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FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE MEANS OF EXTENDING TRAINING  
AND CO-OPERATION IN THE YOUTH FIELD

Recommendation of the Governing Board of the EYC and  
the EYF to the Committee of Ministers

In the final document of their 3rd Conference (Lisbon, 20-21 September 1990), the European Ministers responsible for Youth recommended the Committee of Ministers:

"to charge the Governing Board of the EYC and EYF in collaboration with the CDEJ to carry out, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe's youth policy, a feasibility study on the creation of a second European Youth Centre in a Central or East European country ..."

When adopting the Intergovernmental Programme of Activities for 1991 (449th meeting of the Deputies, November - December 1990, item 26, part 1) the Deputies broadened the scope of the feasibility study to include "means of extending training and co-operation in the youth field". The task was to be carried out by a "restricted group of experts selected by the Governing Board and working in close co-operation with the Statutory bodies of the Centre and Foundation, and the Secretariat" and which should "have its report ready by the end of 1991" (Intergovernmental Programme of Activities for 1991, Field V, Service activity No 2).

The Group of Experts thus constituted, after consultation with the CDEJ and the Advisory Committee, presented its findings to the Governing Board in June 1991, including a draft Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on the development of associative life in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures, the training of youth leaders, and intercultural education in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

At its 5th meeting, held in Strasbourg on 18-21 June 1991, the Governing Board adopted the Recommendation as it appears in Appendix I to the present document.

The final activity report of the Group of experts, containing an explanatory memorandum to the recommendation, appears in Appendix II to the present document.

APPENDIX I

RECOMMENDATION

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

on the development of associative life  
in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures,  
the training of youth leaders, and intercultural education  
in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The Governing Board,

Believing that a developed associative life is essential to the operation of democratic structures representing young people, and that this can only be achieved through a policy of education and training in democracy and participation in society,

Noting that recent political events in Central and Eastern Europe highlight the need for a sustained effort to promote participation by young people in the life of society, particularly in the framework of democratic, pluralist youth associations,

Considering that youth co-operation based on intercultural learning and deepening the understanding between people contributes to the personal and social development of young generations and of societies and to combatting the rise of nationalism, racism and intolerance, and calls for the implementation of a policy aimed at training qualified personnel able to organise, manage and monitor mobility projects for young people,

Conscious of the need that this effort must be made without delay on the basis of the experience, educational methods and action techniques of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation, recognised and appreciated at international level,

Stressing the action already undertaken by the Centre and the Foundation to promote broader participation by young people from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the activities of those institutions,

Noting that, while the present structure of the Centre and the Foundation makes it possible for a certain number of leaders of newly created youth movements to be rapidly involved in international training efforts, it does not provide a comprehensive response to training needs to promote associative life,

Aware that the means at present available to the Centre and the Foundation are no longer sufficient to meet the actual training needs of the countries of

Central and Eastern Europe, in view of the discrepancy between the available resources and the needs to be satisfied, in terms both of the increase in the number of present and future states and in the number of young people needing training,

Resolved to promote comprehensive, integrated action to provide an effective solution commensurate with the expectations of young people of the countries which are members or wish to become members of the Council of Europe,

Convinced that this solution requires permanent arrangements under the responsibility of the Council of Europe to apply an intercultural teaching methodology founded inter alia on experience with communal living by Europeans of all nationalities and backgrounds,

Considering that the creation of a new European Youth Centre in Central or Eastern Europe would tangibly demonstrate the solidarity of the European countries with those adopting or accepting democratic government, symbolising the determination of young Europeans to seek standards for involvement in community life with due regard to the traditions, cultures and aspirations of young people throughout Europe;

Reiterating paras. 7, 8, 22 and 76 of the Final Text of the 3rd Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth held in Lisbon in September 1990, and recalling the Ministers' favourable reception of the move to set up a new European Youth Centre in Central or Eastern Europe,

Having regard to the conclusions of the Group of experts to study means of training and co-operation in the youth field, which it endorses,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

IMPLEMENTS A GLOBAL INTEGRATED AND LONG-TERM TRAINING POLICY AIMING TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC STRUCTURES BASED ON THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG EUROPEANS IN THE LIFE OF SOCIETY AND, TO THIS END:

1. responds positively to the offers made on the occasion of the 3rd Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, held on 20-21 September 1990 in Lisbon, to create a new European Youth Centre located in a country of Central or Eastern Europe as a complementary element within the youth field of the Council of Europe; its structure and management would be identical and its working methods similar to those of the EYC, with which it would be closely associated by having a single Governing Board, a single Advisory Committee and a joint Secretariat, and it would enjoy the same links to the Parliamentary Assembly;
2. promotes the creation or the development of a network of national and regional youth centres; this network will focus on co-operation and the mutual exchange of information, and in particular with the European Youth Centres in order to apply

and reinforce the principles and action on which these Centres are built and operate;

3. allocates to the present structures of the Centre and Foundation additional resources to cope with the new requirements of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe regarding international youth work;
  4. supports the foregoing measures through the creation of an action fund under the European Youth Foundation (financed by voluntary contributions), providing finance for the conduct of urgent special-purpose schemes as an effective response to emergent needs in the countries concerned;
  5. creates a working group entrusted to follow-up the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers and their implementation.
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APPENDIX II

GROUP OF EXPERTS TO STUDY MEANS OF EXTENDING  
TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION IN THE YOUTH FIELD

FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

(Service activity No. 2, Field V, Programme 1991)

1. Terms of reference

Recommendation 24 of the third Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 20-21 September 1990) charges the Governing Board of the EYC and EYF in collaboration with the CDEJ to carry out, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe's youth policy, a feasibility study on the creation of a second European Youth Centre in a Central or East European country, which should notably foster:

- i. the development of associative life in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures,
- ii. the training of leaders of youth organisations,
- iii. intercultural education,
- iv. youth mobility, facilitated by direct contacts between young Europeans.

At this Conference, Mr. Gyula KISS, the Hungarian Minister for Youth, offered to host such a centre in Budapest. This offer was repeated two weeks later by Mr. Jozsef ANTALL, Prime Minister of Hungary, before the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic has also offered to host a centre in Bratislava and a site in Poland has also been proposed.

When adopting the terms of reference for the feasibility study, the Committee of Ministers instructed to Governing Board to work on the basis of a wider range of options than the specific proposals made in Lisbon. It was proposed that the study should deal with "means of extending training and co-operation in the youth field".

The Governing Board of the EYC and EYF then drew up the composition of the group of experts as follows:

- the Chairperson of the Governing Board
- the Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Board
- one representative of ECB
- one representative of CENYC
- one representative of the Government of Hungary
- one representative of the Government of Switzerland.

2. Items submitted to the Governing Board

The Governing Board is invited to:

- submit a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on the development of associative life in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures, the training of youth leaders, and intercultural education in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe;
- express itself on the report as a whole.

3. Summary

The group met three times: on 21-22 February, 22-23 April and 6-7 June 1991. A consultation meeting took place on 13-14 May, to which the members of the CDEJ and the Advisory Committee, as well as representatives of associations in countries of Eastern and Central Europe, were invited. The conclusions of the consultation meeting and the group's findings were presented to the Governing Board in June 1991 so that proposals with budgetary repercussions could still be introduced into the draft budget for 1992.

The group made the following progression in its meetings:

- the first meeting served to discuss the new situation with regard to training and youth co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe and to develop, by means of a brainstorming, various ideas for action;

- at the second meeting, a number of options that could be presented to the consultation meeting of 13-14 May were discussed more systematically;
- the consultation meeting provided an important occasion for the group of experts to test their proposals on a representative group of youth leaders and government officials;
- at the final meeting of the group of experts, the Final Activity Report was drawn up for presentation to the Governing Board.

At the end of its work, the group decided to present all the proposals made in favour of extending youth training and co-operation in Europe in a comprehensive manner, rather than arguing in favour of one option against another. This is partly due to the fact that all the proposals developed by the group proved to be complementary, and partly to the commonly shared understanding that a whole variety of measures was necessary in order to contribute positively to the situation of young people in Central and Eastern Europe.

After thorough discussions, the group came to the conclusion that the task assigned to it by the Governing Board can only be efficiently carried out if the register of youth work provisions within the Council of Europe is substantially enlarged, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Given the importance of the proposals made by the group, the Governing Board is invited to address the Committee of Ministers by way of a recommendation on the development of associative life in the framework of democratic and pluralistic structures, the training of youth leaders, and intercultural education in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

MEANS OF EXTENDING TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION  
IN THE YOUTH FIELD

Explanatory memorandum

I. TRAINING AND YOUTH POLICY

Introductory statement

The promotion of participation, intercultural learning and youth mobility is the focal point of the activities of the Council of Europe's youth field in the nineties. The presentation of proposals concerning the extension of training and co-operation in Europe therefore has to be seen as part and parcel of a whole variety of youth initiatives developed within the statutory organs of the EYC/EYF.

The history of European co-operation in "East-West relations" is very rich in the youth field. The very fact of creating a youth centre and a youth foundation in Strasbourg in 1972 as part of the Council of Europe, was influenced by the willingness of European governments to grant international youth co-operation with "clean" money, since much of the previous financing for youth work at international level came from dubious sources and instrumentalised international youth work within the conditions of the Cold War.

The European Youth Foundation in particular with its special independent status, was, at the time of its creation, even accompanied by the hope that it would one day become an instrument in building peace and understanding between Eastern and Western Europe and that it would possibly be joined at a very early stage by countries from Central and Eastern Europe. Even if this did not happen, the Centre and Foundation contributed to the activities of the "All-European Youth and Student Co-operation" (AEYSC), a term used to describe the system of co-operation established in 1980 between youth organisations in Eastern and Western Europe. Since one of the EYC's major preoccupations during the 1980s was the combat against intolerance (with the two Conferences on Intolerance in 1980 and 1989 and a multitude of activities by youth organisations), the EYC and EYF are very much at the heart of expectations with regard to extending training and co-operation in the youth field in Europe. Who else has a similar record of experience at international level with East-West relations in the youth field, and intercultural learning as a means of combatting intolerance? It is, therefore, only logical that "youth" be made one of the priorities of the Council of Europe's activities in European co-operation in the future.

Even before the revolutionary changes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Governing Board took two important initiatives in order to make the Centre and Foundation more operational:

- a group of experts presented detailed proposals for the better economic use of the EYC's facilities by increasing the budget of activities by 10% (1986);
- an expert report, produced by Mr. Grosjean from Belgium and presented to the Governing Board of the EYC/EYF, proposed a substantial enlargement of the European Youth Foundation in quantitative and qualitative terms. This proposal was elaborated in 1988 and discussed by the Governing Board in 1990. The report is characterised by a richness of reflections on the extension of training and co-operation in Europe for the benefit of young people, without even referring to the new developments in Central and Eastern Europe as a key element of its argumentation.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of the 1990s, young people find a situation in Europe which is completely different from what other young people one "youth generation" earlier found at the beginning of the 1980s. Europe becomes a different continent. The borders of the Cold War have broken away. What the new Europe will become will also much depend on the role young people will play in it. At the same time one part of Europe, the European Community, prepares to become a single market if not one day a social and political union. To fully develop the potential of Europe it will be important that young people's education prepares them for geographical mobility through intercultural learning by creating numerous occasions for language learning and for stays abroad with the purpose of becoming acquainted with the richness of cultures and of political and social realities in Europe. However social scientists suggest that the interest of young people in Europe is not very high and that young people are also less interested in problems of political leadership than ever before in the post-war period. The generally low rate of participation of young people in elections is only one indicator.

The Council of Europe, however, with its two youth establishments - the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation - has always been able to successfully associate young people with the construction of Europe. By closely working with youth movements and youth organisations within the feature of co-management between them and governments by providing meeting facilities and educational assistance, the Council of Europe has now been, for almost 20 years, the most interesting forum of youth opinion at international level.

This is a fruit of the "co-management" arrangement which has been chosen for the operation of the Centre and the Foundation, and which is still a unique instance of institutionalised involvement of young people in the activities of an international organisation; since its inception it has frequently been quoted as an example of co-operation between governments and youth organisations. Such effective and wide-ranging participation by young people has rarely been achieved anywhere in the world. Over the years, the EYC and the EYF have become examples to be copied whenever youth participation policies have been applied at local, regional, national or international level.

Co-management is not merely a particular system for decision-making and sharing in decision-making: it is also the motive force in generating awareness among young people of what Europe really means.

For anyone who believes in the future of a citizens' Europe, education and communication among those citizens is an objective. How could such a society emerge without political parties, trade unions, social, cultural and religious movements accustomed to transnational activities and a network of contacts at pan-European level?

It is no wonder that youth movements, services, councils and government experts from Central and East European countries turn to the Council of Europe and ask for full and active participation in the "Strasbourg-based" system of youth training and youth co-operation. It is, indeed, a priority task for the Governing Board to propose new measures and methods of youth co-operation in order to respond to the numerous demands pressing upon the Council of Europe's youth field. At the same time, there are still enormous disparities between the North, Centre and South of Europe with regard to youth work provisions. The development of the Single Market within the European Community also creates numerous new tasks and challenges for the youth field. It is, therefore, indispensable to request a quantitative extension of the Council of Europe's youth work provisions, in other words an increased budget for training and co-operation.

Participation must be learned, personal initiative has to be stimulated and social and political commitment must be based on completely different assumptions in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is no cheap enterprise, but a necessary "investment" for the future. If educating the wrong values and attitudes was part of the key to the failure of the social and economic systems in Central and Eastern Europe in the past, it is by educating and training different values and attitudes that the situation can slowly be remedied.

Youth work clearly has an important contribution to make here: personal development, ability to work in teams, intercultural learning, learning by doing and participating actively in public affairs are established objectives of youth work, both nationally and internationally, and they will have to be shared throughout the whole of the new Europe.

This is why the group of experts makes its proposals without checking how far it can reasonably go without upsetting the budget experts. Peaceful attempts at co-operation in the education and training of young people are now gradually replacing the 40 year-old system of ideological confrontation in Europe: this should make it possible to convert at least the costs of ideological warfare into joint efforts for youth training and co-operation.

In making its proposals, the group completes a number of initiatives taken by the Governing Board which practically run parallel to these proposals:

- the educational working group of EYC/EYF Governing Board has made concrete proposals on how to handle more efficiently in the future the increased workload and new challenges in education and training;

- the Governing Board is in the process of discussing the Secretary General's proposal on the reform of the secretariat structures and the possible creation of a Youth Directorate in the Council of Europe, which entails a number of new perspectives for education, training, documentation and research;
- the CDEJ will begin a large multidisciplinary project (Greater Europe) on the promotion of youth mobility which, in addition to the creation of instruments for this area of activity, will also look into education and training for young people;
- the EYC and EYF are already running specific youth training programmes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which has been made possible through the Demosthenes programme;
- the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities are in the process of finding ways of co-operation on education and training, documentation and research and youth information.

All these parallel initiatives are interconnected and make up the present dynamism of the Council of Europe's youth field. It should, however, be mentioned that all these initiatives are in addition to the programme of activities of the EYC and EYF, which has kept the human resources of these two establishments at saturation point for many years. In other words, enlargement of training and co-operation also means enlargement of resources.

#### I.1 Educational and youth work needs

The Governing Board has recognised the needs of young people concerning education, training and co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe by evaluating the results of a consultative meeting with young people from Central and Eastern Europe in October 1990, study sessions and training courses of the EYC and the ideas expressed during the training courses in Hungary (October 1990) and Poland (April 1991). The overwhelming impression is that concrete advice from experienced people is more important than lump sums of money. In more detail, the needs are:

- youth information, youth counselling, advice-giving;
- learning to co-operate with neighbouring countries (the iron curtain did not only divide East and West, but also the Central and East European countries amongst themselves);
- documentation and research on youth-related items;
- teaching of foreign languages (English, French and Spanish);
- translation of documentation into Slavic languages;
- building associations for social, cultural and political activities of young people;

- acquiring knowledge on youth empowerment, lobbying and promotion of youth work items;
- educational methods in youth work: learning by doing in internal education;
- access to the structures of international youth work in Europe.

It is obvious that these needs can be met in many ways. The appropriate answers given by the Council of Europe to these needs should be complementary to the assistance already provided within the "Tempus" programme of the European Community and the existing bilateral agreements (eg. German-Polish youth office).

The answers needed should be realistic and as concrete as possible. They should help to remedy the image of the "Golden West" and to create willingness to help build up democratic, pluralistic societies where they are actually needed. Looking at the substantial fears in Europe of increased migration from East to West for economic reasons, one cannot underestimate the importance of contributing to developments in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The proposals made by the Governing Board concerned:

- language teaching
- documentation and research
- training courses
- youth information
- promotion of youth mobility.

## I.2 Language teaching

Culture, communication and language are interrelated. Culture gives meaning to language as words and sentences do not exist in a vacuum. They exist in a context which colours their meaning, they transmit content and concepts linked to a culture. This language is the tool to communicate a culture. Language separates one culture from another and determines peoples belonging to a group. Learning a language involves practising and communicating another code, different concepts and customs.

Learning a language is in itself a process of intercultural learning, as it involves discovering and coping with another culture. At the same time, the learner uses his/her own background in order to learn another language.

To establish a successful process of intercultural language learning, the approach and methods must be based on the learner's active participation and the development of his/her autonomy through exploration tasks and project work.

The EYC courses are organised so as to develop communication skills in another language through intercultural learning both in the target culture and within a multicultural group.

The EYC courses' objectives are :

- To enable members of INGYOs to become more active in international youth work in the context of an increasingly multicultural society.
- To learn a language by learning from each other and working together in an international group in order to develop intercultural communication and awareness.
- To experience and exchange different realities of youth, youth work and (international) youth organisations.
- To experience and exchange the political, economic, social and cultural reality of the host country, region and town.

In 1991, the EYC is organising ten language courses. The programme should be extended by one more English and one more Spanish course, making a total of 12 courses: English (4), French (3), Spanish (2), Italian (1), Portuguese (1), German (1).

The Governing Board also invites the Director of the EYC to look into ways of using language learning possibilities in the Lingua and Tempus programmes of the European Community, and to put this item on the agenda of the co-ordination meetings between the Council of Europe and the European Community.

### I.3 Documentation and research

Youth research and documentation belong to the statutory tasks of the EYC. As the data concerning young people have changed radically in Central and Eastern Europe, an extension corresponding to the new situation is badly needed. The most urgent tasks identified by youth organisations and governments are:

- compilation of a data bank to serve governments, associations, researchers, youth information centres and any other agency involved in youth mobility;
- promotion of co-operation among libraries and documentation centres on youth questions;
- publication of a newsletter;
- co-ordination of youth policy on research and documentation in Europe;
- production of periodical reports on the social situation of young people in Europe.

In conclusion, the Governing Board proposes the establishment of a research and documentation unit at the EYC (already proposed for 1992).

Such a unit could also be envisaged as part of the activities of another European Youth Centre in Central or Eastern Europe.

#### I.4 Training courses

EYC training courses work on the principle that a complex field such as international youth co-operation needs thorough reflection by those who are or will be involved in it. The courses' basic aim is to provide an introduction to international youth work and intercultural learning by allowing the participants to:

- take part in a multicultural experience and understand the identity problems involved in international work;
- acquire a basic knowledge of international youth organisations and structures;
- exchange experiences and discover different ways of improving international youth work.

For the time being, the EYC's annual programme caters for two training courses and the long-term training course. To strengthen training provisions in the context of the EYC and EYF, the Governing Board proposes the following changes:

- Entrusting the EYC educational staff with new responsibilities in the field of training, language learning and communication (permanentisation of two tutors' contracts and, possibly, recruitment of additional tutors either with the present formula of five-year contracts and/or by detachment: these form part of the proposals for secretariat reform).

Aim: to run the additional training programmes and study sessions listed below.

- Creation of a "task force" or "pool of voluntary youth workers" composed of competent training officers of youth organisations at national and international level to assist the EYC with its programme activities (proposal already made by the Governing Board's consultative group on education and training).
- One additional training course at the EYC (10 days) with two-thirds of the participants from Central and Eastern Europe.

Aim: development of youth structures, communication systems and multilateral cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe.

- Three training and information courses in countries of Central or Eastern Europe (4/5 days), based on the model used in Hungary and modified in Poland (cooperation Demosthenes and EYC/EYF).

Aim: introduction to youth work in Europe.

### **I.5 Youth information**

One of the most important needs expressed in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is that of proper youth information.

Information and counselling are of utmost importance when young people have to make choices with full knowledge of the facts. It is therefore indispensable to establish norms enabling young people to have the right to full, comprehensible and reliable information, without reservations, and to counselling on all problems concerning them in all sectors, without exception, so that they may have complete freedom of choice, without any discrimination or ideological or other influence.

Information is also an important factor to promote the autonomy and mobility of young people, both individually and in groups, via projects of a certain quality with an educational content. Autonomy and mobility are essential to foster understanding and peace between peoples and to develop the feeling of being part of Europe.

In this context, Recommendation No. (90) 7 concerning information and counselling for young people in Europe adopted by the Committee of Ministers, foresees the promotion of a youth information and counselling policy designed for and accessible to all young people; the creation and development of services such as youth information centres or municipal or school structures respecting a very strict code of conduct: the services should be versatile, the sources varied and the replies to enquiries comprehensive; young people's right to anonymity should be respected and the information reliable; the service should be accessible to all without discrimination, should be of a non-commercial character and should promote young people's independence.

But youth information also includes information on youth exchanges for educational or professional reasons. In this respect, co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Community is desirable, not only in respect of the Community's Tempus programme, but also on the full range of youth programmes and youth initiatives offered by the European Community. Youth information can be used as an effective way of bridging the social gaps within the member States. While a good number of young people enjoying higher education are in fact well informed about exchange facilities, many young people with a lower level of education have no idea of what is possible. It is particularly for this group that youth information is needed.

Such a policy needs to be extended to Central and Eastern Europe and the Governing Board recommends that the Secretariat be provided with the appropriate means to implement Recommendation No. (90) 7 on a wider, pan-European scale.

### **I.6 Promotion of youth mobility**

The main elements of activity concerning this item belong to the CDEJ and the intergovernmental programme of activities. Countries of Central and Eastern Europe should be involved and participate actively in:

- Project V.1: "International youth mobility"
- the Partial Agreement on a Youth Card to promote and facilitate youth mobility in Europe
- the CDEJ's expert committees.

This work covers the periods between the European Conferences of Youth Ministers, and presently involves 29 countries including the Soviet Union. After Bulgaria has signed the Cultural Convention, expected for July 1991, the circle of countries co-operating on intergovernmental youth activities in the Council of Europe will number 30. It will probably not be long before this co-operation includes all the European States members of the CSCE. The important work already done on the reduction of obstacles to youth mobility and the possible creation of an international instrument to promote mobility, will have to be considerably enlarged to correspond to the new dimension of the Council of Europe's youth work.

#### I.7 Transformations in the youth field

To actually implement a programme of enlarged training and co-operation facilities with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Council of Europe's youth field will have to undergo some transformations in its working methods and staff resources. Within the present range of possibilities, a couple of extra training courses in Central and Eastern Europe and additional language courses are about all that can be proposed by the EYC. To be able to respond to the whole list of needs expressed, the EYC and EYF will have to reorganise the secretariat along the lines set out in the Secretary General's proposal for the creation of a Youth Directorate. Both the Centre and Foundation will have to prepare for an increase in training activities in Strasbourg and in member countries requiring assistance, and they will have to provide competent staff for this task.

#### II. TOWARDS NEW FACILITIES FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S YOUTH WORK PROGRAMME

Above is described what needs to change in order to adapt the existing work programme to the changes in Central and Eastern Europe. The proposals represent a minimum of what is required and are, in the eyes of the Governing Board, completely insufficient in view of the problems to be solved. It may take time to sink in, but the youth population the Council of Europe has to work for has practically doubled within a few months. The present scope and modes of operation of the EYC and EYF have to be enlarged, but even this is not enough: the youth field needs to create new facilities for youth work.

The group of experts has submitted three main proposals to the Governing Board:

- i. Another European Youth Centre;
- ii. A Fund for training and co-operation in the youth field;

- iii. Building a network of corresponding regional and national youth centres in Europe.

The Governing Board submits these proposals to the Committee of Ministers, underlining that the proposals taken together represent the new approach to the extension of training and co-operation. Separately they can only have limited effect, but combined and based on the work of the existing EYC and EYF, they will certainly have an important effect on the building up of democratic youth work and making the young people of Central and Eastern Europe part of a system of European co-operation. All three proposals will need time to be implemented; the Governing Board envisages a period of five years to make all three proposals fully operational.

## II.1 Another European Youth Centre

Residential training activities, typical of the European Youth Centre, are of specific importance in international youth training. For the time being, the EYC is one of the few, if not the only, example of an international training centre: the staff and activities are international, the methods used are intercultural, the Governing Board is co-managed and international, etc. Since the Centre also functions as the youth administration of the Council of Europe, it has often been compared with a youth training centre right in the middle of the physical location of a national youth ministry.

The support structure of the Centre - educational staff, appropriate equipment, documentation and research, the assistance to activities by the whole secretariat - is considered to offer a unique opportunity to identify with a European experiment in living and learning for young people. Even if in principle there should be no difference between a study session held at the EYC and one sponsored by the EYF and held elsewhere, the Governing Board has always recognised the very particular character of EYC activities.

International youth work can easily develop into an abstract, very general exercise; in the case of the EYC it means concrete educational work, people, histories and continuity. Over the years, the EYC has become something of a collective memory of transnational associations dealing with youth matters.

It cannot come as a surprise that the proposal to set up a second such European Youth Centre in Budapest (or other location in Central and Eastern Europe) is made at this moment in time. The quantitative enlargement of the youth population the Council of Europe will have to deal with in the future is one argument, the possibilities of identification with a physical building with staff and facilities is another. The Governing Board has always underlined the central role of the EYC in backing international youth movements and in transferring know-how in the youth field, and thus recognises the value of respecting a similar exercise in Central and Eastern Europe. The Board took note of the objectives and activities of such a Centre as set out by the Hungarian authorities:

### Objectives

- To strengthen European awareness, with a view to establishing a unified young generation taking as a starting point the youth of Central and Eastern Europe and the youth of Western Europe.
- To function as a problem-solving, organisational, managerial, counselling, training and information centre, in order to develop a problem-solving attitude.
- To ensure linguistic and leadership training for the European youth movements.
- To operate an information and data bank by collecting and systemising all information available in the youth policy field.
- To ensure a background basis and give methodological help in the organisational and structure forming work of the newly developing youth organisations.
- To draw the youth of Central and Eastern Europe into the social-economic and integrational processes, in accordance with the idea of "participation".
- To serve and possibly train the experts in youth research.
- To ensure a means of communication between the youth organisations of the European countries, in order to help them to get to know each other, to make certain methods widely known and to establish the relevant member organisations of the European organisations of the European and regional institutions.

### Services and activities

- Functioning as a local and regional Information and Counselling Bureau.
- Organising transferred courses, functioning as a network.
- Organising leader training seminars and language courses.
- Establishing and operating an information and data bank.
- Organising complementary youth events: festivals, youth weeks, etc.
- Training of tutors, employing, and in this way training, youth leaders.
- Writing, editing, circulating publications and newsletters regularly.
- Operating a methodological service.

The Governing Board recognises that special efforts have to be made to develop new forms of communication between what used to be "the two parts of Europe". The Board is also aware of the enormous amount of work that had to be done to help young people in Central and Eastern Europe to feel like Europeans. The Board underlines that for a long time there will still be a special situation with regard to social and individual sensitivities in Central and Eastern Europe. For all these reasons, the Governing Board considers the proposal to set up a residential centre similar to the EYC desirable and especially welcomes the Hungarian proposal to set up such a Centre in Budapest.

However, a few questions remain open with regard to the feasibility of such a project:

- 1) What is the support for such a Centre in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe?
- 2) What shall be the degree of formal integration of such a Centre into the Council of Europe?
- 3) What idea of staff needs, equipment and running costs can be given and what would a sharing of the budget between the Council of Europe and Hungary (or any other Central or East European country) mean?

The Governing Board underlines its firm intention to extend its authority to the development of a project and the actual running of another residential youth centre in Europe, provided that the remaining political and financial questions can be answered.

A European Youth Centre operating in a country of Central and Eastern Europe must be run according to the same objectives and principles as the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, if it is to be another youth centre of the Council of Europe. It may, and even should, develop different forms of work and try to be an important complementary element to the youth field in the Council of Europe, but it must become part of the co-management feature of youth work in the Council of Europe.

## II.2 A Fund for training and co-operation in the Youth Field

The EYC and the EYF are constantly growing together. They already have the same Governing Board and Advisory Committee and will soon have a common administration. Their ideas about youth work, participation, associative life and intercultural learning are identical. However, the EYC and the EYF represent two very different methods of assistance to youth work, which are successful because of their differences and complementarity. Their differences will be kept in the future.

The European Youth Foundation is certainly the most flexible and association-centred funding system for international youth work in Europe. A substantial increase of its budget aimed at financing training, the publication of materials and whatever comes under the wide range of youth activity assistance provided by the Foundation needs to be foreseen in order to meet the new demands in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In fact, an extension of EYF funding can help practically all the measures proposed in this report. The Governing Board is prepared to set aside important sums for "earmarked" financing of youth work in Central and Eastern Europe, but it must insist on an important increase of EYF funds in general in order to apply this attitude without causing damage to some of the established youth work funding, which has been restricted enough in the past.

#### Towards a Fund for training and co-operation in the youth field:

The setting up of a Fund for training and co-operation in the youth field should comply with the Council of Europe's relevant philosophy, viz:

- youth co-operation in Europe as a means of promoting peace and understanding between peoples in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- education in democracy through participation and shouldering of responsibility,
- seeking by young people of solutions to their own problems.

#### The aims

Unlike the principles, which should be the same as those of the EYF, the aims of a Fund for providing training and promoting co-operation in the youth field should be of a more specific kind and appropriate to the Fund's own context. They should therefore be as follows:

- to promote and develop the widest possible variety of voluntary activities calculated to encourage young people to play an active part in society and shoulder responsibilities in youth organisations,
- to provide additional training for youth leaders in a European context while taking account of national and/or regional characteristics.

#### The functioning of the Fund

The most realistic solution would be to integrate the Fund into the EYF but to manage it separately under the responsibility of the Governing Board. It would thus constitute a special Fund within the EYF and hence be subject to the same decision-making bodies as the EYF, viz: Intergovernmental Committee, Governing Board and Advisory Committee.

#### Resources of the Fund

The resources of the Fund might come from:

- extraordinary contributions by member States of the EYF,
- additional voluntary contributions by member States of the EYF,

- donations and bequests by member or non-member States or by bodies or individuals.

Furthermore, it would be possible for projects to be jointly financed by sponsors, as in the case of the Demosthenes Programme.

Finally, there are two conceivable ways in which the Fund could be financed:

- i. annual contributions by member States to a fixed endowment, as is at present the case with the EYF,
- ii. constitution of an initial capital, the interest from which would be used to finance projects. Each year, member States would pay smaller contributions to increase the Fund, as in the case of foundations.

### II.3 Building a network of corresponding regional and national youth centres in Europe

Two developments can be observed in Europe:

- in some member countries, efforts are being made to establish international centres for the training of young people; such centres already exist in some other countries;
- in some regions of Europe (eg Nordic co-operation, Mediterranean area) efforts are being made to create regional systems of co-operation in the youth field.

Neither of these developments has so far been integrated into a European system of co-operation.

It would certainly be a good idea to promote the creation of a network of these corresponding regional and national youth centres in Europe, not unlike the forms of co-operation between youth information centres and youth card systems in Europe, or, to take an example from outside the youth field, the co-operation of Europe Houses. The Council of Europe should certainly promote such a policy of creating networks between national and regional centres and the (hopefully two) Youth Centres and the Youth Foundation.

The philosophy behind these centres should consist of the major principles on which the Council of Europe's youth field is founded, in particular:

- i. participation of young people, as a factor in training in democracy and the taking up of responsibility in everyday life, and as a vital element of the development of community life;
- ii. intercultural education, as a factor of understanding between people and between nations and as a positive contribution, among others, to solving the problems encountered by minorities in multicultural countries and a multicultural Europe;

- iii. co-management, as an element in ensuring the preparation and implementation of the major political and educational approaches in the youth field at a national, regional or even local level.

A Charter of these youth centres should be prepared which would enable the centres to be given a seal of approval according to these principles and the approach on which the Council of Europe's youth sector is based; these youth centres would serve to promote this sector. In return, these centres could be supported by the EYC/EYF, particularly in logistical and financial terms.

Like the EYC, the purpose of the national and regional youth centres could be:

- i. to highlight, promote, and broaden knowledge of linguistic, cultural, social, economic and political characteristics at local, regional and national level of countries hosting a decentralised European youth centre, and to give young people from other European countries the benefit of intercultural education based on specific economic, social, cultural and political data;
- ii. to promote means of encouraging and ensuring the participation of young people in community life and particularly in finding solutions to problems concerning them, at regional and/or national level as well as at European level, and to develop activities arising from regional/national needs that may be beneficial for the development of a European awareness and identity;
- iii. to carry out specific activities with a European dimension which cannot be carried out at the EYC;
- iv. to serve as meeting places for regional, national or European youth organisations which will promote international understanding in keeping with the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- v. to offer further training to youth leaders in a regional or national context against a European background, according to the specific characteristics of each region or country;
- vi. to provide training courses for leaders of youth organisations, teachers or other persons intending to organise youth exchanges or other types of trips, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Third Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth;
- vii. to promote research on youth problems:
  - . through the exchanging of ideas and discussion of experiences;
  - . through research with project teams aimed at promoting training activities;
  - . through contacts with persons providing resources (local universities, researchers, political personalities,

- socio-economic personalities) at local, regional, national or European level.
- viii. to ensure a constant link with elected representatives of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, elected representatives of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and with experts working in various Council of Europe fields such as the environment and education;
- ix. to serve as regional, national and European-level information and documentation centres for everything concerning young people in a particular region, and working closely with other information and documentation structures - either already in existence or in the process of being set up - and more particularly with the EYC Tuition, Documentation and Research Section:
- . information on youth exchanges;
  - . educational material on international youth work;
  - . documentation on thematic aspects of international and European youth work and particularly documentation on European unity through the plurality of regional and national cultures;
  - . information on regional, national and European youth structures and policies.
- x. to ensure contacts with the media with a view to setting up a European media area in the youth field;
- xi. to serve as venues for some EYC activities such as language courses and/or training courses - or indeed symposia - with the aim of stimulating the European and international dimension of youth work at regional level.

The above list being certainly too exhaustive, the Governing Board points out that not all conditions need to be met in order to qualify as a corresponding centre. The list indicates a potential of what can be done and shows the areas where avenues of co-operation can be built with the already existing youth work provisions of the Council of Europe. The details of the running of such a complex system will have to be looked into by the group of experts taking over from the first group which finished its work with the delivery of this report to the Governing Board.

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The Governing Board invites the Committee of Ministers to follow the recommendations and reasoning set out in this report, because it is deeply convinced that the approach to youth work developed by the Council of Europe has been successful and innovative in the past and will therefore be attractive to the young people in Central and Eastern Europe in the future.

Continuing "business as usual" would not only provide next to nothing for the new partners in the youth field, but would also put the work done so far at risk. By gradually taking the measures proposed in this report, the Governing Board believes it has found the best possible solutions within the Council of Europe's range of possibilities for action for the benefit of young people in Europe.