



# EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Report of the study session held by  
Youth and Environment Europe  
in co-operation with the  
European Youth Centre  
of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Strasbourg  
4-11 March 2012



This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.



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## Acknowledgements

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) is a federation of 45 youth, environmental organisations from 28 European countries. YEE organises and encourages all activities that can increase the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of nature and the awareness of environmental problems among young people in Europe. Its aim is to promote the commitment of youth to the principles of environmental conservation. To take one more step towards fulfilling this aim, YEE decided to organise a study session.

The study session ‘European Environmental Law and Youth Participation‘ gathered 29 participants from 17 countries in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg in March 2012 in order to discover and discuss possibilities of using environmental law and other forms of advocacy for environment by young people. All participants were young members of youth environmental organisations who wanted to share, exchange and discuss environmental topics.

The aim of the project was to provide youth active in environmental protection with useful knowledge and tools to actively advocate for their rights and interests guaranteed by international and national legal acts. Participants discovered together and raised awareness on the necessary knowledge and tools to actively advocate for environment and to be involved in the process of creating, implementing and intervening in the field of environmental law.

As for Youth and Environment Europe, this study session provided excellent possibility for raising the capacity and strengthening co-operation within the network, finding new partners and planning future international activities. By raising skills and knowledge of youth workers involved in our network, we improved the performance of the organisation. We can also get more involved and participate more actively in the communities where YEE has members using environmental law for nature protection.



# INTRODUCTION

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The study session aimed at increasing participants' competences in the field of environmental law and to foster organisations' capacity in using that knowledge to advocate for environmental protection.

The study session objectives were:

- to discover possibilities for youth participation in environmental law matters
- to practice using environmental law terminology
- to discover existing institutions that are concerned with environmental protection and their programs as well as other sources of information
- to increase knowledge on existing environmental law in Europe and ways of its implementation
- to understand interconnection between human rights and the environment
- to share experiences in advocacy for the environment
- to increase participants' campaigning and communication skills
- to strengthen the network and increase its potential as a tool for advocacy, support and advice.

## ORGANISERS

**Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)** is a network of 45 youth non-governmental organisations coming from 28 European countries. The activities of YEE aim at promotion of sustainable development, environmental protection and nature conservation. All our activities are organised and carried out by and with the involvement of young people under the age of 30. The aim of YEE is to encourage youth to be involved in environmental protection and to provide a platform where organisations can work together.

[www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu)

### Preparatory team and invited experts

#### Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull:

Gosia is Polish but lives in Prague, Czech Republic. She works in the office of Youth and Environment Europe as the Main Coordinator. She helps to coordinate international environmental projects, creates YEE publications and coordinates project of EVS volunteers. She was a course director of this study session.

#### Monika Kotulak:

Monika is Polish, living currently in Zielona Góra. She graduated biology on Jagiellonian University in Kraków and she moved to the west to work for the Naturalists Club. At her work she is responsible for a project controlling Natura 2000 management plans, interventions and environmental education. She is especially interested in the field of environmental law, deep ecology and protection of wildlife. She is a YEE board member – projects officer.

Kyrylo Ivliev:

Kyrylo was born and lives in Ukraine. Since 2009 he has been occupying the post of External Relations Officer in Youth and Environment Europe. In his position he is responsible for representation of the organization at various international events as well as in relations with its partners. As such he is a member of the Advisory Council on Youth.

Arsen Simonyan:

Arsen is from Armenia. He is the president in Stepanavan Youth Center NGO, which is a member of Youth and Environment Europe.

Bastian Küntzel:

Bastian lives in Wrocław, Poland and was the external educational advisor contracted by the Council of Europe for this study session. He is not a member of any YEE member organisation, but a member of the Pool of Trainers of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. He was primarily supporting the team of facilitators in running this study session and served as a link between YEE and the Council of Europe. He also provided individual coaching sessions for the team members to foster their development as facilitators in the course of this study session.

Three experts provided input on specific topics:

Ilaria Esposito, Italy, on 6th of March – input on environmental law

Paweł Pawlaczyk, Poland, on 7th of March – input on methods of participation

Dariusz Grzemny, Poland, on 8th of March – input on campaigning, advocacy and communication skills

## **PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS**

To reach the aim of the study session, we wanted to gather participants who could contribute the most to the objectives of the study session and discuss together the main topics.

As Youth and Environment Europe is a European network, the intercultural exchange is crucial for all projects. We wanted to invite for the study session participants from many different European countries to hear information about environmental problems and ways of solving them (by using environmental law) from their countries. One of our objectives was also to share experiences in advocacy for environment. That is why for the study session we invited 25 participants and 4 preparatory team members from 17 countries (and even more nationalities).

The preparatory team tried to select participants very carefully. A special application form was created and designed to help to find participants that could profit the most from the project. It contained the following questions about experience and motivation of participants:

- Please describe your previous experience with the topic of the study session.
- What is your role in your organisation? Describe the most important thing you did in your organisation that was connected with the topic of the study session.
- What is your motivation to take part in the study session?
- What do you expect to gain from the study session?
- How are you going to use the skills gained during the study session?
- How will you contribute to make this study session amazing?

We used various channels for disseminating the call for participants: YEE website, emails to the member organisations of the network and partners, the website Youth for Europe, SALTO EECA, multipliers channels. As a result we received around 150 application forms from interested candidates.

The preparatory team selected participants according to a detailed profile: participants should be young leaders of youth environmental non-governmental organisations, willing to raise their awareness on existing environmental law and methods of youth participation in order to be involved in the process of advocating for environment on the local, national and international levels.

The profile of participants was shortly defined:

- young environmental activists interested in environmental law
- from YEE network (preferably)
- experienced/interest in advocating for environment
- from youth environmental organisations

During the selection process priority was given to representatives of member organisations of Youth and Environment Europe, in order to strengthen the capacity of the network and its members. However, we also invited a few members of other environmental organisations to start new partnerships with organisations with similar goals and activities.

Special attention was given to the motivation of the participants and the multiplying effect that the knowledge gained during the study session would have. We wanted to involve people who could pass on the knowledge gained during the study session to other members of their own organisations in order to have a much bigger impact.

We also tried to involve participants with diverse experiences so the learning from each other would be stronger and more useful. As many sessions were designed in a way that participants themselves were the source of learning, having diversity in the backgrounds of the participants gave the advantage of expertise in more topics, higher possibility of future cooperation and more varied experiences.

During the preparatory phase of the project, the participants received a lot of information explaining what the study session is, as it was a new type of the project for many of them. They were also asked to study and read many legal documents and environmental laws so that they would have the knowledge needed for further discussions during the study session.

## **PROGRAMME FLOW AND THE MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED**

While planning the programme of the study session we tried to create a space and specific sessions for participants in order to:

- gain and exchange knowledge about environmental law and the ways of its implementation
- gain new skills for campaigning and advocacy in environmental law
- exchange experience on environmental situation and ways of protecting the environment
- plan follow-up projects, new partnerships and common initiatives

As a consequence, we divided days into specific topics.

Day 1 – arrival day and getting to know each other

Day 2 – introduction day and human rights and environment

Day 3 – environmental law

Day 4 – participation of young people in implementation and creation of environmental law

Day 5 – campaigning, communication and advocacy skills

Day 6 – exchanging experience and creating booklet on environmental law

Day 7 – follow-up planning and evaluation

The sessions and specific methodologies were created based on non-formal education approaches, active participation and intercultural learning. The chosen methods were creative and tried to involve participants as much as possible to strengthen their involvement. To make sessions effective and useful we used various methods, such as: simulations, group work (in various groups), interactive presentations, hot chair (with an invited guest), exhibitions of collaborative research, interactive sharing of practices (case studies), legal documents' 'speed-dating', etc.

The main issues discussed during the Study Session 'European Environmental Law and Youth Participation' were:

- participation of young people in the public life
- using environmental law instruments for advocating for environment
- interconnection between human rights and environment
- young people campaigning, lobbying, advocating for environment.



# MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY SESSION

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON ISSUES THAT REQUIRE PARTICULAR ATTENTION AND WHICH COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK

One of the main outcomes of the study session was the observation that environmental issues deserve to be much more present in the youth discourse but for now they are not. However, realisation that they are connected/interconnected with all sorts of other issues can help to get more people involved in environmental issues. Environmental problems are affecting all of us and this is why environmental issues deserve to be much more present in the youth discourse.

We should strive to involve more young people in the sphere of environment. Young people have energy, time and capacity but often they do not have knowledge and experience. Youth workers are in a position where they can easily pass their knowledge to people who are active but need knowledge to act. It is important to provide youth workers with possibilities to develop themselves, both knowledge-wise as well as skills-wise for passing this knowledge. There are various tools available for the public to participate but at the same time there is a lack of knowledge about their existence. Better promotion of these tools should be done and special attention should be given to youth workers. The study session showed many ways of involvement of young people in advocacy for environment – through using environmental law, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, etc.

## MAIN RESULTS FOR YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

The opportunity to organise the study session was very important for Youth and Environment Europe network. It was the first study session for many years that YEE organised and we treated it as a re-discovery of this opportunity. We hope to have a chance to benefit from study sessions more often in the future. It was crucial for YEE to invite many participants and discuss the topics of environmental law and youth participation in 2012 which is the year when YEE will plan new long-term strategies. It gave the network the possibility to discuss topics that we would like to focus on. It also enabled us to speak about the link between human rights and the environment. YEE would like to use more a human rights based approach to environmental projects as we have cooperated closely with the Council of Europe for many years.

Among the main results for YEE network we can name **building the capacity of member organisations in the field of environmental law**. YEE believes that young people should have a voice and can change a lot by fighting for environmental protection. Environmental laws are the legal instruments that can help most in this goal. During the study session we initiated the topic of the environmental law and using it within the network. We had a chance to discuss how young people can use environmental law. We believe that many new skills and knowledge will be passed to organisations. One of the tools for disseminating the results of the project will be the booklet on environmental law.

This type of project is of course very important for **strengthening the network**. It gave us the possibility for representatives of organisations to meet, plan and discuss important issues. The Open Space and many other sessions gave us a chance to generate ideas for strengthening the network. We can see already that many participants became more active in YEE and hopefully will continue working on follow-up projects. Thanks to the study session we also

managed to involve new members – 3 organisations are applying for YEE membership (Mine Vaganti, Italy; EPER Center - Environmental Center for Protection, Education and Rehabilitation, Albania; Libertas International, Spain) and other organisations got to know YEE and its activities.

One of the ideas for strengthening the network was to make YEE more influential and active in the environmental decision-making process on a European level. It gave us a boost of energy to get involved into Ocean 2012 campaign (lobbying for new fishery policy). The group working on joining and supporting Ocean 2012 consists of participants of the study session. In this way **international cooperation on the topic of advocacy for environment** was established. We hope it will continue in the future and support other initiatives. We will discuss this topic during the upcoming YEE Annual Meeting and getting more involved in advocacy for environment on European level will probably be included in YEE long-term strategies.

Next to getting involved in lobbying for a new fishery policy, other **projects were discussed and initiated**. The possible topics for the next study session were proposed and will be further discussed during the YEE Annual Meeting. Possible projects which were discussed were: campaigning and environmental protection, protecting bees, transforming rural areas in eco-tourism areas, fundraising. Various types of projects were initiated: translating the booklet on environmental law and other YEE publications into many different languages, making educational videos on international environmental conventions. Thanks to the session on sharing practices and planning campaigns we also gained a better understanding about many **environmental problems** and what youth organisations are doing to solve them. This can help the YEE network to plan future projects and support organisations in their actions for nature protection.

## **MAIN LEARNING POINTS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The analyse of the evaluation questionnaires and results of the evaluation space made us believe that the project was useful as participants took from it various learning points. However, we also realised that the topic of environmental law is really challenging for young people and the involvement in advocacy and lobbying would require longer practice and more specific skills. Still, many participants felt motivated to use their new knowledge and skills in their work advocating for the environment. The main learning outcomes participants mentioned were:

### Environmental law as a useful tool for activists

Participants raised their awareness about the complexity of environmental law but also about its usefulness. They realised ways young people as environmental activists can get involved in the implementation of environmental law and how they can use these mechanisms for the protection of nature. They discovered ways in which they can get involved in influencing environmental law, creating and implementing it. Participants gained as well knowledge on environmental law needed for advocacy for environment. To use environmental law it is necessary to understand complicated legal language and legal procedures.

### Campaigning

The block of sessions on campaigning, advocacy and communication was considered by participants to be the most useful one. These skills were put into practice during the study session at the real examples of actions and campaigns given by participants so they became

more motivated to implement these actions. Participants learnt how to create a campaign message as well as how to prepare a campaign.

#### Interconnection between human rights and the environment

Many environmentalists focus obviously on nature protection and do not see the connection with human rights. However, among human rights we can find as well the right to live in a healthy environment. The interconnection of these two perspectives has so far been underestimated on the European discourse but this link has a big potential.

#### The value of international cooperation even on local environmental issues

It was observed that exchange of experience and practices with other European partners can help to solve local environmental problems. Especially environmental problems in Europe usually cross borders and are similar in different countries so by European cooperation they can be tried to be solved more efficiently.

### **PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING THE SESSION**

During the study session participants had the possibility to work on common projects in the frame of few various sessions. The session on campaigning gave them the possibility to plan the campaign on real environmental problems. During the Open Space they discussed ways of strengthening YEE network. We had as well 2 sessions to plan follow-up projects and actions plans. The main projects created were the following:

#### - Booklet on environmental law and youth participation

An electronic booklet was initiated in order to give a practical tool to other young people on how to use the environmental law and in which ways youth can participate in advocacy for environment. Participants brainstormed on the content of the publication, specific chapters, divided tasks and started to write the specific parts of the booklet. An editorial team was established in order to prepare this tool kit with useful information on how to use environmental law in advocating for environment.

#### - Ideas for follow-up projects

Various ideas for international projects were developed such as: campaigning and environmental protection project, “The right to bee!!!” – campaign on protecting bees, projects on transforming rural areas in eco-tourism areas, translations of the ‘Environmental law’ booklet, joining Ocean 2012 – a campaign for a more environmentally friendly fishery policy, Stronger voice of YEE – involving YEE in lobbying and advocacy for environment at the European level, and other YEE booklets into many languages, campaigns, Become a professional! – database of skills of young people, Join YEE! – involving new partners and member organisations, Future projects on environmental law, Educational video on international environmental conventions, Skills to pay the bills – project on fundraising, etc.

#### - Environmental campaigns

Participants developed campaign messages and analysed problems (problem tree/solution tree) different campaigns can try to solve and raise awareness of. Participants decided to work on campaigns on the following environmental topics: destruction of caves in Bulgaria, destruction of the natural biodiversity by building dams in Turkey, destruction of a natural protected area by building a highway in Albania, deforestation caused by opencast mining in Armenia, reducing population of wolves by hunters in Sweden. We hope that some of the

campaign ideas developed during the session will be the starting point to create real campaigns.

- Section on the YEE website

To spread information about the study session, special sections on YEE website were created. One is open for public:

<http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/projects/yee-completed-projects/650-study-session-european-environmental-law-and-youth-participation>

Second one was created for participants, including all materials from the project:

<http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/study-session-strasbourg>

Login: studysession, Password: environment

- Lobbying for fishery policy

The group expressed interest in getting more involved in influencing the creation of laws. It decided that YEE will join Ocean 2012 and lobby for more environmental-friendly changes in the new fishery policy.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

The number of the applications forms for the study session clearly shows that the topics of environment and environmental legislation are of particular interest within European youth. Participants also mentioned that it would be useful to organise another study session (or a training course) as a follow-up of this one where particular attention would be paid to the aspects of lobbying, campaigning and advocating for environmental rights – topics that were only slightly touched upon during this session.

In order to organise more projects focused on environmental topics and investigate the link between environmental protection and human rights, we hope that environmental issues will be added among the priorities of the Council of Europe. For the moment priority areas of the youth sector of the Council of Europe cover neither environment nor environmental rights. Taken that into account, and also the circumstance that the Joint Council on Youth is going to adopt new priority list for the upcoming period of 2013-2014 at its next meeting in November 2012, the recommendation from Youth and Environment Europe would be to include in it environmental issues, namely taken into consideration basic values and priorities of the Council of Europe, to prioritise environmental education as a part of human rights education. This might be a good prerequisite for youth organisations like YEE to initiate good projects aimed at raising awareness of environmental rights and the ways how young people around Europe could protect them using juridical tools at their disposal.

Another recommendation was about making the European Youth Centers more environmentally friendly and oriented. While preparing and running the study session, the preparatory team paid particular attention to its environmental impact. We asked for reusable cups, big bottles of drinks to share instead of individual cans, recycled paper, etc. Besides that, during the introductory part the team made a presentation of environmental rules of the session, such as not using the elevator, saving energy and water and choosing vegetarian meals. This had a positive impact on both participants, who were encouraged to follow environmentally friendly rules and think of their future lifestyle and on environment itself.

Thus, our suggestion would be to think over possible changes into the ways of functioning of the both European Youth Centers in order to make them on the one hand more environmentally friendly and on the other hand more attractive for visitors. This might be done by means of adopting special conditions which participants of all the events taking place must follow, e.g. certain environmentally friendly rules. This will contribute to raising public awareness on environmental issues and increase the positive image of Youth Centers, especially amongst environmental organisations.

We were also really glad to hear that the T-Kit on sustainable development will be prepared by the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth. We hope that YEE could as well contribute to the creation of this publication.

# **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES**

## **Booklet on environmental law and youth participation**

Organisers of the study session wanted to make sure that the results of the project will be widely disseminated. That is why we decided to create a booklet on environmental law and youth participation. It contains 5 chapters covering the main topics of the study session: Introduction, Environmental Law, Human Rights and Environment, Campaigning skills and Links to legal documents and other sources.

The drafts of chapters were prepared during the study session and the editorial team was created that continued working on the content of the publication.

The publication ‘Toolkit on Environmental Law and Youth Participation‘ was created in the electronic version and can be downloaded from YEE website. It will be sent to all participants of the study session (with the request for distributing it), published in YEE newsletter, sent to all member organisations and to all subscribers of YEE publications (around 450 people).

We hope that the booklet will encourage young people to use environmental law as a tool for nature protection.

It is possible to download the booklet at YEE website:

<http://www.yeenet.eu/index.php/publications/yee-general-publications>

## **Section on the YEE website on environmental law (to be prepared)**

The preparatory team together with some participants will prepare in August 2012 the section on the YEE website devoted to environmental law and youth participation. It will be a subsection of the section ‘What you can do’ and will include various ways of youth participation in the creating and implementing of the environmental law, as well as links to law documents and the booklet on environmental law.

## **Disseminating results**

YEE will continue to disseminate results of the project. We will promote the section on the YEE website devoted to the study session and the section on environmental law. We will also distribute the booklet and try to find various channels of disseminating it. All information will be published at the YEE website and in the YEE newsletter.

## **YEE will plan the topic for other study session**

The preparatory team of the study session will participate in YEE Annual Meeting in July 2012 and share the outcomes of the project. We will as well put under discussion the topic of the next study session application that YEE would like to organise and together with the whole network we will decide which issue is crucial for the federation and how we could strengthen YEE.

## **YEE involvement in Ocean 2012**

One of the main follow on projects from the study session was the development of an action plan for YEE to take part in the Ocean 2012 campaign. During the project the working group on the topic was created including mainly participants of the study session (Salomon Abresparr, Faltbiologerna, Sweden; Patrick Scott Rossi, Faltbiologerna, Sweden; Lira Hakani,

EDEN, Albania; Monika Kotulak, Naturalists Club, Poland; Cristina Juan Carrion, Libertas International, Spain; Kyrylo Ivliev, YEE, Ukraine; Cameron Murphy, YEE, Czech Republic).

The aims, subject matter and direction of the Ocean 2012 campaign proved to be a perfect match for trying out new skills obtained in the study session. The scope of Ocean 2012 is mainly on a European level. The aims of the campaign are as follows:

- Reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy to stop overfishing
- End destructive fishing practices
- Deliver fair and equitable use of healthy fish stocks for future generations.

The chance to amend these policies only presents itself once every ten years, so the group had a definite time limit to work within and preparations and discussions began soon after the completion of the study session.

Having identified the potential for YEE involvement in this campaign during the group project planning session seven participants were tasked with making YEE part of this EU wide action.

The ground work for the development of this project was laid in Strasbourg. The criteria for joining the campaign were researched and the necessary documentation was sent to the main body of Ocean 2012 for approval. A preliminary brainstorming session came up with some ideas on YEE's role within the action.

Weekly meetings were then held with all participants updating each other on actions taken in the interim time along with decision making by consensus. When YEE officially received decision that the application was approved, YEE's capacity within the campaign was set. While the main body of the Ocean 2012 was focused on reform of existing fishing laws through advocacy, they communicated their wish for a dedicated action raising awareness within the youth sector of the European Union. There hope was for YEE to educate, engage and involve the youth with this issue.

Based on this feedback the YEE network decided to use our annual day of action (YEE day) to promote the message of this campaign and also raise awareness on environmental issues based around the ocean in general. We came up with the following ideas for activities to take place in all of our member organisations throughout Europe:

- Short talks about the ocean
- A film night with the Ocean as the main theme
- Games for children with the ocean as the topic
- A group visit to a local aquarium
- A cooking class where sustainable fish recipes are handed out and prepared
- A visit to the ocean with a knowledgeable local naturalist
- A picnic to the seaside with sustainable fish recipes as the central theme.

YEE's External Relations Officer and a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, Kyrylo Ivliev, composed an open letter to the press to be disseminated in the week leading up to the action. Member of the YEE Ocean 2012 team are currently working on translating the original into local languages. The letter in English can be viewed here: <http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/734>

A dedicated web page was also created under YEE's campaign section containing many useful links aimed at educating youth and providing materials for member organisations wishing to take part. It can be viewed here:

<http://yeenet.eu/index.php/campaigns/732>

YEE's role within the Ocean 2012 campaign was largely influenced by the concepts and activities carried out during the study session in Strasbourg. YEE aims to activate European youth in taking a more hands on approach to EU environmental advocacy by including them in a large professionally run campaign. Because of the study session, youth involved have a

better understanding of the main stakeholders involved in the decision making process and also the legal instruments used to obtain a favourable and sustainable outcome from the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. To this end YEE involvement in the Ocean 2012 campaign is a direct follow on from the study session and also an excellent outlet for putting theoretical skills learnt into more practical applications.

## FINAL CONCLUSIONS

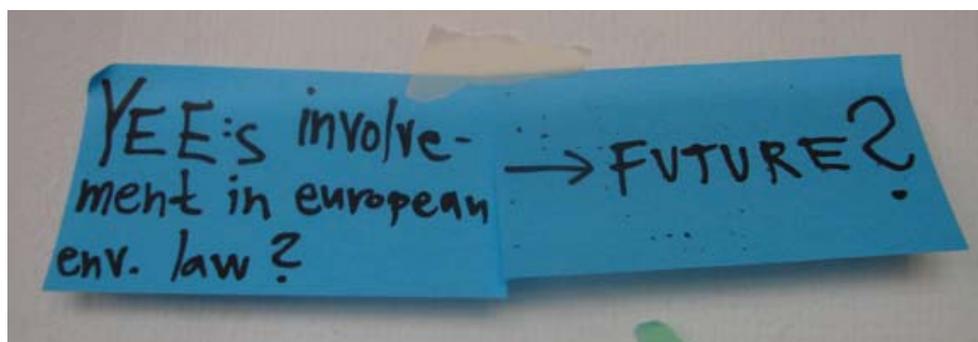
Having organised this study session, YEE has strengthened its network and got some new ideas regarding new projects to be organised in the future, including cooperation with the European Youth Centers. Organisation and conduction of the study session concerned let YEE find out the needs of its participants which is a solid prerequisite for organisation and running another study session in the nearest future. Experiencing the study session showed the apparent advantages of cooperating with the Council of Europe's Youth Department. This made the preparatory team decide to put energy into developing new ideas for study sessions during the YEE Annual Meeting in July 2012. Many participants mentioned as well that a training course on campaigning would be very beneficial for young environmentalists so this might potentially be a new project for us to plan as well.

Young people have motivation and feel need to be active in the field of environment. Very often they lack skills and knowledge on practical methods of participation. That is why YEE will plan future projects based on the results and ideas from this study session to support young environmentalists.

Also environment and its connection to human rights is a topic which we investigated but of course not fully covered so further researching of the topic is required.

The study session 'European Environmental Law and Youth Participation' was a great opportunity for the preparatory team, participants and the whole YEE network to discover the potential of young people in various the ways of the advocacy for environment. It is a new topic and a big potential filled with action for the network. The study session resulted in many interesting discussions, follow-up projects, new partnerships, in the strengthening of the YEE network and many recommendations for the network and more generally youth work and environmentalists.

We are confident that we achieved our objectives and we believe that the study session managed to increase the participants' competences in the field of environmental law and to foster organisations' capacity in using that knowledge to advocate for environmental protection.



# PROGRAMME

Below the final version of the agenda can be found. It is followed by description of specific sessions.

## Agenda of YEE Study Session: European Environmental Law and Youth Participation March 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

Monday the 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday the 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday the 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday the 8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday the 9 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday the 10 <sup>th</sup>
Rise & Shine					
Welcome Space	Institutions and Stakeholders	Participation / Sharing	Campaigning / Advocacy / Communication	Booklet	Follow Up
Intercultural coffee break					
Team Building	Existing Law and how it is created	Sharing practices	Campaigning / Advocacy / Communication	Booklet	Action Plans
Lunch					
Human Rights and Environment	Simulation of COP	Free Afternoon (visit to the CoE)	Campaigning / Advocacy / Communication	European Youth Foundation Open Space	Evaluation
Intercultural coffee break			Intercultural coffee break		
Human Rights and Environment with Expert	Simulation of COP		Campaigning / Advocacy / Communication	Open Space	
Reflection Groups		Reflection Groups			
Dinner		Dinner			
Environmental Intercultural Evening	Evening for Free Initiative	Dinner in Town	Movie Evening		

## Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> – introduction day and human rights and environment

### **WELCOME SPACE**

For the opening of the study session and as the interactive introduction into the project and topics, we chose the method of Welcome Space. It is a method based on self-directed learning and management. In this way we wanted to set the tone for the study session and show that involvement of participants and their active participation is crucial. It also showed that the learning and amount of things they discover, discuss and learn during the project is in their hands. In the Welcome Space once the session started the participants were responsible for their own time management and the depth to which they explored each subject. They were responsible to themselves for visiting all the zones, for the level and quality of learning they engaged in to learn about the project and the coming week. Facilitators were present in zones and their role varied from direct facilitation to being an observer or a guide.

The Welcome Space was divided into 5 zones where participants were discovering and exploring various topics:

Zone 1: Expectations/ Contributions/ Fears – space to share expectations, fears and experience

Zone 2: The Programme and Aim and Objectives – to discover program of the study session, explain the program flow and connection of sessions with aim and objectives

Zone 3: Organisers – YEE and the Council of Europe – introduction to various partners/stakeholders

Zone 4: Knowing Me Knowing You – to discover connections between participants, topics they are interested in

Zone 5: Silent Floor – exchanging ideas and comments about topics crucial for the study session: environmental law, environment, European cooperation, human rights, advocacy for the environment



### **TEAM BUILDING**

To support the group in building coherence and mutual trust, we used the method of ‘Mission Impossible’. The group had one hour to accomplish a list of 20 tasks, which were only possible to achieve via co-operation, task-division, team work and extensive communication among the whole group. The participants accomplished all the tasks and started the study session with a feeling of accomplishment, team spirit and enthusiasm.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT

Bastian Küntzel, the external educational advisor, gave participants a quick insight into the topic of human rights that are in the centre of attention of the Council of Europe. Using a creative projected presentation<sup>1</sup>, he gave a short introduction into human rights as not many participants were active in this area. It was an opening for the discussion about the link that we wanted to explore – the connection between human rights and environment.

The presentation on human rights included the following main points:

- 3 dimensions of human rights
  - Human rights are human – as only human beings can carry human rights; and have them violated
  - Human rights are human – as only human beings can violate human rights
  - Human rights are human – as only human beings can make human rights and judge violations
  
- 4 characteristics of human rights
  - universal
  - indivisible
  - interdependent
  - inalienable
  
- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (formally the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)

Convention on Human Rights is a contract between countries who agree to be judged by a common court – European Court of Human Rights.

*‘The European Convention is still the only international human rights agreement providing such a high degree of individual protection.’<sup>2</sup>*

The presentation of the external educational advisor was important for starting the discussion on the link between human rights and environment and directly related with the next session.



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT (with expert)

As Youth and Environment Europe is an environmental organisation, especially the link between human rights and environment is explored and treated as a big potential. However, the link is still not very clear for many environmentalists and human rights activists.

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<sup>1</sup> The presentation can be seen at the following link: <http://www.slideshare.net/BastianKntzel/very-short-introduction-to-hr>

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Convention\\_on\\_Human\\_Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Convention_on_Human_Rights)

That is why we started the session with discussing the following questions:

- How far are environmental activists also human rights activists?
- What is the place of environmental protection in the human rights framework?
- What is the place of human rights in the environmental framework?
- Why are human rights not a bigger topic for environmentalists and vice versa?

With this session we wanted to have a closer look at the interconnection between the two and also get an insight into the Council of Europe work and if environmental topics are present there. For this reason we invited the expert Merete Bjerregaard who works as a lawyer in the Division on Human Rights Law and Policy. The working group in which she is involved prepared a new ‘Manual on Human Rights and the Environment’<sup>3</sup>. During the presentation of the expert we found out that the Manual was prepared as „an instrument that would contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between human rights and the environment by focusing on the relevant case-law of the European Convention on Human Rights“<sup>4</sup>.

We realised that environmental matters are not the central focus of the Council of Europe but the link between human rights and environment is closely observed and more and more underlined. As Merete Bjerregaard said: „Although the European Convention on Human Rights does not as such guarantee a specific right to a healthy and sound environment, the general standards deriving from the Convention nonetheless also apply to environmental matters. Therefore, the Court regularly examines complaints in which individuals argue that a breach of their Convention rights is the result of adverse environmental factors“.

Although the Convention on Human Rights does not explicitly mention the right for a healthy environment, the environmental topics start to become more and more present in the Court and even put some environmental obligations on the countries.

“The Manual has helped to identify, on the basis of the Court’s case-law, the development under the Convention of certain ‘environmental obligations’ upon the States Parties. This means that:

- States are always obliged to take and implement measures to control environmental problems which affect the enjoyment of human rights recognised in the Convention
- States have an obligation to provide information relating to serious environmental risks, to ensure public participation in environmental decision-making and access to environmental justice
- environmental protection can be a legitimate aim in a democratic society for the purpose of limiting certain Convention rights, in particular the right to private and family life and the right to property
- national authorities enjoy a margin of appreciation in the balancing of individual rights and environmental concerns.”

The expert explained as well when and from which perspectives environmental protection can be tackled in the frame of the European Convention on Human Rights: “Despite this development in the Court’s case law of certain environmental obligations upon States, there is still no recognition in the Convention of an independent right to a decent environment. Firstly, negative impacts on the environment, even when severe, are relevant only when they produce

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<sup>3</sup> ‘Manual on Human Rights and the Environment’ can be downloaded at the following link:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/hrpolicy/Others\\_issues/Environment/Environment\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/hrpolicy/Others_issues/Environment/Environment_en.asp)

<sup>4</sup> The whole text of the presentation of Merete Bjerregaard can be found at the following link:

[http://www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/documets/TCs/Study\\_Session\\_Law/Presentation\\_HR\\_and\\_the\\_Environment.doc](http://www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/documets/TCs/Study_Session_Law/Presentation_HR_and_the_Environment.doc)

an interference with the rights guaranteed by the Convention to ‘individuals’. Thus, environmental protection is not seen as a value as such for the community affected or the society as a whole, but only as a criterion to measure the negative impact on a given individual’s life, property, private and family life. Secondly, at the procedural level, the individualistic approach followed by the Court excludes the admissibility of public interest proceedings to defend the environment, unless the applicants can show a direct impact of the activities complained of on their individual rights.“

After the presentation, the expert took part in a ‘hot chair’ session when participants were able to ask direct questions.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL INTERCULTURAL EVENING**

The traditional intercultural evening was transformed during this study session into intercultural exchange focused on environment. We wanted to encourage participants to share environmental ideas from their countries and present things from their local surroundings that are sustainable. Participants were asked to bring with them something local from their country/region that has an environmental connection – crafts, customs, organic products, etc. So as to not present each environmental thing separately and instead to encourage discovering objects and traditions more deeply, participants were divided into groups where they presented their things. Then they were asked to prepare a program for the ‘Discovery channel’ about all things that members of their group brought. They used many different techniques of presentation – scenes, interviews, pantomime, songs, etc.

### **Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> – Environmental law**

## **INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The day devoted to environmental law was prepared with the expert Ilaria Esposito from Italy. The first session started exploring the topic of environmental law. In order to be able to use and influence the law, first we wanted to discover the main actors in the field of environmental law: institutions and stakeholders. We wanted to know more on who is creating the environmental laws and fighting for respecting them and how varied these institutions and their interests are. The aim of the session was to discover existing institutions concerned with environmental protection and their programs as well as other sources of information.

In this session participants researched information, arranged facts, illustrated and built up an exhibition on existing institutions and stakeholders concerned with environmental protection. They then visited, contemplated and discussed the exhibition with reference to what they had discovered.

Participants learnt for example about the Council of Europe and the European Union and how they deal with environmental issues. There were institutions strictly focused on environmental issues, such as European Environment Agency (agency of the EU) and the United Nations Environment Programme. Next to such institutions there were as well environmental NGOs (like Unite for Climate or Climate Action Network) and various interest groups<sup>5</sup>.

The session helped participants to discover the variety of institutions that deal with environmental law.

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<sup>5</sup> The full list of institutions can be found in the chapter Appendices: List of references.

## EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND HOW IT IS CREATED

The session was opened with a presentation of Ilaria Esposito about the environmental law and its development<sup>6</sup>.

The main issues that the presentation covered were:

- Various types of laws and legal instruments – Environmental law is a comparatively new branch of law and has evolved mainly over the last thirty years.
- The first generation of environmental law (Stockholm UN Conference, Sustainable development definition Brundtland Report, Montreal Agreement to eliminate CFC - Chlorofluorocarbons), the second generation of environmental law (Rio Conference on Environment and Development, the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse effect), resulting in that last 40 years in the creation of more than 700 agreements
- New generation of legislation - Almost every country now has a ministry or agency empowered to implement a wide range of activities for the protection of the environment, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Rio+20 and the attempt of cooperative action for solving the most crucial environmental problems<sup>7</sup>
- Do we use existing laws? Should we improve or adapt them with a social-economical approach?

After the presentation, participants had a chance to go deeper into some environmental laws and legal regulations connected with various environmental spheres (for example biological diversity, freshwater resources, energy, climate change, etc.). The method that the expert chose for this session can be called ‘legal documents speed dating’ or ‘scientific library’. Participants received short extracts from legal documents<sup>8</sup> and studied them – each person was responsible for one ‘book’. In this way they were able to increase knowledge on existing environmental law in Europe. Participants then had a chance to pass information on the text they studied to other people. They had to understand the legal document and try to explain the core of it to others. Participants had the opportunity to discover various environmental laws and also pass on their knowledge.

## SIMULATION OF COP

The session aimed to present the importance of the negotiations process in drafting laws, treaties and agreements and at the same time show the complexity of the process. In the process of simulation participants had an opportunity to foster public speaking skills, negotiation and consensus building.



<sup>6</sup> The presentation can be seen at the following link:

[http://www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/documets/TCs/Study\\_Session\\_Law/Environmental\\_Law\\_Ilaria\\_Esposito.pdf](http://www.yeenet.eu/images/stories/documets/TCs/Study_Session_Law/Environmental_Law_Ilaria_Esposito.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> More information about the results of Rio+20 Conference at the following link: <http://www.unccd2012.org/>

<sup>8</sup> The list of all documents studied during this session can be found in the Appendices: List of references.

Participants experienced the context of a Conference of the Parties (COP) and a climate change negotiation based on Climate Diplomat that is a multi-stakeholder negotiation role-play that simulates the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. This role-play simulates the current negotiations of the implementation of the Bali Plan of Action adopted at the December 2007 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) in Bali Indonesia to develop a successor arrangement to the Kyoto Protocol after it expires in 2012. The Kyoto Protocol establishes emissions limits for participating developed countries.

This challenging simulation helped participants understand how complex the process is when several actors have to draw up legislation and agree on the final regulations.

### **Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> – participation of young people in the implementation and the creation of environmental law**

#### **METHODS OF PARTICIPATION**

The expert Paweł Pawlaczyk prepared a presentation ‘Environmental law: your participation in creation and using it’<sup>9</sup>. He explained ways of participating in the creation of new law, fulfilling existing law and methods of how to approach this.

The main topics that he covered were:

- Naturalist’s world versus clerk/lawyer’s world. The bible of committed naturalists is the code of Administrative Procedure. Action of authority can be normally requested only on legal basis that is why it is important to know legal documents.
- How to create a law and how to use it?
- How to participate in creation of environmental law?
  - Local law – try to establish nature monuments, some features can be protected by local law, join public consultations of local authorities, check the plan of city/town development and how it affects environment
  - European law – through a website Your Voice in Europe<sup>10</sup> – European Commission’s consultations, discussions and other tools which enable citizens to play an active role in the European policy-making process.
  - NGOs can have voice in many European debates: LIFE+ debate, NATURE 2000 financing debate
- Can we influence the legislative process? In which ways can we influence it? Examples of social movements, the European citizens’ initiative, Legislation citizens’ initiative, Informal legislation initiative
- NGOs methods of influencing the legislation process – understanding the structure of law and legislation rules, filed examples, repeated, permanent position, ready proposals, reminding about international obligations
- How to use environmental law? – useful information about procedures and complaints
- Example of the Rospuda Valley in Poland as a positive and successful example of using legal European procedures for saving the environment

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<sup>9</sup> The presentation can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.slideshare.net/youthandenvironmenteurope/participation-11921289>

<sup>10</sup> Official website of Your Voice in Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/>

## SHARING PRACTICES

To give participants the possibility to share and exchange experience we proposed a session of sharing good and bad practices of intervention for the nature protection from their countries and their NGOs.

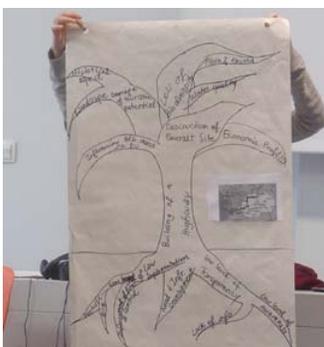
Participants were asked to bring good or bad cases of interventions and prepare short presentation about it, so at the end we got more information about environmental interventions such as: destroying the coast by oil extraction in Ireland or building a high-way in the nature protected area in Albania.



## Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> – Campaigning, communication and advocacy skills

### CAMPAIGNING, ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The first part of the session was a presentation from an expert in the field of campaigning Dariusz Grzemny. His slideshow acted as a starting point for a discussion surrounding the topic of what makes a campaign successful and the different aspects which compose an effective campaign. Using real life examples of failures and successes, participants were encouraged to discuss the case studies using information gleaned from the interactive slideshow.



Having gained a firm understanding of what constitutes an effective campaign, participants were next introduced to the concept of problem and solution trees. Utilising real life problems currently facing participants, small working groups were created to explore the causes and effects of individual environmental issues using this new method. These were presented to the wider group and feedback was given first by participants (referring back to information gained in the first input session). Dariusz then weighed in giving his own opinion on the analysis and offered constructive criticisms and explanations.

In the third part of the thematic block, participants learnt about developing concise campaign messages using the “RASPBerry principle” (campaign message should include information about: Responsible party, Action – the action you want people to take, Solution, Problem, Benefit). Participants prepared campaign messages for their own personal environmental projects which were discussed in the previous session on problem trees. By using three separate approaches and building on previous work done, the expert empowered participants to first analyse their environmental actions in regards to campaigning and then to actively revise and improve upon them. This input session also directly influenced YEE’s choice of direction in the upcoming Ocean 2012 campaign, which will also lead to the multiplication of the ideas and concepts contained within to youth who did not attend the study session.

### **Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> – Exchanging experience and creating booklet on environmental law**

#### **CREATING A BOOKLET**

It was very important for the team facilitating the study session to think about the multiplying effect and the ways of disseminating the results of the project. One of the ways of spreading results of our discussions is the booklet on environmental law and youth participation. We wanted to create a practical tool for advocacy, support and advice for young environmentalists. The aim was to gather sources of information that could be useful for other young people who would like to get more involved and active in advocacy for environment.

In the YEE network, an editorial team usually is put in charge of creating publications. This time we wanted to give the voice to all participants and involve them in the creative brainstorming. We planned a session on creating together a publication to create a space for research and input for participants. We wanted them to go deeper in the discussed topics, think of what they learnt and how to explain it clearly to other young people. We wanted them to reflect as well on how what we discussed and learnt during the study session can be useful for them and other people and how it can be used in reality.

In the session on creating the booklet we encouraged participants to research and write the content of the publication. On big flipchart papers put on the ground in the shape of a star they were able to decide on the topics for specific chapters and its content and in this way, collectively, create a mind map of the booklet. They then decided on which chapter they wanted to work on and in small groups prepared drafts of the chapters and practiced basic journalistic skills.

As a result, draft texts for 5 chapters were created: Introduction, Environmental Law, Human Rights and Environment, Campaigning skills and Links to legal documents and other sources.

#### **OPEN SPACE**

The Open Space methodology was used to provide a forum to brainstorm ways to strengthen the YEE network and increase its potential as a tool for member organisations.

The Open Space session aims to create a natural and comfortable environment for generating ideas. It allows participants to reveal interests and expertise they have and participate in a manner they prefer. Participants were proposing topics to discuss focused on possibilities of strengthening the YEE network. During the discussions they took notes that were later collected and passed on to the YEE network. This acted as a source of inspiration for future planning.

Among the discussions from the open space participants drafted the following ideas and recommendations:

- Lack of motivated people in organisations:

In order to find more motivated people who are willing to be responsible for activities and projects participants proposed to: give members the opportunity to create and participate in their own projects in the topics they are interested in, find good leaders, new projects as ways to refresh motivation, show people what they can learn and how they can benefit from it.

- Member organisations have varied profiles:

In order to encourage stronger cohesion in the network, even among organisations with different aims: it was suggested to create a satisfaction survey to find out all needs of members, to search for new member organisations with very specific profiles and to rethink the mission and role of the network for member organisations.

- Communication:

To improve communication within the network participants proposed to: exchange experts who can share experiences, prepare an info workshop, create a platform at YEE website where participants will be able to share the experiences and find useful information related with environment law, use social networks more.

- Fundraising:

In order to vary the sources of funding it could be possible to: involve famous people, apply to international funds, not only European, to cooperate with local companies and local authorities (municipality), search for funding possibilities at the Ministry of Environment, prepare donation boxes and sell ecological products.

- Skills database:

The database could act as a resource for members which require help with certain issues. People could register in the database and add their specific skills. It links the networks into a wider system where all our strengths are each others strengths.

### **Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> – Follow-up planning and evaluation**

#### **FOLLOW-UP PLANNING AND ACTION PLANS**

To plan follow-up projects, we prepared a session where participants had space to first reflect on the learning experiences and outcomes of the study session and then plan concrete follow-up steps. Participants were expected to analyse what they have learnt so far as well as what kind of knowledge on the topic they would love to obtain in the future and how.

They were asked to concretely plan what will happen after the session as a result of the session. They also thought over how they might put into practice the obtained knowledge. In groups they prepared concrete follow-up projects. They had to present these ideas in a way to 'make other people care'. Project ideas are described in the chapter: Projects developed during the session.

After planning ideas, the groups had to prepare action plans to be implemented when they return back to their homelands. They planned steps that had to be taken in order to complete the project and to check what kind of support participants could give to each other to implement action plans.

## **EVALUATION SPACE**

Evaluation of the study session was done in the specially arranged Evaluation Space. Through out this creative process we wanted to get feed-back from participants, assign value to different learning outcomes, reflect on what this experience meant for participants, check to which extent they fulfilled their expectations and at the end to celebrate their achievements.

The space was divided again into 5 zones (like in the Welcome Space). Some information and materials from Welcome Space formed the basis for the overall evaluation. Participants travelled through the following zones: Expectations/ Contributions/ Fears, The Programme and Aims and Objectives, Skills, knowledge, attitudes, Knowing me knowing you, Silent floor. After they visited all the zones they were asked to fill in the evaluation questionnaire.

# ANALYSIS OF THE EVALUATION

In this part of the report we would like to give the voice to participants of the study session and the preparatory team in order to evaluate the study session.

## Fulfilling of aim and objectives

In the scale from 1 till 6 (6 meaning fully realised objective) **participants evaluated goals of the study session in the following way:**

Aim	
To increase the participants' competences in the field of environmental law and to foster organizations' capacity in using that knowledge to advocate for environmental protection.	4,16
Objectives	
To discover possibilities for youth participation in environmental law matters.	4,56
To discover existing institutions that are concerned with environmental protection and their programs as well as other sources of information.	4,68
To increase knowledge on existing environmental law in Europe and ways of its implementation.	4,32
To understand interconnection between human rights and environment.	5,08
To share experiences in advocacy for environment.	4,80
To increase participants' campaigning and communication skills.	5,08
To strengthen the network and increase its potential as a tool for advocacy, support and advice.	5,32
<b>Overall Average Score</b>	<b>4,75</b>

## **Questions from evaluation questionnaire (selection)**

### 1. What were your expectations and how successful was the study session at achieving them?

The participants were generally satisfied with the study session and the learning outcomes. Especially practical skills of campaigning and advocacy were often mentioned. They had a feeling they learnt more about youth participation and they would still need to learn more about environmental law.

Among things they expected and were not completely fulfilled the participants mentioned especially more theoretical knowledge of environmental law.

Also many ideas for follow-up projects were pointed out as the study session obviously created new learning needs. Projects on more concrete examples of environmental protection and campaigning skills were suggested.

### 2. What did you learn?

Among the learning points participants mentioned the most often were campaigning skills ("new ways of organising and implementing campaigns") and knowledge on existing environmental law documents, as well as how to use them ("how to approach environmental

law”). Other things mentioned were: youth participation, lobbying, energizers, some personal skills, YEE, how to advocate and express the ideas in better way, etc.

Also learning from each other and by sharing experiences was often mentioned as a way to learn about environmental situation in other countries.

The participants also expressed new motivation for activities, such as: “To plan and to act, to not be afraid to act alone, each one person makes change” or “I learnt that everyone can make a change. And I learnt what are the things I can do to make a change”.

### 3. How will you transfer what you learnt here to your local reality?

Participants had many various ideas for disseminating the results of the project and what they learnt. Some wanted to pass the knowledge further during special meetings, workshops, projects connected with environmental law or interconnection between human rights and environment.

Other participants wanted to use new skills and knowledge directly in the projects of their organisations – in campaigns, in policy creation, advocacy for environment.

### **Gained skills, knowledge and attitudes (from Evaluation Space)**

#### Skills:

- Campaigning skills
- Advocacy skills
- Lobbying
- Communication skills

#### Knowledge:

- YEE network and other organizations
- Nature 2000, Bern convention, Ocean 2012
- Impact of NGOs in policy making
- Improved my knowledge in advocacy, campaigning
- How to apply law
- Information about youth actions
- Structure of the Council of Europe and activities
- How youth can influence creation of law
- Human Rights
- Knowledge about different countries and NGOs
- Knowledge about existing legislation in the field of environment
- Better ways of cooperation
- Different methods for having active participants

#### Attitudes:

- Don't be scared to show your (green) initiatives, people like originality
- How to present your ideas, how to work with a group
- Get up, stand up for your environmental rights
- I care more now
- Do not try to convince people, make them act
- I have always cared about environment, it is good to learn that there are more people who are contributing to this... it made me determined and motivated
- As you also may be starting point for everything you believe

## TEAM EVALUATION

After the study session ended, the preparatory team met to analyse the results of evaluation of participants and to conduct a team evaluation.

The impressions from team members were rather positive. The group of participants was very well integrated and interesting, both from YEE network and from outside. Our aim and objectives were fulfilled in a satisfactory manner.

It turned out to be very useful to have a preparatory meeting before the study session. The meeting helped the team to get to know each other better and also finalise the programme optimally adjusting it to the aim and objectives set out before.

Financial and logistical support of the Directorate of Citizenship and Democratic Participation took out a big burden of YEE shoulders leaving much more time for concentrating on the content and better preparation of the project itself.

It was of significant assistance to have an external educational advisor with us for the entire duration of the study session who gave valuable advices on the content of the programme and provided preparatory team with all the needed logistical support.

Also having three experts instead of two turned out to be pertinent and valuable for the program flow of the study session as each of them made significant contributions to fulfilling the sessions' aims and objectives.

However, we identified as well some points that could have been improved.

One objective, namely 'to practice using environmental law terminology' was not directly covered by any session of the programme. It was slightly touched upon in other sessions but not explicitly. We think that it was too ambitious objective to cover during the study session in the time frame we had.

Also some participants did not fit so much the profile that we set. Selecting participants is always a challenge. The group that attended this study session was very diverse in terms of what environmentalism means to them. Some of them did not have direct experience or interest in getting involved in advocacy for environment by using the means of environmental law. YEE shall be more careful while selecting participants for the next projects paying particular attention to the aspect of correspondence of participants' expectations and previous experience to the aims and objectives of a project.

# APPENDICES

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
1.	Albania	Elona Saro	EDEN
2.	Albania	Lira Hakani	EDEN
3.	Albania	Maivis Struga	EPER Center
4.	Armenia	Lusine Taslakyán	SYC
5.	Armenia	Zaruhi Stepanyan	Khazer
6.	Bulgaria	Emil Vaklinov	EO Rhodope
7.	Bulgaria	Vyara Savova	EO Rhodope
8.	Czech Republic	Cameron Murphy	YEE
9.	Czech Republic	Marie Tvrdonova	Ekocentrum Ricany
10.	Georgia	Nino Popkhaze	Droni
11.	Georgia	Nino Kheladze	ASA
12.	Germany	Christiane Klemm	FOJ-Active
13.	Italy	Roberto Solinas	Mine Vaganti
14.	Latvia	Girts Baranovskis	Ja Visapkart
15.	Latvia	Ingá Sabanova	Kislrod
16.	Lithuania	Justina Žurauskaitė	MRUSA
17.	Lithuania	Teisutis Ašmenavičius	JCI sostinė
18.	“former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	Dejan Veljanoski	DEM
19.	“former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	Gjoko Zoroski	DEM
20.	Poland	Marta Wantuch	OA PTTK
21.	Russian Federation	Anna Emalyanova	AYA
22.	Russian Federation	Elena Tveritina	Unesco Moscow
23.	Greece	Miltiadis Zamparas	Nuestro Mundo
24.	Spain	Cristina Juan Carion	Libertas International
25.	Sweden	Salomon Abresparr	Faltbiologerna

## PREPARATORY TEAM

	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
1.	Poland/ Czech Republic	Małgorzata Zubowicz-Thull	YEE – Course director
2.	Poland	Monika Kotulak	OA PTTK
3.	Ukraine	Kyrylo Ivliev	EYC
4.	Armenia	Arsen Simonyan	SYC
5.	Germany/Poland	Bastian Küntzel	External trainer

## LIST OF REFERENCES

### **Materials from the study session:**

- [Presentation on the Manual on Human Rights and the Environment \(by Merete Bjerregaard\)](#)
- [Presentation on Human Rights \(by Bastian Küntzel\)](#)
- [Presentation on Environmental Law \(by Ilaria Esposito\)](#)
- [Presentation on Participation \(by Pawel Pawlaczyk\)](#)
- [Presentation on Campaigning \(by Dariusz Grzemny\)](#)
- [Section about the project on YEE website](#)
- [Section for participants on YEE website](#) (Login: studysession, Password: environment)
- [Photogallery with photos from the project](#)
- [Booklet on environmental law and youth participation](#)

### **List of institutions, environmental actors – session Institutions and Stakeholders (with links to their websites)**

- [Council of Europe](#)
- [European Union](#)
- [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)
- [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)
- [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)
- [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#)
- [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)
- [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – United Nations \(OHCHR\)](#)
- [Business Action for Sustainable Development 2012 \(BASD\)](#)
- Trade unions and workers – [Trade Union Advisory Comitee \(TUAC\)](#), [International Trade Union Confederation \(ITUC\)](#)
- [The Youth and United Nations Global Alliance \(YUNGA\)](#)
- Environmental NGOs – [Unite for Climate](#), [Climate Action Network \(CAN\)](#)
- Local authorities – [Local Governments for Sustainability \(ICLEI\)](#), [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#)
- [The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe](#)
- Scientific and technological communities – [International Council for Science \(ICSU\)](#), [World Federation of Engineering Organizations \(WFEO\)](#), [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)
- Women organisations – [Women’s Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#), [Women in Europe for a Common Future \(WECF\)](#), [European Women’s Lobby \(EWL\)](#)
- [Bern Convention Secretariat and Standing Committee](#)
- [Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee](#)

**Environmental law documents – session Existing environmental law and how it is created** (with links to these documents)

Participants were reading only extracts from these documents.

- [The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#)
- [AGENDA 21 - United Nations Conference on Environment & Development](#)
- [Habitat Directive](#)
- [Bird Directive](#)
- [Managing NATURA 2000 sites](#)
- [Convention on biological diversity](#)
- [Biosafety](#) (chapter from the book 'Green breakthroughs. Solving Environmental Problems Through Innovative Policies and Law', UNEP, 2008)
- [Freshwater resources](#) (chapter from the book 'Green breakthroughs. Solving Environmental Problems Through Innovative Policies and Law', UNEP, 2008)
- [Mountain, forest and polar ecosystems](#) (chapter from the book 'Green breakthroughs. Solving Environmental Problems Through Innovative Policies and Law', UNEP, 2008)
- [Energy, renewable energy and nuclear energy](#) (chapter from the book 'Green breakthroughs. Solving Environmental Problems Through Innovative Policies and Law', UNEP, 2008)
- [Aarhus convention](#)
- [Bern Convention](#)
- [Ramsar convention](#)
- [Marine law – UN Convention on law of the Sea](#)
- [Climate change](#)
- [Environmental Impact Assessment Directive](#)

**List of movies from the movie night:**

- [YEE movie](#)
- [Plant for the planet](#)
- [Natalie Warne Anonymous Extraordinaries TEDx](#)
- [The girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes](#)
- [The story of cap and trade](#)
- [The Detour – about Rospuda valley in Poland](#)
- [The story of COP 17](#)
- [Greenpeace inspiring action](#)
- [Love story of milk](#)
- [The animals save the planet](#)
- More environmental movies: <http://eurotope.ning.com/video>



