



ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN EUROPE



Brussels, 13.07.2009

Call for an International Planning Committee



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Dear National Correspondents of EYCE,
Dear partners and friends from other faith-based organisations,

Greetings from Brussels!

After the first step of the EYCE Campaign to Overcome Fundamentalism was made through the Inter-Religious training course in Pogradec, Albania, we are now in the second year of the Campaign and EYCE is heading towards the next event.

This time we would like to focus on Fundamentalism becoming a real threat to Human Rights (HR). Religious communities are not sheltered from this threat: while they are engaged in building a fruitful dialogue with the European civil society, yet they face inner schools of thought which promote refusal of dialogue, isolation from society, neglect of the other's identity, and rule of the strongest against the respect for universal human rights.

"Fundamentalism vs. Human Rights"

-Inter-religious training course to overcome discrimination and prejudice in Europe-

Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia



We hereby invite you to nominate a possible candidate for the **International Planning Committee (IPC)** for this training course. To submit your candidate, please use the application form at the end of this document.

Members of the International Planning Committee should have experience in Inter-religious work, but also Human Rights education and, of course, if possible some experience in organizing, planning and facilitation of seminars.

The fixed dates for the planning of the training course are:

THE FIRST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED:

25th - 27th of September, Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia

THE SECOND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED:

just prior to the training course, 13th - 15th of November, Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia

THE TRAINING COURSE IS SCHEDULED:

15th - 22nd of November, Skopje, F.Y.R.O. Macedonia

It is essential that the members of the International Planning Committee are **fully available for all these dates** and committed to work between meetings via email with other team members.

EYCE aims to equip religious youth leaders participating in the training course with concrete tools on HR education.

The overall aim of the training course is to explore the role and potential of different religious communities in overcoming prejudices and destructive/ discriminating dynamics of fundamentalist thinking and practices. Furthermore EYCE seeks to equip young people with the idea that one can enter into a discussion about own values and thus rather support one's own identity than losing it. Participants of this training course should leave with the notion that Human Rights are protecting their different values, provided that they respect the rights of the other, and are ready to enter into discussions about values with different minded people.

This training course will be multi-religious, bringing together young people from various religious traditions, such as Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Druid, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities.

The objectives of the training course are to:

- analyse the concepts of HR throughout Europe and promote human rights education;
- elaborate on the definition of fundamentalism given by the different religious communities, which has already been analysed on previous EYCE seminars in Volos, Greece 2007 and Pogradec, Albania 2008, in order to use a common definition in the inter-religious work;
- explore the role of religious communities promoting or opposing universal HR;
- get an overview of the different situations within religious communities in Europe when facing fundamentalist attitudes, and the different problems and challenges encountered;
- support the networking and sharing of insights and best practices among faith- based youth leaders and their organizations;

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- provide concrete tools to empower young people to be key actors within their religious and social communities in promoting HR education and reflection;
- develop concrete projects on dialogue between religious communities to be implemented locally, to train local trainers and disseminate good practices.

EYCE is looking forward to working with a strong team in order to meet these goals. Please help us building a good, balanced team by suggesting a candidate for the IPC.

On behalf of EYCE's Executive Committee,

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Jansone', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kristine Jansone
EYCE Acting General Secretary