



FINAL REPORT 2008
European Youth Forum

Operating Grant
2008-0727/001-001

Youth in Action - Action 4.2

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I. INTRODUCTORY NOTES

This report refers to activities carried out by the European Youth Forum (hereafter Youth Forum or YFJ) during 2008, in accordance with its objectives and Work Plan, as well as to the financial details of the operation for the reporting year.

The information provided here refers mainly to the work carried out under the Operating Grant Agreement with DG EAC (2008-0727/001-001), which covers most of the work carried out by the Youth Forum. The description of the activities and actions carried out under the framework of the contract are explained with some detail in chapter B. ACTIVITIES REPORT.

The information concerning the Youth Forum's financial operation for 2008, the final results, the profit & loss accounts and budget execution, and the overall and per Budget Headings, are presented in chapter C. FINANCIAL REPORT.

Nevertheless, there are activities and costs that were not included under the aforementioned agreement which, for matters of clarity and transparency, are also referred to in the Financial Report.

II. ACTIVITIES REPORT

A. Introduction

At the General Assembly in Vilnius (9-11 November 2006), Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) developed and agreed on a vision for their platform; this vision was one of an influential platform, one that is able to legitimately represent young people's interests, effectively support its members and progressively shape the world in which we live. Over these last two years, the Bureau and the Secretariat took important steps in this direction.

Acknowledging the fact that the YFJ can and must constantly improve, the Strategic Priorities allowed the Bureau to adopt a longer-term view on its work. The YFJ also grew in the previous two years, due both to organisations upgrading their status of membership and to new organisations joining the movement: this is indicative of the YFJ dynamism.

In 2008 the youth forum held 45 activities plus 11 statutory meetings. Numerous publications and reports were also produced and distributed. This allowed for a much closer contact between Members themselves. The overarching aim of the YFJ is to grant equal opportunities for all Member Organisations to take active part in the life of the YFJ, which includes providing access to information and means of participation in consultations, events and working structures. Assessing the shortcomings and monitoring the successes at all working levels is an important exercise that will help the YFJ to actively fight against any risk of discrimination. The YFJ, as a platform, is more than the simple addition of its members; but it needs to remain able to involve and truly represent them all.

Being a platform which enables interesting discussions and exchanges of information and experiences among its Members is an important part of the YFJ *raison d'être*; but we all know that it would not be enough to limit the YFJ to this. The true added-value of the European Youth Forum is only visible when its enormous potential is materialised into strong, serious and reliable youth representation towards its institutional partners.

By presenting the European Youth Forum's demands, ideas, policies and visions in a wide range of fields and to a wide range of interlocutors, the Bureau and the Secretariat contributed in the last years to raise the YFJ profile within the institutions, civil society and the media. We experienced unique moments of youth participation and visibility over the last two years: the "All Different - All Equal" Campaign, the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth and, in all of them, the European Youth Forum was recognised as the central player in the Youth field in Europe.

With less visibility, but no less importance, we developed new strategies for the better recognition of non-formal education; established ourselves as key actors for inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue amongst others through the Alliance of Civilisations' process; we made every effort possible to raise awareness of unfair visa procedures which also translated into specific lobby efforts towards the European Parliament; we strengthened our United Nations advocacy work, we established clear methods for international cooperation and provided targeted input to institutional processes; we have the biggest recognition of our Pool of Trainers ever, with close to 100 requests in a couple of months only; we started a very powerful discussion on a rights-based approach to youth policy; we succeeded in getting multi-annual administrative funding support for INGYOs through the Youth in Action Programme and in raising the ceiling for the annual grants; we further enhanced the informal fora during the meetings of the European Council on Youth; we started a structured dialogue with the EU institutions; we are now observers not only in the Advisory Council on Youth, but also in the Steering Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe; we reshaped our work in terms of the Euro-Arab co-operation; we established ourselves as a credible partner for social partners and the European Union in the field of youth employment; we are the Commission's main NGO partner in health matters that concern young people; we further sculptured our profile in the area of Sustainable Development; and we contributed successfully to the extension of the EU's non-discrimination legislation.

There is, obviously, still a long way to go and if we really want true youth-mainstreaming to prevail, the recognition of the YFJ as a valid interlocutor in a number of areas is yet to be achieved; but it is also important to acknowledge that the last year represents a big leap forward towards this goal: the Communication of the European Commission on the Participation of Young People in Education, Employment and Society, the huge success of the Written Declaration 33/2008 supported by the YFJ "Make it Youthful" Campaign in the European Parliament, and the adoption of the Resolution "Refreshing the Council of Europe's Youth Agenda" by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, are just a few, but significant examples of this.

Asking the right questions and scrutinising the systems and procedures to ensure accurate and efficient results in implementing our aims is indispensable though it was not always easy. Having worked our way through the first two years of the 6-year strategic priorities for the YFJ was an engaging endeavour; it is now crucial to remain conscious that this is just one step to realising the vision and ambitions at the centre of the strategic development of the YFJ. It is essential that the drive to implement a practical and workable change continues and, if necessary, to further adapt structures to do so.

B. Education

Policy development - major steps forward

Within the field of education the YFJ in 2008 capitalised on its experience and the vast array of activities in the past years to further solidify its policy base. Next to the continuous advocacy work on YFJ core issues in education, the YFJ in 2008 concluded policy development processes on Quality Assurance of Non-Formal Education (NFE), Global Education and Early Education Leaving.

Non-Formal Education and the increase in its recognition, have been top priorities for the YFJ for the last decade. That the recognition has not been sufficiently achieved is in part due to a lack of confidence within society and within youth organisations themselves in the quality of NFE. The YFJ believes that youth organisations can further the recognition of NFE by clearly ensuring the quality of NFE through the setting up of a framework to assure and communicate this quality. With the Policy Paper adopted in 2008, the YFJ proposed a Quality Assurance Framework based on a solid understanding of quality and coming from the specific reality of NFE as provided by youth organisations.

The second big area in which the YFJ took a big step forward is Global Education. With the Policy Paper the YFJ answered the question of what education should be like for young people to be able to be full citizens in a globalised world with all its challenges and opportunities. The Policy Paper was developed following the outcomes of a Global Education and Youth Seminar which was organised in close partnership with the North South Centre of the Council of Europe. It is the very first policy document from a major international NGO on Global Education, thus recognising the YFJ as a forerunner in this area.

The last important policy development process focused on one of the biggest problems of the formal education system, Early Education Leaving. It affects both the young people who exit their education prematurely and the society, and consequently, cooperation is needed to tackle it. The Policy Paper is innovative as it focuses on an actor that is almost always overlooked: youth organisations and non-formal education. Youth organisations are assuming their share of the responsibility from preventing early education leaving and of reintegrating early education leavers into educational paths. At the same time, youth organisations are aware of and call for combined efforts in overcoming this challenge.

Continued advocacy processes

Next to the above-mentioned main policy developments, the YFJ in 2008 continued working on a holistic approach to education. The main focus was on the recognition of Non-Formal Education and bringing youth organisations, policy makers and other educational providers together. This was done through the third Dialogue on Non-Formal Education which focused on quality assurance and for the first time brought teacher training institutions and youth organisations together.

As the most visible result of the work on recognition of NFE, the YFJ published the Sunshine report on Non-Formal Education. In this report various Member Organisations presented their good examples of NFE. It highlights the contribution of NFE for personal development but also for other areas: health, social inclusion, citizenship etc.

The YFJ, moreover, continued its advocacy process towards various institutions working on education. One process in particular received a stronger commitment due to its special importance - most policy developments in the last years in Europe were driven by the European Union work programme on education, the Education and Training 2010 programme. The YFJ has been active in

advocating the European Union complementing the involvement of OBESSU (Organising Bureau of European School Students Unions) and ESIB (National Unions of Students in Europe). Several consultations were held to develop a YFJ position on the proposal by the European Commission and to be ready in 2009 to advocate for an education that puts young people's interest at the heart of policy making by actively involving them in it.

C. Youth Work Development

Youth Work Development in Europe

The development and sustainability of youth work and youth NGOs is of the utmost importance to the YFJ. Constant monitoring and assistance provided to youth organisations in Europe, combined with the provision of a space for exchange, cooperation and the continued promotion of youth representation, has remained at the core of YFJ youth work development in 2008.

In early 2008 the YFJ elaborated a Youth Work Development Strategy that strengthens its approach to countries and sectors where the YFJ itself is not present or represented. The strategy foresees better interconnectedness between different elements and actors of the YFJ work and mainstreaming of the YFJ work in this area towards concrete results and successful follow-up. It provides a coherent and coordinated approach that will enable the YFJ to represent young people in Europe even better and motivate them to participate in all levels of the society.

Youth Work Development Working Group (YWDWG)

In 2008, YWDWG focused on mobility, cross pillar cooperation between the pillars of YFJ work; membership - National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations; tailored organisational support to youth organisations; funding and sustainability of youth organisations; independence of youth NGOs; information flow; and exchange of good practice.

YWDWG met three times during 2008 in Brussels, Varna (Bulgaria) co-organised and co-funded by the Youth Society for Peace, Stability and Development in the Balkans - Bulgarian branch of EBCO/BEOC and in Larnaca (Cyprus), by NEDISY, the Cypriot branch of DEMYC.

Support and capacity building work for youth organisations

The pooling of expertise, availability and exchange of information, availability of resources for youth work are of constant concern for Member Organisations to ensure their effective work. Many of these issues were addressed at the thematic activity focused on cross-pillar cooperation (CPC) in Würzburg, Germany, in October, co-funded and co-organised with the Bavarian Youth Council. The event brought together practitioners and decision-makers willing to share and learn good practices of cooperation and work out specific ways of increasing and enhancing it, using mutual support tools that will contribute to the overall sustainability of youth organisations and youth work in general. Moreover, the event aimed at building bilateral and multilateral partnerships and effective networking of Member Organisations in order to increase the information exchange, efficiency and solidarity.

Priority regions

Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EEC)

Promotion of development and recognition of youth work in the EEC region remains one of the biggest concerns rooted both in history of the countries in the area as well as in the rapid developments observed currently.

In 2008 the YFJ has welcomed a new Member Organisation from the region - the Ukrainian Youth Forum, completing the family of the National Youth Councils from EEC.

The YFJ has continued working on supporting the youth NGOs in Belarus, by implementing the designed Proposed Actions for Belarus, and closely monitoring the external relations of EU towards this neighbour; moreover, it has followed and coordinated Member Organisations' initiatives on strengthening youth work in Belarus.

Georgia remains in the focus of YFJ work due to the conflict escalation in August 2008. The YFJ promptly reacted to outbreak of violence: a support visit to Georgia was conducted; the meetings with the EU institutions were held, and the YFJ facilitated the efforts of its Member Organisations in developing further support actions to be implemented.

Cooperation with institutions active in the region is part and parcel of the YFJ's youth work development efforts. One of the opportunities to raise concerns and lobbying for the youth interests in Eastern Europe was used by YFJ at the Youth Partnership "Youth Policy Development in EEC" workshop, which gathered NGOs, governmental representatives and researchers of most of the region's countries.

The YFJ continues to closely monitor the developments within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Besides attending several events and meetings, the YFJ has liaised with the European Commission in exploring possibilities of providing direct contributions and feedback on the ENP Action Plans

Central Europe

In May a study visit to the Czech Republic was organised to explore the youth work and the youth policy in the country. It showed that the NGO sector and youth work in the Czech Republic are quite developed but with room for further improvement. In order to facilitate further networking, the YFJ also took part in the Social Platform Study Visit to the Czech Republic, which included a series of workshops focusing on social dialogue and the quality of social services.

The YFJ has continued monitoring the developments in other countries of the Central European region, where strong support in strengthening the capacity of existing NGOs is needed.

South East Europe

The countries in South East Europe (SEE) still lack coordination on the national level on the youth NGO scene. To assess the situation and propose further steps towards possible national NGO platforms or future NYCs, the YFJ conducted a threefold study visit to Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. This visit was undertaken in order to finalise the country-by-country mapping of SEE and to close the circle and the quantum of information accumulated over the last three years.

The visits concentrated on meetings with youth NGOs in the different countries, as well as with the authorities in charge of youth. These study visits proved to be both a valuable source of information on youth work and youth policy, and an opportunity for capacity building and information exchange between the local youth NGOs, the authorities in charge of youth, and the YFJ. Many different initiatives, very vibrant and active youth NGOs, and a complex political situation marked this study visit and resulted in proposals for next steps of work with the SEE region.

Throughout the year, the YFJ actively followed the developments connected to the SEE region in its partner institutions relevant to youth work and civil society development in the region: these included the Slovenian EU Presidency civil society conference, the tripartite summit of DG Enlargement and the SEE civil society actors and governments, the work with the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the YouthNet network and the national governments and NGOs in the countries of the region. YFJ has lobbied and advocated for the strengthening of the civil society sector in the region, the increase of funding for all activities and projects concerning youth and the establishment of inclusive and sustainable youth policies and youth NGO platforms on the national level.

In October 2008, the YFJ Info and Networking days in SEE, co-organised and co-funded together with NYCR were held in Budva, Montenegro. The event concentrated on youth work and youth policy developments in the SEE as well as on comparing the experiences in work with the EEC and Russian participants. It built on the lessons learnt from the past and present developments in the region and reflected on the values expressed in the All Different - All Equal campaign. It was the first event that explicitly brought together the two seemingly very different regions and allowed them to exchange their experiences, practices and problems, as well as to exchange advice on how to overcome the specific issues hindering their work.

Training

The YFJ has continued its work on building the capacity of its member organisations, ensuring their sustainability and further growth and development, by providing a quality training and support to its member organisations. Moreover, the YFJ worked closely with institutions active in the training area.

The importance of training has been clearly articulated in the policy paper on training adopted at the Council of Members in May 2008. The paper provides the consolidated vision of the member organisations on the training policy and serves as a solid ground for the further YFJ work in this field.

Pool of Trainers

The Pool of Trainers, being at the disposal of the Member Organisations and their branches, as well as YFJ institutional partners, has been partially replenished at the end of 2007 and continued its active work throughout 2008.

The number of calls for different events has increased significantly throughout the mandate of the POT, totalling to more than 40 calls for about 115 positions each year, which clearly shows the role training and non-formal education are playing within organisations as well as the need for provision of quality training. However, it also shows a growing demand for quality training.

During the third meeting of the POT conveyed in Croatia, trainers have developed suggestions for the implementation of the adopted Policy Paper on Training as well as continued work on completion of its own Action Plan for the mandate, and used the opportunity for exchange of experience and good practices and building networks.

Support to member organisations in developing training policies

As a follow-up of one of the POT members initiatives on strengthening the capacity of Member Organisations, the survey was conveyed on mapping the realities of organisations in regards training and pool of trainers and the what kind of needs do youth organisations have and how YFJ can address those. A number of Member Organisations have been provided with information and necessary support in setting up and developing pools of trainers.

Subgroup meeting on Global Education

As a follow-up of the previous subgroup meetings on different topics throughout the last two years, the Global Education subgroup took place in Mollina, Spain within the frame of University on Youth and Development. The subgroup has been working on developing the Global Education Pack for Member Organisations with the objective of making the concept of Global Education more 'familiar' to Member Organisations and easy to be integrated in their activities and work. The subgroup also contributed to the development of the implementation of the adopted policy paper on Global Education.

Cooperation with different actors in the training field

The YFJ has continued the cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Union institutions, the Youth-Partnership, SALTO Resource centres and National Agencies for Youth in Action Programme and other partners in regards training. Moreover, the YFJ has been actively involved in the development, conceptualisation and preparation of the Youth-Partnership Training for Trainers (TALE) that will serve as a generic Training Course for Trainers.

Mobility

In 2008, mobility of young people continued to be an important part of the work of the YFJ. Building on the successes from 2007, YFJ kept following the legislative developments such as the readmission agreements. The YFJ adopted and implemented an Action Plan on Mobility that delineated the different elements and the main actions in implementing the Work Plan. This was done by increasing public relations and lobby activities throughout Europe, and through content development in terms of visa legislation.

The Community Code on Visa (CCV) process in the EU decision-making bodies was followed very closely. The French EU Presidency aimed (unsuccessfully) to conclude the process during its term and therefore moved the estimated time of conclusion to an earlier date. The YFJ adapted its lobby strategy and prepared a strengthened advocacy approach, involving its Member Organisations, in order to influence the decision of the EU Council on the matter.

The amended report on the CCV process, produced by the MEP Henrik Lax, brought some reductions in the recommendations for the benefits of young people when travelling around Europe. Still it kept the main principles of benefiting the people-to-people contacts, democratic initiatives, civil society activities and matters concerning education (formal and non-formal) as well as training and capacity building.

Building on these developments, YFJ kept advocating for the inclusion of young people and civil society in all visa legislation around Europe and on the EU level. This was done through the CCV lobby process and also in all the fora where YFJ is present on European, regional or national levels.

During 2008, the YFJ work on mobility developed in two perspectives: first of all, working and lobbying institutional partners in favour of more facility for youth mobility in Europe, and secondly, developing the work regarding mobility, following the demands made by Member Organisations; a successful event took place in Brussels together with the initiation of the process of appointing national youth mobility coordinators in National Youth Councils, in order to improve relevant work between the YFJ and MOs especially on the national level in the Member States of the EU..

In relation to institutional dialogue, the current work with institutional partners is probably the greatest success regarding mobility YFJ ever achieved. That was clear since the Information and Networking days 2007, where the YFJ was able not only to discuss the issue with the MEP Henrik Lax, member of the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament, but also managed to bring EC officials and those of other political families of the EP to the event, to engage with participants. The high level of attendance from the side of the EU institutions showed how far the YFJ is currently involved in the institutional processes regarding mobility.

As a logical sequel to the already successful lobby process in the field of mobility, which gained momentum particularly at the 2007 Information and Networking Days with significant institutional presence, the YFJ in 2008 cooperated with the Socialist Group in the EP and its vice-chair, Kristian Vigenin, MEP (Bulgaria) on the organisation of a December seminar in the premises of the EP, tackling "The EU Visa Policy: A Perspective from the Western Balkans and ENP Countries".

The seminar hosted speakers from different political groups in the EP, the European Commission, different NGOs and the YFJ, and through plenary and interactive sessions tackled the issues concerning the Southeast Europe countries and the Eastern European countries within the European Neighbourhood Policy. The discussion focussed extensively on the problems young people in Europe are facing in their mobility regarding education, training, democratic initiatives and civil society activities and how much will the forthcoming legislative changes further or hinder the mobility of young people in Europe.

Global Youth Work Development

In the global arena, the YFJ concentrated its efforts towards regional and global partnerships aimed at promoting greater democracy, human rights and cooperation.

The year 2008 consolidated the YFJ as a reference point for youth and development issues, for its capacity in catalysing partnerships, making policies and for facilitating youth-led development initiatives. In this frame, co-organisation of the 9th University on Youth and Development, in Mollina, Spain, in October and the follow-up of the EU-Africa Partnership showed, in addition, continuity and consistency with the YFJ's past and ongoing commitments.

Catalysing Partnerships

The YFJ continued to participate in and support the initiatives of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO), which brings together International Youth NGOs with a global outreach and Regional Youth Platforms that are agreed on a set of principles for global youth cooperation (membership-based, democratic, accountable and representative organisations).

Cooperation with other Regional Youth Platforms continued in the framework of the Global Cooperation Coordination Committee (GCCC) - the network of regional non-governmental youth platforms from around the world.

This cooperation was specifically developed through various bi-regional processes:

Priority was given to the follow-up of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Process, and strengthened the relations with the Arab Region by organising the 1st Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO), in Amman, Jordan, in November, in cooperation with the League of the Arab States and the Council of Europe;

Relations with the Pan-African Youth Union: follow-up of the implementation of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy led to co-organising with the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, the 6th Euro-Africa Cooperation Training Course for Youth Organisations;

The YFJ confirmed its commitment to cooperation with the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) along specific training and political paths, through its role in the organisation of the 11th Euro-Latin-American Youth Forum;

The commitment to partnerships in Asia continued with YFJ participation in 19th International Youth Forum which took place in July in Seoul, Korea. Bilateral relations with the All China Youth Federation were strengthened through a bilateral visit in Lyon, France, in December; while contacts with the other regions, such as the Pacific and the Caribbean, continued.

Making Policies

The YFJ continued to concentrate its attention on partnerships with specific aims and objectives and developing strategic visions to guide the cooperation through joint policies with its partners.

As part of the implementation of the Strategy on the Mediterranean and the Arab Regions and following the EACMYO a Framework for Euro-Arab Cooperation amongst Youth Organisations was established and included in the outcomes of the 2nd Arab Youth Forum.

Moreover, the Conclusions of the Euro-Latin America Youth Forum established a roadmap for a strategic partnership towards a Euro-Latin America Youth Summit in parallel to the EU-LAC Summit in 2010.

Facilitating youth-led development initiatives

The YFJ continued its commitment to devoting part of its annual budget to youth-led development projects, through its 1% Solidarity Fund. The Fund supported a project from the Asian Student Association aimed at building the capacity of its members and supported the participation of Arab participants to the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations.

D. Participation and Youth Policy Mainstreaming

Youth Policy in Europe

Main concerns: youth empowerment and the future of youth policy

One of the major progresses that the YFJ has succeeded to achieve in its work towards a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy is the adoption by the European Parliament of the written declaration 33/2008 on devoting more attention to youth empowerment in EU policies. Submitted by five Members of the European Parliament, and following months of dedicated lobbying, it obtained sufficient support to become an official position of the European Parliament.

This success, which would not have been possible without strong involvement of the YFJ, its Member Organisations and the submitting MEPs, represents a landmark and a basis for further engagement of the YFJ in ensuring that both the European institutions and the Member States recognise the importance of youth empowerment, and begin implementing the processes that will lead to it. Moreover, the action put an emphasis on youth issues and ensured better visibility and credibility for the YFJ and youth organisations within the European Parliament. Follow-up actions are now taken by MEPs, political groups and the YFJ in order to build up on the success and prepare the next legislative period (2009-2014).

In view of the 2009 revision of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of youth policy at the EU level, the YFJ has formulated its vision and its concrete proposals for the future steps, enshrined in the Key principles for the new framework for cooperation in the European youth field, adopted at the November 2008 General Assembly. The YFJ has been meeting with the European Commission regularly, to exchange views on the revision, and has worked with its Member Organisations to collect, analyse and present their views in a Shadow report, to be finalised in 2009. At the level of the Council of Europe, the YFJ remained a stakeholder in the process of formulating and adopting the Agenda 2020, which outlines the future of the CoE youth policy, and which was adopted at the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth in November 2008. In following and contributing to both institutional processes, the work of the EUACOM and COEACOM at the beginning of the year has been of great value.

Celebrating volunteering

After an YFJ expert group developed a framework defining the rights and responsibilities of volunteers and their organisations, the topic was further discussed and developed during the Symposium on Volunteering held at the beginning of April 2008. The YFJ followed up by advocating and lobbying for such a framework to be further developed in cooperation with the EU institutions, and also contributed to the recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union, adopted in November 2008 by the Council of the European Union.

Together with more than ten other European Platforms, the YFJ has launched lobby actions for a European Year of Volunteering in 2011, including support to the successfully passed written declaration calling upon the European Commission to designate such a year. The YFJ, together with its partners inside ICMYO, is also taking part in preliminary actions and activities to have the General Assembly of the United Nations agree on celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers in 2011.

Towards a culture of participation

Advocating for 'a culture of youth participation' in Europe has remained one of the YFJ priorities throughout 2008 as a key transversal issue in its work, which was oriented towards the promotion of inclusive and effective involvement of young people in the decision-making processes that have an impact on youth. In this regard, the YFJ has remained a proactive supporter of lowering the voting age to 16, which also constitutes one of the main elements of the lobby work ahead of the 2009 election to the European Parliament. As an additional step, the YFJ also developed its work on child participation, following the adoption of the YFJ approach to child policy in the April 2008 COMEM. Moreover, related to the participation of young people in formal decision-making structures, the YFJ engaged in exchanges with the EU institutions on the enhancement of genuine structured dialogue, it advocated for the introduction of co-management structures at all levels of governance, including within the decision-making body of the Partnership between the EU and the CoE.

Working on youth information

In the field of Youth Information, the YFJ furthered its cooperation with EYCA (European Youth Card Association), ERYICA (European Youth Information and Counselling Agency) and Eurodesk that led to a cooperation seminar at the end of November 2008 which tackled the questions of concrete cooperation between the networks, the common priorities and the possible benefits of such cooperation at the European level.

In 2008 the YFJ was the leading engine behind the process of the European Youth Capital. Following the self-proclamation of Rotterdam as the European Youth Capital of 2009, the YFJ developed clear criteria a town or city needs to fulfil to earn such a title, launched a call, and brought together a jury composed of representatives of interested European organisations, youth organisations, the media, and the YFJ. Torino (Italy) was thus selected to bear the title of the European Youth Capital 2010, while the YFJ continues following the process, ensuring its quality and advocating for its recognition among European Institutions.

E. Human Rights

The YFJ work on human rights in 2008 focused mainly on equality, racism, migration and intercultural dialogue by strengthening cooperation with its members as well as with other civil society organisations and institutional stakeholders.

Equality

In 2008 the YFJ engaged further in the policy process leading to the proposal of a new European Directive to fight against discrimination. It adopted a position on the public consultation launched by the European Commission on this initiative, lobbied with European Commissioners and succeeded together with other civil society organisations to get a comprehensive proposal put forward by the European Commission, covering discrimination on the ground of age in key fields such as education, access to good and services, education and social protection. Furthermore, specific amendments were successfully placed with relevant MEPs involved in the process.

The YFJ furthered its work on multiple discriminations by adopting the Opinion Paper "Multiple discrimination as it affects the lives of young people". Furthermore, the YFJ followed up on the policy paper "Achieving equality between women and men", focusing on measures ensuring the balance between professional and private life by developing concrete amendments to the European Directive on Parental Leave, which is currently under revision.

The need to fight against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the ground of age and intersection between age and other grounds, as well as the need to closely cooperate with civil society organisations representing other vulnerable groups to discrimination was also clearly embodied in the YFJ Action Plan on Equality adopted in 2008.

Racism

Following up on the campaign All different-All Equal and on the 2007-European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the YFJ published the report "Racism and its impact on young people"., with fruitful inputs from Member Organisations, and external institutions and stakeholders. This cooperation allowed the YFJ to shed light on specific forms of racism and discrimination such as Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and Romaphobia and on racism and discrimination taking place in key areas of life for young people such as education, employment and social protection and security.

Migration

In the field of migration, the YFJ marked a major step forward by adopting a Policy Paper on Youth and Migration. Through the paper, the YFJ proposes an approach to migration based on rights and the integration of migrants into European societies. It includes issues that pertain specially to young people, proposes actions for governments, and outlines the important role youth organisations play in the process of supporting integration.

In parallel, the YFJ developed contacts with institutions such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), whose Deputy Director General spoke during the plenary session of the May Council of Members, and was the only NGO invited to the ministerial conference on migration and development which took part in Paris in November. It also strengthened the dialogue with various key NGOs in the field and reacted to EU policies and activities related to migration, such as the Return Directive and the adoption of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue

The YFJ Faith-Based Expert Group (FBEG) was replenished in 2008 and pursued its work in order to promote inter-religious dialogue. In particular it provided the YFJ with policy support for the (co-)organisation of relevant events with other partners.

Furthermore, the FBEG finalised the tool-kit "Living faiths together", which was published in December 2008 and which constitutes a unique tool for youth organisations engaging themselves in inter-religious dialogue.

The YFJ took active part in the 2008-European Year of Intercultural Dialogue by highlighting the youth perspective within the Civil Contact Group established by the European Commission and by bringing inputs and contributions to activities planned at the European level. It also brought input to the University of Youth and Development (Mollina, Spain) by organising a seminar on the role of youth exchanges in promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.

F. Employment and Social Affairs

Employment

2008 was a very fruitful year for the YFJ in the area of Employment and Social Cohesion in terms of policy work, development of strategic partnerships and a substantial increase in its visibility as key contributor in this field at European level.

An increase in employment opportunities and decent working conditions for young people

The YFJ has moved a step forward in what concerns its advocacy at European level for decent working conditions for young people. Firstly, from a policy point of view, an extensive and comprehensive Policy Paper on Youth Employment has been adopted at the Council of Members in May. This Policy Paper has been the basis for active and structured lobbying activities towards the European institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The key ideas for YFJ advocacy work throughout 2008 have been fight against youth unemployment, fight for smooth transition between education and the labour market, advocacy for decent and stable job for young people, fight against internships that are too often seen as a replacement of work contracts associated with precarious working conditions, and advocacy for entrepreneurship as a way to foster youth employment.

The YFJ took part in several events organised by the EU Presidencies, in meetings with the Employment Committee of the European Commission, the Employment Week, and was also involved in the preparations of a Public Hearing on Youth Employment Policies in Europe which took place in the European Parliament in September.

Additionally, the YFJ together with CNAJEP, Committee for the National and International Relations of Youth and Community Education Associations, successfully co-organised a Symposium on Youth Employment in Paris, where youth organisations, policy makers and researchers gathered to discuss the topic of youth (un)employment and possible solutions to it.

Furthermore, the YFJ further increased the contacts and cooperation with the European Social Partners (European Trade Union Confederation and BusinessEurope). On the specific topics of internship, the YFJ also established cooperation with Generation P (European network gathered to fight against precarious working conditions faced by young people, especially through internships).

Moreover, the YFJ has adopted a resolution on the Working Time Directive at its General Assembly in November and has actively advocated for its position towards the European Parliament.

Towards more favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and self-employment: Fostering entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial mindsets has been one of the advocacy goals throughout this year.. In this sense, the YFJ has participated as speaker in high-level conferences on the topic of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education and has developed strategic partnerships with both JEUNE (Young Entrepreneurs of the European Union) and JADE (The European Confederation of Junior Enterprises).

The European Social Model: Youth Autonomy, Solidarity between Generations and Social Inclusion: The YFJ has adopted a Policy paper on Youth and the European Social Model in its Council of Members in May, youth autonomy, solidarity between generations and social inclusion constituting the main pillars of what a European Social Model should comprise.

In this sense, the YFJ has organised Information and Networking Days on Youth Autonomy which took place in Brussels in June, and has advocated for this concept throughout the year in several meetings and conferences.

On the topic of Solidarity between Generations, the YFJ has put great effort in the advocacy of solidarity as a condition for the sustainability of the European Social Model. The YFJ was part of the steering committee which co-organised the Conference on Intergenerational Solidarity with the Slovenian Presidency. Together with AGE (European Older People's Platform), and close to the European Commission, YFJ has been involved in advocacy work for the launch of 29th April as the EU Day for Solidarity between Generations and 2012 as the EU year for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations.

Additionally, the YFJ has followed and reacted towards the Renewed Social Agenda which was launched by the European Commission in July. The YFJ has also participated as high-level speaker in the Round Table against Poverty and has been involved, together with EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network), in the preparations of the 2010 EU Year against Poverty. Finally, the YFJ has continued its structured advocacy work within the Social Platform (The European Platform of European Social NGOs) especially in topics related to social inclusion, active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market and the design of the post-Lisbon framework.

Health

In 2008, the YFJ asserted its position as a key stakeholder in the field of health and a main partner for institutions and major non-governmental organisations. It was a major contributor to the youth initiative launched by the Health Commissioner Androula Vassiliou, as well as to the Resolution on Health and Well-Being of Young People in Europe adopted by the Council in November under the French Presidency. Building on the work done previously on alcohol and tobacco, and the expertise developed in the last couple of years, the YFJ adopted a Policy Paper on Health and Well-Being of Young People in November. The paper encompasses recommendations to policymakers and aims at putting forward a rights-based vision of health which takes into account different social, systemic and political factors, and which also considers the agency of young people.

Putting Youth at the Centre of the Health Debate: 2008 was an important year both for the health of young people and youth participation. It was a priority for the European Commission and the French Presidency which emphasised the need to involve young people in the processes. The YFJ closely cooperated with the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) to bring a young perspective and ensure adequate youth participation in various conferences. The YFJ was also one of the main members of the steering committee on health of young people set up by the French Ministry of Youth, Sport and Health to prepare the French EU Presidency work on health of young people. It was strongly involved in the drafting of the resolution adopted in November, as well as in the preparation of the experts' seminar which took place in December in Marly Le Roi and which was co-organised by the French EU Presidency and the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union. The YFJ also gained visibility and credibility as an expert in various high-level events related to health of young people.

Asserting Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: The YFJ strengthened its work on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by developing its cooperation with institutional partners such as the European Commission and the United Nations Population Fund, and with key NGOs such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The YFJ organised Information and Networking Days on the rights of young people to sexual and reproductive health jointly with the UNFPA Brussels office, and with high-level speakers. The follow up should greatly enhance the development of the area for the YFJ and lay the ground for fruitful cooperation with key actors in the field. Partnership agreements were also signed on several future projects.

Enhancing the Mental Health of Young People: The crucial issue of mental health was finally acknowledged at the European level with the organisation of a high-level conference on mental health by the European Commission, and the adoption of a European Mental Health Pact following the conference. The YFJ was involved in the preparations of the conference and the drafting of the consensus paper on Youth and Education, which served as one of the bases for the Pact. The YFJ President, *[Name]*, also presented the YFJ view during the event, along with Ministers and Commissioners.

Strengthening Youth Participation in all health fields: The YFJ continued its work on alcohol and tobacco mainly through the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) and the HELP campaign, respectively. On alcohol, the YFJ took active part in the EAHF and its two task forces on Marketing and Young People.

With regards to tobacco, the YFJ maintained its involvement in the HELP campaign through the project officer and the contact group. The YFJ coordinated 21 projects involving young people from 15 EU countries which had been awarded a European Commission grant, as well as the related online-contest. The YFJ and DG SANCO also held a joint workshop to discuss the tobacco project and how that model could be used on other areas.

The YFJ also brought a youth perspective into other fields, including healthy ageing, health and environment, and quality of social services.

Sustainable Development

The YFJ strengthened its profile in the field, and put specific emphasis on climate change in 2008 as one of the largest-ever threats human kind has had to face. Sustainable development continues to be mainstreamed into all YFJ policies, including Global Education, Youth Work Development and Health. The YFJ also continued to implement its internal environmental plan, part of its practical commitments in the area of sustainable development.

At the May 2008 Council of Members, the YFJ adopted a Resolution on European Youth Fighting Against Climate Change, which showed the commitment of the organisation. The YFJ also worked on increasing awareness among youth organisations and strengthened youth participation into political processes around climate change.

Increasing Youth Organisations' Visibility and Participation in the Fight against Climate Change

The YFJ was strongly involved in the Citizen's Agora organised by the European Parliament. Around 20 Member Organisations were present, which made the YFJ one of the most represented organisations attending the conference. The YFJ also co-chaired a workshop during the Agora and was thereby given full recognition as a key civil society partner of the European Parliament. The YFJ also took part in several other seminars and conferences on the topic, among which the Global Conference on Climate Change organised by the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (LSU), which brought together more than a hundred youth from all over the world.

A major step for the YFJ was the participation as an observer organisation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties which took place in Poznan, Poland, in December. The YFJ co-organised with the Council for International Youth Relations of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CRIJ), a preparatory meeting in Leuven in October which gathered delegates from Member Organisations as well as external European groups in order to have a coordinated representation in Poznan. Such a meeting certainly contributed to the strengthening of the European youth climate movement. The YFJ also nominated representatives of its Member Organisations to attend the Conference of the Parties as part of the YFJ delegation and attended the conference with more than a dozen delegates.

The YFJ also further developed its contacts with institutions and major environmental non-governmental organisations and asserted itself as a key partner.

Sustainable Development Needs Youth!

For the third year in a row, the YFJ attended the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York in May, which is a major arena to assert youth as a crucial stakeholder. This year the youth delegates were very well prepared thanks to the preparatory meeting co-organised by the YFJ and CRIJ and which took place in Brussels in March. The meeting was also the first of its kind and was paramount to ensuring the youth delegates' efficient participation to the CSD. They were able to meet each other, to learn about the processes and to prepare common positions on the different topics to be addressed at the CSD.

The YFJ updated the "Development Needs Youth" booklet by mainly adding examples of projects run by Member Organisations in the different fields such as health, environment or poverty reduction. The new edition starts with a foreword by EU Commissioner for Development Louis Michel. It also developed its contact and partnerships with platforms working on development issues. It joined the Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP), an important coalition of NGOs committed to fighting poverty, as well as their European Steering group as full member, and it also further cooperated with CONCORD, the umbrella organisation and development NGOs in Europe. It further raised its profile in the field of development strengthening its contact with the European Commission's Directorate General for Development, especially through the Euro-Africa cooperation and development education. The YFJ continues to be part of the Civil Society Forum, which aims at increasing the DG Development's cooperation with civil society.

G. Tools

1. Institutional Relations

European Union (EU)

The European Union is a key actor in many policy fields that concern young people. The policies, initiatives and programmes developed by the EU institutions are highly relevant for young people and youth organisations in Europe. In 2008 the European YFJ therefore underlined the need for the EU to develop a coherent, cross-sector approach to youth issues, involve youth in decision-making across the board and invest in youth in order to achieve the EU's objectives in many areas.

The YFJ worked to consolidate its position as the interlocutor for the EU on issues affecting youth. While it continued to closely follow-up the main EU processes in the core youth field, and gave special attention to such as the follow-up of the White Paper, the European Youth Pact and the preparation of a new framework for EU youth policy, in 2008 the YFJ – as it can be seen throughout this Annual Report – further elaborated its work with the EU in other relevant areas such as education, social inclusion, employment, anti-discrimination, mobility, health, sustainable development and international cooperation.

A structured dialogue with young people

In 2008, the YFJ and its Member Organisations worked with the EU institutions to further give shape to an effective "structured dialogue" between the EU and youth, which should become a tool for setting the youth agenda, contributing to the development of policies and enabling an effective monitoring of policies affecting youth. The YFJ and the EU National Youth Councils met twice with the European Commission to discuss the design of the dialogue.

In the framework of the Structured Dialogue, the YFJ participated in the Informal Forums with Youth Ministers, organised by the EU Presidencies in the fringes of the Education, Youth and Culture Council meetings in May and November, and contributed to the organisation of a Structured Dialogue Debate during the 4th European Youth Week in November, which focussed on the new framework for European cooperation in the youth field. In its contribution to the new framework, the YFJ also put a strong focus on the Structured Dialogue as a governing tool for the implementation for the new framework that will be adopted in 2009.

EU Presidencies

YFJ Team of EU Presidency NYCs

The YFJ Team of EU Presidency NYCs brings together the National Youth Councils and/or Presidency Project Officers (PPOs) from the previous, current and upcoming Presidency countries, to coordinate the work with the consecutive EU Presidencies. The Team of EU Presidency NYCs met in May and November, to evaluate the past Presidencies, coordinate the cooperation with the Presidencies in office and set priorities and plan the work with the upcoming EU Presidencies and the Council of the EU.

Slovenian Presidency

In the first half of 2008, the YFJ cooperated with the Slovenian Ministry for Education and Sport and its Office for Youth, which had as its priority for the Presidency the social and professional integration of young people. During the Slovenian EU Presidency, the YFJ contributed to the Council Resolution on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, which was adopted by the Youth Ministers in May. Upon invitation from the Slovenian Presidency, the YFJ presented its views on the Resolution to the Council's Youth Working Party in March.

As for all Presidencies, the YFJ could benefit from a good cooperation with the National Youth Council MSS and the joint Presidency Project Officer, who effectively liaised between the YFJ, MSS and the relevant officials in the Slovenian Presidency.

Slovenian Presidency Youth Event, 18–21 April, Brdo

The overall theme of the Slovenian Presidency Youth Event was the participation in public life of young people with fewer opportunities, in line with the main priority of the Presidency in the youth field and the Council resolution. In thematic working groups, youth representatives prepared their conclusions, which were subsequently presented to the Directors-General responsible for youth. The YFJ, in cooperation with the Slovenian Youth Council MSS contributed to the preparation process, and their respective Pools of Trainers facilitated the work of the youth representatives.

French Presidency

France took over the EU Presidency in July, putting a priority on intercultural dialogue, the health and well-being of young people and the European Youth Pact. The YFJ was able to work closely with the French Ministry for Health, Youth, Sport and the Voluntary Sector on the preparation of the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people, and a follow-up conference to the Resolutions.

In 2008 the members of the EU Affairs Commission were:

	Organisation	First name	Family name
	Chair		
1.	FNG		
2.	ALLIANSSI		
3.	BYC		
4.	EEE-YFU		
5.	LYMEC		
6.	JEF		
7.	WAGGGS		
8.	EFIL		
9.	OBESSU		
10.	ECOSY		
11.	CGJL		
12.	IFM-SEI		
13.	LSU		
14.	DUF		
15.	CNJ		
16.	CYC		
17.	KNZ-Malta		
18.	DNK		
19.	LIJOT		
20.	NYCI		
21.	MSS		
22.	DNYC		
23.	ACTIVE		
24.	ECYC		

EU programmes

YOUTH and Youth in Action programmes

2007 was the first year of the Youth in Action Programme (YiA) which was fully running by mid-2008. The YFJ and its Member Organisations therefore made a first analysis of problems and challenges, culminating in a list of needed changes. The YFJ has been in regular contact with both the Directorate General Education and Culture of the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency, cooperating on, among other issues, the drafting of application forms or calls for proposals for the YiA Programme.

An Information and Training day on Funding for INGYOs also offered the possibility to a great number of organisations (also non-members) to gather information about the Youth in Action programme and in particular about Action 4.1 "Support to bodies active at European level in the field of youth", as well as other funding mechanisms, including the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, the EU Development Cooperation Instrument and the work of the European Network of Political Foundations. The Action 4.1 now offers the possibility of lump sums, a key demand of the YFJ advocacy work.

As during the Slovenian Presidency, YFJ cooperated closely with the French Youth Council CNAJEP, with whom it jointly employed a Presidency Project Officer, who liaised between the different French ministries, the YFJ and the CNAJEP. In the framework of this cooperation, a joint symposium on employment was organised in October.

French Presidency Youth Event, Marseille, 5–9 July

The French Presidency Youth Event took place in Marseille at the very beginning of the French Presidency and focused on intercultural dialogue in the EuroMed area. Given the topic, youth representatives from North Africa and the Middle East were also invited, alongside youth representatives from the EU, EFTA and EU candidate countries. The 100 young participants in the event presented their conclusions, focusing on the role of education, employment, media, culture, participation and mobility in intercultural dialogue, to the French Secretary of State Bernard Laporte, EU Commissioner Jan Figel' and the Directors-General for youth. The YFJ contributed to the organisation of the Youth Event as part of the Steering Committee and played an active role in the event.

European Commission

In 2008, the YFJ continued its strong engagement with the European Commission. Regular meetings were organised between the Secretariat and the Director for Youth, Sport and Relations with the Citizen at the Directorate-General Education and Culture. At the same time, the YFJ continued its work with several other Directorates-General of importance to youth, most notably the Directorates-General Employment and Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Affairs, Communication, and Development.

European Parliament

Institutionally, the main aim in 2008 was to strengthen the relationship with the European Parliament. The YFJ was a leading force in launching two Written Declarations in the Parliament that were both adopted with a clear majority of MEPs: a Written Declaration on the empowerment of young people in EU policies and a Written Declaration on designating 2011 the European year of volunteering. As a follow-up to the adoption of the former, the YFJ worked closely with the EP to discuss practical measures to ensure mainstreaming of youth issues in the relevant Parliamentary Committees. The political support for youth issues through these two documents has increased the importance of youth issues in the institutions and strengthened youth organisations' relations with the EU.

Furthermore, the YFJ was in contact with Members of the European Parliament on a range of issues, and contributed to the organisation of the Citizens' Agora on climate change in June 2008. Several youth organisations took active part in the Agora, with the YFJ co-chairing one of the working groups.

European Union Affairs Commission

The European Union Affairs Commission (EUACOM) was a body that was advising, supporting and advancing the policies and work of the YFJ. The Commission was scrapped in the general reform of the YFJ working bodies, its tasks taken over by a new set of working groups and coordination meetings. In 2008, the EUACOM had one last meeting in March in cooperation with the Italian Youth Council FNG. The EUACOM advised and provided feedback on the various EU-related working areas and provided input for YFJ policies and actions on the structured dialogue with young people, the campaign for a Written Declaration on youth empowerment, the 2009 European Parliament elections and the evaluation of the framework of European cooperation in the youth field.

In 2008 the members of the CoE Affairs Commission were:

	Organisation	First name	Family name
	Chair		
25.	OBESSU		
26.	CNTM		
27.	ALLIANSSI		
28.	ECYC		
29.	FYEG		
30.	LNU		
31.	IUSY		
32.	ESIB		
33.	NYCR		
34.	CNAJEP		
35.	DNK		
36.	CSAJ/SAJV		
37.	DUF		
38.	WAGGGS		
39.	JEUGDRAAD		
40.	EEE-YFU		
41.	NAYORA		
42.	CNJC		
43.	YEU		
44.	ENL		
45.	RMS		
46.	IGLYO		
47.	LYMEC		

Strengthening dialogue with other CoE bodies

Beyond the Directorate of Youth and Sport, the YFJ has become increasingly involved in cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE), both through presence at relevant meeting and with input on several CLRAE youth-related documents. Similarly, the YFJ contributed to the report of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Culture, Science and Education "Refreshing the youth agenda of the Council of Europe". The YFJ also continued to raise awareness on the Revised Charter the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life through highlighting its quality in several proposals, articles and representations.

As part of its long-term lobby, to discuss the on-going budgetary cuts, and to reiterate the need for the Council of Europe to uphold and develop its youth sector, the YFJ met with the Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General. The meeting also served to shed light on the planned restructuring of the Council of Europe's Directorates General III and IV, and on the envisaged position of the youth sector within it. The YFJ also put much effort into lobbying on the European Youth Foundation (EYF) for a permanent increase of the CoE Member States' contributions to the budget of the EYF.

Lisbon Strategy and the European Youth Pact

The YFJ continued its advocacy on the relevance of the European Youth Pact and the importance of youth organisations being continuously associated to the work of the European institutions and of the Member States related to the European Youth Pact implementation, through the structured dialogue in the youth field.

This has been done through continuous dialogue with the European Commission, when cooperating with the European Parliament and during events of the EU Presidencies.

Council of Europe (CoE)

The YFJ continued to follow the implementation of the current programme of priorities in the Directorate of Youth and Sport. The YFJ participated as observer in all statutory meetings in the reporting period: the Advisory and Joint Councils in March and October 2008, the Programming Committee in June and December 2008, as well as the Senior Officials' meetings, engaging particularly in the development of the Council of Europe long-term strategy on youth policy in Europe (Agenda 2020) and in the preparations for the Youth Event, which preceded the 8th Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Youth (Kyiv, October 2008).

The YFJ effectively contributed to the development of a framework that is to shape the Council of Europe youth policy for years to come, and through the Youth Event brought forward concrete proposals for its implementation. The Youth Event, largely organised by the YFJ with financial support of the Directorate of Youth and Sport and in cooperation with the Ukrainian Youth Forum, served to discuss and prepare proposals for the implementation of the Agenda 2020. Representatives of National Youth Councils from most Council of Europe Member States, of International Youth NGOs, of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the YFJ attended the Youth Event. In the Ministers' Conference, young people were represented both in the plenary and in the panel discussions, bringing a youth perspective into the discussion of the governmental representatives.

The All Different - All Equal youth campaign having finished, the YFJ produced its own report on it. The publication presented the views of youth organisations and their experience with the campaign. Furthermore, it gave several recommendations for similar future endeavours. Throughout 2008 the YFJ was also involved in the meeting of the former European Steering Group of the campaign, and in preparing follow up activities within the Council of Europe.

Internal reform

In accordance with the process of reforming its internal working structures, which included the abolition of the Council of Europe Affairs Commission which met for the last time in February 2008, the YFJ convened the first coordination meeting of its Member Organisations represented in the Advisory Council in September 2008. The discussions evolved not only around the current agenda in the youth sector of the Council of Europe, but also tackled the evaluation of the YFJ work with the Advisory Council in its 2006-2008 mandate, and the future coordination activities within the new mandate. In November 2008, the YFJ General Assembly elected from its Member Organisations 20 new members of the Advisory Council for the mandate period 2009-2011. Seven of these represent National Youth Councils and 13 represent International Youth NGOs.

The partnership of the YFJ with the North-South Centre continued on grounds already strongly rooted in past experience, basing the work on their joint commitment to Global Youth Work Development and Global Education. Apart from the regular participation of the YFJ in the meetings of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre in 2008 and the continuous evaluation and development of joint programmes such as the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, two major elements should particularly be highlighted for the reporting period: the 9th edition of the University on Youth and Development and, as follow up to the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, the Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations.

European Union and Council of Europe Partnership

In accordance with previous practice the YFJ in its annual contribution to the programme of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, highlighted the importance of building the Partnership on the pillars of training, research and youth policy, and outlined specific proposals for these areas to develop further. It also reiterated its request to involve youth organisations in the decision-making processes within the Partnership.

Moreover, the YFJ was represented and involved in a number of Partnership-related meetings, among them certain sectorial groups, and the 2008 Partnership Consultative meeting giving proposals for the future directions of the Partnership. 2008 being the 10th anniversary of the Partnership, the YFJ also participated in the round table on this occasion.

Several events were organised within the Partnership in the reporting period, which contributed to strengthening the links between the two main partners and other stakeholders in the field. The YFJ was participant and/or contributor to the majority, among them: a workshop aimed at the development of youth policy in the Eastern Europe and Caucasus, a similar workshop for Southeast Europe, an event on co-operation between the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe, the Russian Federation and the European Commission, as well as one on the history of youth work.

Within the Partnership on Youth, the initiative to develop a core Training for Trainers, is an innovation that began evolving in 2008, while the training courses on European Citizenship were still running. The YFJ regularly followed this work and has also been a member of the preparatory team for the organisation of the Training for Trainers, giving a youth perspective to it, and stressing the need for a training that will benefit youth organisations in the long term.

United Nations (UN) System

As an NGO enjoying Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) and a member of the Conference of NGOs of the UN (CONGO), the YFJ continued, in 2008, to follow the work of the relevant bodies in the United Nations System concerning youth issues.

Main challenges in working with the United Nations (UN) remained the fragmentation of youth issues within this global institution, formally under the responsibility of the Youth Unit placed in the Intergenerational Section of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, but in practice scattered across various departments, specialised agencies and other parallel institutions. To tackle this issue the YFJ adopted a Strategy Paper with the following main directions:

A coordinated effort by youth organisations is needed to advocate for a higher political profile of youth issues as a central keystone of the main headlines of the agenda of global decision-makers;

A coordinated effort by youth organisations is needed to advocate for increased coherence in the youth field at the UN following the principles of the UN Reform "Delivery as one" which is backed by the UN Secretary General. The UN must make such coordination on the national level possible in developing countries that are pilot countries of the "One UN" Reform.

Influencing the decision-making process

Following the strategic directions outlined, the YFJ joined forces with the other Non-Governmental Youth Organisations participating to the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) in a letter to the Secretary General of the UN. As a result of this action, representatives of YFJ and its partners met with the Under-Secretary General of the UN responsible for Gender Equality. Moreover, the UN Focal Point on Youth started an initiative to create a United Nations Youth Development Network, in the spirit of the "One-UN" reform.

The YFJ also attended the main meetings at the UN which discuss youth-related issues: in February the Commission for Social Development (CsocD) and in October, the Third Committee of the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly. Even though in 2008 there was no youth resolution discussed, topics such as decent work, children rights and volunteering were high on the agenda.

The YFJ was also involved in the youth dimension of the Alliance of Civilisations initiative. As a result, Regional Youth Platforms have been included in the Advisory Board which selected the projects for the Youth Solidarity Fund of the Alliance.

Influencing the implementation of policies

On specific policy areas, the YFJ participated in various meetings and processes, for example the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Furthermore, the YFJ continued to support the work of the Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth at the UNESCO, in particular aiming at giving more visibility to non-formal education within the institution.

As tool for policy implementation, the YFJ furthered existing contacts with the UN System at their offices in New York, Geneva and Brussels, in particular with the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration.

Increasing the involvement of Member Organisations

2008 also saw the greater involvement of YFJ Member Organisations in its work with the UN. Three tools were particularly relevant:

- **Working Unit on Global Affairs and Development Cooperation**
The Working Unit convened under the Work Plan in January to support YFJ policy work in the area.
- **UN advocacy meeting**
The YFJ promoted the practice of National Youth Delegates towards the UN through its Member Organisations, supporting National Youth

Councils in securing nominations from their respective governments. In this context, a first UN advocacy meeting was hosted by the Finnish National Youth Council, Allianssi, in September in Helsinki, gathering both youth delegates to the UN General Assembly, the YFJ and ICMYO partners.

- **International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)**
The ICMYO, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, in June, proved to be the right tool as a space for coordination, for sharing and building the capacities of youth organisations from various continents and for increasing their participation to a global process.

External Communication and partnerships

In 2008, the European Youth Forum has continued the hard work initiated in 2007 when increasing the external visibility and reinforcing the communication with its Member Organisations.

One of the major achievements in 2008 was the implementation of a coherent and youthful corporate image, through the elaboration of a completely renewed guidelines and criteria for its visual identity. The lay-out of our publications was renovated together with a young "touch" for the logo within a speech bubble, meaning that the European Youth Forum speaks loud to represent young people voice and interest all across Europe.

Ensuring visibility at European events & campaigns

An enormous effort was done in 2008 for the visibility of the "Make it Youthful" campaign, close in hand with YFJ Member Organisations on the initiative of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), a written declaration calling on the EU to devote more attention to youth empowerment in EU policies was launched on 22 April in Strasbourg. After three months of hard work, the declaration was signed by 433 MEPs. This long process was covered by a large number of leading pan-European media and news agencies as Euronews, Agence Europe, EurActiv. The YFJ developed and distributed as well postcards and posters to promote the campaign among the Members of the European Parliament.

Moreover, the YFJ has made the voice of young people to be heard in institutional events such as the Employment Week, the European Youth Week or the EU Presidency Youth Events where youth issues, such as employment, future challenges for young people (participation, volunteering) were discussed.

With regards to the Council of Europe the European Youth Forum articulated the concerns of young people when tackling youth issues. At the Conference of the Ministers of Youth in Kiev, with its parallel youth event the YFJ proved the important role of the organisation and its members to reach the key decision makers.

Once again, the YFJ Open Doors was a success with 120 representatives from Member Organisations, Institutional and Social Partners, and former YFJ Presidents, Bureau members and Secretariat Members, gathered in the YFJ Secretariat premises, in Brussels.

At the end of the year, there was the nomination of Torino as European Youth Capital 2010. , President of the YFJ was the chair of the Jury. The official announcement took place during YFJ GA in Rotterdam, as a sign of

continuity between the European Youth Capital 2009 to the newly elected one. This nomination got coverage both at European and local level.

As a way of enhancing the visibility of the YFJ, the Media and Communications office take part in the "EU visitors programme" and presents the YFJ to groups of visitors, mainly, representatives from governments, NGOs and students.

Media coverage: getting the message across

The Press and Communications team worked as well hard to place the European Youth Forum as the reference of youth for journalists. Our press releases, opinion articles and letters to the editor got the attention of high level European media such as the EU-ACP Courier, European Agenda, the Economist, EU Observer, The European Voice.

Strengthening the communication within the network

The priorities of enhance and further develop communication with YFJ Members and ease the exchange of information amongst YFJ Members and support YFJ Members Communication were materialized for fourth consecutive year at the Press and Communications meeting in Madrid (Spain), which brought together the responsible people for communication in our Member Organisations. The meeting was focused on "How to communicate with the media". This was an opportunity for the YFJ and its Member Organisations to get from the hand of the experts the tips and advice on how a NGO should improve this communication. Foremost, the meeting served to exchange best practices in the field of Communications, strengthening it between YFJ and the Members.

The e-Youth Opinion, our electronic newsletter, continued offering a summary of all the important youth issues dealt in our priority areas. A total of seven editions of the e-Youth Opinion were issued during 2008, one of them a special number mono-theme on the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue.

In order to boost the ownership of the YFJ for our Member Organisations, the annual communication survey is sent out every year to ask how the communication with our Member Organisations is seen by them. The results from 2008 were very interesting and many proposals were taking into consideration.

In the area of publications the YFJ released two Youth Opinion magazines devoted to "Youth Autonomy" and "A new youth Agenda for the EU". The purpose of this publication is to gather a plural in-depth analysis of the youth view on Autonomy and the new Youth Agenda for the EU. It brings together the views and opinions of young leaders, youth organisations but as well institutional leaders. In that sense, we have the opportunity to interview Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament to explain his views on the role of young people on shaping Europe.

Moreover other publications were produced to promote and support the work done at political level. Such as the report on "Racism and its impact on young people", "All Different, All Equal report", "Development needs youth", "Sunshine report on NFE", or the "Guide for youth NGOs at the United Nations meetings".

All these efforts were made to increase the outreach and visibility of youth organisations and youth work. We have been working to have a loud and clear voice that represents young people in Europe. This hard work will continue as well in the future with new tools and new challenges to be faced.

III. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL OPERATION

A. Summary

2008 represented the end of a cycle in terms of European Youth Forum management as the Bureau was finishing its mandate, and a bi-annual Work Plan, for 2007-08, was still ongoing.

In terms of finances, a central focus must be put on budget execution over the year, which was well below the budgeted, mostly in relation to Youth Work Development (€36.650 lower).

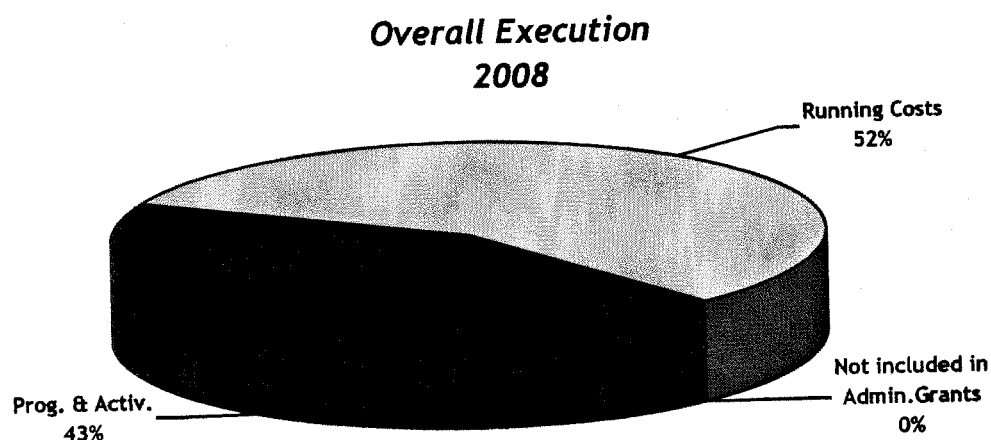
One of the reasons for this lower expenditure was, indeed, the fact that a cycle was ending, and during the first semester the focus was placed on evaluating the priorities set by the membership and planning the execution of the Work Plan; this duly resulted in less concrete activities during this period. It is also important to stress that during 2008 there were several changes within the European Youth Forum Secretariat, with seven staff members terminating their contracts during the year: this had an impact on the capacity to execute the activities planned for 2008.

The year also saw the start of the new Youth in Action Programme, which includes, within Action 4.2, the support to the European Youth Forum, settled at a maximum of €2.285.000 for 2008. A new budgetary structure was also introduced, facilitating a stronger connection between the Work Plan and the Budget.

In what concerns the execution of the agreement with DG EAC, there was a relevant under expenditure, meaning that the total amount applicable to the EU grant amounts to €2.779.142,16 with the final EU contribution calculated at €2.095.944,16. As required by the EU financial regulations, and the agreement, there was not a surplus coming out of the funds allocated to the operating grant agreement.

On the remainder of the YFJ budget, not linked to the operating grant agreement with DG EAC under the Youth in Action Program, there was a surplus of €49.286,51.

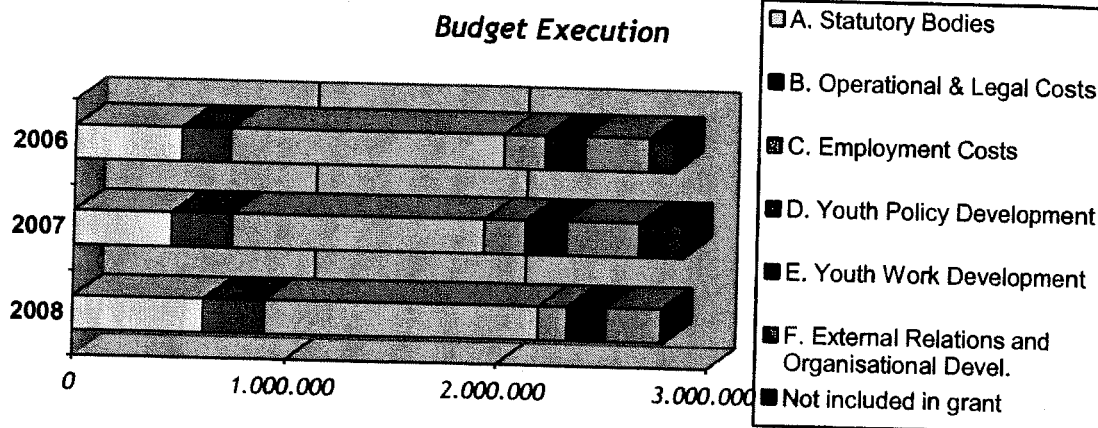
In terms of overall expenditures, these are divided as follows:



The biggest portion of the budget refers to the running costs of the organisation. Most of the budget is included within the framework of administrative grants, from the EU (Youth in Action) and the Council of Europe (95%).

The remainder refers mostly to costs not accepted within the framework of these agreements.

Besides this comparison on the overall budget, it is interesting to see how the total costs of the Youth Forum budget have been evolving over the last three years, referring to the amounts allocated within the aforementioned grants.

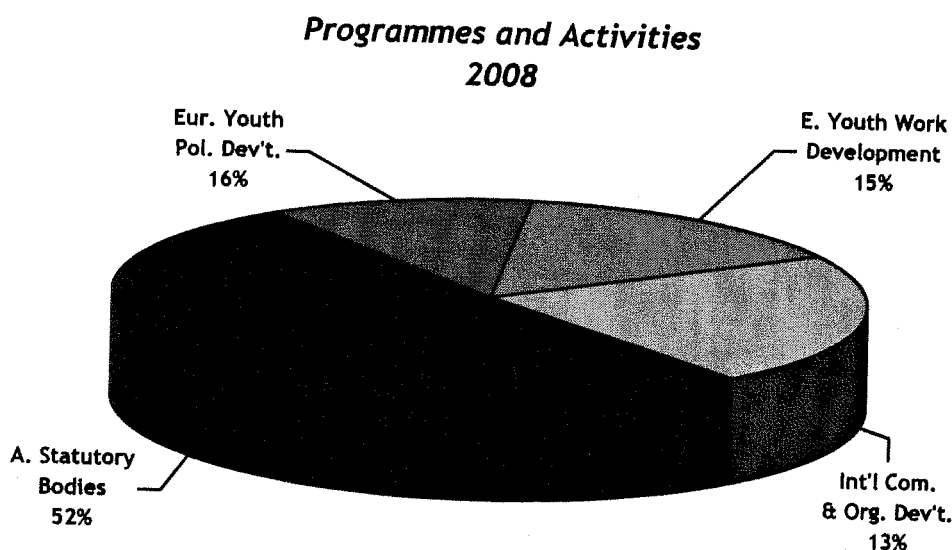


In terms of expenditure, the biggest portion of the Youth Forum budget is allocated to employment costs, representing 46.69% of the total costs. Mainly due to the personnel changes indicated above, there was a rise of €103.677 (+7,99%) on these costs from 2007 to 2008.

The costs for Statutory meetings were €156.221 higher, due to the bi-annual Ordinary General Assembly that took place in 2008.

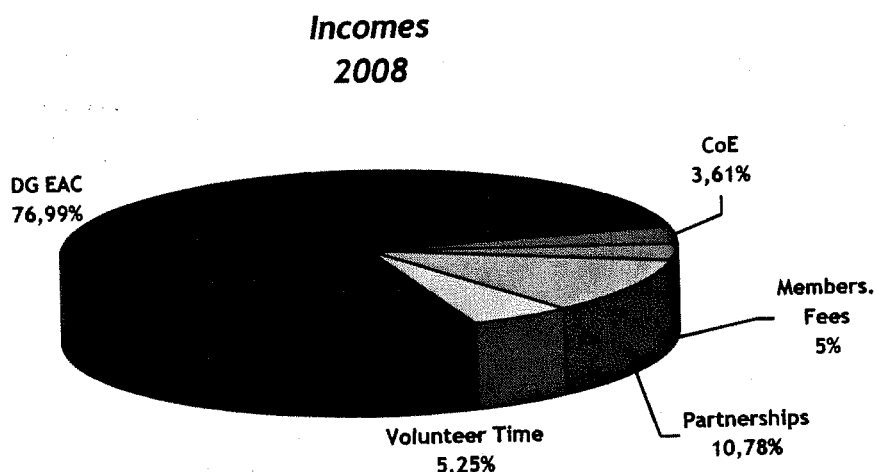
With regards to funds allocated to the execution of activities and actions foreseen in the YFJ Work Plan, namely related to Youth Policy Development and Youth Work Development, there was a reduction, as compared to 2007, with a total of €580.188 in 2008 against €732.433: representing a decline of 20,79% on the total allocated funds between the two years.

The division, including the costs for statutory bodies and meetings, was as follows:



It is important to reiterate that the Youth Forum strives for correctness and clarity in its accounts, which is essential for both the members and the Forum's partner institutions; hence, why the auditing procedures in place are so significant, both the internal audit and the consultancy role of the Financial Control Commission, and the external auditors, Ernst & Young (appointed by the GA in Vilnius for 2007-2008).

This propriety is of greater importance given that almost 80% of the Youth Forum income stems from annual grants from international institutions. 77% of the total income in 2008 came from the European Communities' Budget, through a grant from DG Education and Culture, while around 3,6% was from Council of Europe grants.



These grants aim to support all European Youth Forum activity (from staff salaries to event costs) and are regulated by annual contracts.

Partnership projects also constitute an essential part of Youth Forum income, and such income includes the support of partner organisations for concrete activities, e.g. YFJ Member Organisations hosting YFJ meetings, or grants from foundations or other entities, such as the United Nations, Governments or Local Authorities.

Volunteer Time Contributions (VTCs) are an essential source of external funding, and which allow the YFJ to fulfill its co-funding requirements as per the European Commission. VTCs also represent the further recognition of volunteer work as an important contribution to society and to the work of youth organisations. These contributions today represent approximately 5% of the total Youth Forum budget.

Alongside these positive developments in the YFJ Budget, it is important to note the work done in 2008 to improve relevant internal regulations, with a thorough revision of both the Working Rules for Youth Forum Staff and the Internal Financial Guidelines.

B. Agreement

The contract referring to the Operating Grant Convention 2008-0727/001-001 between the Directorate General Education and Culture and the European Youth Forum for the year 2008 was signed on 30 April 2008.

This contract is established within the framework of the new Youth in Action Programme, within Action 4 - "Youth Support System", measure 2 - "Support to the European Youth Forum".

The Youth Forum received the first instalment of €1.142.500 five weeks after the signature of the contract, on 3rd June.

The total expenditure foreseen under the Operating Grant Agreement was €2.856.250, of which €148.500 corresponding to an in-kind contribution coming from volunteer time, with a contribution from DG EAC of €2.285.000.

We request from DG EAC, after the evaluation of this file, the interim payment for the maximum value foreseen in the agreement: €914.000 (40% of the total grant).

C. Budgetary Execution

As mentioned, the total expenditures related to the operating grant for 2008 were lower than expected by €189.055,84 (a variation of -2,70% of the total budget).

This is the result of different factors, one of these being the concerted effort to be more conservative in the budget planning. Being a non-governmental organisation, the Youth Forum needs to ensure that it will not over-spend, which would immediately cause a loss at the end of the period. This needs to be combined with the obligation to execute the Work Plan approved by the Member Organisations, ensuring that there are enough resources for all the planned activities and actions and for the running of the organisation from 1 January to 31 December. Therefore, it was possible to ensure that no activity or action would be jeopardised by a lack of funds and that the costs for the execution of the Work Plan would not go over the available resources.

As mentioned, the under-spend equates to 2,70% of the YFJ budget. This shortfall nonetheless does not represent a bad budget execution, it highlights the commitment of the Youth Forum to responsible budget management - funds are not spent just because they are available but because there is a justified need for their usage.

The under expenditure referred to, combined with a higher than expected total amount of co-funding, has a significant impact on the final balance payment of the operating grant.

The variations that existed in terms of the contractual budget were very different between the different *Items of Eligible Costs* in the budget (hereafter referred to as Budget Headings). The biggest variation was in Budget Heading E. Youth Work Development, where there was a variation of 16,86% below the allocated amount in the budget, which will be fully explained below. All the variations in the Budget Headings were negative therefore the limit of 20% reallocation into a budget heading (item of eligible costs) was not reached.

Activities that were not included in the contract with DG EAC, as well as expenditures that could represent non-eligible costs according to EC financial regulations - such as interest, costs from previous years, or potential double-funding - are not part of the report on the financial operation linked to the operating grant agreement (and therefore are not to be considered for the evaluation of the contract execution), but are nonetheless explained further on in detail, for the sake of clarity.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-eligible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
A. Statutory Bodies	623.950,00	614.157,66	-1,57%	0,00	614.157,66	361.820,32
B. Operational & Legal Costs	301.000,00	287.161,18	-4,60%	0,00	287.161,18	43.001,74
C. Employment Costs	1.297.750,00	1.297.635,68	-0,01%	0,00	1.297.635,68	21.663,24
D. Youth Policy Development	149.200,00	135.362,83	-9,27%	0,00	135.362,83	50.523,58
E. Youth Work Development	217.380,00	180.730,41	-16,86%	0,00	180.730,41	119.126,95
F. External Rel. and Organisational Devel.	266.970,00	264.094,40	-1,08%	0,00	264.094,40	86.624,12
Total included in DG EAC Grant	2.856.250,00	2.779.142,16	-2,70%	0,00	2.779.142,16	682.759,95

This table is divided according to the following items:

1. **Total Contractual Budget:** the expenditures foreseen, according to the supplementary agreement¹;
2. **Real Expenses Declared:** the final result of all the expenditures executed for the year 2007 under the referred agreement;
3. **% of variation:** the variation over or under the contractual budget, for each Budget Heading (Item of Eligible Costs);
4. **Non-Eligible Costs:** the costs related to the financial operation covered by the Operating Grant Agreement that are non-eligible according to EU financial regulations.
5. **Total of Eligible Costs:** the values on the expenditures executed that are considered eligible according to EU financial regulations;
6. **Co-funding:** the amount of co-funding gathered for each Budget Heading, according to the requirements for co-funding.

In order to make it simpler to follow, the developments of the expenditure and the income items, the order of the activity budget lines, as well as the numbering of the budget items, are exactly as in the budget annex of the contract.

Please refer to chapter B. ACTIVITIES REPORT for a more detailed description of the activities and actions carried out under each Budget Heading or budget line.

The breakdown analysis of the budget execution is included in annex 1 (document 0303-09 Final Budget Execution 2008).

This report will focus, later on, on the breakdown and explanation of the expenditures under each Budget Heading.

NB: For simplification, the values in the featured tables or the text throughout the report, are usually rounded to the nearest unit.

1. Non-eligible Costs

Our evaluation of the expenditures and budget execution of the financial operation related to the Operating Grant Agreement is that there are not non-eligible costs included in this report. This is due to the fact that the application for 2008 already excluded activities or costs that could be considered as non-eligible.

The Youth Forum budget presented with the application was separated into 'Total to be considered for DG EAC Grant' and 'Non-eligible Costs for EU Grant', which represented the expenditures foreseen in the overall budget of the Youth Forum, but not submitted to the DG EAC Grant due to the fact that they represent non-eligible costs according to the European Commission regulations.

For a matter of ensuring the clarity of the Youth Forum accounts and procedures, these other costs are also explained in the report, under "Costs not included in DG EAC Grant".

¹ Agreement Number: 2008-0727/001-002, from December 2008.

2. Co-funding

The total co-funding raised by the Youth Forum during 2008 amounts to €682.760, divided as follows:

	TOTAL	General Funds (co-funding)	Partnership & Other incomes	Volunteer Time Contribution
A. Statutory Bodies	361.820	32.400	187.025	142.395
B. Operational & Legal Costs	43.002	43.002	0	0
C. Employment Costs	21.663	19.142	2.521	0
D. Youth Policy Development	50.524	32.550	17.974	0
E. Youth Work Development	119.127	44.000	75.127	0
F. External Relations and Organisational Devel.	86.624	36.056	37.203	13.365
TOTAL (Operating Grant)	682.760	207.150	319.850	155.760

This table is divided according to the following items:

1. General Funds (GF): co-funding from annual commitments, such as annual grants from the Council of Europe and Membership Fees;
2. Partnerships & Other incomes: co-funding mostly from partnership projects, such as activities supported by Member Organisations or national/local authorities or grants from Foundations for specific projects Fees - hereafter referred to as FR;
3. Volunteer Time Contribution (VTC): valued in-kind contributions based on volunteers work on Youth Forum activities.

Co-funding has been gathered by following these main rules:

- The costs are clearly identifiable and controllable.
- The costs and income are included in the bookkeeping.
- The co-funding and costs are directly related to the execution of the Work Plan and/or the general aims of the YFJ as an association.

D. Contractual Obligations

This chapter outlines the main contractual requirements for the YFJ included in the contract for this grant.

The reason to include this in the final financial report is that the Youth Forum would like to underline that the responsibilities mentioned in the contract are taken with the utmost seriousness.

Article II.1. Responsibility

The operation for the year 2008 has been carried out under the responsibility of the Youth Forum. The Youth Forum and its legal representatives are therefore responsible for the operational and financial management in accordance with the rules and regulations in place. The responsibility for the proper use of the grant remains with the Youth Forum regardless of the financial audits (internal, external and by the European Commission) that have taken place and of the acceptance of the financial report transmitted by the YFJ to the European Commission.

Article II.12. Eligible costs

The contract states that costs are eligible insofar as the following conditions are fulfilled. Eligible costs have to be:

- necessary to carry out the operation.
- directly linked to the subject matter of the agreement.
- in line with normal market conditions.
- entered in the official accounts.
- identifiable and controllable.

The Youth Forum certifies that the above-mentioned rules have been followed.²

Article II.15.4 Profit

In the year 2008, with regards to the financial operation under the operating grant, there was a surplus of €189.055,84 considering the total foreseen contribution of €2.285.000 from DG EAC. Based on the contractual terms (Point II.15.4), we expect, considering that the total of payments so far was under the required amount, the Youth Forum to receive a balance payment of €39.444,16 from DG EAC.

As a matter of information and clarity, the final results for 2008 of the Youth Forum indicate a positive result of €49.286. This result comes from activities and resources not covered by the operating grant agreement, as explained in further detail below.

Article II.17.2. Bookkeeping evidence needs to be kept for 5 years

The contract outlines that the Youth Forum needs to keep track of the financial data for up to 5 years after the completion of the operation and acceptance of the financial reports. The Youth Forum has complied with the contractual obligations since its establishment³.

E. Audit and Bookkeeping

The Youth Forum has an accounting system in place based on the general accounting plan for Belgium. As this plan does not provide an overview of the costs related to Youth Forum activities, as approved by its members and presented to DG EAC (structured by budget headings and detailed with budget lines), integrated in the accountancy system there is a partition based upon cost centers. Therefore, the accountancy framework now includes two parallel, though integrated, accounting systems - general accountancy and analytical accountancy (cost-centers).

The financial reports of the Youth Forum include all the expenditure and income for 2008, either included or not in the Operating Grant Agreement. For all the entries in the bookkeeping the Youth Forum has all necessary documents in its accounting documentation.

The accuracy of the procedures and of the bookkeeping was also confirmed by the external auditors (Ernst & Young) and by an internal audit carried out by the Financial Control Commission of the Youth Forum (a statutory body).

The audit carried out by the external auditors (Ernst & Young) focused both on the general and analytical accountancy reporting, and, as before, on the cost allocation structure used in the budget, as approved by the Youth Forum members.

The result of the audit is available as an attachment to this report: "Audit Report on the financial Statements as of 31 December 2008" (annex 2).

Responding to the requests addressed in 2006 by DG EAC to the Youth Forum in terms of including extra-information from the accountancy, included in the annexes are also a description of the costs allocation for 2008 (annex 4), an extract from the Profit & Loss accounts 2008 (annex 5), a detailed list of all the payments made in 2008 (Annex 7), and a detailed list of all the movements as registered in the accounts (Annex 6).

² The procedures for financial management and bookkeeping are regulated by the Youth Forum Internal Financial Guidelines. The Internal Financial Guidelines are available for consultation at www.youthforum.org and are attached to this report.

³ Concerning the previous agreements established with Forum Jeunesse de l'Union Européenne

F. Costs not included in DG EAC Grant

The Youth Forum⁴ faced several constraints concerning the operating grant from the EC DG EAC in past years due to problems in the application of the rules concerning non-eligible costs (NEC). These expenditures included partnership activities that applied or may apply to EU funding; overspending (or budget overruns) in the different Budget Headings, when exceeding the percentage stipulated; or even bank interest.

Previously, when presenting the budget to DG EAC, the Youth Forum presented all the expenditures included in the budget approved by its Member Organisations. As expenditures classed as non-eligible costs were not considered by DG EAC in the calculation of the total grant (when determining the balance payment), the corresponding NEC amount was therefore deducted from the final grant payments meaning a loss to the Youth Forum over several years.

In order to try to find a solution that would be good for both parties (allowing the Youth Forum to allocate resources other than those allocated to the operating grant and to comply with the EC Financial Regulations), a common understanding was reached concerning the non-eligible costs between the Youth Forum and DG EAC.

On the basis of this common understanding, based on ARTICLE II.15 of the agreement, the Youth Forum should:

- present only the budgeted activities and amounts that are suitable to be considered by the EC as eligible costs, instead of presenting all of its budgeted activities and costs (including potentially non-eligible costs) when applying to the EU for the operating grant;
- cover the non-eligible costs with funding not considered for the non-Community funding requirement on the grant, as long as the requirement for 20% of non-Community funding covering the total amount of eligible costs is fulfilled;
- present a full summary statement of the receipts and expenditures for the period, clarifying which are, from all the expenditures, those to be considered for the EC final grant calculation and those considered as non-eligible, when delivering the financial reports;
- have the grant reduced if there is a surplus for the period (year) to which the application refers, up to the same amount of the surplus of the grant.

Therefore, we also include in this report reference to the costs not included under the DG EAC Grant (which include non-eligible costs).

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Co-funding
Total included in DG EAC Grant	2.856.250,00	2.779.142,16	-2,70%	682.759,95
Costs not included in DG EAC Grant (Non-eligible Costs)	0,00	10.637,85	0,00%	60.362,41
Total Costs	2.856.250,00	2.789.780,01	-2,33%	743.122,36

Costs not included in DG EAC Grant (€10.637,85) will be explained with further detail in this report. (point 'VI. NON-"EU OPERATING GRANT" COSTS & INCOMES').

⁴ Concerning the agreements established at the time with Forum Jeunesse de l'Union Européenne

IV. EXPENDITURES

A. Statutory Bodies

This Budget Heading had a variation of -1.57% (€-9.792,34) caused mainly by lower costs with the Bureau and the CBMA, as detailed below. The total co-funding finally amounted to 6,5% over the budgeted amount.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-eligible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
A. Statutory Bodies	623.950,00	614.157,66	-1,57%	0,00	614.157,66	361.820,32
1. General Assembly	291.650,00	292.941,63	0,44%	0	292.941,63	181.074,02
2. Council of Members	195.800,00	207.074,22	5,76%	0	207.074,22	138.639,01
3. Bureau	106.670,00	92.941,35	-12,87%	0	92.941,35	30.387,29
4. Support to President	8.000,00	8.000,00	0,00%	0	8.000,00	8.000,00
5. FCC	4.850,00	3.947,29	-18,61%	0	3.947,29	1.790,00
6. CBMA	16.980,00	9.253,17	-45,51%	0	9.253,17	1.930,00

A.1. General Assembly (GA)

Total Budgeted: €291.650 (Co-funding: €111.650)

Exec.: €292.942 / Co-fund.: €181.074 (GF: €8.000 / FR: €83.974 / VTC: €89.100)

The General Assembly took place the 12-16 November 2008. It was budgeted on the basis of an attendance of 160 official delegates; plus around 50 additional delegates; 12-16 guests; 12 Bureau members; around 24 staff members; and also volunteers and contact people from the hosting organisation (if held outside Brussels, as expected).

The level of co-funding foreseen in the initial budget for this meeting was €74.250, coming from the hosting organisation and the charges for extra-delegates. The funds will cover part of the local costs, while the remaining costs, mainly the travel expenses of the delegates, were covered by 'General Funds'.

A.2. Council of Members (COMEM)

Total Budgeted: €195.800 (Co-funding: €122.300)

Exec.: €207.074 / Co-fund.: €138.639 (GF: €6.000 / FR: €96.009 / VTC: €36.630)

The Council of Members is the main general statutory meeting of the Youth Forum in between General Assemblies. It gathers representatives from its Member Organisations and the purpose is to reflect on the work achieved by the youth movement over the previous six months and shape the future activity of the platform.

The 2008 COMEM took place in Casteldefels, Catalonia, Spain, on 2-3 May in Barcelona, hosted by the Catalan National Youth Council, gathering 160 participants.

The YFJ invited four high-level speakers for a panel discussion centered around migration and youth: OSCE Special Representative & Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, from the European Court of Human Rights, Deputy Director General at the International Organisation for Migration and Attaché to the Secretary-General for Migration at the Catalan Government.

At this COMEM six policy documents were adopted: policy paper on migration, 'Youth training - the sustainability of youth organizations through volunteering', 'Non-Formal Education: A framework for indicating and assuring quality', 'Global education', 'Youth employment' and 'Youth and the European social model'. In addition, the European Youth Forum adopted a 'YFJ approach to child policy', two resolutions ('Promoting youth participation in EU development policies for Africa' and 'Climate change'), and two urgent resolutions (one on the EU Youth in Action Programme, and another on the controversial Mosquito, a new instrument conceived by adults to chase young people away from public places).

The Italian National Youth Council gained the status of YFJ full member while the Ukrainian National Youth Forum came on board as candidate member and the European Youth Press as an observer.

In financial terms, it must be highlighted that this COMEM's total costs are above the foreseen amount. The main reason is the co-funding contribution from CNJC - National Youth Council of Catalonia. This contribution was deemed to cover most of the local costs and valued €78.338. Also the amount gathered by other contributions, such as the extra-delegates charges, totalled €16.489. The meeting had therefore a level of co-funding approximately €10.400 above the initial estimation.

As a result the total costs with the activity amounted to €170.444, not counting with VTC, which was also more than initially foreseen.

A.3. Bureau

Total Budgeted: €106.670	(Co-funding: €29.670)
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Exec.: €92.941 / Co-fund.: €30.387	(GF: €8.000 / FR: €7.042 / VTC: €15.345)
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This item includes all the costs (travel, accommodation etc.) for six Bureau Meetings during 2008, out of which three are taking place outside of Brussels and co-funded.

The first Bureau meeting was held in Oer-Erkenschwick, Germany, the 18-20 January. The co-funding for this meeting totalled €1.140, coming from Sozialistische Jugend Deutschland.

The Bureau meeting II, held on the 8-9 March, in Helsinki, Finland, was also co-funded, in this case by Allianssi (Finish National Youth Council), with an amount of €4.481.

Bureau meeting III was held in Oslo, Norway, the 7-8 June. It was hosted by LNU and co-funded by Framfylkingen (IFM-SEI Norway) and UNA Norway. This co-funding contribution totalled €1.421.

The September meeting (Bureau meeting IV) took place on the 13-14 September and the fifth Bureau meeting was held on 4-5 October (both in Brussels). Besides there are also costs related to the work of individual Bureau members which do not fall under any specific activity. The latter includes, for example, certain telecommunication costs and working meetings with staff in Brussels. These costs totalled €12.573 for the Bureau in its entirety.

At last, there are also Bureau events included in this line. This is for instance the case of meetings to prepare the 2009-10 Work Plan. These costs totalled €13.342.

It also includes a meeting open to all the Member Organisations aimed at discussing the coming Work Plan.

A.4. Support to the President

Total Budgeted: €8.000	(Co-funding: €8.000)
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Exec.: €8.000 / Co-fund.: €8.000	(GF: €8.000 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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This item includes costs borne by the President when devoting time and making personal sacrifice to represent the Forum at meetings around Europe and globally.

This budget line is covered by co-funding coming from the YFJ General Funds, in this case Membership Fees.

A.5. FCC - Financial Control Commission

Total Budgeted: €4.850	(Co-funding: €2.450)
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Exec.: €3.947 / Co-fund.: €1.790	(GF: €800 / FR: €0 / VTC: €990)
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Included in the costs under this budget line are the meetings of the FCC. These meetings comprise the members of the FCC (four elected members), the Administrative and Financial Director, the Bureau Member responsible for Finances, and the Secretary General.

The Financial Control Commission (internal auditors) met in Brussels, as usual twice over the year. On the meeting of 1-2 March, the FCC carried an internal audit on the accounts of 2007. Besides, they also discussed the revised budget, had an update and review on the overall management of the Youth Forum and discussed the overall evolution of the co-funding provided to YFJ.

The following FCC meeting will be held the 27-28 September. This meeting will focus on the proposed budget for 2009-2010, besides the 2008 budget execution monitoring so far.

FCC reports are available on our website or upon request from the YFJ Secretariat.

A.6. CBMA - Consultative Body on Membership Applications

Total Budgeted: €16.980	(Co-funding: €3.580)
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Exec.: €9.253 / Co-fund.: €1.930	(GF: €1.600 / FR: €0 / VTC: €330)
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The Consultative Body on Membership Applications is also a statutory body, responsible for evaluating membership applications. The meetings are attended by the four members of the CBMA, the Secretary-General and the staff member responsible for membership.

There were three CBMA meetings during 2008 in Brussels: the first at 1-2 March, the second on the 30-31 August and the third on 6 December. These meetings totalled €3.954.

The CBMA has also carried a study visit to the Ukrainian Youth Forum (31 January - 3 February), to the Croatian Youth Network (17-18 May), to Y-E-N (Youth Express Network) on 4 July and to YEN (Youth of European Nationalities) on 26-27 September. These study visits totalled costs of €4.361.

B. Operational & Legal Costs

This Item (Budget Heading) includes a substantial part of the running costs of the organisation. In 2008 these costs represented 10,3% of the total costs applicable to the operating grant. The total for this Budget Heading was close to the budgeted amount (variation of -4.6%), even if there were higher variations in the budget lines. The co-funding comes from YFJ General Funds - annual grant from the Council of Europe and membership fees.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-elegible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
B. Operational & Legal Costs	301.000,00	287.161,18	-4,60%	0,00	287.161,18	43.001,74
1. Office premises	112.000,00	111.450,24	-0,49%	0,00	111.450,24	1.753,07
2. Equipment	17.500,00	17.181,18	-1,82%	0,00	17.181,18	258,35
3. Depreciations	16.800,00	9.365,77	-44,25%	0,00	9.365,77	0,00
4. Communications	36.500,00	33.943,69	-7,00%	0,00	33.943,69	664,32
5. Office supplies	23.500,00	21.868,74	-6,94%	0,00	21.868,74	326,01
6. External audit and legal advice	12.200,00	11.348,12	-6,98%	0,00	11.348,12	0,00
7. Social reserves	75.000,00	75.000,00	0,00%	0,00	75.000,00	40.000,00
8. Financial Charges & Other Costs	7.500,00	7.003,44	-6,62%	0,00	7.003,44	0,00

B.1. Office premises

Total Budgeted: €112.000 (Co-funding: €1.425)

Execution: €111.450 / Co-funding: €1.753 (General Funds: €1.753)

The costs were even slightly below the last amount budgeted. The detail of the costs is as follows:

<i>Office premises</i>	Budget	Execution	Variation
Rent	66.500,00	69.475,67	2.975,67
Services	25.000,00	25.335,88	335,88
Electricity, Gas, etc.	7.500,00	7.375,76	-124,24
Renovations	8.000,00	6.387,64	-1.612,36
Insurance	2.250,00	1.525,01	-724,99
Taxes	1.000,00	840,68	-159,32
Gen. Costs	1.750,00	509,60	-1.240,40
TOTAL	112.000,00	110.940,64	690,64

As usual, the biggest expenditure item is rent (hitherto around 60.3%); plus services (alarm, fire protection, maintenance, cleaning); supplies (e.g. electricity, gas, water); property tax; and basic office renovation work.

B.2. Equipment and maintenance

Total Budgeted: €17.500 (Co-funding: €210)

Execution: €17.181 / Co-funding: €258 (General Funds: €258)

This item includes maintenance of all equipment (mostly by contract).

The most relevant item remains the contract for the copying machines, which amounts to €10.806,09.

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Execution</i>	<i>Variation</i>
IT Support	3.650,00	2.864,35	-785,65
Copiers	8.700,00	10.806,09	2.106,09
Telephone	4.000,00	1.448,66	-2.551,34
Other Equipment	1.150,00	2.062,08	912,08
TOTAL	17.500,00	17.181,18	-318,82

IT support (€2.864,35) includes services and licenses connected to IT (hardware and software).

During 2008 these costs were kept slightly over the total in 2007 (€15.148,93).

B.3. Depreciations

Total Budgeted: €16.800 (Co-funding: €0)

Execution: €9.366 / Co-funding: €0 (General Funds: €0)

Depreciations are calculated according to the valuation rules approved for the Youth Forum, as a requirement of the new Belgian legislation on AISBLs and more specifically for the category of "big" AISBLs⁵, demanding compliance with the accounting rules for private companies.

On the topic of assets' depreciation, the YFJ valuation rules establish that:

"Assets are considered to be the goods acquired by the organisation, such as equipment (furniture, computers and other hardware) and intangible assets (e.g. software).

Valuation rule: these will be valued according to their acquisition cost, and will be depreciated according to this cost. Depreciations are calculated at the end of the year.

Low value equipment - from 75 EUR to 750 EUR: will be fully depreciated during the year of acquisition.

High value equipment - equal or higher than 750 EUR: a pro-rata temporis depreciation method has been applied i.e. an item is depreciated according to the number of months passed after its acquisition during the year, and not for the full one year. The depreciation period is set for 3 years (36 months)."

The depreciation of equipment acquired between 2006 and 2008 (included in the equipment to be depreciated in three years) was therefore calculated according to these rules, and totalled €9.365,77.

<i>Depreciations</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Execution</i>	<i>Variation</i>
Equipment - Dep. 1 Year	5.500,00	4.156,53	-1.343,47
Furniture - Dep. 1 Year	2.500,00	1.013,96	-1.486,04
Grat. Contr. YFEU	1.150,00	1.167,17	17,17
Software - Dep. 1 Year	3.000,00	391,98	-2.608,02
Software - Dep. 3 Years	1.500,00	110,11	-1.389,89
Equipment - Dep. 3 Years	1.650,00	1.278,71	-371,29
Furniture - Dep. 3 Years	1.500,00	1.247,31	-252,69
TOTAL	16.800,00	9.365,77	7.434,23

⁵ L 2002-05-02/51, art. 41, 009; En vigueur : 01-07-2003 - TITRE III. - Des associations internationales sans but lucratif - Art. 53. - § 3.

A part of the total depreciation amount for 2008 (€1.167,17) refers to equipment included in a "gratuitous contribution" done in 2006 from Forum Jeunesse de l'Union Européenne, as part of the restructuring process of the Youth Forum. In this case the procedure, as indicated in the valuation rules is that: *"the assets transferred to the YFJ through a gratuitous contribution are valued at their net value at the moment of the transfer. The depreciation value and period are not re-established, and are resumed according to that of the previous owner."*

B.4. Communications

Total Budgeted: €36.500 (Co-funding: €540)

Execution: €33.944 / Co-funding: €664 (General Funds: €664)

The line includes general communications costs (not linked to a concrete action or activity) such as telephone (land lines, land and mobile calls and fax); internet (internet connection) and mail (regular, express or registered mail). The current under expenditure comes from telephone and internet.

Communication	Budget	Execution	Variation
Telephone	26.500,00	25.196,98	-1.303,02
Internet	4.000,00	3.563,22	-436,78
Mail	4.550,00	5.183,49	633,49
Other Costs	1.450,00	0,00	-1.450,00
TOTAL	36.500,00	33.943,69	-1.106,31

We can verify that this budget line remained below the budgeted amount and slightly higher than the amount spent the previous year (€32.682,22; +€1.261,47).

B.5. Office supplies

Total Budgeted: €23.500 (Co-funding: €265)

Execution: €21.869 / Co-funding: €326 (General Funds: €326)

The execution of this budget line is beneath the forecast. It includes €7.594,59 for stationary (paper, envelopes, toner, office material), € 4.577,40 corresponding to the cost of the copies done internally, € 1.926,72 for beverages (water, coffee, etc) available at the office for meetings held in the YFJ office and for the staff. According to the valuation rules, the definition of stationary *"also includes low value equipment, with an acquisition value below 75 EUR"*.

Office Supplies	Budget	Execution	Variation
Stationary	6.600,00	7.594,59	994,59
Copies	5.000,00	4.577,40	-422,60
Beverages	2.000,00	1.926,72	-73,28
IT supplies	3.700,00	4.246,46	546,46
General Suplies	1.000,00	360,40	-639,60
Other Costs	5.200,00	3.163,17	-2.036,83
TOTAL	23.500,00	21.868,74	-1.631,26

In this case there was an increase of the costs with stationary (2007: €5.593,42; + €2.001,17) and IT-Supplies (2007: €648,70; + €3.597,76). On the overall costs of the budget line, there was a increase of approximately €5.340,64 (+40%) in comparison with the previous year.

B.6. External audit and legal advice

Total Budgeted: €12.200 (Co-funding: €0)

Execution: €11.348 / Co-funding: €0 (General Funds: €0)

The costs under this budget line refer mainly to consultation costs that are related to contracts, staff issues, and questions related to the proper functioning of the association.

<i>External audit and legal advice</i>	Budget	Execution	Variation
Financial Auditors/ Consultants	7.700,00	8.228,00	528,00
Lawyers	4.000,00	3.120,12	-879,88
Other Support	500,00	0,00	-500,00
TOTAL	12.200,00	11.348,12	-851,88

A part of the costs (€8.228,00) refers to the external audit and other support provided by the audit company, Ernst and Young. These costs were higher than initially foreseen due to the increase of work and responsibilities of the auditors under the light of the Belgian regulations for big AISBLs.

This budget line also includes consultation (€3.120,12) with lawyers on a number of legal issues. These were lower then in the previous year, as well as under the amount initially foreseen.

B.7. Social reserves

Total Budgeted: €75.000 (Co-funding: €40.000)

Execution: €75.000 / Co-funding: €40.000 (General Funds: €40.000)

The Social Reserves consist in building a reserve in the budget intended to cover compensation costs for the employees in the highly unlikely case of insolvency of the European Youth Forum. These have been made since 1997 by the Youth Forum⁶.

There was the need to increase the current level of Social Reserves, as they are still below the required level⁷. As a result, the Youth Forum members approved, at the General Assembly of November 2006, a decision to reach the required level by 2010.

⁶ Concerning the agreements established at the time with Forum Jeunesse de l'Union Européenne

⁷ Detailed calculations are available upon request.

C.1. Gross salaries

Total Budgeted: €923.500

(Co-funding: €11.775)

Execution: €945.512 / Co-fund.: €16.519 (GF: €14.486 / FR: €2.033 / VTC: €0)

There was a slight over-spend in this budget line (2,38%). There is a very different execution than initially foreseen due to the changes in the Secretariat, as referred before.

Knowing that the changes in the Secretariat would have an impact in the final amount of salaries, in the revised budget presented in the November for amendment, this budget line was increased by €20.500, which now proved to be an insufficient increase.

There have been more changes than in previous years, as can be confirmed by the list of personnel of the Youth Forum during the 2008.

The persons that terminated their contract with the Youth Forum were:

- Administration Assistant (50%), until 30 April;
- , until 3 August;
- Press & External Relations Coordinator, until 14

September:

- COE Relations officer, until 5 October;
- Administrative & Financial Director, until 12 October;
- PO Youth Policy in Europe, until 16 November;
- Head of Department, until 7 December.

On the other hand, the persons that initiated a contract with the Youth Forum were:

- PO Employment, Social Cohesion and Eur. Youth Pact, since 7

January;

- Intern, since 4 February;
- COE Relations officer, since 10 March;
- IT Assistant/Webmaster, since 16 March;
- , since 7 July;
- Press & External Relation Coordinator, since 20 October.

The list of the remaining members of the staff is:

- Receptionist / Assistant;
- Head of Department;
- PO Education;
- Assistant-Translator;
- Press & Communications officer;
- PO Youth Work Development;
- Administration Assistant;
- PO Youth Work Development;
- Assistant to the Secretary General;
- PO Training./Equal.& Human Rights;
- Accountant;
- Secretary General;
- UN & Global Relations Coordinator;
- EU Relations Coordinator ;
- Co-ordinator of Translation Team (50%);
- PO Health and Sustainable Development;

B.8. Financial Charges & Other Costs

Total Budgeted: €7.500 (Co-funding: €0)

Execution: €7.003 / Co-funding: €0 (General Funds: €0)

This item includes only financial charges eligible for the DG EAC grant, which are mainly costs for bank transfers to members, partners and suppliers outside Belgium as well as costs related to the running of the accounts.

<i>Financial Charges & Other Costs</i>	Budget	Execution	Variation
Financial Charges	5.500,00	6.783,70	1.283,70
Interests	0,00	0,00	0,00
Other Charges	2.000,00	219,74	-1.780,26
TOTAL	7.500,00	7.003,44	-496,56

These costs have risen slightly (2007: €6.476; + 527,44) due to an increase in transfer charges decided by the bank as well as a development of the transactions.

Nonetheless, in the revised budget presented in the November for amendment, this budget line was reduced by €7.000 and the execution is still under the revised budget.

NB: Interest charges are not included!

C. Employment Costs

This is the biggest budget line of the Youth Forum, representing 46,69% of the total costs. Most of the costs come from salaries and employer obligations, which increased by 8,7% when compared with 2007. One of the main reasons of this increase was the several changes in the Youth Forum staff members, leading to periods of overlapping in a given position.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-elegible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
C. Employment Costs	1.297.750,00	1.297.635,68	-0,01%	0,00	1.297.635,68	21.663,24
1. Gross salaries	923.500,00	945.512,30	2,38%	0,00	945.512,30	16.518,81
2. Social Security contributions	301.000,00	294.353,99	-2,21%	0,00	294.353,99	5.144,43
3. Vacation accrual	12.000,00	8.634,73	-28,04%	0,00	8.634,73	0,00
4. Staff travel costs	16.750,00	16.146,97	-3,60%	0,00	16.146,97	0,00
5. Staff training	18.500,00	8.576,84	-53,64%	0,00	8.576,84	0,00
6. Recruitment and other expenses	26.000,00	24.410,85	-6,11%	0,00	24.410,85	0,00

C.2. Social Security contributions

Total Budgeted: €301.000	(Co-funding: €3.785)
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Execution: €294.354 / Co-funding: €5.144	(GF: €4.656 / FR: €488 / VTC: €0)
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The costs under this budget line were very approximate to the foreseen value, though it is still difficult to calculate the applicable rates while budgeting, mainly because some of the social security rates depend on variable factors, like the personnel structure of the employer, the contract duration and other.

C.3. Vacation accrual

Total Budgeted: €12.000	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €8.635 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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The "Vacation pay accrual" is a value reserved for vacation pay for the following year. This is a reserve towards the payment of the vacation pay accrual to employees when leaving the organisation, according to Belgian social legislation. This provision takes into account the age, salary and seniority of the employee.

The calculation for 2008 indicates an Accrual value of €116.813,82, approximately €8.000 below the initial calculation.

The calculation⁸ was the following:

Calculation Period	01/01/2008 - 31/12/2008
Basis for Calculation	552.950,18
Total to be considered	108.179,09
Value at balance sheet	116.813,82
Accrual 2008	-8.634,73

As the value of the vacation pay accrual is dependent on the situation at the end of the year, it is difficult to estimate with precision. Initially, a small increase had been foreseen. As a result of the several changes in the staff (mentioned hereabove), the total required for the vacation pay was lower than at the end of 2007. As this is a negative accrual it was included under the non-eligible costs. Further explanations will be provided under point VI. Non-"EU operating Grant" Costs and Incomes.

C.4. Staff travel costs

Total Budgeted: €16.750	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €16.147 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line includes daily staff travel costs as regulated by the Work Rules agreed between staff and employer in 2001, besides the requirements deriving from Belgian Legislation.

These include: an annual STIB ticket for employees living in the Brussels region, and 60% of train costs for employees living outside it. This budget line also includes a "living abroad compensation" for employees living in Belgium for less than 5 years - as defined in the internal Work Rules agreed between Employer and Employees.

⁸ Detailed calculations are available upon request.

C.5. Staff Training

Total Budgeted: €18.500	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €8.577 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line includes the costs of staff training and seminars, encompassing courses relevant to the employee's work at the Secretariat. There was individual (€3.674) and collective training (€4.660) held for staff, which in 2008 also comprised a staff retreat with team building sessions. Several training actions were planned for the end of the year. The workload during that period made it more difficult for staff members to be involved in individual training actions.

C.6. Recruitment and other expenses

Total Budgeted: €26.000	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €24.411 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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As referred here above, the replacement processes were above the initially foreseen number. Nevertheless, this budget line is still under-spent. The main reasons are the savings on the moving costs (- €1.296,81) and the staff insurances (- €2.014,78).

<i>Recruitment and other expenses</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Execution</i>	<i>Variation</i>
Recruitment - Interview Costs	2.500,00	3.184,18	684,18
Recruitment - Moving costs	1.500,00	203,19	-1.296,81
Recruitment - Return Costs	500,00	0,00	-500,00
Recruitment - Other costs	500,00	631,70	131,70
Staff Insurances	14.000,00	11.985,22	-2.014,78
Medical Services	1.000,00	971,57	-28,43
SD Worx - social secretariat	6.000,00	5.543,73	-456,27
Staff - other costs	0,00	1.891,26	1.891,26
TOTAL	26.000,00	24.410,85	-3.480,41

This item also includes HR service costs (social secretariat), medical service, legal insurances for the personnel and general HR costs.

D. Youth Policy Development

This is one of the main areas in the Youth Forum Work Plan. In terms of budget allocation, it represents approximately 5% of the total costs under the EU operating grant. The execution on the Budget Heading was well below the budget (-9%) with the reasons being linked to lower costs and lower level of activity than foreseen.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-eligible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
D. Youth Policy Development	149.200,00	135.362,83	-9,27%	0,00	135.362,83	50.523,58
1. Youth Policies	13.300,00	10.301,83	-22,54%	0,00	10.301,83	7.111,90
2. Education	30.150,00	29.147,55	-3,32%	0,00	29.147,55	17.416,22
3. Mobility of young people	9.500,00	4.784,74	-49,63%	0,00	4.784,74	0,00
4. Youth Participation	17.650,00	17.461,97	-1,07%	0,00	17.461,97	7.950,00
5. Equality & Human rights	26.500,00	25.921,25	-2,18%	0,00	25.921,25	10.548,00
6. Employment and social inclusion	29.400,00	23.260,21	-20,88%	0,00	23.260,21	5.721,86
7. Health	8.500,00	10.101,92	18,85%	0,00	10.101,92	1.212,50
8. Sustainable development	6.200,00	5.751,57	-7,23%	0,00	5.751,57	563,10
9. EU Youth programme	8.000,00	8.631,79	7,90%	0,00	8.631,79	0,00

D.1. Youth Policies

Total Budgeted: €13.300 (Co-funding: €5.800)

Execution: €10.302 / Co-funding: €7.112 (GF: €5.800 / FR: €1.312 / VTC: €0)

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Work towards achieving clear and effective legal structures which facilitate youth organisations to function at all levels [YWD 4.1];*
- *Support the continuous partnership of YNGOs with governments, institutions and other stakeholders in the youth field [YWD 4.5];*
- *Lobby for support mechanisms responding to the specific needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus [YWD 5.4];*
- *Strive for a cross-sectoral, cross-institutional and multi level approach to youth policy [Prt 1.1];*
- *Continuous development, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy in Europe [Prt 1.2];*
- *Provide policy responses to the needs of youth, which lead to their greater autonomy [Prt 1.4];*
- *Follow up to the White Paper on youth policy of the European Union, while aiming to further consolidate efforts of the EU to ensure greater progress and co-ordination of youth policy matters [InR 1.1];*
- *Gather and systematise information from membership on the issues that are necessary to be responded to with specific policy offer [RKD 1];*
- *Strengthen existing tools for youth policy monitoring [RKD 2];*
- *Establish permanent procedures for monitoring of youth policy development in the European countries [RKD 3];*
- *Ensure that YFJ publications and external communication is organised so as to reflect the existing knowledge within the platform [RKD 4];*
- *Actively participate in relevant research networks and promote the implementation of such networks at the national level in cooperation with NYCs [RKD 5];*
- *Support and contribute to the development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy [RKD 6].*

In the field of Youth Information, the YFJ furthered its cooperation with EYCA, ERYICA and Eurodesk that led to a cooperation seminar on November 27/29 2008. The total costs of this seminar and the organisation of preparation meetings between the partners of the network cooperation at on March 13 in Brussels, March 20 in Salzburg, July 4 in Paris and September 18 in Brussels were €572,16.

The YFJ continued its advocacy work on child rights. The Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG), a network of NGOs working with children is working with the European Commission (DG Justice, Freedom and Security, JLS) to design children participation in the Forum. The cost of the coordination of the advocacy activities were approximately €1.031,03.

The expert group meeting, aiming at giving input to the policy paper took place 11 and 12 September in Brussels, Belgium. The costs of the expert group meeting and its preparation were approximately €4.968,64.

Furthermore, costs with general representation and advocacy in this area amounted €3.730,00.

D.2. Education

Total Budgeted: €30.150		(Co-funding: €13.850)	
Execution: €29.148 / Co-funding:		(GF: €11.850 / FR: €5.566 / VTC: €0)	
€17.416			

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *The inclusion of Non-Formal Education (NFE) in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the support of Member Organisations in their efforts to include NFE in national qualifications frameworks [Edu 1.1];*
- *The recognition of Youth NGOs as key stakeholders and main providers of NFE [Edu 1.2];*
- *The development of quality guidelines in the provision of NFE [Edu 1.3];*
- *The widespread recognition of the value of NFE in promoting active youth citizenship [Edu 1.4];*
- *The enhancement of knowledge regarding the impact of NFE for the individual and society [Edu 1.5];*
- *Ensure the provision of quality NFE as an integral part of Life-long Learning (LLL) [Edu 2.1];*
- *Be a key stakeholder in the recognition of the real competencies of the young person [Edu 2.2];*
- *Contribute to the elimination of all barriers limiting the educational opportunities, as well as the discrimination, within the formal learning structures [Edu 2.3];*
- *Encourage greater support for marginalised groups of young people [Edu 2.4];*
- *The widespread use of global education to foster the understanding of global interdependence and to contribute to a culture of peace [Edu 3.1];*
- *Promote learning through engagement in mobility and exchange programmes [Edu 3.3];*
- *Promote mobility in education as a learning method and tool for developing better understanding, cultural interaction and open minded society [Edu 3.4];*
- *The opening up of the formal education system to other learning providers such as YNGOs and to NFE methodologies [Edu 4.1];*

- *Advocate for the integration of education for sustainable development into formal education at all levels [Edu 4.2];*
- *Supporting innovative initiatives, notably on European Citizenship - ensuring the impact and necessary outreach to Youth Organisations [Tool 3.2].*

The objectives in this area were carried out through advocacy work and three major events which were organised in 2008. This was complimented by one working group meeting and the publication of the Sunshine Report.

Concerning the advocacy work, costs are mainly related to general representation which amounted to €2.785,77. Further a publication on Non-Formal Education "Sunshine Report on Non-Formal Education" was published (€4.540,45).

The 3rd Dialogue on the Recognition of Non-Formal Education was organised in Brussels on 28-30 May (€9.883,99), was co-financed by ECYC (European Confederation of Youth Clubs) for €1.622 and brought together 25 representatives of Member Organisations and various institution or educational representatives.

An expert meeting on educational exchanges for young people aimed at bringing together expertise from the YFJ MO's and set an agenda for future YFJ work on this issue. The meeting took place in Berlin 20-22 November (€6.319,18) which was co-financed by DNK (€3.037) and was attended by 13 participants.

To develop capacity in the Member Organisations on The EU workplan on Education, Info Days on the new OMC in Education were organised 11-12 December and gathered 17 participants.(€3.574,61). The Working Group on Quality of NFE met on 01-02 February and was attended by 4 participants. (€2.043,55).

D.3. Mobility of Young People

Total Budgeted: €9.500	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €4.785 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *An end to visa requirements for young people participating in youth activities within CoE member states [YWD 7.1];*
- *The development of a globally recognised youth visa for young people participating in all mobility exercises, such as youth exchange programmes, internships, seminars, trainings and conferences [YWD 7.2].*
- *Recognition of the benefits of youth mobility and of periods spent abroad in the wider European area, with regards to personal development, civil society development and educational development [YWD 7.3].*
- *Support the development of quality mobility programmes for all groups of young people [YWD 7.4].*
- *Development and consolidation of tools to assist MOs in effectively increasing outreach work [YWD 8.1].*
- *Encourage the activities of organisations representing marginalised and disadvantaged youth [YWD 8.2].*

The work on this area focused mostly on advocacy and running the GET VISable campaign, highlighting the necessity to remove obstacles to youth mobility within visa procedures and an event on the removal of visa obstacles.

The main activity in this area was the Mobility Seminar in the EP, organised by the YFJ and hosted by MR. Christian Vigenin, MEP (PES Bulgaria), held on the 4th December 2008 in Brussels (€4.269,17). The seminar examined the current situation of cross-border mobility of the EU with the ENP and SEE countries, focussing on identifying the main obstacles and how these could be overcome. Specific but not exclusive attention was paid to how better visa policies can contribute to the success of the ENP as an EU project.

The seminar took place on the 4th of December, in the European Parliament and it hosted eminent speakers:

- [Name], MEP (Vice President of the PES Group)
- [Name], President of the European Youth Forum
- [Name] MEP (ALDE-FI) - rapporteur on the 'Community Code on Visas'
- [Name], DG JLS; Visa department
- Plamen Angelov, Ministry of Interior, Bulgaria, Council of the EU

The Seminar hosted two working groups; one on the ENP-EU mobility and the one on the SEE countries in relation to the EU. The Working groups were chaired by:

- [Name] MEP (PES, Austria)
- ENP [Name] MEP (Vice-president of the PES Group)

The working groups were a space for participants coming from youth NGOs and institutions share their concerns, ask questions and discuss one of the most burning issues in the civil society sector at the moment, the one of visas and mobility.

[Name] concluded that the event was very important because it brought together high officials of the sector discussed and diverted the public attention, especially in the decision making bodies to a category of people mostly suffering from the rigid visa regulations, young people. [Name] promised to keep working on the issue and including the YFJ in his efforts to elevate the issue of youth mobility high on the agenda.

D.4. Youth Participation

Total Budgeted: €17.650	(Co-funding: €7.950)
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Execution: €17.462 / Co-funding: €7.950 (GF: €4.950 / FR: €3.000 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Promote and advocate for "a culture of youth participation" in Europe [Prt 2.1];*
- *Ensure the availability of and access to Youth Information enabling greater youth participation [Prt 2.2];*
- *Work with relevant partners in the realisation of the active participation of young people [Prt 2.3];*
- *Advocate for greater youth participation in formal decision-making [Prt 2.4];*
- *Advocate for co-management structures [Prt 2.5];*
- *Develop lobby strategies and co-ordinate actions of MO's for lowering of the electoral age to 16 [Prt 2.6];*

- *The adoption and implementation of policies and measures to support, promote and facilitate volunteering by young people as part of Life Long Learning [Prt 4.1];*
- *Advocate for the recognition and valuing of the benefits of volunteering, to the individual and to society, as well as of the skills, competences and attitudes gained through volunteering [Prt 4.2].*

The two main points on which the work within this area was focused in were participation and volunteering.

After an YFJ expert group developed a framework defining the rights and responsibilities of volunteers and their organisations, the topic was further discussed at the Symposium on Volunteering held at the beginning of April 2008. Together with more than ten other European Platforms, the YFJ has launched lobby actions for a European Year of Volunteering (EYV) in 2011, including support to the successfully passed written declaration calling upon the European Commission to designate such a year. The organisation of this symposium together with the lobby actions for a EYV 2011 amounted €15.882,46.

The YFJ advocated for 'a culture of youth participation' in Europe and promotion of inclusive and effective involvement of young people in the decision-making processes that have an impact on youth was one of the YFJ main actions. The YFJ also developed its work on child participation, following the adoption of the YFJ approach to child policy in the April 2008 COMEM. This meeting's costs and the advocacy work amounted to €985,71.

The remainder amount in this budget line refers to institutional collaboration, which was relevant in this area, amounting to €593,8.

D.5. Equality & Human Rights

Total Budgeted: €26.500	(Co-funding: €9.950)
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Execution: €25.921 / Co-funding: €10.548	(GF: €9.950 / FR: €598 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Provide spaces for intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, and learning through interaction [Edu 3.2];*
- *To promote the development of diversity plans by public authorities and public administrations [HuR 1.1];*
- *Develop YFJ responses to address multiple-discrimination [HuR 1.1];*
- *Advocate for more gender sensitive youth policies aiming at equal opportunities and to support MO's in their work developing programmes and activities that are more gender sensitive [HuR 1.3];*
- *A Europe valuing the abilities of the individual and celebrating diversity [HuR 1.4];*
- *To increase participation of marginalised disadvantaged young people in EU programmes [HuR 1.5].*

The YFJ work on human rights in 2008 focused mainly on equality, racism, migration and intercultural dialogue by strengthening cooperation with its members as well as with other civil society organisations and institutional stakeholders.

Following up on the campaign All different-All Equal and on the 2007-European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the YFJ published the report "Racism and its impact on young people", with fruitful inputs from Member Organisations, and external institutions and stakeholders. This cooperation allowed the YFJ to shed light on specific forms of racism and discrimination such as Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and Romaphobia and on racism and discrimination taking place in key areas of life for young people such as education, employment and social protection and security. The production of the report amounted to €2.634,31.

In the field of inter-religious dialogue the YFJ Faith-Based Expert Group (FBEG) was replenished in 2008 and pursued its work in order to promote inter-religious dialogue. In particular it provided the YFJ with policy support for the (co-)organisation of relevant events with other partners. The meetings held cost around €5.753,70. Furthermore, the FBEG finalised the tool-kit "Living faiths together", which was published in December 2008 and which constitutes a unique tool for youth organisations engaging themselves in inter-religious dialogue, and the printing of which amounted to €2.455,94.

The YFJ took active part in the 2008-European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and, among other actions, also brought input to the University of Youth and Development (Mollina, Spain, September) by organising a seminar on the role of youth exchanges in promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The seminar cost €11.711,18.

The remaining funds were allocated to representation.

D.6. Employment and social inclusion

Total Budgeted: €29.400	(Co-funding: €5.000)
Execution: €23.260 / Co-funding: €5.722 (GF: €0 / FR: €5.722 / VTC: €0)	

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *An increase in employment opportunities and decent working conditions for all;*
- *Advocate for more favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and self-employment;*
- *Guide the emergence of a climate where the competences of young people are recognised and valued;*
- *Ensure that Youth NGOs are recognised as partners in the dialogue between civil society and governmental actors at a local and national level and the YFJ is recognised at a European level.*

The objectives in this area were carried out through advocacy work and two major events which were organised in 2008.

Concerning the advocacy work, costs are mainly related to general representation which amounted to €2.595,44.

Concerning events, Information and Networking Days were organised in Brussels on 28-29 June (€4.550,55) and a Symposium on Youth Employment was convened in Paris on 17-19 October (€15.524,68) which was co-financed by CNAJEP (€5.721,86). A preparatory meeting for the Symposium was held in Brussels on 27 September, which amounted to €227,74.

D.7. Health**Total Budgeted: €8.500****(Co-funding: €0)****Execution: €10.102 / Co-funding: €1.213 (GF: €0 / FR: €1.213 / VTC: €0)**

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Promote healthy lifestyles through non-formal education and within policies affecting the lives of young people (i.e. drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, sexual health, mental illness, HIV/AIDS) [ESA 2.1];*
- *Advocate for a better work/life balance and the eradication poverty as key factors in improved mental and physical health [ESA 2.2];*
- *Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the determination and implementation of health policies affecting young people [ESA 2.3].*

A big portion of the work carried out on this topic referred to advocacy work, namely linked to the French Presidency work on health of young people, the European Pact on Mental Health and alcohol policy. The general representation costs amounted to €1.437,23.

As outlined in the Work Plan 2007-2008, the YFJ organised Information & Networking Days on HIV/AIDS and the rights of young people to sexual and reproductive health, to share best practices in working on this issues with young people. The activity took place in Brussels on 12-13 July 2008 in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population, Brussels office, and gathered 14 participants from various Member Organisations. The expenditures with this event totalled €8.373,87.

Important notice on the tobacco campaign: within the work the Youth Forum is doing on health issues, there is also co-operation with another organisation (company) working with the European Commission (DG SANCO). This co-operation is being done outside of the funds coming from the DG EAC grant and all the costs were directly covered by the partner organisation. The contract ended in November 2008.

D.8. Sustainable Development**Total Budgeted: €6.200****(Co-funding: €0)****Execution: €5.752 / Co-funding: €563 (GF: €0 / FR: €563 / VTC: €0)**

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *The widespread use of global education to foster the understanding of global interdependence and to contribute to a culture of peace [Edu 3.1]*
- *Promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation [YWD 6.1];*
- *Participate in partnerships for the full realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth [YWD 6.3];*
- *Promote sustainable development [ESA 2.4]*
- *Promote policies that put an end to the destruction of environment and to climate change ESA 4.1];*

- *Ensuring the European Youth Forum's involvement in the main EU policy processes affecting youth, including the Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact and any subsequent initiatives [ESA 4.2].*

The YFJ mainly promoted sustainable development through the participation to and the co-organisation of events, such as preparatory meetings for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development or for the UN Climate Change talks, and the Conference of Parties within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Consequently, costs in this area are related to general advocacy work (€2.564,55).

The YFJ also published a booklet entitled "Development Needs Youth" as the follow up of the one published in 2006. This booklet will be used to promote the work of youth organisations in the area of development cooperation and sustainable development. The publishing totalled €3.187,02.

D.9. EU Youth Programme

Total Budgeted: €8.000	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €8.632 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Fair multi-year funding [YWD 4.2];*
- *Ensuring the necessary support for the implementation of the Youth in Action programme and other programmes relevant to youth [InR 1.6].*

The costs under this budget line refer mainly to general representation linked to the follow up of the implementation of the Youth in Action programme, therefore quite low as this work is mostly based in Brussels (€274,00). Further work was undertaken to follow up the develop of Youth Pass (€149,90).

Most of the costs were allocated to the only activity under this budget line, the Training and Info Day Funding INGYOs that took place in Brussels, on 24 October (€8.207,89). At this Training and Info Day the main focus was Action 4.1 within the Youth in Action Programme, concerning the administrative grants to INGYO. This event brought together 74 representatives both from YFJ Member Organisations, from other INGYOs and Institutions.

E. Youth Work Development

This area focuses on work done with MOs and other youth organisations, as well as regional partners, to support their development and on the development of youth work conditions in different countries and regions.

This budget line was actually above the budgeted amount by approximately €36.650. This was due mainly to co-funding contributions above the initially foreseen on Budget Line E.2. Global and Regional Youth Work Development. This Budget Heading had several activities co-funded, some of which had not been foreseen. As a result, the amount of co-funding was higher than initially budgeted, as explained below.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-eligible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
E. Youth Work Development	217.380,00	180.730,41	-16,86%	0,00	180.730,41	119.126,95
1. Youth work devel. in Europe	64.320,00	47.121,41	-26,74%	0,00	47.121,41	35.768,30
2. Global and Regional YWD	105.660,00	97.675,49	-7,56%	0,00	97.675,49	61.615,52
3. 1% Solidarity Fund	22.850,00	14.628,74	-35,98%	0,00	14.628,74	0,00
4. Training capacity building	24.550,00	21.304,77	-13,22%	0,00	21.304,77	21.743,13

E.1. Youth Work Development in Europe

Total Budgeted: €64.320 (Co-funding: €42.500)

Execution: €47.121 / Co-funding: (GF: €25.000 / FR: €10.768 / VTC: €0) €35.768

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- Facilitate the creation of peer support networks [YWD 1.1];
- Active promotion of democratic youth initiatives and structures [YWD 1.2];
- Encourage recognition of the value and role of YNGOs [YWD 1.3];
- Increased solidarity among YNGOs and mutual support for their development [YWD 1.4];
- The integration of a strong youth dimension in EU Neighbourhood policies [YWD 1.5];
- Promote systems of good governance that involve young people [YWD 1.6];
- Strengthen MOs through the provision of training and spaces for exchange of knowledge and good practice [YWD 2.2];
- Increase cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation [YWD 2.4];
- Advocate for appropriate financial and political support tools that provide opportunities for youth organisations to reach and engage more young people [YWD 3.1];
- Promote the development of open, inclusive, membership-based, independent, democratic, representative and accountable Youth NGOs [YWD 3.2];
- Implement mechanisms for more diverse representation within and greater accessibility to the YFJ by all young people in Europe [YWD 3.3];
- Fair multi-year funding [YWD 4.2];
- Provide tailored organisational support to MOs [YWD 4.3];
- Provide support and advocate for greater resources to ensure the full independence of young NGO's to counter-act external interference in their autonomy and work [YWD 4.4];

- *Contribute to the creation of National Youth Councils (NYCs) in all member states of the Council of Europe (CoE) [YWD 5.1];*
- *Promote the development and recognition of youth work in Central Europe (CE), Eastern Europe (EE) and South East Europe (SEE) [YWD 5.2];*
- *Facilitate networking and joint actions in response to the common needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus [YWD 5.3];*
- *Lobby for support mechanisms responding to the specific needs of young people in South East Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus [YWD 5.4];*

This area focuses mainly on enhancing the sustainability of Youth Work Development (YWD) in Europe, with a special focus on regions such as Southeast Europe, Central Europe and Eastern-Europe and Caucasus. During 2008 the focus was set on the on-going action within the area, like study visits and activities such as the YWD Thematic Event.

Study Visits aim at developing knowledge on Youth Work in Europe for bilateral and multilateral cooperation among youth organisations in Europe, and serve as a reference for advocacy work towards governmental and institutional partners of the Youth Forum.

There were 4 study and 1 support visits held in 2008. The first three were done together as a threefold project; to Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, from the 27th of March to the 2nd of April. The cost of the visit was €3.007,09; the fourth one, to Czech Republic, took place on 21st - 23rd of May, amounting to €818,02. The support visit was done in Georgia amounting to €1.097,19.

The Youth Work Development Working Group (YWDWG) for 2007-2008 was constituted in the first months of the year 2007. It counts with 6 representatives from Member Organisations and it convened three times in 2008, the 15th - 16th of March in Brussels (€6.061,55); 30th May - 1st of June in Varna, Bulgaria (€10.606,82) co-funded by the Youth Society for Peace and Development in the Balkans and 27th - 28th September in Larnaka, Cyprus, (€5.718,49), co-funded by NEDISY (DEMYC). The YWDWG continued with the work allocated still in 2007, on cross pillar cooperation, the mobility issues, and the support and input on youth NGO sustainability and support in different countries and regions of Europe. Among other, YWDWG has greatly contributed to the drafting of the YWD strategy and the concept for the YWD thematic event on cross-pillar cooperation.

One of the main activities in the YWD area was the Youth Work Development Thematic Activity on cross pillar cooperation that took place in Wuerzburg, Germany (€7.301,10), co-funded by the Bavarian Youth Council (BJR/DNK). Continuing this capacity-building framework for Member Organisations the YFJ has organized this time a thematic activity focused on cross-pillar cooperation (CPC). The pooling of expertise, availability and exchange of information, availability of resources for youth work are some of the few issues that are of constant concern for Member Organisations to ensure their effective work. Many of these issues were addressed at the event. The overall aim of the meeting was to bring together practitioners and decision-makers of Member Organisations willing to share and learn good practices of cooperation with other organisations (i.e. National Youth Councils with International Youth Non-Governmental Organisations and vice versa) and work out concrete and specific ways of increasing and enhancing such cooperation and mutual support tools that will contribute to the overall sustainability of youth organisations and youth work in general.

Moreover, the event is also aiming at building bilateral and multilateral partnerships and effective networking of the Member Organisations that will increase the information exchange, efficiency and solidarity.

Another important event was the Information & Networking Days on South Eastern Europe that took place in Budva, Montenegro from 17th - 19th October (€9.922,01). The event summoned participants from both NYCs and INGYOs with a special focus of the SEE and EEC relations. The event aimed at comparing problems and solutions in the two regions and bringing together youth NGOs from the SEE and Russia and other EEC countries in partnership and cooperation. A large part of the event content was also directed to the need and methods of networking on the national level and the establishment and functioning of national youth councils.

The remainder amount on this budget line refers to general representation costs within the area. The general representation costs in the area refer to the attendance in diverse meetings and events of meaning for the policy area and following of the processes lead by partner organisations and institutions. These events are crucial in maintaining the YFJ position in the focus regions and in the different relevant processes pertaining to them.

E.2. Global and Regional Youth Work Development

Total Budgeted: €105.660	(Co-funding: €47.450)
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Execution: €97.675 / Co-funding: €61.616	(GF: €3.850 / FR: €57.766 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Active promotion of democratic youth initiatives and structures [YWD 1.2];*
- *Promote greater democracy, human rights, solidarity and global cooperation [YWD 6.1];*
- *Contribute to strengthening the role, institutional recognition and the development of democratic structures within other regional platforms, through the GCCC and ICMYO [YWD 6.2];*
- *Sustain and facilitate political co-operation processes at the regional and sub-regional levels, with the involvement of relevant actors and stakeholders at the civil society and institutional levels [YWD 6.4].*

This area covers youth work development work at the global level, namely with the Youth Forum's regional partners. The YFJ has on-going regional processes within Asia, Latin-America, Africa and the Euro-med region.

As major follow-up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, in 2008 The YFJ co-organised with the North South Centre of the CoE, the 6th Euro-Africa Cooperation Training Course for Youth Organisations, the course involved 15 participants from Africa and 15 participants from Europe (€6.483,41).

Priority was given to the follow-up of the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Process, and strengthened the relations with the Arab Region by organising the 1st Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO), 22-28 November, Amman, Jordan, November, in cooperation with the League of the Arab States and the Council of Europe. This led to a financial contribution of the Council of Europe totalling €31.483 supporting 56 European Participants to the event.

Another relevant event carried out every year, in partnership with the Spanish Government, the North-South Centre and the Spanish Youth Council is the University on Youth and Development. The UYD was done, as usual, in CEULAJ, in Mollina, Spain, from 14 to 21 September. The Youth Forum held at the UYD the Global Education Seminar (in partnership with the North-South Centre); the PoT Sub group on global education and the FEULAT- Euro-Latin-American Youth Forum (in partnership with FLAJ, INJUVE, OIJ and the Spanish Youth Council). The costs related to the general program of the University reached approximately €3.749,18.

The FEULAT, carried out within the framework of the University, had its 11th edition, from the 15th to the 21st September. In 2008, based on analysis of the needs and follow-up of previous year, it was decided to divide FEULAT into two strands - political and training, which although physically distinct, could be worked on jointly so as to improve Euro-Latin-American cooperation. This division was made on the one hand so as to deepen the discussions and political debates on public youth policies and processes happening in the context of Euro-Latin-American cooperation; and on the other, to provide the Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) with the necessary training tools for the development of such cooperation. This activity is part of the work done within the regional co-operation with Latin-America, which had a total of costs of €63.114,10, most of which is coming from the co-funding contribution from the Spanish authorities. This contribution was the main reason for the increase in the co-funding foreseen for the area.

Within this budget line is also included the global co-operation work done with different global and regional partners, such as the ICMYO (International Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations) and the GCCC (Global Co-operation Co-ordination Committee). These bodies held a meeting in Cairo, on June (GCCC on the 14th and ICMYO from 15th to the 18st). The Youth forum has also participated in Task-force meetings of ICMYO. Overall the YFJ involvement and commitment to these structures amounted to €4.414,16.

Having a support role to the work done in the area, the Working Unit on Global Affairs for Development and Co-operation, held one meeting during 2008, on 11-13 January 2008. These meetings had €2.731,15 of costs.

The remaining costs refer to general representation.

E.3. 1% Solidarity Fund

Total Budgeted: €22.850	(Co-funding: €0)
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Execution: €14.629 / Co-funding: €0	(GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)
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The European Youth Forum continued its commitment to devote part of its annual budget to youth-led development projects, through its 1% Solidarity Fund. In 2008, the Fund supported projects aimed at the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and building the capacity of regional partners.

Two projects were funded by the YFJ this year, one in Asia - on Youth Employment and decent work for all, facilitated by the Asia Youth and Students Association; and the other in a Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations. The total costs with the 1% Solidarity Fund were €14.629.

E.4. Training Capacity Building

Total Budgeted: €24.550	(Co-funding: €20.900)
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Execution: €21.305 / Co-funding: €21.743	(GF: €15.150 / FR: €6.593 / VTC: €0)
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This budget line supports mainly the implementation of the following objective:

- *Strengthen MOs through the provision of training and spaces for exchange of knowledge and good practice [YWD 2.2].*

Central to this area is the Youth Forum Pool of Trainers (PoT) and its work with YFJ Member Organisations and institutional partners. In addition, this area also focuses on the inclusion of training in the various working spheres of the YFJ, and works to promote the recognition of training as a crucial dimension of youth work and policy development.

The third meeting of the YFJ Pool of Trainers (PoT) for the mandate of 2007-2008 took place in Rijeka (Croatia) on 10-11 May 2008. The meeting was attended by 23 members of the Pool who have developed suggestions for the implementation of the adopted Policy Paper on Training as well as continued work on completion of its own Action Plan for the mandate, and used the opportunity for exchange of experience and good practices and building networks. Moreover, the meeting was attended by an Education Advisor, Education and Training Unit of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe and provided the trainers with an opportunity to get to know the work of the DYS and its own pool of trainers and see the possible ways of further cooperation between the two. The costs with this meeting were slightly under the foreseen budget, totalling €13.548,72.

During 2008 two Subgroup meetings took place. The subgroup on "How training methodologies can foster inclusiveness" was held in Brussels on 12-13 April 2008. The subgroup aimed at producing a useful and concrete tool to support the work of the YFJ and its Member Organisations in the area of training and inclusiveness; as well as focused on training methodologies and building on and developing further tools and materials already existing in the field of training and inclusiveness. The subgroup produced Recommendations on how training methodologies can support inclusiveness". The expenditures amounted to €2.752,75.

As a follow-up of the previous subgroup meetings on different topics throughout the last two years, the Global Education subgroup took place in Mollina, Spain within the frame of University on Youth and Development. The subgroup has been working on developing the Global Education Pack for Member Organisations with the objective of making the concept of Global Education more 'familiar' to Member Organisations and easy to be integrated in their activities and work. The subgroup also contributed to the development of the implementation of the adopted policy paper on Global Education. The expenditures amounted to €2.915,45.

The remaining costs on this budget line refer to general representation costs for the area.

F. External Relations & Organisational Development

This budget line refers to the part of Tools included in the Youth Forum Work Plan. It includes the more general and institutional advocacy work carried out by the Youth Forum with its partners, such as the European Commission, the Council of Europe or the United Nations, besides the work on External Communication, namely towards the media.

It also includes the regular internal communication and internal work done by the different structures of the Youth Forum, such as the permanent Commissions (EUACOM - EU Affairs Commission and COEACOM - Council of Europe Affairs Commission), and co-operation with the EU Presidencies, for example.

In 2008 it represented almost 10% of the total expenditures under the EU operating grant. Nonetheless, the execution remained 1% below the budgeted amounts.

This budget area includes an important amount of co-funding (€86.624,12). This amount is divided into €36.056 from YFJ General Funds, €37.203 from partnerships and €13.365 from Volunteer Time Contributions.

	Total Contractual Budget	Real Expenses Declared	% of variation	Non-eligible Costs	Total of Eligible Costs	Co-funding
F. External Rel. and Organis.Devel.	266.970,00	264.094,40	-1,08%	0,00	264.094,40	86.624,12
1. EU advocacy work	108.450,00	107.135,48	-1,21%	0,00	107.135,48	8.668,01
2. Council of Europe advocacy work	52.410,00	51.626,53	-1,49%	0,00	51.626,53	38.048,18
3. EU-CoE Partnership advocacy work	2.000,00	1.419,70	-29,02%	0,00	1.419,70	1.110,40
4. UN advocacy work	13.360,00	12.344,88	-7,60%	0,00	12.344,88	0,00
5. Media and Public relations	56.200,00	57.186,77	1,76%	0,00	57.186,77	23.975,92
6. Gen. Representation	34.550,00	34.381,04	-0,49%	0,00	34.381,04	14.821,61

F.1. EU Advocacy Work

Total Budgeted: €108.450 (Co-funding: €5.640)

Execution: €107.135 / Co-fund.: €8668 (GF: €0 / FR: €6.028 / VTC: €2.640)

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Communicate the Future of Europe debate to young people [PAR 3.1];*
- *Facilitate debate on European integration among young people [PAR 3.2];*
- *Establishing a continuous structured dialogue between the European Youth Forum and the EU [Tool EU 1.2];*
- *Strengthening the European Youth Forum's engagement with the EU institutions [Tool EU 1.3];*
- *Ensuring the European Youth Forum's involvement in the main EU policy processes affecting youth, including the Lisbon Strategy, the European Youth Pact and any subsequent initiatives [Tool EU 1.4];*
- *Monitoring and contributing to bilateral agreements between the EU and Third Countries, which cover the youth field [Tool EU 1.5];*
- *Ensuring the necessary support for the implementation of the Youth in Action programme and other programmes relevant to youth [Tool EU 1.6];*
- *Promoting youth mainstreaming within EU institutions and policies [Tool EU 1.7];*
- *Monitor and influence EU legislation and policies affecting youth activities and the work of youth NGOs [Tool EU 1.7].*

The work done towards achieving these objectives during the first semester was quite diverse, though the main allocation of funds was done for:

Youth Empowerment Campaign: The Youth Empowerment Campaign for a written declaration (33/2008) in the European Parliament was one of the main priorities of the YFJ agenda during the 2008. After a period of preparation and close collaboration with several Members of the European Parliament, the declaration was submitted on 21 April by five MEPs. The YFJ launched an intensive campaign to promote the written declaration, working closely with its Member Organisations. The campaign included the development of a website, posters and postcards, presence in the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg and intensive contacts with MEPs. The campaign ended in July, when the written declaration was adopted with the support of 433 MEPs. In order to discuss the follow-up of the adoption of the written declaration, the YFJ organised two further meetings with MEPs in September and December. The expenses related to the Youth Empowerment Campaign amounted to €9.692,67.

EUACOM - European Union Affairs Commission: The EUACOM played a key role in advising, supporting and advancing the policies and work of the European Youth Forum. Due to a reform of the YFJ's working structures, the EUACOM was dissolved in 2008 in order to be replaced by a new system of working groups and advocacy meetings in 2009. Therefore, in 2008, the EUACOM met only once. This last EUACOM meeting took place from 29 February until 2 March in Rome, Italy, hosted and co-funded by FNG, the Italian youth council. The main issues on the EUACOM agenda were the Youth Empowerment Campaign for a written declaration in the European Parliament, the YFJ campaign and manifesto for the 2009 EP Elections and renewal of the Commission, climate change, volunteering, and the preparation of YFJ policies on employment, child policy, the European Social Model, global education, migration, and quality indicators for non-formal education. The costs of the EUACOM meeting, including the steering-group meetings in charge of its preparation amounted to €14.718,65. The co-funding contribution from FNG reached €5.807,21.

Youth Forum Troika: The European Youth Forum Troika, now called the YFJ Team of EU Presidency NYCs, plays an important role in following up the work of the EU Presidencies and supporting the work of the Presidency Project Officers (PPOs), jointly employed by the YFJ and the National Youth Councils in the countries holding the EU Presidency. It brings together the National Youth Councils and/or Presidency Project Officers (PPOs) from the previous, current and upcoming Presidency countries, to coordinate work with consecutive EU Presidencies. Two Team meetings were held during 2008. The first one took place the 21 May (ahead of the Informal Forum of 22 May), with the participation of the National Youth Councils of Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France, besides the Slovenian Presidency Policy Officer. The second Team meeting took place on Wednesday 19 November (ahead of the Informal Forum of 20 November). The meeting was attended by the French and Czech PPOs, as well as representatives from the National Youth Councils of Slovenia, France and the Czech Republic. These meeting's costs were around €1.808,32.

Support to National Youth Councils during the EU Presidency: In the first half of 2008, an amount of €17.892,01 was allocated to the Mladinski Svet Slovenije (MSS), for a joint project, including the recruitment of a Presidency Project Officer (PPO). An equal amount (€20.911,40) was allocated to the Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire (CNAJEP), to follow the French Presidency, during the second semester of 2008. Such joint projects are set up every six months with the National Youth Council of the country holding the six-month Presidency of the European Union.

The remainder costs borne within this budget line consist in general advocacy work done towards the EU and its different institutions, including the Slovenian and French Presidencies.

F.2. Council of Europe Advocacy Work

Total Budgeted: €52.410	(Co-funding: €36.260)
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Execution: €51.627 / Co-funding: €38.048	(GF: €12.300 / FR: €21.788 / VTC: €3.960)
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This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Continuous supporting the co-management system and the structures of the Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sports [Tools 2.1];*
- *Actively contributing to the development, monitoring and evaluation of priorities, programmes and policies of the DYS and promote existing CoE tools, programmes and methodologies relevant for youth work and youth policy [Tools 2.2];*
- *Sustaining good and structured cooperation with different bodies of the Council of Europe [Tools 2.3];*
- *Supporting greater implementation of the Revised Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life [Tools 2.4];*
- *Contributing to the development of youth programmes of the North - South Centre [Tools 2.5];*
- *Advocate for co-management structures [PAR 2.5];*
- *Fair multi-year funding [YWD 4.2].*

The main focus within this area during 2008 was the finalisation and reporting of the 'All Different - All Equal' Campaign as well as the Ministerial Conference on Youth in Kiev, Ukraine, and the Youth Event preceding it. Besides these concrete processes, most of the work in this area was covered by general advocacy work and by the YFJ delegation to the Advisory Council on Youth.

'All Different - All Equal' Campaign Report

The Youth Forum has been involved in several initiatives within the framework of the European Youth Campaign "All Different - All Equal". The European Youth Forum was an observer in the European Steering Group, and took active part in the follow up activities in 2008.

The All Different - All Equal youth campaign having finished, the YFJ produced its own report on it. The publication presented the views of youth organisations and their experience with the campaign. Furthermore, it gave several recommendations for similar future endeavours. Throughout 2008 the YFJ was also involved in the meeting of the former European Steering Group of the campaign, and in preparing follow up activities within the Council of Europe. The publishing totalled €2.384,91.

The Youth Event Prior to the 8th Ministerial Conference on Youth in Kiev, Ukraine

The aim of the 2008 conference was to take stock of the major achievements regarding youth policy development within the Council of Europe and the Member States; to offer the possibility for ministers to share examples of good practice as regards youth policy in their respective countries, and to develop a long term strategy (2009-2020) for the Council of Europe youth policy (Agenda 2020).

The Youth Event ran on 8-9 October 2008, and included plenary sessions as well as workshops on different topics encompassed in the Agenda 2020 and the Final Declaration of the conference. On 10-11 October young participants joined the Ministers' Conference on an equal footing with governmental delegations, and discussed the outstanding topics in four mixed panels.

The Youth Event was largely co-financed through the grant of the Council of Europe, which was used to fund the travel of a part of the participants - those not included in the governmental delegations, guests and facilitators, and for other supporting costs as agreed in advance, and as the financial report specifies. The event totalled €15.628,18.

COEACOM - Council of Europe Affairs Commission

The YFJ Council of Europe Affairs Commission (COEACOM) was responsible for following the work of the Council of Europe, particularly the Directorate of Youth and Sport, including the European Youth Centres, and the European Youth Foundation. This Commission met in Brussels, Belgium, on 22-24 February 2008, discussing the on-going developments in the Council of Europe youth sector and the YFJ contribution to them.. This was the last meeting of the COEACOM, since the working structures of the YFJ were then changed. The meeting costs totalled €10.628,08.

The Advisory Council coordination Meeting

The 2008 AC coordination meeting was held on 30 September 2008 in Strasbourg. The main issues discussed in the meeting, except for general preparation for the following AC meeting, was evaluation of the coordination between the YFJ and its AC members in the current mandate and proposals for the future format and functioning of AC coordination meetings, the Kiev Youth Event and Ministerial Conference - follow up of the Final Declaration through the AC, 2009 budgets and programmes and work priorities of the CoE youth sector for 2010-2012, the future of the Intercultural Language Courses and statutory changes. The meeting was held in connection with the AC meeting and the spending on this budget line was hence possible to keep down to €357,32.

The Annual DYS Coordination Meeting

The 2008 annual coordination meeting with the Council of Europe was held on 18-19 February 2008 in Strasbourg. The YFJ delegation held meetings with the representatives of the Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS), the European Youth Foundation (EYF), the CoE-EU Partnership, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Education Directorate, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, and the programme "Building A Europe For and With Children". Agenda 2020, Ministerial Conference Kiev, Priorities 2009-2011, Restructuring, Renovation of EYCS, Cooperation with the Russian Federation, budgetary issues, training. The meetings totalled €2.520,05.

The remaining costs borne within this budget line consist in general advocacy work done towards the CoE, including the YFJ involvement in the statutory bodies.

F.3. EU-CoE Partnership Advocacy Work

Total Budgeted: €2.000 (Co-funding: €0)

Execution: €1.420 / Co-funding: €1.110 (GF: €0 / FR: €1.110 / VTC: €0)

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Actively participating in the definition, development and evaluation of the Partnership projects and activities [InR 3.1];*
- *Supporting innovative initiatives, notably on European Citizenship - ensuring the impact and necessary outreach to Youth Organisations [InR 3.2];*
- *Aiming to further enhance synergies between the EU and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy and youth work development [InR 3.2].*

The Work Plan did not foresee any concrete activities within this area; therefore the budget was allocated to representation in meetings and advocacy work.

F.4. UN Advocacy Work

Total Budgeted: €13.360 (Co-funding: €0)

Execution: €12.345 / Co-funding: €0 (GF: €0 / FR: €0 / VTC: €0)

This budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *Contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and promotion of global partnership to combat poverty [InR 4.1];*
- *Encourage greater implementation of WPAY and further explore its links with the MDGs achievement [InR 4.2];*
- *Facilitate and coordinate the representation of youth organisations at UN GA and other relevant events [InR 4.3];*
- *Contribute to the UN System's initiatives involving youth and promote greater co-ordination of UN agencies dealing with youth issues [InR 4.4];*
- *Advocate for full implementation for convention of the rights of the child [InR 4.5].*

The costs under this budget line refer to the work done with regards to the UN System: the UN General Assembly (€3.245); the Commission on Social Development (€2.965); the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (€1.207); the UN Commission on the Status of Women (€1.451) and the different institutions, like the World Bank and UNESCO.

Main challenges in working with the United Nations remained the fragmentation of youth issues within this global institution, formally under the responsibility of the Youth Unit placed in the Intergenerational Section of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, but in practice, scattered across various departments, specialised agencies and other parallel institutions.

The YFJ was also involved in the youth dimension of the Alliance of Civilisations initiative (AoC). As a result, Regional Youth Platforms have been included in the Advisory Board which selected the projects for the Youth Solidarity Fund of the AoC.

F.5. Media and Public relations

Total Budgeted: €56.200	(Co-funding: €21.900)
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Execution: €57.187 / Co-funding: €23.976	(GF: €16.900 / FR: €7.076 / VTC: €0)
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Besides covering one of the main tools in terms of the internal communicational and organisational development, this budget line supports the implementation of the following objectives:

- *The European Youth Forum will increase the outreach and visibility of youth organisations [InR 5.1];*
- *Provide effective tools for communication [YWD 2.3].*

This budget line refers to the costs involved in managing and developing press work related to the Youth Forum and Youth work - namely through publications and web sites - and also managing and developing internal communication tools, such as the European Youth Forum intranet, the "Youth Opinion" and the Annual Report.

The first issued of the Youth Opinion was dedicated to "Youth Autonomy". Costs amounted to €8.070,87 and it was published in April. The second edition of the Youth Opinion was dedicated to the topic "Towards a new Youth Agenda for the EU" It was published in November 2008 and the costs amounted to €7.863,29. Besides, an Open Doors day was organised at the beginning of July as a visibility event, though it also served to introduce the new Bureau of the Youth Forum. It totalled €2,037,12.

The European Youth Forum's Press & Communications Meeting 2008 took place in Madrid (Spain) from 10-13 September. It was hosted by CJE (Consejo de la Juventud de España), the Spanish Youth Council. The meeting, which theme was 'How to communicate with the media', gathered 15 Press and Communication officers from YFJ Member Organisations. The totals costs of the meeting were €12.084,64, while the CJE contribution totalled €7.075,92.

The remainder of the costs within this budget line refer to publications (like the Annual Report), subscriptions, YFJ stand, YFJ merchandising, internet hosting and software (including the YFJ intranet) and documentation. These amounted altogether €27.130,85.

F.6. General Representation

Total Budgeted: €34.550	(Co-funding: €18.400)
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Execution: €34.381 / Co-funding: €14.822	(GF: €6.856 / FR: €1.200 / VTC: €6.765)
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This budget line includes the participation at events directly organised by a YFJ Member or other youth organisations, as well as events organised by external bodies in which Youth Forum policies can be introduced. Most of the costs refer to travel costs, as for many activities board and lodging is provided, but the Youth Forum has to bear the travel costs. The final costs included a co-funding amount coming from volunteer time contribution of €6.765. These costs were slightly under the budgeted.

V. INCOMES

The final incomes of the Youth Forum during 2008 were as follows:

	BUDGET			EXECUTION		
	Contractual Grants	Other Income	TOTAL 2008	Contractual Grants	Other Income	TOTAL 2008
A. EC funding (DG EAC)	2.285.000	0	2.285.000	2.095.944	189.056	2.285.000
1. Youth in Action - Action 4.2	2.285.000	0	2.285.000	2.095.944	189.056	2.285.000
B. Other funding	422.750	45.000	467.750	682.760	60.362	743.122
1. Council of Europe (annual grants)	103.000	0	103.000	107.144	0	107.144
2. Membership fees	100.000	40.000	140.000	100.006	42.029	142.035
3. Volunteer Time contributions	0	0	0	155.760	0	155.760
4. Partnership projects & other	219.750	5.000	224.750	319.850	18.334	338.183
TOTAL INCOME	2.707.750	45.000	2.752.750	2.778.704	249.418	3.028.122

This table is divided into two parts: one with the budgeted values; and the other with the final execution, including the following items:

1. Contractual Grants: co-funding allocated to the annual contractual grants, such as the DG EAC operating grant and also grants from the Council of Europe.
2. Other Income: incomes that are not allocated to the execution of the annual contractual grants, and which serve to cover the remaining costs of the Youth Forum activity, not linked to the referred grants.
3. TOTAL: Total of the incomes of the Youth Forum, adding the incomes attached to Contractual Grants and the Other Income.

A. European Commission, DG EAC

A.1. Youth in Action - Action 4.2

The first pre-financing payment of €1,142 m was received on the 3 July 2008 and the intermediate payment of €914.000 was received on 21 November 2008.

As explained before, and considering the final budget execution, it is expected that a deduction of approximately €189.055,84 could be made to the total foreseen contribution of €2.285.000 from DG EAC. This would lead to a final grant of €2.095.944,16. Considering that the payments from DG EAC on this grant have totalled €2.056.500, we expect to receive an amount of €39.444,16.

The grant was recorded on the accounts according to the total value registered in the contract, that being €2.285.000. A provision to the value of the expected deduction was made (provision included in 'Costs outside of EU Grant'), in order to avoid (or minimise) the problem resulting from a reduction of the grant as a cost in the following year.

B. Co-funding

B.1. Council of Europe

The Youth Forum receives two grants from the Council of Europe - for running costs and for activities. For 2008 these grants totalled €107.144.

B.2. Membership Fees

The total Membership Fees budgeted (€140.000) were split into two parts, one allocated to the contractual grants (€100.000) and the other considered as other income to cover costs of the Youth Forum activity, not linked to the annual contractual grants.

Following the request from DG EAC, we present the detail and allocation of the membership fees paid to the Youth Forum:

Acronym	Organisation	Memb. Fee 2008	Allocated Contract. Grants	Allocated other Income
		142.035,08	100.006,23	42.028,85
AEGEE Europe	Association des Etats généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
Alliance	Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
Allianssi	Finnish Youth Co-operation Allianssi	2.233,00	2.233,00	0,00
ATD Quart Monde	Mouvement international ATD Quart Monde	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
BYC	British Youth Council	4.060,00	4.060,00	0,00
CEJA	Conseil européen des jeunes agriculteurs	500,00	500,00	0,00
CESI-Youth	European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions	500,00	500,00	0,00
CGJL	Confédération générale de la jeunesse luxembourgeoise	1.218,00	1.218,00	0,00
CIJOC	International Coordination of Young Christian Workers	500,00	0,00	500,00
CJE	Spanish Youth Council	3.451,00	3.451,00	0,00
CNAJEP	Comité national des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire	3.857,00	3.857,00	0,00
CNJ	Portuguese National Youth Council	2.030,00	0,00	2.030,00
CNJC	National Youth Council of Catalonia	2.436,00	2.436,00	0,00
CNTM	National Youth Council of Moldova	1.015,00	0,00	1.015,00
CRIJ	Conseil pour les relations int. jeunesse Communauté française de Belgique	1.722,50	0,00	1.722,50
CSAJ/SAJV	National Youth council of Switzerland	3.045,00	3.045,00	0,00
CTR	National Youth Council of Romania	710,50	0,00	710,50
CYCIC	Cyprus Youth Council	1.015,00	0,00	1.015,00
DEMYC	Democrat Youth Community of Europe	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
DNK	German National Committee for International Youth Work	4.060,00	4.060,00	0,00
Dutch NYC	Dutch National Youth Council	3.451,00	0,00	3.451,00
DBYN	Don Bosco Youth Network	500,00	500,00	0,00
DUF	Danish Youth Council	2.639,00	2.639,00	0,00
EBCO/BEOC	European Bureau of Conscientious Objectors	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
ECCO	European Council of Conscripts Organisations	500,00	0,00	500,00
ECOSY	Young European Socialists	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
ECYC	European Confederation of Youth Clubs	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EDS	European Democrat Students	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EEE-YFU	European Educational Exchanges-Youth for Understanding	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EFAY	European Free Alliance Youth	500,00	500,00	0,00
EFIL	European Federation for Intercultural Learning	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EFYSO	European Federation of Youth Service Organisations	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EGTYF	European Good Templars Youth Federation	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
ENL	Estonian Youth Council	1.015,00	1.015,00	0,00
ESIB	The National Union of Students in Europe	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
ESYN	National Youth Council of Hellas	2.436,00	0,00	2.436,00
ETUC Youth	European Trade Union Confederation	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EUFED	EU Federation of Youth Hostels Associations	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
EUJS / UEEJ	European Union of Jewish Students	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
EXPER.IN EUROPE	Experiment in Europe	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
EYCE	Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
FICEMEA	International Federation of Centres for Integrated Education	500,00	0,00	500,00
FIEEA	International Federation for Educational Exchanges of children and adolescents	500,00	0,00	500,00
FIMCAP	International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
FNG	Forum Nazionale Giovani	2.892,75	2.892,75	0,00
FYEG / FJEE	Federation of the Young European Greens	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00

GyIK-NIKI	Hungarian Coordination Bureau for International Youth Work	1.624,00	0,00	1.624,00
ICYE	International Cultural Youth Exchange	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
IFLRY	International Federation of Liberal Youth	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
IFM/SEI	International Falcon Movement-Socialist Educational International	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
IFMSA	International Federation of Medical Students' Associations	1.029,00	1.029,00	0,00
IGLYO	Int. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Student Organisation	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
IUSY	International Union of Socialist Youth	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
IYNF/IJAN	International Young Naturefriends	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
JECI-MIEC	Jeunesse étudiante catholique int. - Mouvement int. étudiants catholiques	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
JEF	Young European Federalists	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
JEUN.MUSICALES	Jeunesses Musicales d'Europe	500,00	0,00	500,00
JOC-E	Young Christian Workers	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
KNZ-Malta	National Youth Council of Malta	1.015,00	0,00	1.015,00
LAEF	Icelandic Youth Council	1.015,00	1.015,00	0,00
LIJOT	Council of Lithuanian Youth Organisations	1.015,00	1.015,00	0,00
LJP	Youth Council of Latvia	1.015,00	0,00	1.015,00
LNU	Norwegian Youth Council	2.639,00	2.639,00	0,00
LSU	National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations	3.045,00	3.045,00	0,00
LYMEC	European Liberal Youth	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
MIJARC	International movement of Catholic agricultural and rural youth	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
MSS	National Youth Council of Slovenia	1.218,00	1.218,00	0,00
NAYORA	National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan	1.015,00	0,00	1.015,00
NCYOG	National Council of Youth Organisations of Georgia	500,00	0,00	500,00
NYCA	National Youth Council of Armenia	1.015,00	1.015,00	0,00
NYCI	National Youth Council of Ireland	2.030,00	0,00	2.030,00
NYCR	National Youth Council of Russia	3.248,00	0,00	3.248,00
OBESSU	Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
ÖJV	Austrian Children and Youth Representation	2.842,00	2.842,00	0,00
PAX CHRISTI	Pax Christi International	500,00	500,00	0,00
RADA	Belarussian Union of Youth and Children's Public Associations	500,00	0,00	500,00
RCY	Red Cross EU-Office	500,00	500,00	0,00
RDJ	German-speaking Youth Council of Belgium	500,00	500,00	0,00
RMS	Youth Council of Slovakia	1.218,00	1.218,00	0,00
RY EUROPE	Rural Youth Europe	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
SCI	Service Civil International	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
TEJO	World Organisation of Young Esperantists	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
VJR	Flemish Youth Council	1.722,50	1.722,50	0,00
WAGGGS	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
WOSM	World Organisation of the Scout Movement	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
WSCF	World Student Christian Federation	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
YAP/AJP	Youth Action for Peace	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
YDC	Youth for Development and Co-operation	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
YEE	Youth and Environment Europe	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
YEN	Youth of European Nationalities	686,00	686,00	0,00
YEPP	Youth of the European People's Party	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
YEU	Youth for Exchange and Understanding	1.373,00	0,00	1.373,00
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00
YWCA	Young Women Christian Association	1.373,00	1.373,00	0,00

B.3. Partnerships & other income

The Partnership projects include activities held together with other organisations, which were hosted and/or co-funded by them, as well as various forms of YFJ participation or representation at different events, the costs of which are reimbursed (when they do not represent double EU-funding).

It also includes the different partnership projects, mainly in the form of co-funding for hosting activities but also grants for concrete activities (such as the one from the Network of European Foundations), donations and other contributions, which are gathered in order to meet the necessary non-Community funding requirement.

It also includes fees from participants, which are a compensation paid by Member Organisations for the participation of additional MO representatives at the Council of Members meeting in April.

The co-funding coming for partnerships and other incomes is split as follows:

	Budget	Execution	Difference
TOTAL (Eligible Costs)	224.750,00	319.849,72	95.099,72
A. Statutory Bodies	114.900,00	187.025,32	72.125,32
1. General Assembly	29.400,00	83.974,02	54.574,02
2. Council of Members	80.000,00	96.009,01	16.009,01
3. Bureau	5.500,00	7.042,29	1.542,29
C. Employment Costs	0,00	2.520,98	2.520,98
1. Gross salaries	0,00	2.520,98	2.520,98
D. Youth Policy Development	10.000,00	17.973,58	7.973,58
1. Youth Policies	0,00	1.311,90	1.311,90
2. Education	2.000,00	5.566,22	3.566,22
4. Youth Participation	3.000,00	3.000,00	0,00
5. Equality & Human rights	0,00	598,00	598,00
6. Employment and social inclusion	5.000,00	5.721,86	721,86
7. Health	0,00	1.212,50	1.212,50
8. Sustainable development	0,00	563,10	563,10
9. EU Youth programme	0,00	0,00	0,00
E. Youth Work Development	66.850,00	75.126,95	8.276,95
1. Youth work development in Europe	17.500,00	10.768,30	-6.731,70
2. Global and Regional YWD	43.600,00	57.765,52	14.165,52
4. Training capacity building	5.750,00	6.593,13	843,13
F. External Relations and Organisational Devel.	33.000,00	37.202,89	4.202,89
1. EU advocacy work	3.000,00	6.028,01	3.028,01
2. Council of Europe advocacy work	20.000,00	21.788,18	1.788,18
3. EU-CoE Partnership advocacy work	0,00	1.110,40	1.110,40
4. UN advocacy work	0,00	0,00	0,00
5. Media and Public relations	5.000,00	7.075,92	2.075,92
6. Gen. Representation	5.000,00	1.200,38	-3.799,62

B.3. Partnerships (Volunteer Time Contribution)

The Volunteer Time Contributions were calculated according to the calculation procedure and values agreed with DG EAC in April 2005, based on document (0303-05 Finance) "In-kind contribution from Youth Forum delegates and political representatives: Justification of the economic value for the volunteer time contribution".

The calculation for 2008 was the following:

MEETING	Budget line	BUDGET	NO. VOLUNT.	DAYS PER MEETING	VALUE PER DAY	TOTAL for 2008
COMEM Barcelona 05/2008	A02	36.300	111	2	165	36.630
GA 11/2008	A02	79.860	180	3	165	89.100
Bureau meeting 1 - 01/2008	A03	3.300	7	2	165	2.310
Bureau meeting 2 - 03/2008	A03	3.300	10	2	165	3.300
Bureau meeting 3 - 06/2008	A03	3.300	5	2	165	1.650
Bureau meeting 4 - 09/2008	A03	3.300	5	2	165	1.650
Bureau meeting 5 - 10/2008	A03	3.300	4	2	165	1.320
Bureau meeting 6 - 12/2008	A03	3.300	7	2	165	2.310
Work Plan Consultation	A03	3.300	17	1	165	2.805
FCC - 1 - 03/2008	A05	990	3	2	165	990
EUACOM - 03/2008	F01	3.300	8	2	165	2.640
COEACOM (steering group)	F02	990	4	1	165	660
COEACOM - 02/2008	F02	3.300	10	2	165	3.300
CBMA	A06	990	2	1	165	330
Advocacy & General Representation	F06	6.600	41	1	165	6.765
TOTAL		155.430				155.760

VI. NON-"EU OPERATING GRANT" COSTS & INCOMES

Following the explanation provided in this Financial Report, under point 'III. Overview of the Financial Operation' we wish to clarify those costs considered as exempt from the Operating Grant Agreement.

One of the main conditions set for clarifying that these expenditures were not included in the DG EAC Grant was demonstration that these costs were covered by funding not considered for the non-Community funding requirement on the grant.

We can confirm that these costs had well identified sources of funding, distributed across several of the working areas of the Youth Forum. The distribution of costs and funding were as follows:

		Execution	Funding
N.B.8	Interests	783,88	1.184,24
N.B.9	Costs & Incomes Other Years	-2.279,71	4.615,55
N.C.4	NEC Education	1.435,75	1.283,56
N.D.3	NEC-Mobility	0,00	0,00
N.D.5	NEC-Equality & HR	531,80	531,80
N.D.6	NEC-Employment & Social Inclusion	2.112,73	2.481,00
N.D.7	NEC Health	1.790,19	1.995,64
N.E.1	NEC Youth work development in Europe	200,00	0,00
N.E.2	NEC Global and Regional YWD	770,43	757,45
N.F.1	NEC Training capacity building	623,01	734,46
N.F.2	NEC EU advocacy work	3.140,81	2.752,91
N.F.3	NEC Council of Europe advocacy work	142,59	0,00
N.F.5	NEC EU-CoE Partnership advocacy work	884,02	1.050,06
N.F.6	NEC Media and Public relations	152,38	140,38
N.F.6	NEC Gen. Representation	349,97	806,51
R.N.B	Revenues not allocated to EC grant	0,00	42.028,85
CC	Non-eligible Costs	10.637,85	60.362,41

EBIT	49.724,56
./. Interest ¹	-438,05
Result	49.286,51

¹ The interest received that is associated to the pre-financing totalled €438,05. This amount resulted from €128,34 from the bank account used to receive the instalments from DG EAC in 2008 (2008-0727/001-001), plus €309,71 from its current account (received on account 2008-0727/001-001). This interest (€438,05) was deducted from the calculation of the final grant, as settled by the EU financial regulations, as shown on Annex 1 - Final Budget Execution 2008.

Other Non-eligible Costs	Execution	Funding
N.B.10 Provision EU Grant	189.055,84	189.055,84
N.C.3 NEC Vacation pay accrual	-8.634,73	0,00

The allocation in this table is based on the analytical accountancy of the Youth Forum, by Cost-Centres (CC), different from those used for the expenditures included under the DG EAC Operating Grant, which correspond to each of the referred entries. This can be confirmed in annex 4 "Description of Costs Allocation 2008".

Even if different, the designation of these cost-centres also makes reference to the concrete working areas of the Youth Forum, so that it is also visible to our Members how these costs were allocated and to which areas they refer.

The main reason for these costs being excluded from the operating grant agreement is because most of them would contravene the EC Financial Regulations and the Operating Grant Agreement, as they refer to non-eligible costs or EU Funding.

With respect to these aforementioned costs, we would like provide further explanation on the following points:

N.B.8 Interest

The part of the costs included in this cost-centre that are not included in the application for the DG EAC grant (€783,88) relates to interest on bank overdrafts. Considering that the cash flow of the Youth Forum is normally negative during a part of the year, in order to keep the organisation functioning, money has to be borrowed from the bank.

These costs would be non-eligible according to EU regulations; therefore they were not included within the Operating Grant. The same logic applies to interest received (€1.184,24).

N.B.9 Costs and income of other years

The Youth Forum closes the accounts for one year at the beginning of February of the following year in order to be able to provide the due reports to the different partners on time.

Due to this short delay, it is very likely that there are costs, such as invoices from suppliers, referring to one year, that are received after that year's accounts are closed. When this happens, they have to be registered in the following year as costs and incomes from previous years.

Some of these amounts may refer to credit notes, therefore representing a deduction of costs (costs with negative value). In 2008 this credit surpassed the costs received, therefore representing a negative value of €2.279,71.

N.B.10 Provision EU Grant

As mentioned before, the final value of the grant is only known at the moment of the balance payment. According to the EU regulations, the grant should be recorded according to the total contractual value. As the final evaluation is only undertaken in the following year, if the balance payment is not approved in total, the difference to the contractual value will be booked as a cost from previous years.

This is very likely to happen every year, as it is almost impossible to have a 100% execution according to the initial contract. Therefore, there is a high potential for unforeseen losses at the end of the year, accumulating as negative results on the organisation's balance sheet and weakening its financial stability.

For all these reasons, and following the accountancy principles of 'prudence' and 'periodicity' (specialization of the period), as a reduction in the balance payment of €189.055,84 is expected for 2009 concerning the 2008 grant (that would constitute a loss for the 2009 exercise), a provision of this amount was created at the end of the year.

As this provision would be a non-eligible cost under EU Financial Regulations, it was also included in the 'Costs not included in the DG EAC Grant'.

N.C.3 Vacation Pay Accrual

As mentioned before, the final value the "Vacation pay accrual" for 2008 amounted to a negative value (credit) of €8.634,73. This accrual intends to ensure the vacation pay of the following year and is done according to the Belgian legislation. This amount is calculated with a tool provided by the social secretariat. This amount should match with the account '456000 Pécule de vacances'. The difference (positive or negative) is booked in the account '625000 Provision pécule de vacances'.

This provision takes into account the age, the salary and the seniority of the employee and is most likely to change every year.

This means that if, in one year the amount required is lower than the previous year, the accrual will be negative. If in the year after the amount is higher, the accrual will be positive.

Therefore, when the accrual is higher, it represents a normal cost and is, in accounting terms, processed as a debit in account 625000. When the accrual is lower, this difference is considered as a credit in the same account.

In this sense, we considered that this negative amount should be considered as a non-eligible cost, considering that a "negative" cost could be considered for the calculation of the grant. As we believed that it could be difficult to evaluate, within the usual framework, a technicality such as a credited cost account, we finally decided to place it as non-eligible.

Other situations

For the remaining entries, the main reason for not including the values under the Operating Grant is the fact that reimbursement could constitute double EU funding for the Youth Forum.

For example, the cost-centre N.D.6 Employment & Social Inclusion: these contributions come from the "Comité national des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire - CNAJEP", covering the participation of YFJ representatives in a Symposium on Youth Employment. As these refer to costs including funds from the EU, they could constitute double EU funding: therefore, both the costs and the incomes are allocated outside the operating grant.

Another case refers to N.F.2 EU Advocacy work. Most of the costs refer to a conference Beyond Religious Differences that took place in Baku on the 3-9 November 2008. As the costs were reimbursed from the Council of Europe, the costs were included under the non-eligible costs.

Revenues

Most of the revenues are linked to concrete cost-centres, as explained here. The more general revenues (R.N.B. - Revenues not allocated to EC grant), which totalled €42.028,85 come from part of the membership fees from Youth Forum Member Organisations (as explained in point 'V. Incomes' of this Financial Report).

VII. ANNEXES

This Financial Report includes the following annexes:

- Annex 1: 0303-09 - Final Budget Execution 2008
- Annex 2: "Audit Report on the financial Statements as of 31 December 2008" from External Auditors (Ernst & Young)
- Annex 3: Youth Forum 'General accounting plan' (AISBLs - Belgium)
- Annex 4: Description of Costs Allocation 2008
- Annex 5: Profit & Loss Accounts 2008
- Annex 6: Detailed List of Bookkeeping movements for 2008
- Annex 7: Detailed List of Payments 2008
- Annex 8: Copies of bank slips on interest earned on the pre-financing
- Annex 9: Declaration on co-funding
- Annex 10: Internal Financial Guidelines (in force during 2008)
- Annex 11: Publications:
 - *Annual Report 2007 (the Annual Report 2008 will be published soon)*
 - *Youth Opinion and e-Youth Opinion - 2008 editions*
 - *Other YFJ publications made during 2008.*

Additional information can also be delivered upon request. There is also some information available on our web site: www.youthforum.org (English) or www.forumjeunesse.org (French).

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

The total expenditure, considering the eligible costs included in the operating grant n° 2008-0727/001-001, were €2.779.142,16. This value is lower than the contractual value of €2.856.250, for which a contribution of €2.285.000 from the European Commission was foreseen. Also considering the contractual terms, the execution of the Budget Headings was within the maximum variation of 20% and the non-community funding was over the minimum requirement of 20%, reaching an amount of € 682.759,95.

According to our calculations, and considering also a deduction of €438,05 of interests received on the pre-financing, the final grant for 2008 under the aforementioned contract should be € 2.095.944,16.

Therefore, and taking into account that the pre-financing totalled € 2.016.000, the Youth Forum should receive an amount of €39.444,16 from DG EAC.

This report has sought to explain the main points related to the activities and work done by the Youth Forum during 2008, namely those supported by the DG EAC Operating Grant.

Nevertheless, should the European Commission consider that further clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to contact either of the following persons:

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Tel 02 230 64 90
Fax 02 230 21 23
e-mail:

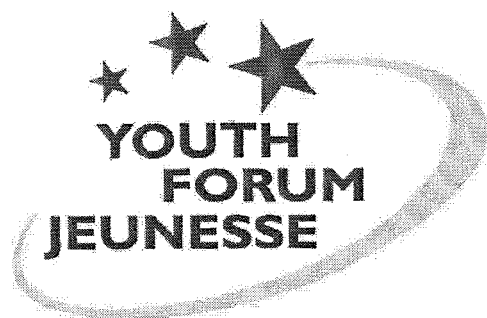
Administrative and Financial Director
Tel: 02 230 64 90
Fax: 02 230 21 23
e-mail:

The undersigned declare on their honour that the information given in this report is accurate to the best of their knowledge:

SECRETARY GENERAL

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Brussels, 31 March 2008



FINAL REPORT 2008
European Youth Forum

Operating Grant
2008-0727/001-001

Youth in Action - Action 4.2

ANNEX 9

Declaration on co-funding

Declaration of Honour

I, the undersigned, certify that the information contained in the Final Report 2008 of the *European Youth Forum* concerning the Operating Grant 2008-0727/001-001 is correct to the best of my knowledge and excludes any double-funding from the EU Budget.

In order to ensure that the information provided is correct and that the contributions made during 2008 to the *European Youth Forum*, AISBL, related to the financial operation under the aforementioned Operating Grant, did not come from grants provided by the European Commission to member organisations pertaining to the same period, the Youth Forum requested that member and partner organisations declared this.

These declarations were collected and are available for consultation by the services of the European Commission at the office of the *European Youth Forum*.

Place: Brussels

Date: 31 / 03 / 2009

Secretary General

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