This working document is WSCF Europe’s thematic base for the programs, activities and work for 2011-2013. These recommendations will be thoughtfully implemented by the European Regional Committee elected at the European Regional Assembly in Løgumkloster, Denmark in 2011.

**Theology Interest Group:**
The theology interest group has the following recommendations for the next two years:

The interest groups like to reaffirms the theme of the 2012 Theology conference as decided by the 2009-2011 Policy Paper and the PrepCom can include the following themes in addition to what has already been decided:

- Discussion of sin on an academic level
- How the word sin relates to guilt (in both the political and ethical senses)
- How is sin understood in the different denominations, religions?
- Concept of sin and concept of law
- How sin historically has been understood and the ongoing changes we see today
- Is sin eternal or contextual?
- Civil disobedience
- Kant’s understanding of the intension of action: The goal sanctifies the means”

When choosing key topics for upcoming events or discussions, the ERC should consider the following topics:

- Christian social ethics and bioethics
- Mapping religions and spiritual identity
- Migrant churches and ecumenism
- Theology of Creation
- Religion and secularism
- Different spiritual experience of faith
- God’s hand in history and the question of free will
- Blasphemy
- Inclusiveness: Minorities and churches
Vocation today

**General recommendations:**
The recommendations from the 2009-2011 Policy Paper are reaffirmed with the last two additions:

- At all conferences, WSCF-E should make sure that significant time is given to Bible Study related to the theme;
- WSCF-E should implement best practice guidelines for ecumenical dialogue at conferences and other events. In addition, an introduction to respectful dialogue should be given at all conferences and events;
- WSCF-E should continue to study differing and uniting aspects within the different denominations, paying close attention to the diversity of Christian spirituality and praxis;
- WSCF-E should continue to study differing and uniting aspects within the different faiths and religions, paying close attention to the diversity of spirituality and praxis;
- WSCF-E should strive for a bigger denominational diversity represented at conferences;
- Interreligious dialogue should be present at more conferences.

**Culture and Higher Education Interest Group:**
The CHE interest group recommends the ERC to work with the thematic topics, which are listed below. The CHE interest group especially recommends a conference on the topic: “Music and Faith”:

- Quality and aim of the music of Pentecostal/Charismatic churches;
- Church music, propaganda, Classic vs. Popular Music– the holiness of music for the church, the role of the musicians, essence of church music, community building, style, thematic services (soccer-service, youth-songs) Jazz/Elvis/Metal Worships (Pop Mass)
- How do we want to see community?
- What brings people to church and the relation to music?
- How authentic are we by changing the traditional music style?

Other topics which could be considered for organising a conference or focussing the work of WSCF-E are:

**Culture:**

- Different social groups working together – gap between rich and poor, intercultural groups, etc.;
- Subcultures, minorities and their use of music.
- Partying habits of students and how much time students spend on cultural things like partying/clubbing;
- Literature
Higher Education:
- Critical thinking on ecological issues and politics;
- Reflection on the frame of EU regulations on Higher Education (Bologna Process, etc.) and the platforms offered by universities to step up these developments;
- Social Campaigns (e.g. “Occupy ...”, etc.). Are they because of a change in society or are they leading to a change in society?;
- Student’s involvement and influence in educational politics;
- Building bridges between different levels of Education and Churches;
- Religious and Secular communities in Universities;
- Mobility of students, the influence it has and the values behind it. Mobility and Migration – Is this fair?
- Studying as a world commodity and Universities as businesses;
- Religious Education and Human Rights on different levels;
- Social Media and its role for the churches and its work.

General recommendation:
The CHE interest group recommends the ERC to explore the issue of intercultural dialogue more specifically and to create resources on that issue. The CHE interest group wants to raise the awareness that this is the core basis of WSCF-East work and needs to be more defined. The interest groups also recommend strengthening the links between WSCF-E and other student groups/organisations both religious and secular to gain more professional effects out of it.

Gender Interest Group:
The gender working group recommends the ERC to work on the following topics, aware that there will be a joint study session with EYCE “Gender Revised?!“ in 2012.

For future work the group suggests the following recommendations:

Thematic Points: positive masculinity, gender justice, sexuality, gender in our Christian lives (not just in a biblical context).
Campaign Ideas: LGBT rights within Baltic and Eastern European Countries. For example: offering support for Pride Parades.
General Recommendations:
Gender issues and topics should be included in all our work. At least one workshop in conferences should be gender orientated.

Safe Spaces should be a large focus of all our conferences. It should be a regular reminder for participants and a workshop should be included at the beginning of the event to introduce this idea.
An open discussion about head coverings should be had at events in order to ensure a safe space. The ERC should find a way to include this meaningful discussion and in the Safe Space guidelines.

**Solidarity Interest Group:**

The Solidarity Interest Group reaffirms the work of the previous ERA and support the topic of the upcoming Solidarity Conference will be “Who is my Neighbour?” The aim is to provide students with the tools to understand the origin and the growth of the phenomenon of xenophobia in today's Europe as well as critically analyze its political use and engage in concrete actions in local and wider context.

**Sharing experiences and best practice**

- Provide space for sharing, presenting and giving visibility to the local actions. For example at staff and officers meeting;
- To use the Regional and Global websites to share stories and work from the different levels;
- To hold a competition for most creative presentation of SCM stories and work for honorary prize.

**Standards and guidelines for solidarity work**

- Further develop WSCF mission reporting form and require all representatives of WSCF Europe at regional or global events to fill in and send it to local, national, regional, and global levels;
- Gather inputs before meetings or event. For example: give SCMs information before meetings or conferences on the topic to prepare for representation.
- Build on mandate of GA and ERA to develop partnerships both internal and external support and put energy into the WSCF Advocacy and Solidarity Committee
- Work in partnerships with other ecumenical, youth and human rights or justice organisations the spiritual background of these actions.

**Ecological justice**

The Solidarity Interest Group recommends that all WSCF Europe Events:

- use organic and local products;
- ensure provision of fair trade coffee and tea;
- avoid consumption of exotic fruits;
- develop guidelines concerning water and energy use;
- encourage efficient use of paper and use of recycled paper;
- encourage catering vegetarian/vegan food at the WSCF Europe events and evaluate this policy to consider vegetarian menu as obligatory from the next ERA on;
• develop “Sustainable Guidelines” that would provide a better understanding of above recommendations and evaluate different codes of sustainable behaviour;
• consider offsetting WSCF Europe events through establishment of a committee that would analyze the above issues;
• provide successful supervision of the implementation of the guidelines concerning sustainability through a designated appointee mandated by the ERC;
• consider revision of the travel policies in favour of more sustainable ways of transportation.

Links Interest Group

The Links Interest Group recommends the ERC to work on the following recommendations to:

• Enable and facilitate exchanges:
  - To give students an opportunity to engage with other Christian students from across Europe through e.g. Twinning or Language Projects;
• Pair Senior Friends from the local or other country with students in emerging movements;
• Strengthen SubRegions, For Example: organise more events to facilitate the creation of a stronger structure of the challenged SubRegions;
• Develop the Staff and Officers meeting in order to best meet the needs of the SCMs;
• Help in the process of creation of the new leaflet and information package for SCMs and develop guidelines for information campaign and workshops for SCMs about WSCF-E.

Lingua Franca Programme Interest Group

The Lingua Franca (LF) Interest Group affirms the continuation of the Lingua Franca Programme as a staffed initiative within the WSCF-E. Regardless of any changes in the staffing and or funding of the LF Programme, the main focus should be kept on language learning and cultural exchange. Future LF programming should be organized with a view towards encouraging participation from those with limited financial means.

In light of the difficult funding situation which is likely to continue over the next two year period, we give the ERC a mandate to shift the remit of the LF Programme away from thematic conferences to hosting ecumenical (work)camps with a focus on leadership training and language and cultural exchange planned outside of university term times (as far as possible).

The Interest Group gives the ERC a mandate to explore the following options to address staffing LF issues:
- Recruiting an intern via a scheme available to the European Regional Office which will provide at least a half-time staff person for a period of no less than 9 months in duration. Careful attention to the fair and appropriate working conditions for both any new intern hired, as well as their impact on staff already in place, are taken into account when making any staffing decisions.

- Involvement of a voluntary advisor (if possible) with an awareness of the Lingua Franca concept and a background in working within Central and Eastern European contexts with whom any future LF intern could consult with is encouraged.