



# The European YWCAs

## **European YWCA Member Association Booklet**

***Version One***

**European YWCA International Leadership Summit**

**European Representatives Meeting**

**14-19<sup>th</sup> October 2014 Stuttgart, Germany**

**Hosted by the YWCA of Germany**



## **Introduction:**

This booklet is a tool designed to be utilised as networking tool to build solidarity and partnerships. This booklet is named 'version one' as not all member associations are currently represented mainly ONLY attendees of the European Representatives Meeting 2014 (ERM). However, the European YWCA Board wishes to extend the document to include all European YWCA member associations. Hence, a new version will be circulated once all templates are collected. This booklet showcases 13 different YWCAs. On the last two pages of the booklet you will find a complete list of all the ERM participants and their email addresses.

The European YWCA was established to unite member associations in a European movement. It is a women-led organisation which seeks to model shared, intergenerational leadership, ensuring at least 25% of its leadership positions are held by young women 30 years and under. European YWCA represent YWCAs in 26 countries in Europe, which are driven by women and young women in local communities committed to the YWCA purpose.

While many European countries have made advances in gender equality and human rights, violence in all its forms remains a pervasive threat to women, young women and girls in Europe. Many women, particularly from the East, migrate to the West in search of employment or in the worst situations, are trafficked across borders into sex work or forced labour. These issues impact on the lives and dignity of women, young women and girls, and are exacerbated by the current economic crisis afflicting the region.

The purpose of the European YWCA is develop the leadership and collective power of women and girls to achieve justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and a sustainable environment for all people.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful and connect as YWCA sisters to build a safer, better and more inclusive world for girls, young women and women!

## **Member Association's Profiles**

Name of YWCA: **YWCA of Belgium**

ERM Delegate Email: [Rocio.motty@gmail.com](mailto:Rocio.motty@gmail.com)

General Secretary Email:

President Email: [francoise.broddin@telenet.be](mailto:francoise.broddin@telenet.be)

### **Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

**YWCA Antwerpen:** Works with women who just arrived in Belgium (immigrants and migrants).

- Learn Dutch, social and civil organisation in Belgium, educational support.
- YWCA provides the volunteers who give the courses and sustains them (didactical, financial)
- Provides the possibility to meet other immigrants and local Belgian women and build a social network by organising leisure activity's for all ages.
- Development education by the means of workshops.
- Networking with other women organisations.
- Library, reading club.

**YWCA Louette:** Centre of encounter and lodging.

- Promote civil awareness of the local young (rural) girl and boys (HIV, violence discrimination).
- Library and spin-offs as homework support and public writer.
- Activation and support of local initiatives (repair-café, games library, green classes for basket making, free expression, work with wool).
- Encounter of the local people with residents of a refugee centre (knitting group, basket making, and floral art).
- Organising encounter weekends of the local people and people who are lodging in the centre (djembe happenings, holyday activities open to externs and interns)

### **Activities/ Projects:**

#### **Antwerpen:**

- Flower party to thank the volunteers and give the kick-off of the new working year.
- Support the production of a film with work fiches about violence against women.
- Organisation of a symposium on the international women's day with other organisations in the house of the YWCA.

#### **Louette:**

- Yearly a LAN-party and table games weekend with actions against violence and for HIV awareness.
- Open-door weekend for the local people and organisation where they can meet and discuss together about their actions and find synergies.
- Action financed by the local Rotary about the saving of fresh water (goblets for tooth-brushing with an explanation.)

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board:** Yes    No  
Not for the moment, but we are working on it.

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project?** Yes    No

#### **Please provide details of envisioned project:**

We didn't think about it yet. We are only a small group left and we are struggling to survive. Antwerp has recently lost more than 90% of its financial support of the town council and don't have any professional staff any more. Louette is emerging the last 10 years and has found new financial support and is growing.

The Belgian YWCA is only a go between for the local YWCA's and the European and world YWCA and has no own programme. We are only 4 volunteers of 60 and older and are looking for renewing.

You find info, photographs and actions of Louette on the website [www.Louette.YWCA.be](http://www.Louette.YWCA.be)



Name of YWCA: **YMCA & YWCA in Denmark**

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President Email: [bb@kfum-kfuk.dk](mailto:bb@kfum-kfuk.dk)

ERM Delegate Email: [thomsen31@hotmail.com](mailto:thomsen31@hotmail.com)

**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

- Activity clubs for children and young people
- Festivals and camps
- International outreach
- Ten Sing

**Activities/ Projects:**

Ex 1: Local 2 Local: an international project aimed to make the international part of the YMCA/YWCA more locally relevant. A local association in Denmark makes a partnership with a local association abroad, e.g. Ukraine, the Netherlands, and Ireland etc. Together the two associations develop a project that they want to do together: camps, exchange programmes and more.

Ex 2: Every second Friday a local YMCA/YWCA arranges alcohol free disco nights for kids from 11-15 from all around the area. This way they learn how to go out in a safe environment, and they also get to know YMCA/YWCA and hopefully get interested in other activities.

Ex 3: Children's festival, teen event and family camp are examples of annual events that bring together members from all over Denmark. They spend some very intense days together built around a specific theme and get the chance to feel the YMCA/YWCA spirit.

**And much more...**

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes    No X**

This is due to the fact that our quotas are different: There are supposed to be 50 % men and 50 % women on the board as we are a joint movement. Two of the four women on the current board are below 30.

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes    No**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

We are looking for more partners for our Local 2 Local project, as well as for our work with boarding schools. We would for example like to find a partner that would be able to host a visit from a school class (age 15-16) and would have concrete work for them to do while they are there.



This is a picture from this year's Teen Event, which had the theme 'Join my Selfie'.



This is a picture from this year's Children's Festival. Here we're looking at children accustomed bible studies.



Name of YWCA: **YWCA of Finland**

ERM

Delegate

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General Secretary Email:

Acting

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Email:

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### **Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

The YWCA of Finland was established in 1896 and is one of the oldest women's organisations in the country. There are 26 local YWCAs based in 23 locations with about 2100 members (8 who paid the fee), over 10000 participants to our activities. Three of the associations are Swedish-speaking. The YWCA of Finland is an umbrella organisation that supports and unites the local YWCAs.

In our new logo joined hands create a secure circle of sisters in which women can spend time together and reflect on everyday challenges and life's deeper questions. Our newsletter Näkyvä Nainen ("The Visible Woman") speaks to women brings them joy and offers them a forum to get their voice heard.

Ecumenical training, issues related to Christian gospel and heritage in nowadays world and challenges of multicultural society have always played strong part of our movement.

The YWCA of Finland provides training, carries out PR activities, manages national and international relations and acts as an umbrella organisation for the independent local YWCAs. Important areas of work include furthering ecumenism, combating violence against women and promoting gender equality together with other women's organisations.

Hotel Helka has served its guests in the YWCA building, located in the heart of Helsinki, since 1928. Our guests can enjoy Finnish style, culture and hospitality in a relaxed environment. The bright and spacious rooms are furnished with products from Finnish top designers.

### **New activities/ Projects provided by our independent local associations:**

The Terrible Mothers - peer groups for mothers of teenagers

Safe meeting places for girls

ITU – consultation and support for women after abortion or facing crisis (e.g. forced) pregnancy.

Tunturikeimiö - If you want to experience the Northern wilderness in a cosy environment, Tunturikeimiö is the perfect place for you. It's a welcoming hostel and activity centre in Muonio, Lapland, managed by the YWCA of Finland and open to anyone. Skiing tracks and trekking paths that lead to the fells start right in our yard. In addition to the accommodation and dinner facilities, there is a Sami style tent and a sauna by lake Naistenlampi where you can take a refreshing dip throughout the year.

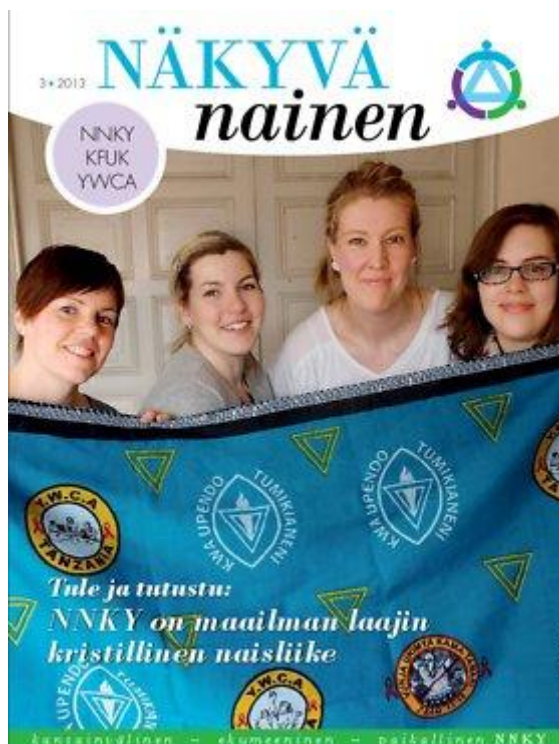
**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**

We would like to negotiate this question at ERM. We have official partnership with YWCA Liberia and two domestic fund raising goals.



- 1 -2 Our new logo - see the women in circle reaching arms to each other. There is space between the figures, welcoming new women to join.
- 3 Week without violence postcard



Name of YWCA: **YWCA OF GREECE/XEN ELLADOS**

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### **Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

#### **WORLD YWCA PRIORITIES as part of the national strategic planning for 2012-15**

The empowerment of our volunteer members and the refocusing of our collective power in the volunteerism as we know it and apply it within our organisation is an important aspect of our work. Only with well trained and empowered volunteers the YWCA can evolve and undertake the development of actions that shall bring forth positive changes in our society, for women and youth. Taking into consideration the social and economic crisis, we created four new Pan-Hellenic (nation- wide) programmes that try to reflect on society's needs towards two main directions:

- Targeted interventions on covering basic needs of affected social groups, such as food, shelter, employment, etc.
- Constant vigilance for the protection of universal human values, such as tolerance, respect of human rights, dignity. Within a social system that collapses, these values are being violated systematically and methodically.

Short descriptions of the four Pan-Hellenic Programmes:

#### **1. “Volunteer outreach” or “Engaging new volunteers”**

This programme is referring to our methodically organised efforts to renew our pull of volunteers with younger women. It presents successful practices in approaching and engaging new volunteers, through the use - but not limited to - of new technology. It also comments on the idea of intergenerational ‘sisterhood’ within our organization.

#### **2. “Sexual & Reproductive Health: a human right for women”**

The programmes goal is the accurate dissemination of information to young women and girls in matters of their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Through a simple and friendly way we try to emphasize on the need to protect women's health as a human right. We want to educate and empower young women so that they can make informed choices for themselves and also influence and bring positive change on others in their community.

#### **3. “Intergenerational Cooperation”**

As a world movement, the YWCA sets as a goal the intergenerational cooperation and leadership so that there is dissemination of information and knowledge as a way to secure smoother transition in our leadership structure. Through this way young leaders are empowered and better prepared to play a meaningful and essential role within the Y, in their societies and the world, having the Y's vision as a guiding line. The programme also utilizes positive resources and is based on the belief that youth and elders alike have a lot to learn from one another and that they can offer to society by working together. The common initiatives aim to overcome ageism, create a culture of active ageing and a welcoming and open society for all age groups.

#### **4. “Human Rights”**

The YWCA of Greece worked on two different programmes on that topic:

**“40+1 Journeys for Children”:** the programme is addressed to school-aged children. Through playing and games it promotes the understanding of the Convention on the Rights of Children, it addresses values such as dignity, tolerance and respect to others, and abilities such as collaboration and critical thinking.

**“I am a woman and I have the right.”** based on the 2012 World YWCA Day theme and tool kit, addressed to women’s and young women’s volunteer groups willing to adopt a human rights approach in their programmes.

## **SERVICES**

### **Securing safe housing for female university students – promoting the right to higher education**

The YWCA of Greece, recognising the difficult social and economic conditions and in defending the right to higher education established a safe-housing programme for female university-aged students coming from low-income families from Greece (rural areas, long distance islands etc.). Initially it operated during the 2013-14 academic year at the *Multicenter of Services for Women and Youth “Athena”*. Through this programme, the Y provided them a safe and secure free housing solution.

### **YWCA of Greece – Women’s Supporting Services**

The Social Services Office of the YWCA of Greece, certified by the State since 1995, for several decades has been providing free of charge counseling services to all women, without discriminating on the bases of race, color, language, religion, creed, national/ethnic origin, contributing to their smooth integration into society and advocating for their rights. The Office supports the implementation of career workshops and training seminars, both in formal and soft skills, giving particular emphasis in the provision of upgraded employment counseling services in order to promote the equal integration of women in the labor force taking into account gender issues. The methods and practices used focus on the gender issues, empowering women to believe in themselves and to take advantage of any opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge.

In recent years, given the adverse circumstances, the social disparities and the high unemployment rates, the YWCA has increased its efforts to support the right of vulnerable groups of women to have equal access to opportunities. As part of this effort, we participated in the implementation of two career counseling programmes for women immigrants, political refugees and asylum seekers. More specifically, the YWCA carried out (a) the SYNANPTYXIS programme, co-funded by the European Economic Area (EEA) and (b) the ENTASYYY programme, co-funded by the European Refugee Fund 2012.

### **Activities/ Projects:**

#### **ENTASYYY programme, co-funded by the European Refugee Fund and the Greek Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Welfare**

The EN.TA.S.Y.Y project was formed under the need to address the difficulties that women refugees and asylum seekers face, when transiting from their country of origin to Greece. The needs these women face, such as finding a safe home, trying to support themselves and their families and understand the labor market, especially now under the strenuous economic situation in Greece, become even harder to handle.

The aim of the project was to provide a range of services in a comprehensive and holistic manner in order to support their rightful integration in the Greek society.

The services covered:

- employment counseling and information
- psychosocial support and counseling
- integration to the labor market
- improvement of their standards of living

EN.TA.S.Y.Y provided services to 43 women mainly coming from African and Arab countries. Many of them were single mothers of more than one child having difficulties in covering basic needs such as food, clothing and access to health services etc. At the same time trying to legalize their status as asylum seekers they lack the ability to legally enter the work force.

Trafficking and sexual exploitation were identified as issues some of them faced in the recent past as well as during the counseling process.

The YWCA in Greece as one of the oldest women's organisation in the country through this project applied its gained experience in the support and social services field for **all** women. Especially migrant women and women asylum seekers face multiple challenges and gender based difficulties deriving by the stereotypes and the traditional roles society allows them to play in the community. All the above make even harder their battle for a just integration into the Greek society. Of course the impact of supporting services for this particular target group of women, often facing victimization and exclusion, cannot easily be measured. Their integration is also a matter of a synergy between the state, the civil society and the society as a whole, which will provide a secure network of accessible and effective relief services and this is not the case when a country suffers from a deep social and economic crisis.

### **Securing safe housing for female university students – promoting the right to higher education**

The programme during the academic year 2013-2014 proved very helpful and useful for young women who found a safe and free of charge accommodation. We received positive feedback and most of them have already applied for its second year of operation. Through this programme the YWCA supports the right of these young women to access higher education. We are striving to find ways that will allow us to maintain this service for the future, as it proved to be very costly.

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: No**  
**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**  
**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

It is our belief that we, as European YWCA, should put a lot of energy and effort in creating a European common vision and translating it into a manageable action plan. In order to achieve the implementation of a joint programme in this direction with an added value for all of us, we need to reach a common ground, a common decision. As previous experiences have shown, this process is more important than the programme itself.

However, to give a more specific answer we suggest the following areas:

- The creation and maintenance of a European advocacy network lead by young women for young women's issues
- Leadership training forum/framework in order for young women leaders to be prepared to effectively manage the needed transition in fulfilling the organization's vision for 2035 and beyond.

**Please attach a photograph of your YWCA, projects or activities that you would like to share.**



Views from Multicenter "Athena"



The Pan-Hellenic programmes for the training of volunteers (distance learning tool kits)



Experiential Workshop on Gender Issues & Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2014)



Name of YWCA: **YWCA Georgia**

ERM Delegate

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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

**2013-2014 years**

1. Violence Against Women VAW
2. Establishment of a Societal Rehabilitation Centre for Women with HIV/AIDS
3. Supplementary Services for women survivors of violence and women living with HIV- Education, employment and leadership opportunities

**Activities/ Projects:**

1. Consultations for women involved in risk factor group: distribution of literature, explanation about the means of protection. Consultations for HIV/AIDS infected women: involvement, integration and building close relationships in the club of anonyms.
2. Establishing Law Clinic, attracting young women at the begging and middle of their careers (MA. ), through vocational training and educational services, prepare them as a professionals in Human's and Women's rights and additionally with this force 2) providing services for women survivors of violence.

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes No**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes No**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

With great please, YES

Many areas, but education and centre for migrant women (from Africa, China etc.,) is a most promising.

Name of YWCA: **German YWCA e.V.**

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General

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Secretary

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Email:

### Main areas of work by theme/topic:

Intercultural and ecumenical relationships

Awareness raising and prevention of trafficking

Accompanying women from Eastern and Southern Europe who will start work in our area (hospitals, households, caring for elderly people).

### Activities/ Projects:

Cooperation with YWCA Namibia,

We are currently financing the Early Child Development Training of a young woman who wants to be a kindergarten teacher. She will finish her training in November. How can we help setting up a kindergarten??

Solar lights for African women (Namibia, Kenya) and the Middle East (Lebanon) (Consol solar jar and Waka Waka light)

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: XXX No**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes XX**

### Please provide details of envisioned project:

Cooperation with projects on solar lights:

- awareness raising in Germany and partner organisations abroad
- project of providing refugee women in Palestine/Gaza with solar lights (Solar jars + Waka Waka light and Waka Waka power)
- workshops on solar light and solar cooking

#### Welcome to the German YWCA inc. Young Women's Christian Association in Germany

The German YWCA is part of a worldwide ecumenical network for women and girls. It is a member of the World YWCA headquartered in Geneva.

##### The World YWCA

- is based on the principles of ecumenism and is open to women of all faiths
- unites and links up 25 million women and girls in more than 120 countries
- is committed to women's full participation and leadership at all social, economic and political levels
- supports and promotes programmes for achieving social and economic justice
- provides education and information about women's and human rights, sexual and reproductive health rights (HIV and AIDS), peace, and care for the environment.

The German YWCA is a member of the European YWCAs consisting of 26 national associations which

- address European issues and topics
- coordinate European regional and representatives meetings (ERM)
- work together in European committees and advisory boards.

#### Aims and objectives of the German YWCA inc.

- to strengthen intercultural, ecumenical and inter-religious competences
- to promote international and ecumenical meetings
- to fight against trafficking in human beings and women in particular, as well as violence against women, forced prostitution and HIV/AIDS
- to organize meetings on women's issues and development policy
- to give advice and support to women in migration.

#### History

- Founded in 1893 by Pastor Johannes Burckhardt, Chair of the Protestant Female Youth Association in Germany
- Dissolved during the Nazi regime
- Re-established in Frankfurt in 2005 as a national association. Founding members included the National Association for International Youth Work (vij), Women's Study and Training Center within the Protestant Church, Women for Justice in Southern Africa, Protestant Youth Work Association in Württemberg, Women's section of Gustav-Adolf-Werk, Leipzig
- First President Hanne Braun, Stuttgart.
- National Office in Stuttgart, located in the offices of Verein für Internationale Jugendarbeit - vij (Association for International Youth Work)

#### Activities

The German YWCA supports the following projects:

- The Esther Women's shelter in Brasov, Romania
- Mama's Club and Mama's Garden in Uganda (help for young mothers with HIV/AIDS)
- Sewing machine project and financing the training of a kindergarten teacher for YWCA Namibia
- Solar jars for Namibia and Kenya
- Participation in World YWCA Summits (Nairobi 2007; Zürich 2011, with organization of the "76 Rose Street" interactive exhibition and workshop)
- Invitations to YWCA World Board members from Kenya and Namibia to visit the German YWCA
- Round-the-World Breakfasts on:
  - Chicken exports to Africa
  - China – the country and its people
  - Forced marriage
  - Shopping behaviour and Globalisation
  - Female genital mutilation (FGM)
  - Domestic workers from Eastern Europe
  - Widows, witches and hoodoos in Africa
  - Solar lamps and solar cooking for African women
- After-work meeting on "ways out of the rat race"
- Participation in ERM (European Representatives Meetings)
- Organisation of the YWCA European Representatives Meeting (ERM), October 14-19, 2014, at the Bernhauer Forst near Stuttgart

Name of YWCA: **YWCA-UCDG Unione  
Cristiana Delle Giovani**

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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

**1. Advocacy : La violence sur les femmes Violence against Women**

2. femmes ayant des problèmes socio-économiques: immigrées, chômeuses, sous-occupées, femmes seules avec enfants à charge, étudiantes italiennes et étrangères avec revenu insuffisant pour bénéficier d'un réel droit aux études. Personnes qui demandent asile. **Women with socioeconomic problems: under- employed immigrants, unemployed women, single women with dependent children, Italian and foreign students with enough to benefit from a real right to study income. People seeking asylum.**

3. Nécessité de lieux pour la socialisation et l'éducation à la paix et à la responsabilité des enfants et des parents. **Necessity places for socialization and education for peace and responsibility for children and parents.**

**Activities/ Projects:**

**Projets:**

**"Women Creating Safe Spaces"** Institution d'une cohabitation par la création e la gestion d'un logement social à Torino (destinataires voir nr. 2) (depuis 2013) **Institution of cohabitation by creating management of social housing in Torino (recipients see nr. 2 ) (since 2013)**

**«Garderie »**

à Roma auprès de l'école secondaire Buonarroti. L'après midi fonctionne depuis deux ans un service de soutien à l'étude, aide pour les devoirs de toutes les matières, alphabétisation adressée essentiellement aux enfants de familles immigrées, qui ont d'évidentes difficultés linguistiques et souffrent de solitude (depuis 2012) **"Daycare" Roma from the Buonarroti high school. In the afternoon running for two years' service support for study, homework help in all subjects, literacy addressed mainly to children of immigrant families who have obvious language difficulties and suffer from loneliness ( since 2012 )**

**« Giardino d'Inverno »**

à Torre Pellice (TO) offre un espace où les infants peuvent consommer leur gouter et jouer librement aussi pendant l'hiver, accompagnés par un personne de leur famille, qui peut vivre un'expérience de socialisation e de récréation. (depuis 2013) **Giardino d' Inverno "**

**Torre Pellice (TO) provides a space where infants can eat their snack and play freely as during the winter, accompanied by a person of their family , which can live un'experience socialization e recreation . (since 2013)**

**« Sostegno allo Studio »**

accueil dans le Foyer de Roma d'étudiantes de différentes nationalités à un prix très modéré (depuis 2011) " Sostegno allo Studio "reception in the Foyer of Roma students of different nationalities at a very moderate price (since 2011 )

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes      No X**  
**seulement le 17% only 17 %**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes X No**  
**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

Création de partenariats économiques: un échange de compétences et de ressources.  
**Economic partnerships: an exchange of skills and resources.**

1. **“Women Creating Safe Spaces”, Torino. Samedi à l’après midi : les enfants e les mamans jouent ensemble au parc Torino. Saturday afternoon: children and moms playing together at the park**

2. **« Giardino d’Inverno », Torre Pellice. Affiche 2 " Winter Garden ," Torre Pellice . Affiche**



  
Associazione YWCA-UCDG Onlus

**a Villa Elisa**  
**lunedì, mercoledì e venerdì**  
**dalle ore 16.30 alle 18.30**  
**via Angrogna, 14**  
**Torre Pellice**



*Giardino d'Inverno*

Bambini, genitori, nonni, zii, tate sono tutti invitati  
a trascorrere insieme un pomeriggio di giochi, laboratori e merenda.

Il **Giardino d'Inverno** è uno spazio di gioco, di incontro e di accoglienza, in cui i bambini e i loro accompagnatori (genitori, nonni, tate...) possono trascorrere del tempo libero insieme nei pomeriggi dei mesi invernali. I bambini troveranno giocattoli di vario tipo, libri, una merenda, un'animatrice; nello stesso tempo, i genitori avranno un momento per stare insieme, chiacchiere e condividere esperienze.

Lo spazio è aperto nei mesi invernali, tutti i lunedì, mercoledì e venerdì pomeriggio, dalle 16.30 alle 18.30.

Il lunedì è dedicato ai laboratori creativi (disegno, pittura, manipolazione, ecc...), mentre il mercoledì e il venerdì al gioco libero.

Inoltre è possibile richiedere lo spazio del Giardino d'Inverno per feste di compleanno.

I bambini, in età compresa tra i 0 e 8 anni, devono essere accompagnati da un adulto.

**Per informazioni**  
telefonate a Villa Elisa 0121/91384 oppure  
Anna Laura Comba 3200417042  
Monica Lizuzzo 3334714704  
Cristina Veronesi 3488244918  
 [www.facebook.com/Giardino-dInverno](https://www.facebook.com/Giardino-dInverno)





Name of YWCA: **YWCA Ireland**  
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President Email: [michellefoster@gmail.com](mailto:michellefoster@gmail.com)

### **Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

In "Better Together", YWCA Ireland Strategic Plan 2013-2017, we set out our vision, mission and values which will shape and inform our main areas of work. Our vision for YWCA Ireland is to empower women in Ireland to be engaged, connected and transformed and to lead and affect change through Christ. For more information, we have attached a PDF of our strategic plan.

The mission of YWCA Ireland is inspired by our Christian faith. As part of worldwide movement of women leading change, we support and encourage women in communities throughout Ireland.

### **Centres**

YWCA Ireland has a network of centres which provide a range of services in the local communities including secure and comfortable accommodation in Dublin; an international Christian centre in Greystones, Co. Wicklow; facilities for holidays, conferences and business in Newcastle; outreach and fellowship activities in Monaghan; and premises in Lisburn used as a café by Stepping Stones NI (a charitable organisation which provides vocational training opportunities for people with learning disabilities).

### **Outreach**

YWCA Ireland is passionate about reaching out, in local communities and further afield. As part of this, YWCA Ireland has an Outreach Programme which supports people participating in short term mission activities. YWCA Ireland also partners with other organisations and initiatives focusing on issues affecting women in Ireland, such as the Turn off the Red Light campaign which unites us with 71 other groups to end the abuse and exploitation of women in Ireland.

### **Membership**

For over 140 years, YWCA Ireland has been a volunteer member association and our members are at the heart of the Association. YWCA Ireland seeks to continue to grow and develop our membership, to provide opportunities for fellowship, and to support members in their faith. YWCA Ireland is committed to facilitating training and opportunities to develop leadership skills, for members, staff, national board, committees - for women of all ages.

### **Wider YWCA**

As part of the world wide movement of women leading change, YWCA Ireland is enthusiastic about involvement with the YWCA on a European and World level to foster relationships and to unite to be a voice for women of all ages.

### **Activities/ Projects:**

#### **Communications**

As a national board we have been reviewing how we communicate with our members and stakeholders. In 2014 we have;

- developed an monthly E- Newsletter including local, national and worldwide news items relevant to the work of the YWCA
- developed a new more user friendly website ([www.ywca.ie](http://www.ywca.ie)) that will be launched in October
- provided social media training for our staff and volunteers
- developed a blog

#### **Raising awareness of and empowering women to speak out about human rights issues affecting women and girls.**

In 2014 social justice has become a recurring theme in our activities. For example:

- In recognition of World YWCA Day we hosted a ladies breakfast event entitled 'The Truth about Trafficking'. This was attended by over 60 women of all ages.



- We established a human trafficking working group at a national level to review how we approach this issue as an association.
- At our AGM, Beulah Allotey, a young Nigerian women and member of our national board spoke on the plight of the kidnapped Chibok girls and the #BringBackOurGirls campaign.
- In November 2014 we host a ladies breakfast event on the theme of domestic violence partnering with local women's organisations and domestic violence services.
- We are official partners of the Turn Off the Red Light campaign that believes that criminalising the purchase of sex is an effective way of reducing demand, and has been proven to reduce sex trafficking in the countries which have adopted it- Sweden, Iceland, and Norway and works for the implementation of the Nordic Model in Ireland.

### Community Projects

- Facilitated by funding from the European Peace III fund and the Higgan Botham Trust we have established a computer suite in one of our local centres. This facility has been utilised by many individuals from the locality.
- A mother and toddler group continues to meet on weekly basis providing a safe and social space for many young women from the local community.
- In summer 2014, one of our seaside accommodation centres piloted a family camp week which proved very popular.
- A Bible study for women continues to meet on a twice monthly basis providing spiritual encouragement for those who attend.

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes**  
**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**  
**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

**Governance and strategy project.** At present YWCA Ireland is at the start of a multiyear journey towards realising our new mission, vision and values, the core of which centres around empowering women. As such, while we would like to partner in a future project, we are uncertain at present of what the project would likely be. Should there be another group more advanced in their planning or execution we would be happy to join forces to work towards a common goal.



Name of YWCA: **YWCA Netherlands**

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ERM Delegate

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and

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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

- Intergenerational and (young) women's leadership
- Human rights; Violence against women, VN resolution 1325
- Promoting peace with justice
- Food as a human right

**Activities/ Projects:**

- Training Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC)
- Olive Tree Campaign (Joint Advocacy Initiative Palestine)
- Management of the YWCA-house
- Cooking 2 Connect
- Preparations of World Council 2015
- Inspiration Day: Together We can make the Difference

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

- Sharing with Great Britain the document on following the leadership development of (young) volunteers.
- Our new international working group would like to cooperate with other international working groups in other YWCAs.

Name of YWCA: **YWCA of Poland**

ERM

Delegate

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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

1. Helping women in rural areas to be active in public area.
2. Involving YWCA of Poland in mainstream discussion connected with:
  - a. gender
  - b. social policy
  - c. educational policy,
  - d. housing and demographic problems in the Polish society
3. Working for peace and solidarity in UE and around the World

**Activities/ Projects:**

4. Development training for young people
5. Preparations for the public conference :“Women’s housing policy – new vision”

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

We are working on new strategy

Name of YWCA: **Cevi Schweiz** General Secretary Email: [oliver.berger@cevi.ch](mailto:oliver.berger@cevi.ch)  
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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

Our key programme is to provide activities for youth and kids, as well as education in leadership for these activities. Our activities include:

Leadership training: leadership training (for young women and young men), trainings for trainer. Christian education, sport groups, ten sing.

Violence against women: prevention of sexual exploitation (training for young leaders of local groups, counselling, legal and support).

Support of young people having difficulties at home (accommodation), or finding a job, learning aid for children from families with less income (school subjects, preparation for examinations to change school level etc.), support for young mothers (this activities are not on a nationwide level, but provided by certain regional association of the Ceivi Schweiz).

**Activities/ Projects:**

See above.

We started a programme to promote the integration of children from various cultures into our groups.

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board:** No (at the moment there are only 3 people in our board, 2 of them men, one woman of 30 years. Minimal number of people in the board as written in the constitution is 5. We expect the board to be completed again in November).

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes No**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

At the moment there are no specific plans as we have are in a period of transforming our internal structure / organisation.



Name of YWCA: **YWCA of Ukraine**  
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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

Violence against women and children  
Gender equality  
Education for sustainability  
Women in war conflict

**Activities/ Projects:**

Since 1999 YWCA of Ukraine have been implementing 10 projects on violence against women and children's issues, HIV and AIDS prevention, education for sustainability, self-development and self-image issues, and equal rights. Also we realised the joint projects with YWCAs of Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Georgia, and Belarus on the topics of violence against women and girls, capacity building, gender issues.

YWCA of Ukraine current project "Let's Strengthen Young Women against Gender Based Violence" aims to develop and strengthen the skills of women and girls working in partnership with men and boys to identify and respond to issues of gender-based violence in their communities. The project delivers innovative approaches to engaging girls and young women and also men and boys in working to end violence against women and girls. Working in collaboration with women, and girls and boys and also stakeholders, project will identify the issues of violence affecting women and girls, and deliver approaches that engage girls, boys and young women and men in responding to these issues in schools, colleges and communities as well. The situation in Ukraine has made adjustments to our project.

In fact, our country is in a state of war and outlines of violence changed its shape a bit. Rather added new aspects.

In connection with the revolutionary events in Ukraine some women have been abused by police, security structures and hooligan groups

That is why the programme of activities for the girls, we added new items to the programme of activities for the girls: violence during mass actions and civil strife. As well as military operations.

YWCA of Ukraine conducted courses the following topics: first aid for injuries, rules of safe behaviour on the streets in mass actions and military operations.

Lots of Ukrainian women need a strong psychological and mental support. Mass media has a very strong influence on women and we think that they are exposed to mental and informational violence. We are trying to develop new ways of solving this problem: a support group, Individual consultations, workshops.

At the permanent office basis YWCA provide:

Support groups – once a month to address the most stirring problems.

Training on various topics:

- For young women
- For leaders.

We have drafted and published more than 12 printed products on violence against women and children issues, equal rights, and environmental education.



**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board:**  
**Yes**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project?**

**Yes**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

We are interested in the theme of the influence of mass media and advertising on the mental and moral state of women, as well as their personal development.



Name of YWCA: **YWCA of Great Britain**

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**Main areas of work by theme/topic:**

The YWCA of Great Britain focuses on young women's leadership and advocating with and for young women in the UK and Europe on national and international platforms.

**Activities/ Projects:**

**Young Women Champions—** 'Young Women Champions' is a short leadership programme designed for young women aged 18 – 25 years old that provides them with the tools to empower, inspire and share their knowledge and views with others.

The programme aims to strengthen the voice and influence of young women as agents of change for gender equality.

**Leader in Your Own Life—**This programme is for young women under the age of 25 years old that are living in supported accommodation and have experienced homelessness. This leadership programme supports the development of positive self-esteem and confidence to enable young women to advocate for themselves and work with other young women to ensure that their collective voice is heard.

**Agents of Change—**Working with YWCA Ireland and YWCA Palestine, we are proposing to deliver a programme for 18 young women under the age of 30 that will develop intercultural understanding and build solidarity between young women who have experiences of living in conflict and post conflict areas and to support them to develop advocacy skills.

**Advocacy work—**We have been growing our advocacy work and building on attendance at CSW and CEDAW over the last 2 years. We hope to expand our national and international advocacy work with the young women that participate in our leadership programmes becoming YGB advocates. We have recently undertaken a project that surveyed more than 1,000 young women in the UK to gather their views on progress against the Beijing Platform and Declaration.

**Do you meet World YWCA quota of 25% young women on your national board: Yes**

**Would you like to partner with another European YWCA in a future project? Yes**

**Please provide details of envisioned project:**

We are very keen to explore European Voluntary Service exchanges, Youth Exchanges, and Youth Worker exchanges/trainings with other European YWCA. We would also be very interested in building on our advocacy work from a European perspective and working with other YWCAs to develop joint advocacy and campaigns.

