The following policy document constitutes the basis for the future vision, programmes and activities of WSCF Europe. This policy is to be implemented under the mandate of the European Regional Committee (ERC) elected at the European Regional Assembly (ERA) in Paris 2007.

**Theology**

WSCF Europe will work on issues of a theological nature through the Theology Interest Group (TIG) during the next two years.

1. WSCF–E recognizes the challenges of living side-by-side in a multicultural society with diverse faiths. Addressing the present need for interfaith dialogue, WSCF–E will hold a conference on this theme in 2008. This conference, entitled *Living Our Faith in a Multicultural Society: Developing Intercultural Dialogue as a Lifestyle*, will be hosted by the SCM UK and will involve participants of other faiths. Topics to be explored would include the impact of migration in changing the landscape of European churches and SCMs, lifestyles of faith in secular society, the impact of religious classes in schools, and possibilities of interfaith prayer, etc.

2. Expanding on this priority of interfaith dialogue, WSCF-E should continue its involvement in the Faith-based Expert Group under the umbrella of the European Youth Forum, and WSCF-E should strengthen its relationship with FEMYSO and EUJS.

3. Moving on from the important first step of dialogue on common ground, TIG encourages WSCF-E to explore the differences between faith traditions and the challenges presented to our own. In order to achieve this in an open and respectful manner, the purpose and nature of Christian mission must be considered carefully and both exclusivism and relativism should be avoided.

4. WSCF-E should develop guidelines for ecumenical dialogue for conferences and other events. In addition, an introduction to ecumenical dialogue should be given for all conferences and events.

5. 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.

**Culture and Higher Education**

The Culture and Higher Education Interest Group (CHEIG) will examine issues of culture and higher education.

1. Culture

Under the theme of Culture, CHEIG will emphasise arts as an expression of culture and faith in its programmes and conferences in these ways:

- Including the arts in intercultural sharing at regional events;
• Encouraging the use of a variety of artistic expressions from different cultures in worship at regional events, for example music, icons, spiritual writings, etc;
• Encouraging exchange programmes between national SCMs to increase intercultural dialogue and learning;
• Helping the editor-in-chief of Mozaik locate artistic input for the journal;
• Attempting to organise an arts festival (which could include film, music, visual arts, literature) in 2009 to explore the theme of Christianity and the arts.

2. Higher Education

As an organisation of students for students, it is important for WSCF-E to consider the status of Higher Education in Europe and continually to address the challenges faced by students. The growing commercial pressures on Higher Education (including the Bologna Process) and the resulting effects on student activities are suggested topics for the next two years (of WSCF-E activities). They should include the following activities:

• Hosting the Spring 2008 Inter-regional conference in Finland on the global WSCF theme of “students”.
• Suggested topics for discussion in the Inter-regional conference as well as in WSCF-E events include “student activism—where is it?”, Christian ethics in Higher Education, commercial pressure on higher education, and life-long learning. These should be kept in mind when planning the future HE conferences.
• Monitoring developments in Higher Education and supporting relevant student initiatives or actions in response;
• Facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience on current issues among SCMs;
• Raising awareness at each thematic event of how the topic under discussion (international justice, interfaith, gender, etc) is affecting or affected by the changing culture of Higher Education in Europe.

Solidarity

In the next two years, WSCF Europe will work on issues concerning solidarity on the global and local level.

1. To raise awareness about the positive aspects of global phenomena such as human rights, solidarity, global responsibility for poverty reduction and the protection of the environment, the Solidarity Interest group will plan a conference entitled A Just Life or just life: Intercultural Dialogue on Alternative Globalisation. Intercultural dialogue will be the key method for the participants to learn about how different European nations face and feel about globalisation and its effects. Another key aspect would be an exchange about the perception of justice, fair trade and living just lives. The Hungarian SCM will host this event.

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

   A. Climate change and environmental issues—how these affect peace, war, migration and international relations. What are we doing to improve situations in the developed world?
B. Exploitation of workers, including comparisons of working conditions all over the world; the issues of sweat shops; the situation of foreign workers and illegal workers.

C. Integration—the situation of minorities' cultures and needs (for example Roma or migrant groups); their effects on the rest of society. There should be emphasis on integration as a two-way process, involving both minorities and majorities working together.

D. Intercultural dialogue—cultural differences and how we live, work and worship together.

E. Human rights—human trafficking, terrorism, other forms of violence, efforts of governments and societies to overcome problems and war.

F. Poverty—homelessness and global housing problems, unequal distribution of resources, Millennium Development Goals to overcome poverty.

G. Peace and tolerance—positive peace and social justice. What are the roles of individuals, national and local SCMs, and the global community in peace and nation building processes? What should be done to resolve problems?

H. Global epidemics and healthcare (eg. HIV/AIDS), hygiene and its social effects.

3. We should promote a campaign to have a church and SCM which is more inclusive.

4. Fair trade, organic and local products should be provided whenever possible at every WSCF-E event.

5. All WSCF-E events should produce the minimum amount of waste possible and recycle when applicable.

**Gender**

The Gender Interest Group shall focus on the following for the next two years:

1. Gender issues shall continue to be integrated into all WSCF–E events. Tasks and responsibilities in the Europe Region should be shared in an equal way.

2. A conference will take place in 2009 on the theme of ‘gender, work and church’. The priorities of this conference will be:
   
   - Theological reflection
   - Language
   - Gender Equality
   - Role Models
   - Changes of perception

   The conference will actively seek to attract and include both male and female participants and to view gender from as many perspectives as possible.

3. Inclusive language should be used in all WSCF-E publications and meetings where possible.

**Links Co-ordinator**
The Links Co-ordinator supports communication and networking among and between SCMs and the ERC in order to secure and improve the implementation of WSCF-E activities. The tasks of the Links Coordinator, carried out in cooperation with the Regional Office and the ERC, are the following:

1. Recruiting participants for conferences.
2. Co-ordinating the follow-up with conference participants to identify and strengthen new member movements.
3. Collecting, compiling and distributing activity reports and news of SCMs; transmitting them to the ERC and coordinating their publication on the website and in print.
4. Support sub-regional building.
5. Support movement building, i.e. by providing SCMs with advice and examples of good practice.
6. Support networking between SCMs; acting as a resource person for SCMs seeking partners from other countries for exchanges.
7. Being represented in the WSCF-E regional and subregional gatherings either in person or by proxy.
8. Contributing to the development of the WSCF-E website as a discussion and communication forum.
9. Gathering and working together with the Links Interest Group, compiled of SCM members interested in communications.

**Publications**

The journal of the European Region, *Mozaiik*, has been published regularly twice a year since 2001. We are working on increasing our distribution and advertising with partner organisations. As in the past, future issues of *Mozaiik* will be connected with the conference topics; participants will be encouraged to actively contribute to the shape of this ecumenical journal.

We also hope to increase the publications of the office, with a new song book, a new leaflet, and perhaps with other promotional materials.

The purpose of the WSCF-E website shall be to inform our members and other interested parties about our events and to provide background information on the organisation. Together, the ERC, staff, and SCMs should develop a common database on the web providing information on activities, campaigns, knowledge and contacts of each local SCM and WSCF; as well as volunteer/internship programmes.

**Lingua Franca**

The ERA affirms the continuation of the Lingua Franca programme in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Courses may also be offered in Western Europe as requested by SCMs and contact movements. The focus remains on language courses; however, increased emphasis
will be given to leadership training. The search for resources to maintain the continuity of the project will continue to be a priority in the coming years.

**General Recommendations**

1) We recommend that the ERC reflects on the use of the following words, in order that the meanings may be clarified: inter-religious, interfaith, religion, faith, multicultural, and intercultural.
2) Different approaches to reading the Bible should be encouraged and respected at all WSCF-E events and in all WSCF-E publications.
3) Every effort shall be made to include symbolic and/or practical action relating to the theme in every conference.