



ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL
IN EUROPE
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 www.eyce.org

DATE: **Sofia, Bulgaria, 15.01.2006**
TO: **EYCE National Correspondents and Contacts**
RE: **Invitation to the EYCE Training Event 2006**



"Make Poverty history"

Promoting Economic Justice and Social Inclusion

14th - 21st May 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria



PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE INVITATION LETTER CAREFULLY!

Dear Friends,

Greetings on behalf of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE)!
We would like to invite you to nominate candidates to the upcoming EYCE Training event "Make Poverty History – Promoting Economic Justice and Social Inclusion" to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria.



1. INTRODUCTION

In February 2005 Nelson Mandela called upon the world leaders to make poverty history. He mentioned that poverty can be seen as a prison and that it is time to set the imprisoned free. This moving speech inspired EYCE and our Steering Committee on Economic Justice to seriously think about how the need of our network could be met best. EYCE decided to take this call up and provide a training course that is aimed at equipping youth leaders and interested youth with a possibility to develop projects and methods that will help them to

promote equal opportunities for socially excluded youth. This training course should equip the participants with skills needed in order to promote economic justice in particular for unemployed youth and to work for social and economic inclusion of ethnic or cultural minorities. With this training course EYCE wants to tackle one of the issues EYCE stands for: working with young people for making our world a more just place.

Profile of participants:

The target group for this event are young people (18 to 30 years of age) and youth leaders from various backgrounds. They should be active in youth work and able to act as multipliers for the issue of Economic Justice in their respective home countries. In order to act as multipliers they should be ready to commit themselves to implement a small project in their home country that has the potential to increase economic justice or is aimed at socially excluded youth, be in a position to do that and report back to EYCE. This training course is aimed at young people who do not have professional knowledge of the theme. However, the participants should be interested in questions of globalisation and economic justice and ready to contribute actively to the content of the training course.

EYCE is inviting participants from an academic and non academic background. Participants are expected to be open minded and willing to listen to others as well as able and ready to share their own experiences and backgrounds and to participate actively and fully in the programme.

Arrivals and Departures:

Sunday 14th May is the day of arrival
&
Sunday 21st May is the day of departure.

As the training course will be held in the Sofia area all participants are expected to come to Sofia. Local transport from Sofia to the venue of the training course will be arranged. However, the travel will be arranged with those participants who have been selected. More detailed travel instructions will thus be available to the participants selected.

Please make sure to arrive/depart on these dates as the possibilities of arranging accommodation in case of early arrival and late departure will be extremely limited. **EYCE cannot arrange extra night's accommodation** unless this is absolutely necessary for reasons of travelling schedule and **approved in advance** by the Treasurer of EYCE.



2. BACKGROUND OF THE TRAINING COURSE

The questions of economic justice and social inclusion have been on the agenda of EYCE since its foundation. The question of social inclusion of all young people was a major item of discussion during EYCE's seminar on Globalisation in spring 2002. In that seminar the participants raised the concern that they would wish to receive more skills and concrete tools to address economic injustice. They wished to be able to develop small workshops that could help them to deeply explore methods and tools to foster the inclusion of socially excluded youth in their respective countries. Over the past two years EYCE has asked in the evaluation forms of all activities which themes the participants are interested in and what future activities of EYCE should focus on. Every time some participants mentioned the

questions related to globalisation and economic justice. Since this question was raised so often, the Executive Committee of EYCE recently established a so-called “Steering Committee” on Economic Justice and Globalisation. 6 young people who participated in the most recent activities of EYCE have been chosen to contribute to the programme development and the policy shaping of EYCE in this particular field.

Thus, EYCE wanted to take up the call raised by so many participants of recent events and offer this training opportunity. EYCE was invited to Bulgaria by our member organisation the Christian Youth Council in Bulgaria, CYCB. We are grateful for the invitation offered and hope to bring visibility of ecumenical youth to Bulgaria, in particular when addressing an issue that is crucial to Bulgarian society – and when addressing an issue that affects young people all over Europe. EYCE is committed to take this challenge up and to provide the training opportunities requested.



3. THEMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

EYCE’s training courses combine theoretical input and the development of practical skills of the participants. The International Planning Committee has identified the following aim and objectives for this training course – thus giving the participants a guide to what they can expect from the event.

Aim

This training course should provide the participants with knowledge and effective tools to take action and contribute to Economic Justice and Social Inclusion in today’s globalizing world.

Objectives

- To define terminology and research from a social, economic, sociological, psychological, theological and ethical point of view how to understand Economic Justice
- To analyse roots and causes of economic injustice and social exclusion from a historic, ethical, cultural, theological and political point of view
- To understand the effects of injustice and exclusion on people and societies
- To share examples of economic justice and injustice in different countries
- To provide participants with the needed skills and tools to take action in their personal, national, organizational context
- to inspire to identify and further develop feasible actions and tools for actively making poverty history.

Programme elements will include:

- critical analysis of the roots of economic injustice and social exclusion
- participation-advocacy for equal participation in policy and decision making
- analysis of reasons for youth unemployment
- development of projects that are aimed at increasing justice and social inclusion.

More information on the programme can be found in the draft timetable included in this mailing and can be downloaded from EYCE's website at www.eyce.org .



4. METHODS

The training course is based on an active role of all participants. It shall enable the participants to learn about the mentioned issue with heads, hands and hearts. The working methods used shall therefore vary from workshops where practical skills can be used and improved to lectures and small group discussions and to other creative means such as short dramas and role games. Learning by doing will be an essential part of this training.

One important aspect of EYCE activities is the social part of the event, which will help everyone in intercultural learning and celebrating our diversities. Moreover, we will have a Bulgarian Surprise evening and other interesting activities during the training course. All of these elements will play an important role in learning how economic justice or injustice affects the day to day life of those who are less privileged.

EYCE is welcoming participants from various backgrounds and various levels of knowledge. Therefore attention will be paid that various methods will be used in order to ensure that every participant can gain the most out of the training course.



5. TIMETABLE

A draft timetable is attached to this mailing and can equally be found at EYCE's website www.eyce.org .



6. MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (IPC)



The International Planning Committee for the training course is composed of the following people:

1. Monika Fedor
2. Pille Sims
3. Ruxandra Stoian
4. Martin Klein

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EYCE ExCo
Estonia
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5. Miroslav Shindarov
6. Daniel Müller

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[general.secretary @ eyce.org](mailto:general.secretary@eyce.org)

Bulgaria
EYCE Office

If you want to get in contact with the members of the IPC please do not hesitate to contact them.



7. PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee for the training course will be **140 € (Euros)** including accommodation, meals, programme and excursion. Please note that this amount can only be offered because of the subsidies received from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, and subsidises the total cost of accommodation, meals, programme & excursion.

Subsides for the participation fees are available in accordance with the reimbursement policies for travel subsidies mentioned under “8. Travel Subsidies”. Please search for your country there in order to identify if you are entitled to any subsidies.

Please note that the payment of a **cancellation fee** of 140 € (Euros) is expected from participants who cancel their participation in the event less than 3 weeks prior to commencement of the activity.



8. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

Contributions:

Some participants of this training course are entitled to partial reimbursement of their travel expenses and participation fees. These expenses, however, are a heavy burden on EYCE’s finances. Therefore, all participants are expected to contribute something to the travel costs and the participation fee of the training course they are attending. Please do also discover ways of finding subsidies yourself carefully – we have heard some very successful stories of individual fundraising at our past events. You may contact national aid agencies, your national EYCE member or your local congregation.

Least costly route:

Participants will be reimbursed on the basis of the shortest and least costly route between their place of residence and Sofia. If participants start their journey from a place further away than their residence to the training course venue or the return journey is to a place further away than their place of residence, the extra costs will not be covered by EYCE. We also strongly recommend looking around for cheap tickets, e.g. using students’ discount tickets or Internet booking as well as low cost airlines flying to Sofia such as Wizzair or SkyEurope.

Train or Plane?

If the distance between the participants’ residence and the training course is less than 800 km, then the participant should travel by train second class. For distances greater than 800 km the participant should travel by either train or plane (whichever is least expensive). If the participant has travelled in a more expensive manner they will only get subsidised to the extent of the allowed method of travel according to the above guidelines.

Participation:

The participants should be present for the whole training course. Those who participate for less than 90% of the total duration of the activity will not be reimbursed.

Entitlements:

The standard EYCE policy concerning entitlements for travel subsidies and participation fees apply for this event for ALL participants. They are as follows:

Band One: 90% subsidy entitlement for the following countries:

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Slovak Republic.

Band Two: 50% subsidy entitlement for the following countries:

Belgium, Iceland, Italy, Northern Ireland/ Eire, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

Band Three: Other countries:

You might come from a country not mentioned above. If you come from a country not mentioned but require assistance with travel and participation fee subsidies, then this should be noted in the Application Form, and the EYCE Treasurer should be contacted regarding the request (paulwelch_eyce@yahoo.co.uk).

Copy of tickets:

Travel expenses are only reimbursed upon the presentation of a copy of all travel documents and receipts. **Please prepare these copies beforehand.** Participants travelling with e-tickets need to provide the boarding cards of their journey TO Bulgaria. Please do not throw them away.

If you can pay more than required:

It might also be the case that participants can afford to pay more than what is asked. We kindly ask these participants to pay what they can afford since this means that more funds are available to subsidise others... and this is what teamwork and solidarity is all about!

Authorisation:

The participants requesting financial assistance need to have the subsidy amount authorised in writing by the Treasurer of EYCE. The amounts indicated in the Application Form will be the starting point for agreements, but the binding reference point for reimbursement will be the amount authorised in writing by the Treasurer of EYCE. For selected participants EYCE will provide a subsidy request form together with the letter of acceptance.

Any participants, staying in Bulgaria either before or after the training course will need to be responsible for all their own costs, unless a prior agreement is arranged with the treasurer due to travel schedules.

Enclosed is the application form where we ask you to indicate your need for a travel subsidy. No subsidies will be paid without prior agreement. Please also note that **health insurance is arranged by EYCE** and will not therefore be reimbursed to participants opting for their own policy unless health insurance is required for the Visa application at the embassy.

Please ensure bookings are made at the best fare but do not buy any tickets prior to confirmation of your participation, agreement with the Treasurer and visa acknowledgement (if applicable).



9. VENUE OF THE TRAINING COURSE

More information about the venue will be available for participants later on.



10. CONTACT Bulgaria (for visa enquiries)

Some of the participants will need a visa to enter Bulgaria. Please check immediately with the Bulgarian embassy or consulate in your country whether you need a visa to enter Bulgaria. Please note that participants needing visa have to apply for the seminar as soon as possible in order to avoid any troubles in getting a visa.

If needed, an official “Letter of invitation” issued by an organisation registered in Bulgaria will be sent to the selected participants as soon as they are selected. Please **do not go ahead** and apply for a visa prior to receiving the letter of acceptance to the training course. Please note that EYCE as an organisation registered in Belgium will under no circumstance be able to help participants obtaining a Visa for Bulgaria. Therefore, selected participants will be instructed carefully whom to address in order to obtain documents needed.

Please be very careful. Be sure that you ask exact details of the documents needed. Some of you might not need a visa but a proof that you will be insured and taken care of during your stay in Bulgaria. In any case please let us know as soon as possible, so we can ensure that all participants get the documents on time. More detailed information will be given in the letter of acceptance.



11. LANGUAGES

The language of the training course will be English. It will be essential for all the participants to understand and speak English in order to take full advantage out of the activity. Translation into one other language could maybe be organised if requested. If you wish translation please indicate this clearly in the application form.



12. DEADLINE FOR APPLYING/ SELECTION CRITERIA

Please send all your application form to the EYCE Office (address above) as soon as possible. The absolutely latest deadline for receiving applications will be

24th of March 2006, 12:00 C.E.T.

We kindly ask that the enclosed application is filled in using a computer or typewriter and returned to the EYCE Office via email and / or fax. (The form will be available also on the EYCE website at www.eyce.org).

Sending incomplete forms, filling them in unreadable handwriting or sending them too late might mean that applications are **not** processed. If you fear that the application will not reach the office in time, please give the EYCE Office a call or send a fax/email to notify the secretariat.

Up to 30 participants will be selected by the International Planning Committee to attend the event. This selection will try to ensure a geographical, denominational and gender balance.

In addition, sending the application forms early increases the chances of being selected, while sending them the very last minute might disadvantage your application. The deadline for applications is less than two months prior to the event and only a few weeks before the Easter holidays in Belgium and many other European countries. Therefore we are forced to select participants immediately after the deadline, thus ensuring a smooth implementation of the training course and reasonably priced tickets. Right after selecting participants, the selected participants will receive more detailed information about the seminar programme. Also note that participants are only accepted if they have received a written confirmation from EYCE (email). Please keep in mind that selected participants will have to agree on travel costs with the EYCE Treasurer **within one week** after having received the letter of acceptance. Therefore they are kindly requested to ensure **email access between the 24th and 31st of March**.



13. PREPERATORY DOCUMENTS

Please share this letter, the accompanying documents and the information included with the persons you will nominate to the event.

The selected participants will receive more detailed information after the selection and documents to prepare themselves for the training course.

EYCE is working on an entirely ecumenical basis and participants will come from many denominations. Therefore everyone should be ready to welcome and respect others. All participants will have to discuss together how to value the traditions of the other. It may be that ideas and behaviours one person takes for granted are not easy to understand for someone else. Intercultural and ecumenical Dialogue is a challenge – and the entire Planning Team is looking forward to experiencing this challenge with many committed participants.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With my very best wishes and on behalf of International Planning Committee,

Daniel Müller
EYCE General Secretary

Enclosed:

- Application Form including Motivation Questionnaire
- Draft timetable

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