fundamental value in EYCE's constitution, this project does not stand alone. The experience gained will be carried on to the next projects in the organisation. Overcoming conflict and stimulating reconciliation was thus a theme on the next training course "Overcoming Fundamentalism – Overcoming Violence" in September, where fundamentalism as a source of conflict was addressed. The publication produced is a tool to use on future events addressing similar issues. EYCE is now running an interreligious Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism, 2008-2010, in which the experience and results of this TC will be followed up as well.



## **EYCE Interreligious Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism"**

Inter-religious dialogue is a key element in creating a peaceful and respectful world. Yet we realise that actors in this dialogue often face fundamentalism. Ignoring the reality of religious fundamentalism could lead to a situation where a few organisations engage in dialogue, but where this work represents only a small part of the society, creating a sort of "happy island of inter-religious dialogue". For this reason, EYCE has set as a high priority the organisation of a training course to empower young people to actively engage into dialogue with fundamentalisms, which took place in December 2007 in Greece. Out of this, the "**Inter-religious campaign to overcome fundamentalism**" emerged.

The participation in the Campaign of as many as possible religious communities in Europe was a basic requirement for its success and outreach. Therefore, EYCE is working in strong cooperation with its long-term inter-religious partners, especially FEMYSO – Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations, and EUJS – European Union of Jewish Students and the European Inter-faith Youth Network, bringing together not only Muslims and Jews, but many other religious communities, such as Buddhists, Hindus, Druids, Baha'i, Sikh, Zoroastrians.

The greatest achievements of 2008 are that the dissemination of the Campaign is really taking place in the European countries EYCE has been visiting or from where young people have attended the activities related to the Campaign. Many smaller projects are taking place in local church contexts, articles are written for church magazines or newspapers, and the seeds for larger projects on a local and regional level have been planted.

The projects took place either with representatives of EYCE present or on behalf of EYCE after a coaching of volunteers where they gained deep insight on the themes and on the implementation of local projects.

One example is the meeting of EYCE representatives with young people from Albania, taking place in Tirana. There the idea and core beliefs of the campaign have been shared and first steps for a project in the local context have been elaborated. It then could be presented and reported in the wake of the training taking place in Pogradec in September (see further up).

By the end of the year 2008, the European Youth Forum published a tool kit on Interreligious Dialogue. It was written by members of the faith based youth organisations in Europe. From EYCE one member of the Leadership Team, who was volunteering in the EYCE office as well, was the editor in chief of the Tool-kit. His competencies for running the Campaign were thus strengthened and he was able to implement his knowledge from this work already in events in 2008. Also his experience from the Campaign improved his knowledge and skills in a way that he could contribute to the tool kit with great success.

## **Campaign Leadership Team meeting**

**Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia**

**28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

The Leadership Team (LT) of the EYCE Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism met for its first face-to-face meeting and dissemination visit from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>th</sup> July 2008 in Skopje, F.Y.R.O.Macedonia. The members of the Leadership Team were actively engaged in the detailed planning of actions to be taken up during the year 2008 and in the setting of a framework for 2009.



The Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism (COF) was subdivided into three areas of action; the first being residential seminars. The opening event was held in Volos (Greece) in December 2007 under the title “Monologue or Dialogue? - Inter-religious Dialogue Meets Fundamentalism”. The second seminar bore the title “Overcome Fundamentalism – Overcome Violence” and took place in Pogradec, Albania, 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The

Members of the LT were actively involved in the process of its preparations, especially as part of the International Planning Committee.

The second important element of the Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism is raising awareness through the providing of materials. These include T-shirts, magazines and leaflets, but also postcards and more materials are expected for the future of the campaign. The Leadership Team spent some time at working on the contents and layout of the materials, and distributed responsibilities for having the necessary work done in due time.

The third element of the Campaign focuses on involving local projects. This is done through dissemination visits and local workshops. The Members of the LT shared plans of local projects they would like to initiate or that are already being initiated within their networks. They distributed these projects among themselves, in order to provide all necessary assistance to people on a local and regional level.

The first meeting of the Leadership Team of EYCE's "Inter-religious campaign to overcome fundamentalism" concluded with a dissemination visit. There, representatives of the Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities participated and expressed their interest in the Campaign and first ideas for projects on a local level were developed. Other activities were taking place around Europe, supported by the publication of the two issues of the magazine "Fundamental Issues", which accompanies the campaign.

The dissemination visit in Skopje was attended by young men and women from all over F.Y.R.O. Macedonia. They were invited to join in a discussion about fundamentalism, and to give their different opinions on how Fundamentalism plays a role in their country and context. They were approached through the EIYN network and FEMYSO's member organisation in F.Y.R.O. Macedonia.

Gathering young people for a meeting was not difficult. The interest in the interreligious meeting and in the EYCE Campaign was high from Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities.

The general conclusion of the meeting was that the need for interreligious dialogue is present in F.Y.R.O. Macedonia. In this country, fundamentalism is not considered a big problem because people live peacefully side by side. However, it is recognised that the Orthodox Church is strengthening its profile in many ways (visually by placing the Christian cross on top of mountains) and aims at connecting being Macedonian with being Christian (Orthodox). At the same time, other religions and denominations feel the need to counteract and thus promote their religion or denomination as well. These actions, taken by the different religious communities might lead to tensions, and the immediate need for dialogue in order

to prevent and/ or overcome fundamentalism was identified by the participants of the meeting.

## **Youth camps in cooperation with Ecumenical Youth Services** **Hirschluch, Germany** **August 2008**

Throughout the summer of 2008 EYCE co-organised a series of summer youth camps with its German partners from Ecumenical Youth Services. By emphasizing on fighting against racism and promoting Human Rights, the camps aimed at increasing European awareness, citizenship and identity. Beside our influence in the thematic preparation of the camps, EYCE also provided its network as a broad platform of ecumenical youth and youth organisations to whom these ecumenical camps might appeal. EYCE's office was actively involved in promoting and advertising these events, thus bringing together more than 100 young men and women from all over Europe. For many of them, it was the first international, ecumenical encounter and as such turned out to be a life-changing experience.



### **EYCE summer training “HIV/AIDS - a gender issue?”** **Szczyrk, Poland** **10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of August, 2008**

In August 2005 EYCE held an international summer training “Youth Fighting HIV/AIDS”, which brought together more than 30 ecumenical youth leaders from across Europe and the world. In the framework of this training course EYCE launched a campaign aiming at raising awareness on HIV/AIDS all across Europe “HIV can touch everyone - Ecumenical Youth fighting HIV/AIDS”, and particularly at enabling youth leaders from various Christian denominations from all European countries to deal with and to address issues related to HIV/AIDS and therefore contributing to young people's spiritual, social and cultural development.

Whilst HIV/AIDS is mainly being perceived as an issue of reproductive health, there are many more aspects to it, such as socio-economic, educational or cultural aspects. EYCE decided to look at the challenges HIV/AIDS poses on young people in Europe from a holistic perspective, thus also addressing these aspects, as well as the question of how spirituality, religion and sociology affect the situation of the least privileged young people in Europe.

While HIV/AIDS is affecting every person regardless of their gender, this final event on the three year programme aimed at investigating how men and women are (differently) affected by HIV/AIDS: **“HIV/ AIDS – a gender issue?”** What are the particular threats to women? What are the particular threats to men? Which measures need to be taken in order to fully comprehend the HIV/AIDS crisis in their gender-related dimension? These were the key questions to be addressed and discussed during this training course.

On Sunday 9th August, before the participants arrived, the IPC had the opportunity to introduce EYCE’s long-term campaign "HIV can touch everyone – Ecumenical Youth fighting HIV/AIDS" to the local Lutheran congregation in the setting of their Sunday service. As well, the outcome of the training course was presented to the congregation on the following Sunday, as the participants were allowed to decorate the church with posters and other material from the campaign and thus presenting it.

A follow up on the International AIDS Conference, which took place in Mexico just prior to the training course, was provided by two participants from the Church of Norway, who had closely monitored the process in Mexico.

A measurable outcome has been the tool-kit and other publications which have been developed together with the participants. The tool-kit and all the ideas and conclusions of the workshop have been published in the special HIV/AIDS campaign section of the EYCE website [www.eyce.org](http://www.eyce.org).

## **EYCE Training course “Overcome Fundamentalism, overcome violence!”**

**Pogradec, Albania  
21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of September, 2008**

The training course **“Overcome fundamentalism, overcome violence!”** for religious youth leaders on overcoming fundamentalism as source of religious violence acknowledged religions as a very important element in the direct or indirect shaping of every culture.



While a consistent part of European society benefits from the growing reflection and awareness on just and peaceful relationships, on respect of Human Rights and dignity, on

building of a plural and intercultural society, at the same time new radical and conservative attitudes and ideologies emerge everyday.

Today's society is facing the emerging of new forms of fundamentalism, radical and conservative attitudes and ideologies. While religious communities are engaged in building a fruitful dialogue with the European civil society, they yet face inner schools of thought which promote refusal of dialogue, isolation from society, negation of the other's identity, rule of the strongest against the respect of universal rights. This leads to a situation where the efforts of religious communities to contribute to intercultural dialogue in Europe are hindered by these tendencies.

Overcoming fundamentalist attitudes and contributing to build a non-violent, respectful and intercultural society is therefore a task in which religious communities can play a primary role by elaborating non-violent responses and attitudes to counteract violent and radical practices.

The programme was divided into two main sections: in the first part of the week the participants gained theoretical background, through the analysis of fundamentalism and violence from a sociological, psychological, and theological perspective by taking into account the importance of media and history. Practices and traditions of the different religious communities that promote fundamentalism and give room to violent practices were critically analysed, whereas advocacy for equal participation in policy and decision making of religious youth leaders was promoted. In addition, case studies on violence and fundamentalism from different regions of the world were presented. The second part of the training focused on providing participants with practical tools to counteract violent dynamics, to raise awareness in their context, and to train local trainers in facing fundamentalism and violence.

The follow up is ongoing in connection with the EYCE Interreligious Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism.

Concrete projects were developed by the end of the training course. EYCE has knowledge of several articles being published in newspapers and in church new magazines, and at least one seminar is being planned within one of the participants' home church in the summer 2009 on the topic of fundamentalism.

## **EYCE Study Session: “Religions in the Media - Promoting intercultural learning, youth participation and overcoming stereotypes”**

**European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary  
9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of November, 2008**

The Study Session “**Religions in the Media - Promoting intercultural learning, youth participation and overcoming stereotypes**” gathered youth workers from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim backgrounds to gain knowledge about how media works, what the relation between Religions and Media is, and to encourage young people to use their skills in order to promote



their youth work on Human Rights through Media. An important aim was to explore the role and potential of different types of media in overcoming differences and stereotypes and to equip young people with competencies in order to be able to promote respect for diversity of cultures and beliefs and protect Human Rights. Participants got engaged on the topic of Human Rights and inter-religious dialogue by discussing various medial descriptions of Human Rights' issues in different media and analysing the underlying concepts.

Besides understanding how media works in terms of shaping public opinion and stereotypes or representing values, experts provided the participants with knowledge about the rules, the priorities, and fields of interest of media, as well as concrete examples on how a youth organization could spread the news in a Human Rights campaign through media. This was underlined by a field visit in a local radio station, which furthermore offered the chance to address questions to the chief editor. Lectures were held by Elizabeta Kitanovic, Executive Secretary of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and Christian Pedersen, a Pastor and Media consultant. For each participant to benefit from the study session as much as possible, many working units during the week were done in small groups. Participants worked together in mixed groups and were thus provided with numerous opportunities to share their experiences and points of view. Many methods ranging from visual presentations, lectures, small group works and role-plays were used to ensure balance in various learning styles.

In the end, various media campaigns in order to promote intercultural understanding, inter-religious dialogue and Human Rights were planned and adjusted for the different regional contexts.

During this Study Session, EYCE has enlarged its network by getting in contact with different local and national organisations involved in Human Rights work and Inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. It was a good and well used occasion to reinforce EYCE's relations to old partners such as FEMYSO and EUJS, as well as to learn about different experiences of small organisations from the far East of Europe, such as Georgia or Ukraine.



### **3. External Relations**

#### **Consultation with representatives of the Youth Commission of the Polish Ecumenical Council**

**Warsaw, Poland**

**17th-19th February, 2008**

Following their meeting in Warsaw, Poland, the Executive Committee of EYCE and the General Secretary organised a consultation with representatives of the Youth Commission of the Polish Ecumenical Council, with representatives of the Polish churches, and with representatives of youth NGO's (both secular and religious) that are active in Eastern Europe. The meeting served to further explore how EYCE could work together with young people in the area and increase their involvement, as well as to strengthen the involvement already shown, and help to connect the people already active.

EYCE listened carefully to the situation presented by its partners, especially regarding democratic participation of young people and active citizenship, and developed an action plan with them, by building on the question of how the involvement of churches and church-related NGO's can contribute to these fields. One outcome already realized in 2008 has been the summer training on "HIV/ AIDS – a gender issue?" which took place in Poland.

Young people of our Polish and eastern partners have been greatly involved in EYCE's work in 2008 and offered a lot of support and inputs. A further outcome of the consultation and the strengthened network has been that in the beginning of 2009 a short-time volunteer from Poland supported the office in Brussels to further facilitate communication and networking in Eastern Europe. Thus we can state that EYCE is encouraging active participation of Polish youth and promoting their involvement into European youth work.

## **Consultation with youth organisations in Malta**

**7th– 8th of April, 2008, St. Julian, Malta**

In the wake of the meeting on core operations, EYCE representatives met with active Maltese youngsters in order to discuss the state of youth politics and participation in their country as well as on European level.

The open-minded meeting fostered the cooperation of Maltese organisations as well as their networking. Moreover, common political concepts were shared and needs discussed.

As well, for 2009 a youth exchange between a Maltese youth organisation and a French partner organisation of EYCE could be supported.

## **Networking meeting**

**4th of December, 2008 Brussels**

On the occasion of representatives of the German member organisation visiting Brussels, EYCE invited to a networking meeting on Youth Politics in Brussels. The representatives of the Council of Children and Youth Politics together with EYCE representatives discussed current themes concerning EU politics with regards to their impact on young people. As well, there was an exchange on common strategic planning in order to mutually strengthen the work in the field of youth politics.



## **4. EYCE structural development**

### **Job Training**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 6th of January, 2007, Brussels, Belgium**

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, Rebekka Højmark Jensen joined EYCE as the new General Secretary. This being the only paid member of staff of EYCE the core operations team of the Executive Committee of EYCE came to Brussels to train the General Secretary. The General Secretary is responsible for the administration of the organisation as well as for coordinating EYCE's work related to participation in democratic processes in church and society, development of respect for cultural diversity, the full inclusion of all young people regardless of their social, religious or cultural origin, inter-religious dialogue, promoting economic justice and Human Rights. Ms. Jensen was introduced to all of these working fields and to our key partners, active in youth politics and the churches. Thus equipped, she worked for EYCE and its partners' goal of active citizenship of young people.

## **Executive Committee meeting**

**Warsaw, Poland**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008**

The first EYCE Executive Committee meeting in 2008 served to plan the foreseen running of the year in order to steer EYCE. The ExCo prepared the annual programme of 2008 and evaluated the activities implemented in 2007. The ExCo decided democratically on the daily running of the youth council.

As well, due to elections to vacant places in the ExCo, future working agreements and distributions of political fields was achieved amongst the ExCo members.

As a new General Secretary had joined EYCE starting January 1, 2008, time was spend on working out the future cooperation between the ExCo members and the Brussels office as well.

The ExCo furthermore discussed important issues and developments within the ecumenical movement, social & political trends and planned a systematic response and discussed future co-operations, events with partner organisations, funding strategies etc.

## **Meeting on Core Operations**

**5<sup>th</sup> –6<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008, St. Julia, Malta**

The EYCE core operations team includes the General Secretary and those ExCo members that are assigned tasks that are crucial for the daily running of the organization (finance, external / public relations, programme & events). Together, they reviewed the decisions of the ExCo as well as the working situation in EYCE's Brussels office.

In the framework of this core-operations meeting future structural tasks have been discussed as well, in order to enhance the participation of young people in EYCE's network. The discussions were fostered and implemented in the wake of the National Correspondents' Meeting in Rome.

## **EYCE – WSCF-Europe joint strategy meeting**

**2nd- 5th May 2008, Brussels, Belgium**

The meeting brought together the executive bodies of two major international youth NGO's, EYCE and WSCF-Europe. Both organisations evaluated the joint 2-year strategy agreement of 2006 and discussed common strategies for 2008-2010.

These included common aims as well as joint funding proposals and a strategy to promote active democratic involvement of the Christian youth in Europe. Since EYCE and WSCF-E work in the same field, we agreed on building an even closer network to better communicate the needs of young people towards European Institutions like the European Youth Forum Jeunesse and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

## **Executive Committee meeting**

**28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008, Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia**

The Executive Meeting served the duty to develop the strategies of the Council further taking into account current political ongoing and react to themes and trends within the Council's work and strategies. They were formulated with regards to the fields of responsibilities and then put along the line of EYCE's agenda for the second half of 2008 as well the year of 2009. The focus for 2009 was the call to freedom.

## **Meeting on Core Operations**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2008, Tirana, Albania**

The second core-operations meeting focused on setting up a training schedule for General Secretary Rebekka Højmark Jensen which she had wished to in order to fulfill her tasks for the Council. Training needs were analysed and a step to step schedule established according to EYCE's agenda.

## **Meeting of EYCE National Correspondents**

**Rome, Italy**

**24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008**



Rome.

Due to the fact that EYCE is holding its General Meeting biannually, there was a decision made in General Meeting 2007 in Prali, Italy to hold a meeting of National Correspondents of EYCE in the years without a General Meeting. The National Correspondents of EYCE came together for a meeting in October 2008, in

The meeting had different focuses. The main goal was to discuss the settings of the Council due to a changing Europe, changing societies and a changing ecumenical landscape. The meeting aimed at drafting perspectives and needed adjustments for the daily work of the Council.

The close cooperation with the members was needed and very beneficial in order to ensure further high participation and involvement of young people.

The main achievement of the meeting was a three-folded strategy on the level of the members as well as of the Executive Committee. The results shall be implemented in the framework of the next General Meeting in 2009. In between, a „task force“ composed of National Correspondents is working on a draft to be agreed upon.

## **Volunteer Programme**

### **March – December 2008, Brussels, Belgium**

EYCE's Volunteer Programme aims at providing training for young people as youth leaders/workers involved in European / national organisations. It also provides an opportunity for young people to work in an international organisation and get involved in intercultural learning.

In 2008 we felt very fortunate to welcome Daniel Kunz from Germany to our office. During his training period he had the opportunity to work in an international organisation, to increase his skills in organising activities on the European level, to gain a deep level of knowledge in ecumenical youth work in Europe, and to become involved in intercultural learning.

He was also assigned with the responsibility for a special working topic, especially with regards to the year of intercultural dialogue 2008: "Intercultural dialogue – a tool to overcome prejudice and discrimination". Mr. Kunz paid special attention to this topic throughout all events, taking place during his stay with EYCE, by emphasizing, analyzing and evaluating the intercultural learning processes.

With this focus, Mr. Kunz contributed in several ways to EYCE's campaign to overcome fundamentalisms. During his volunteering, he co-monitored the work of the campaign leadership team and as well got the opportunity to actively prepare and implement the EYCE event on overcoming violence in Pogradec, Albanie (see below).

Moreover, Mr. Kunz had and took the opportunity to contribute with his knowledge to the Faith Based Expert Group under the umbrella of the European Youth Forum. By the end of 2008, this group published a tool kit on Interreligious Dialogue. Daniel Kunz became editor in chief of the Tool-kit. His competencies for running the Campaign were thus strengthened and he was able to implement his knowledge from this work already in events in 2008.

Part of his voluntary term was also active participation in meetings of the European Youth Forum Jeunesse. There, the volunteer had the opportunity to discuss and compare ideas and suggestions regarding the participation of young men and women in Europe and put this into a pan-European perspective.

In order to give clear visibility to EYCE's aims, he also supported the preparation of press releases and the newsletter as well as the updating of the website.

In order to support Mr. Kunz in his work for and with EYCE and offer the possibility of supervision, EYCE set up a mentorship programme. The mentor agreed upon with Mr. Kunz was Ms. Janine Beier. She'd been an EYCE volunteer as well as later an ExCo member herself, thus she knows very well the surroundings and conditions, expectations and potential frustrations within EYCE's work. Moreover, she's from Germany as well and so the supervision could take place in the mother tongue, which eases the conversations. Ms. Beier and Mr. Kunz met before the volunteering time of Mr. Kunz as well as on several occasions in person. Besides this, there was communication via Skype and telephone entertained throughout the voluntary term of Mr. Kunz.

As well, the National Correspondent of the German Member organisation kept contact with Mr. Kunz, updating him on the ongoings and providing him with support and information. Furthermore, Mr. Kunz participated in networking meetings of the German member organisations related to ecumenical and European themes. This ensured the broader involvement and rooting of the work of Mr. Kunz and offered the chance to spread his personal work deep in his member organisation.

