

lntroduction

After 26 years of existence, EYFA continued in our new international office in Berlin with new team members, exiting projects and continued funding challenges mixed in a package that made 2012 almost as transformative for EYFA as it was for crisis-stricken European.

As more young people around Europe are voicing their concerns with the current status quo and continue to organize themselves in increasingly visible social movements striving for social and environmental justice, EYFA continues its goals to strengthen youth participation with increased skills and knowledge to engage in social change with capacities and confidence that are needed in times of crisis. With root causes of the crisis not addressed, young people's self-organisation gives EYFA a broad spectrum of possible engagements, as well as dangers such as a global decrease in funding for youth work.

In Berlin, the EYFA collective is feeling at home in a city with lots of active politics in motion and while EYFA's work lies European-wide, we are getting locally involved and strongly rooted in local activism. The new office witnessed immediate challenges: first of all, core funding became a main concern in 2012 and hopefully youth funding will be more helpful to us in the next year. Secondly, our collective saw new people coming and experienced ones going with an intense period of handover to make sure the continuation of know-how as well as increased involvement in EYFA on voluntary basis.

In 2012, we continued our focus on developing training capacities and supporting skills development throughout our network, which this year resulted in a spring meeting in Berlin: a meeting of activists throughout Europe that aimed to build strong working practices for sustainable activism. Later in the year, we organized a "Training for Trainers" in Belgium where diverse youth training methods where exchanged among activist trainers. Further focusing on youth group processes,

EYFA also organised a German based meeting where young people came together to develop practices and strategies of horizontal and non-hierarchical forms of self-organization. Our summer meeting this year was in Poland and focused on energy and climate justice issues with a special focus within anti-nuclear movements, which brought in new network contacts and promises interesting initiatives across our network in the future.

Besides our yearly newsletters, 2012 brought the publication of the "Guide for Conflict Resolution in Non-hierarchical Groups" together with our long term partner Seeds for Change; a written medium we deem very helpful in diverse active youth groups.

Next year, EYFA continues with new projects such as a developing an anti-racist educational publication, setting up an online portal for activist skill-sharing, supporting long term activist campaigning in anti-gold mine struggles and meeting to focus on anti-fascism and combating Roma discrimination.

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1. What is EYFA?

1.1. The EYFA story

EYFA (European Youth For Action) developed from a tour that was initiated by a Swedish/German group in 1986 to save the old forests in Europe: then named European Youth Forest Action. From these beginnings, EYFA has developed into a network of individuals, grassroots organisations and collectives working to transform local and international communities in their approach to environmental and social, political and economic positions. EYFA provides a platform and practical support for new radical ideas to grow into their full potential.

EYFA focuses particularly on youth initiated activities and projects. EYFA projects are mainly for young people, giving them the opportunity to act and encouraging them to be active on local and international levels. A special focus is put on providing access for groups to take part in international grassroots movements. EYFA always puts effort into including youth from all corners of the continent, with different social, geographical and cultural backgrounds.

EYFA's organisational structure consists of a Europe-wide network of grassroots groups, an office, and an advisory board.

1.2. What does EYFA do?

EYFA provides a platform and practical support for new radical ideas to grow into their full potential. The international office located in Amsterdam coordinates EYFA's activities through administrative and communication functions and being the network's contact point for sharing local information.

EYFA support and encourages grassroots projects and initiatives in the following ways:

□ Organising exchanges, seminars, trainings, network gatherings, projects & actions.

D Promoting innovative ways of working in the field of social and environmental activism (ie: consensus decision-making, art and activism, free and open-source software, etc).



Disseminating call outs and information on environmental and social justice issues.

© Giving advice, knowledge and support in activities such as assisting with fund-raising, application writing, planning and implementing projects and networking.

1.3. Who does EYFA support?

Grassroots groups combating xenophobia, homo-, trans- and queerphobia, racism, fascism, sexism, ableism and all other forms of exploitation and injustice.

Grassroots groups promoting cultural diversity and the rights of women, LGBTIQ, indigenous, migrants and workers.

Grassroots groups combating environmental degradation, ecosystem destruction and animal exploitation and promoting biological diversity.

EYFA gives activists an international perspective, but it is very important to us that we keep our focus on the grassroots of social and ecological change. It is characteristic of EYFA that projects initiated by EYFA become independent sustainable long term projects.

1.4. EYFA Vision

EYFA's main aim is to encourage young people's initiative and autonomy. EYFA strives for a world based on social, environmental and economic justice, in which people feel empowered to act and raise their voices on the issues that affect their lives. EYFA works to challenge the current dominant social and economic system while developing new ways of organising our communities based on environmental and social sustainability.

Towards this we have three core objectives (Capacity Building; Civic Engagement and Participatory Processes; East-West Cooperation) and two priority areas (Environmental Justice; Exclusion) to guide us.

1.4.1. EYFA Objectives

EYFA has three core objectives at the centre of everything we do:

- **Capacity building:** To help groups develop the skills and knowledge to gain access to funding, training and the tools to articulate, debate and enact their ideas.
- © Civic engagement and participatory processes: To support grassroots groups to critically engage with already existing decision-making processes and politics, and also to develop egalitarian and participatory alternatives.
- **D East-West cooperation:** To develop closer cooperation through joint initiatives and the sharing of ideas, histories and experiences amongst grassroots groups working in Eastern and Western Europe.

1.4.2. EYFA Priorities

Over the course of EYFA's existence the network has focused its energy on a wide variety of projects all across Europe. Out of these projects patterns have emerged that point to some of EYFA's priorities. Developed by the network, office and Board, and re-evaluated each year at network strategy meetings, these priorities provide focus for EYFA's work. While we prioritise these two areas, we continue to offer support to groups whose work does not fall into one of these categories.

□ Environmental Justice

EYFA's environmental justice perspective is based on the understanding that most environmental problems are also a question of social and economic injustice. Socially sustainable and just communities go hand in hand with environmentally sound ways of living. EYFA's many climate justice, energy and environmental projects have aimed to draw the links between economic growth-obsession and the exploitation and destruction of our natural and

human environment as well as excluding large populations from access to resources.

Exclusion

Social, cultural, institutional or individual beliefs and practices exist which privilege some human beings and exclude, by subordination and oppression others, based on attributes of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class or caste, among many other distinctions. EYFA believes that social and economic exclusion are tied into histories of patriarchy, colonialism and imperialism, as well as profit and power. These experiences have at times given rise to equally oppressive and excluding practices and policies. If we are to create a world free from hierarchy, exploitation and oppression that instead respects the autonomy and dignity of all human beings, the way these forces interact must be recognised and addressed. With our focus on supporting Eastern European groups, our current work includes many groups working to tackle issues of institutional exclusion, gender inequality, fascism, nationalism, racism and homophobia.



1.5. EYFA Structure

1.5.1. Decision-making

Decisions are made during different meetings throughout the year. During these meetings the following is discussed: old and new projects, focus of the network, strategies and future cooperation plans. Though we make use of on-line meetings and decision making tools, face-to-face network meetings are still highly valued and take place alongside all EYFA events.. EYFA board meetings are organized once a year at the EYFA office in Amsterdam. The board has better insight in the works of the office this way and with everything at hand it heightens practicality.

All organizational decisions are made by reaching consensus. The consensus is a decision-making process that fully utilizes the resources of a group, seeks the agreement of most participants, and resolves or mitigates the objections of the minority to achieve the most agreeable decision. Consensus is also used during all EYFA meetings, projects and events. EYFA functions on the belief that people in a group will relate to each other in a much more fair and productive way if everyone's contribution is considered and is equal to everyone else's. Consensus requires use of communication hand signals during meetings and decision making processes, and, sometimes, presence of trained facilitators and mediators.

1.5.2. EYFA Office

EYFA has one international office, located in Berlin. The office coordinates EYFA's activities, including administrative and financial tasks, as well as the communication functions of the network. This includes producing the EYFA newsletter, acting as an information point for organisations in the network and as a communication liaison between local and international projects.

The office is organised collectively and non-hierarchically, meaning that all staff and volunteers are expected to take an equal role in day-to-day tasks and decision-making processes. From watering the plants to writing applications, tasks are shared and rotated amongst all of those in the office.

The office also acts as a 'training ground' for young people to develop various skills, such as project coordination, fund-raising and bookkeeping. EYFA does not require office staff to arrive already equipped with all the necessary knowledge and experience to carry out their tasks. Rather, the goal is to be a place where young people can work to develop skills in a supportive environment, learning-by-doing. It is normal for staff and volunteers to work in the office for 1-3 years, before moving on to share their new skills with other groups and projects.

1.5.3. EYFA Advisory Board

The 'Advisory Board' oversees the work of the office. The Board provides support and advice to the office – particularly in terms of strategy and finances.

Currently, there are three Board members, two of whom used to be part of the office team. In both the office and the Board, effort is made to maintain balanced representation amongst the different corners of Europe.

1.5.4. EYFA Network

EYFA is a network that consists of individuals, collectives and organisations from all around Europe. There are no membership rules or fees required to join the EYFA network – EYFA is open to all current grassroots and alternative youth movements focusing on environmental, social justice and alternative economics and related issues.

The EYFA network is primarily used to share information, skills and resources. It connects groups working on similar topics around Europe, and groups wanting to share experiences or gain training from one another. The network acts as a way to connect local issues and struggles transnationally. In particular, the network works to connect groups in east and west Europe, building solidarity amongst different regions.

The EYFA Network has two permanent working groups, Network Strategy and East-West, which help the international office in Amsterdam identify the needs of groups in the network and decide where and on what issues upcoming gatherings should focus. This ensures that EYFA consistently works towards its aims of capacity building, participatory processes and East-West networking. For each EYFA project a temporary working group is also created to support the logistics and develop the content of the project. Sometimes these groups continue working together after the project's completion.

Typically, the network has one or two meetings each year where the priorities and strategy of the network are decided upon and projects and activities are developed. Between meetings, members can stay stay in touch via mailing lists and online meetings. Like all EYFA meetings, decisions are made on a consensus basis.

1.6. Partner Organizations

- Belgium: Vredesactie; Catapa
- Germany: AKKU; Out of Action; Babel; Werkstatt für Aktion und Alternativen (WAA); New Yorck im Bethanien
- Hungary: The City is for All

Poland: Inicjatywa Antynuklearna; Wegajty Theatre

Romania: Asociata DIY; Asociata Re.Generation

• Russia: ECOperestroika / Slovenia: Art Center

• Spain: EcoDharma; Col·lectiu Eco-Actiu

Turkey: LAMDA

• United Kingdom: The Forest; Activist Mediation Network; Seeds for Change

1.7. Thanks To

We would like to thank the Council of Europe's Youth Foundation, the European Commission's Youth in Action Program, the La Ronce Association, ASTA Frei Universitat Berlin, XminY and private donors for their financial support in 2012 without which it would not have been possible to carry out as many activities as we did.



z. Projects

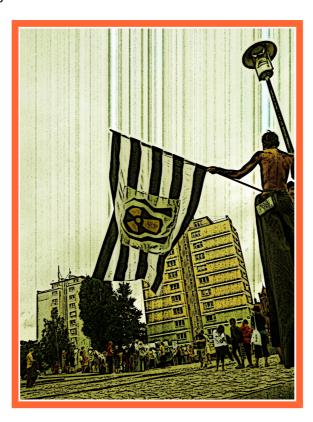
2.1. European Voluntary Service

2.1.1. Bilateral EVS: No Dirty Gold

A young Dutch volunteer finished his 1 year long EVS at CATAPA in Belgium. CATAPA is a Belgian movement of young people that focuses on issues related to globalisation and sustainable development. The organisation was founded in 2005 when a group of students and researchers, of whom a lot with experience in Latin America, were concerned about the serious health problems caused by open pit mining in Bolivia. In 2010, CATAPA ran its big first international campaign, around the problems caused by mining multinationals in Northern Peru. Subsequently, this was followed up with a campaign which began in 2011 focused on raising consumer awareness in the purchase of precious metals. The volunteer has spent his time working on this campaign, which ended in 2012, which included public actions in the Flanders region, debates on sustainable production and consumption of metals, conferences with speakers from our partner organisations, etc.

2.1.2. Bilateral EVS: Art & Development

A Dutch volunteer was sent to spend a year at the Art Center, in the east of Slovenia. This project will go on till October 2013. The volunteer is involved in developing components of the program of the Art Center such as art-workshops, exhibitions, concerts, and others. The volunteer is active on all levels from communicating with the artists to promotion strategies. The volunteer is particularly enthusiastic about the work being done in the vegetable garden and the construction of a greenhouse.



3. Meetings & Events

3.1. Building Strong and Sustainable Collective Working Practices

In April 2012, EYFA hosted a week-long training filled with skill-sharing workshops which brought together 25 young activists that are involved in grassroots groups dealing with environmental or social justice issues. The general focus of the training was for participants to gain significant understanding and experience with non-violent communication, conflict resolution & mediation and general group processes with as goal to help create sustainable practices within young grassroots groups wishing to effect social change. Many activists face struggles such as burn-out, loss of motivation and frustration. Thereby, we focused on 'sustainability' in this emotional and psychological sense, rather than the more practical elements of work planning and time-management.

3.2. Youth Voices on Energy and Climate Justice

This Summer in July 2012 young activists from all over Europe came together to

meet in Lubiatowo, a small village in Poland on the coast of the Baltic Sea. They were brought together for the youth gathering on Energy and Climate as part of Poland's first Anti-Nuclear Camp. The was organized coalition of activists including environmental and anarchist groups, local citizens' initiatives and regional anti-nuclear groups. Together we developed diverse program of workshops presentations, movies, performances and small actions, to support the struggle against Nuclear Power and Climate Change.



3.3. Concepts and Strategies of Horizontal Self-organization

Together with people from different regions of Europe, activists from different countries in Europe spend a week exchanging with each other around different experiences and approaches with horizontal self-organization. Keeping in mind the goal of eliminating hierarchies, exclusion and discrimination in emancipatory groups and spaces, they compared the concepts of D.I.Y, Open Space and Safer Spaces via different perspectives, as well as getting inspired by the praxis of others, learn from each others' experiences, support each other and develop the concepts further. Participants worked in small working-groups, prepared and attended workshops and of course exchanged with each other informally.

3.4. European Training Exchange

The European Training Exchange gathered together trainers involved in grassroots social and environmental justice campaigns with the aim of developing our practice and strengthening grassroots movements. The meeting provided an opportunity to network, skill-share and critically evaluate the methods and tools we use, with a focus on strategy and movement-building.

While some grassroots groups sometimes show reluctance to explore strategy; it is strategic planning and action can make groups and our movements more effective, sustainable and healthy. This Exchange thereby explored what we understand strategy to mean and the role that training can play in helping groups to take more strategic action. This meeting was a helpful step to enable us to begin working on developing training tools around strategy which resonate with the groups we work with.

3.5. Combating Hate Speech online

Young People Combating Hate Speech On-line is a project of the Council of Europe's youth sector to be run between 2012 and 2014. The project aims to combat racism and discrimination in their online expression of hate speech by equipping young people and youth organisations with the competences necessary to recognise and act against such human rights violations.

3.6. EYFA strategy meeting

In 2012 the annual network meeting took place in July in Poland, during the Anti-Nuclear Camp. Main points of discussion for network members was continuing and strengthening strategic partnerships throughout the network, and supporting local projects across the network. Also, the meeting reaffirmed strategic considerations for EYFA as well as build foundations for projects of the next year.

In 2012 the EYFA office hosted our first board meeting in Berlin. The meetings took place in October and focused on the role EYFA plays in the European youth work landscape. Also, the meeting addressed issues that came up because the current financial situation of EYFA.

3.7. Council of Europe Advisory Council

Since March 2012 EYFA has been a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

The Advisory Council is made up of 30 representatives from youth NGOs and networks who work together with government representatives to co-manage the youth sector of the Council of Europe. This involves setting priorities for the youth sector and making recommendations for future budgets and programmes. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

EYFA's Shannon Stephens is mandated to a two-year term and focuses particularly on the European Youth Foundation's Programming Committee on Youth, the project Combating Hate Speech Online, and the implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan.

4.NetworkActions **&**Initiatives

4.1. Sustaining Resistance, Empowering Renewal workshop, UK

EYFA network members hosted this workshop in the Catalan Pyrenees in November, which attempted to offer personal and collective tools to make our activism more effective and applied ecological/systems thinking, radical analysis and holistic-participatory learning to the practice of activism and the building of social movements. It offered practical methods for engaging in the inner work that underpins effective social engagement. It will also brought together activists from across Europe to share practice and strengthen networks.

4.2. Red Dawn Festival, Slovenia

Marking its 13th year, the international feminist and queer festival Red Dawns took place at various venues in Ljubljana in March. Artists, theorists and activists of all genders explored issues around body politics, gender identity and sexuality in relation to a wider social context.

4.3. Blockupy demonstration, Germany

In May, office staff and network members joined the callout to protest the austerity policies of European governments.

4.4. Ecotopia Biketour 2012

Also this year, Ecotopia Biketour cycled through Europe to visit and engage



various social and environmental struggles; this year through southern Europe. This year's theme was "towards degrowth" which attempted to challenge the growth damaging mentality capitalism which currently dominates and overlooks real social and environmental values. The biketour thereby aroup visited projects, collectives and people are who experimenting with

alternatives to growth.

4.5. Space Camp, Moldova

Space Camp 2012 was organised by network members for its second year this July and August. The camp aimed to discover, protect and enjoy nature, network between people and live together as exchange in free space, without hierarchy and on a consensus decision basis.

4.6. Fear Me No More: Performance, Activism and Permaculture, Germany

In August, network members organised a workshop merging performance, activism and the design science of permaculture which aimed at making productive connections between artists and activists within the framework of permaculture.

The workshop provided a set of tools for building a postcapitalist society to mimic the efficiency, diversity and resilience of natural ecosystems. This workshop worked as introduction for those wishing to explore new forms of creative resistance and horizontal politics.

4.7. Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Brazil

Members of the EYFA network took part in the Rio process to press for the need to include environmental justice issues within current political frameworks.

4.8. New Yorck im Bethanien, Germany

The new EYFA office is based in the house project New Yorck im Bethanien, which organises affordable meals in people's kitchens, benefits in solidarity with diverse social and ecological struggle and provides space for alternative initiatives.

4.9. KlimaKamp, Germany

In August, EYFA office staff and network members took part in the climate camp in the coal mining area near Cologne. The climate camp brought together activists and concerned people from different countries and political contexts in order to learn from each other and build up a movement to stop climate change as a part of the European climate camp movement. The camp included workshops and seminars about topics like soft coal mining, climate change, global justice, nuclear power, energy transition and democratization, actions, as well as an opportunity to practice forms of alternative living and movement networking.

4.10. Music and Resistance meeting, Ukraine

In the last week of April 20 young members of the EYFA network moved to a beautiful summer camp resort in the outskirts of Kiev in Ukraine, for the annual gathering of the network Music and Resistance. This network aims to mobilize young people to get active by playing music together. After 7 days of workshops and youth exchange a street parade took place in Kiev where more than 100 young people from all over Europe performed.

4.11. Running Great Workshops course, UK

EYFA network member organised a workshop in September that brought together participants to develop the skills and confidence to design and facilitate engaging, participatory and fun workshops. Whether engaged in guerilla gardening, writing press release, mass catering or working in affinity groups; this workshop helped to develop skills and confidence to facilitate good learning, to understand how people learn and design a workshop plan; as well as to prepare and facilitate a short workshop session and receive constructive feedback from other participants & the workshop facilitators.

4.12. Training course on Roma rights

In October, an EYFA volunteer attended the Council of Europe's "Training Roma youth leaders and activists for promoting human rights and taking action against discrimination" in Budapest, Hungary. This training was important as part of preparatory work for a new EYFA project, "Toolkit on Exclusion". The course gave participants the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the concepts, mechanisms and practices of human rights, anti-discrimination (particularly, in relation to multiple discrimination) and anti-Gypsyism, as a consequence increasing their competence to implement these understandings in their own youth work through further trainings on communication, intercultural dialogue.

s. EYFAMedia **&**Publications

5.1. EYFA Newsletter

In 2012 the spring EYFA newsletter was sent out containing information on campaigns, actions, meetings and convergence happening around Europe and beyond.

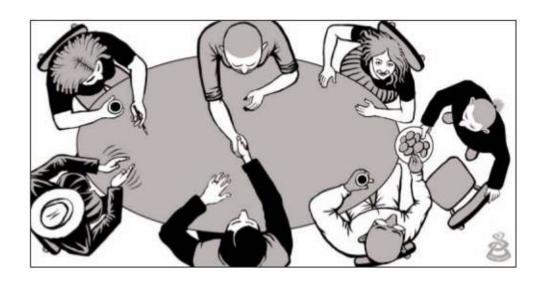
5.2. Website

2012 continued with the renewed energy to regularly update the EYFA website on actions and events, including articles and call-outs. We hope to redesign the website in 2013 to develop proper space for increased online traffic.

5.3. Further Publications

5.3.1. Guide for Conflict Resolution in Non-hierarchical Groups

This publication written by Seeds for change and produced by EYFA aims to develop an understanding of conflict and how to deal with it for people and groups working for social change. There are sections on what conflict is, the benefits of addressing it, and tools to work though conflict and maintain healthy and effective social change groups. There are immense benefits to understanding and working through our conflicts. Groups with a healthy approach to conflict will be better prepared to go the long haul together, and are better able to effectively bring about social change.



6. Financial Overview

EYFA 2012 Financial Overview – Expenses

1. Personnel Costs Employees (full & part-time) EVS Volunteers Consultants and Freelancers Volunteer Reimbursements	20,553.19 665.00 453.80 300.00	
2. Overheads	1 200 00	21,971.99
Rental and Associated Costs Communication Costs (telephone, internet, mail)	1,200.00 409.11	
Copy and Print Costs Office Materials	39.41 83.60	
Equipment and Maintenance	81.13	
Website and Mail Hosting	568.00	
3. Staff Training and Travel Costs		2,381.25
Local Travel	146.75	
International Travel	102.75	
5. Meetings (organisation)		249.50
Board Meeting	216.62	
Network Meeting		
6. Projects		216.62
Youth Voices on Energy and Climate Justice, Poland	22,488.14	
Building Strong and Sustainable Collective Working Practices. Germany	11,659.47	
7. Other Costs		34,147.61
Financial Costs (bank costs, chamber of commerce, interest)	348.92	
Salary Administration Financial Audit (2012)	127.87 -53.00	
Cash and Pay Differences	-16.54	
		407.25

59,374.22

Total costs EYFA 2012

EYFA 2012 Financial Overview – Income

EACEA Grants

EVS: bilateral 665.00

TOTAL 665.00

European Youth Foundation Grants

European Youth Foundation Admin Grant 10,047.00
Youth Voices on Energy and Climate Justice, Poland 16,883.00
Building Strong and Sustainable Collective Working Practices. Germany 7,925.87

TOTAL 34,855.8

Other Grants

Partner money: Aseed summer camp 842.40
Partner money: Coaching Duren project 1,000.00

1,842.40

TOTAL

Other income	
Participation fees & fundraising: youth voices on energy and climate justice	5,464.65
Participation fees & fundraising: Building Strong and Sustainable Collectives	3,250.00
Donations & gifts	1,770.67
Credit Interest	538.69

TOTAL 11,024.01

Total Income EYFA 2012 48,387.28

Balance EYFA 2012

Balance EYFA 2012 -10,986.94

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Supported by









