



ECUMENICAL YOUTH COUNCIL  
IN EUROPE  
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B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

 [www.eyce.org](http://www.eyce.org)

DATE: **Brussels, 12.06.2005**  
TO: **EYCE National Correspondents and Contacts**  
RE: **Invitation to the EYCE Summer Training 2006**

.....  
"Including ethnic and cultural minorities - constructing our Europe"

EYCE Summer Training

Training Ecumenical Trainers in Europe

6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006, Saariselkä, Lapland, Finland

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**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 "Including ethnic and cultural minorities – constructing our Europe" to be held in Lapland, Finland. We will be accommodated in a training centre of the Finnish member of EYCE's member organisation "European Fellowship". The centre is called "Tievatupa" and is located in Saariselkä, Lapland.



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**1. INTRODUCTION**

One of the main items on the agenda in Europe these days is the construction of the European project. Where will Europe go? Where should it not go? As a youth organisation

EYCE is determined to make the voice of young people heard. What do we as young people envision? And who are the people the most vulnerable to a process of European construction? Many times it seems as if becoming European means, becoming the same. At the same time we celebrate European diversity when promoting the "All different – all equal" campaign. These questions have inspired EYCE to organise a training course that will further explore the situation of ethnic and cultural minorities in Europe. Their voice should be heard, and their specific context taken into consideration. What is the reality of a Sami youth? How do Roma youth feel about Europe? How does the Hungarian minority in Romania experience Europe?

This training course is aimed at equipping ecumenical trainers and youth leaders with necessary tools to raise awareness and to work in promoting the inclusion of all young people in the process of constructing our Europe. A Europe that is shaped by respect and understanding, that is open and tolerant and that appreciates the richness of diversity.

This training course is held in the framework of the EU YOUTH Programme. Therefore special regulations apply to the financial support of the participation as well as to the implementation of a successful event. Please read the entire letter very carefully in order to avoid misunderstandings.

### **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 in their respective home countries. The participants should also be in a position to 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 the theme and ready to contribute actively to the content of the training course. The training course in particular aims at the inclusion of ethnic and cultural minorities. EYCE's member and partner organisations are therefore encouraged to endorse their participation in particular.

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. Given the fact that this theme relates to a sensitive issues such as cultural identity, all participants should be sensitive and ready to listen to ideas and approaches that might not be their own understanding.

EYCE actively aims at providing equal opportunities for all young people. Therefore we invite youth from many different backgrounds, i.e. young people from diverse socio-economic, cultural, denominational and educational background. The EYCE summer training 2006 is aimed at breaking down barriers, prejudices and discrimination and aims at being inclusive in the own practice.

### **Arrivals and Departures:**

Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of August is the day of arrival in Saariselkä

AND

Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of August is the day of departure from Saariselkä.

You are asked to manage your travel to Ivalo Airport (IVL) which is the nearest airport. Travel to Lapland will be relatively expensive. Therefore it is essential to contact EYCE as soon as possible and to arrange travel as soon as you have been informed by the EYCE office to do so.

More travel instructions will be available to the selected participants.

Please also 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 process of European construction and the question of European Identity have been on the agenda of EYCE and its member organisations for many years. In June 2003 EYCE organised a seminar on European Identity and in October 2006 EYCE will hold a seminar that will focus on exploring the challenges youth NGOs face in countries in democratic transposition processes and on exchanging ideas for a sustainable democratic development in Eastern Europe.

Our last General Meeting in October 2005 was held in Turku, Finland and we discussed with a number of member organisations their role and our role in working with ethnic and cultural minorities. The discussions were further facilitated by the fact that Finland has a substantial Sami minority. Shortly after the General Meeting the idea was born to hold this training course as a means to explore more deeply the reality of ethnic and cultural minorities in Europe. As the constitution of EYCE foresees working against social exclusion, we see working with the question of the role of ethnic and cultural minorities as a core question of EYCE's constitution.

EYCE is highly motivated to contribute to the inclusion of youth from ethnic and cultural minorities into the process of enhancing European citizenship. Many young people today take Europe – and even more so, a Europe of peace, stability and prosperity – for granted. Sometimes this leads to ignorance towards the European project. We wish to strengthen an inclusive Europe that is aware of the needs and contributions of minority groups, and we wish to strengthen the status of minority groups so that they will be better able to raise their voices and concerns in a growing Europe. It is important that we all grow together - which is why EYCE has invested ideas and creativity in developing this training course.



## 3. THEMES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

EYCE's training courses combine theoretical input and the development of practical skills of the participants. Guiding objectives for EYCE's summer training 2006 have been developed. However, they will be deepened during the first meeting of the International Planning Committee, which is scheduled for late June.

This training course is intended to equip young people with understanding of the particular situation that young people from ethnic and cultural minorities face in Europe today. With this understanding the participants will discuss European citizenship as an inclusive concept. Participants will also be equipped with the necessary tools and practical skills to encourage and to motivate young people in their organisations to face the challenges of this theme and finally to develop projects which can be implemented through the EU Youth Programme. EYCE will facilitate this process and strongly encourage further work.

All participants will be asked to bring along a project idea which will be worked on and improved throughout the training course with the help and under the supervision of trainers.

Practical and concrete training will contribute to equipping more and more young people with

practical, intercultural and interpersonal skills that will foster their personal growth as well as increase their practical knowledge in youth work. The concrete skills to be enhanced will include knowledge on the reality of youth from ethnic and cultural minorities in Europe, the ability to co-ordinate and structure projects, as well as some historical knowledge on how these minorities have developed in Europe.

- It is foreseen not only to discuss ethnic and cultural minorities, but to actively engage in real dialogue. Therefore we have chosen Lapland as a venue and will engage in dialogue with Sami youth.



#### **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 Sami Surprise Night, a Finnish Sauna Night and other interesting activities including an excursion. All of these elements will play an important role in order to provide for a comprehensive approach to this comprehensive theme.

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. A final draft will be published on the EYCE website in the end of June at [www.eyce.org](http://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. Aura Nortomaa
2. Laura Hytti
3. Sandor Szaszko
4. Paul Welch
5. Andra Ionita
6. tbc

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EYCE Office  
SEN Youth, Finland  
KOD, Hungary  
EYCE ExCo  
Habitus Youth, Romania  
European Fellowship

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 summer training will be **60 € (Euros)** including accommodation, meals, programme and excursion. Please note that this amount can only be offered because of the subsidies received from the European Community's YOUTH Programme, and heavily subsidises the total cost of accommodation, meals, programme & excursion.

Please note that the payment of a **cancellation fee** of 200 € (Euros) is expected from participants who cancel their participation in the event less than 3 weeks prior to commencement of the activity. This is based on the cancellation costs EYCE has to cover.



## 8. TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

### Contributions:

All participants of this seminar are entitled to 70% reimbursement of their travel expenses due to the funding structure through the EU YOUTH Programme. However, 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 heard some very successful stories of individual fundraising at our past seminars. You may contact national aid agencies, your national EYCE member or your local congregation. In cases where hardship can be proved, EYCE retains the right to offer additional financial support where possible, however funds are strictly limited and in most cases only the maximum of 70% of travel costs will be offered. All travel costs and subsidies must be consulted with EYCE's treasurer Paul Welch ([paulwelch\\_eyce@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulwelch_eyce@yahoo.co.uk)) prior to booking any tickets. Selected participants will receive a special form in order to make this subsidy requesting process more easy.

### Least costly route:

Participants will be reimbursed on the basis of the shortest and least costly route between their place of residence and Saariselkä. 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 shopping around for cheap tickets, e.g. through using students' discount tickets or Internet booking as well as low cost airlines flying into Tampere and Helsinki Ryanair and Germanwings. In many cases it will be much cheaper to book 2

different tickets, i.e. one ticket to Helsinki and a second ticket from Helsinki to Ivalo.

**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.

**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.** All participants travelling by plane must provide the boarding cards of their journey TO Ivalo. 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 Lapland 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 EYCE Treasurer due to travel schedules. The EU YOUTH Programme is checking travel dates very carefully. Therefore extended stays before or after the training course will be possible only in a very limited way.

Enclosed is the application form where we ask you to indicate your likely travel costs. 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

We will be accommodated at the training centre "Tievatupa" in Saariselkä, Lapland. The training centre offers many facilities.

You can have a look at the centre by following this link:  
<http://www.ptk.fi/tievatupa/english/accomodation.html> .

Just as a side remark: there will be no snow in summer and local transport from Ivalo to Saariselkä will be arranged.

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



## 10. CONTACT Finland (for visa enquiries)

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

If needed, an official “Letter of invitation” issued by one of the hosting organisations, SEN Youth as organisation registered in Finland 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 Finland. 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 Finland. In any case please let us know as soon as possible, so we can ensure 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.



## 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

**5<sup>th</sup> of July 2006, 17:00 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](http://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.

The 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 only one month prior to the event. 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 training course programme. Also note that participants are only accepted once 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 **immediately** after having received the letter of acceptance. Therefore they are kindly requested to ensure **email access between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July**.



### 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