European Regional Committee
Statutory meeting
3-7 February 2016, Finland, Helsinki

**Present in-person:** Natia Tsintsadze (Regional Secretary), Zuzana Babicova (Chairperson), Rachel Power (Vice-Chairperson), Clare Wilkins (Treasurer), Adam Smith (Fundraising Coordinator), Jurgita Kozeniauskaite (Links Coordinator), Krista Autio (Global Networking Coordinator), Pawel Cecha (Thematic Coordinator), Armine Babajanyan (Capacity Building Coordinator), Annika Foltin (ExCo), Ellis Tsang (ExCo), Pavlina Manavska (Co-Opted Member)

**Present via Skype:** Maria Kozhinova (Communications Officer)

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I. Finances

2016 budget and financial plan

Overall situation: WSCF-Europe traditionally sources its operational and programmatic funding from the European Commission which supports international youth organisations. The annual funding is 50 000 € which is subject to the quality evaluation of our programs and the exact amount is granted on the basis of the number of statutory meetings and number of full time staff members working for WSCF-E. Another area of core administrative funding comes from WSCF Global; this is roughly 39 000 € per annum. These are two long term traditional donors from which WSCF-E has been receiving funding for more than 15 years. In 2015 WSCF-E was able to secure additional administrative funding from the European Youth Foundation - 12 500 € per annum. This shall greatly aid the mission of WSCF-Europe through employing more support personnel. In terms of income, WSCF-E is expecting 8000 € loan repayment from the WSCF global in 2016, and an additional payment to reflect WSCF-E’s contribution towards Regional Secretary costs over the last two years.

At the meeting in Helsinki, Treasurer Clare Wilkins reported on the budget agreed by the outgoing board members late in 2015. At the meeting, we reviewed cost reductions and new budget items. Compared to previous years, in 2016 WSCF-E cut down costs on office rent (due to move from Berlin to Trento) and administrative budget features a few new budget items such as salary for additional support personnel as Graphic Designer and Communications Officer, additional budget for marketing material development and postage spent sending our publication materials. Outgoing ERC made decision in 2015 that part of working time and human resource capacity (2 days per week) of the full time contracted Communications Officer (Maria Kozhinova) will be offered to WSCF Inter-regional office to help throughout 2016 to improve its external communications and marketing. This year’s statutory meetings - ERC meeting in Helsinki and Staff & Officers meeting in Oslo are more expensive than WSCF-E statutory meetings on average because they fell on countries with more expensive costs of holding a meeting. However, these meetings are going to be held in these countries for strategic reasons and could not be moved to less expensive areas. The ERC discussed this year’s WSCF-E budget and the state of reserves. The main objective for 2016 and 2017 is to increase cash reserves through alumnae fundraising.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative budget 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries (full time Regional Secretary, full time Communications Officer, Admin. and Finance Officer, representative in Hungary, Graphic Designer)</td>
<td>61 200 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory meetings (2 ERC meetings, 1 Staff &amp; Officers meeting)</td>
<td>19 500 €</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Office supplies (phone, internet, rent, 2 laptops, etc.)</td>
<td>6 700 €</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses (web development, auditing, accounting, marketing material production costs, etc.)</td>
<td>6 800 €</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>94 200 €</td>
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### WSCF membership fee collection

Annually WSCF global collects membership fees from member movements whom are obliged to pay it. WSCF-Europe decided to assist WSCF global in communication with European region member movements related to the collection of fees. Clare Wilkins was facilitating the communication with movements. She provided up to date status on collection as of Jan 2016 - fees collected for the year 2015. 4 300 € was collected from six movements.

### Long term fundraising

ERC discussed how to secure administrative funding for WSCF-Europe due to decrease of funding from WSCF global for our administrative expenditures. WSCF-Europe has started to develop long-term and regular fundraising from individual donors donating towards the European region to create cash reserves for our programs and core administrative funding. This goal and project is a response to WSCF global which has requested Europe and all other regions of WSCF to decrease dependency on funding from WSCF global.

WSCF-Europe will be developing specific mechanism to make regular giving successful toward the Europe region. In addition to that, WSCF Europe decided to create a separate Fund which shall collect donations that can be used for funding annual WSCF programs. This follows up Dec 2015 Palermo Communique and the decision that each year one of the Regional Secretaries will be leading a global program on the theme each Regional Secretary is assigned.

### II. Programs

#### Events 2016

**March 2016**, Staff and Officers Meeting- Links Coordinator Jurgita Kozeniauskaite updated the ERC on the current state of applications for the Meeting, and on speakers’ preparations state.

**May 2016**, Sexuality Study Session - for the Budapest event in May, WSCF-E has partnered with two organisations, EYCE and the European Youth Centre. This time, processes took slightly longer to develop because every detail needed to be synchronised between all three partners. ERC also discussed that there is a need to have at the event a person who will take high-quality photos and videos - maybe a volunteer, or the prepcom will share the responsibility.

**May 2016**, Senior Friends Gathering- Chairperson Zuzka reported that she and Vice-Chair Rachel Power have been working with this project since December 2015, and currently they have a team of 10 people working to
make the meeting possible. The Gathering will happen over the course of 2 days, overlapping with the final days of the Sexuality Study Session. The venue is decided to be as close as possible to the European Youth Centre, so that Senior Friends will have many possibilities to interact with Study Session participants. The prepcos of 6 people is hoping that as many as possible WSCF Senior Friends will attend the meeting.

**August 2016**, Lingua Franca 2016 - Regional Secretary Natia reported that at the moment, funding for Lingua Franca is still pending as Erasmus + grant application was not approved for this project though the project received a high score. The agreement is to mobilize resources and bring commitment to approach other funding bodies in Europe and the US. ERC has identified four institutions which will be contacted regarding funding for Lingua Franca.

**Projects for 2016 and 2017**

**WSCF-E History project**

WSCF-E has launched a History project with the aim to create historic WSCF-Europe region publication and to create and nurture WSCF-E alumnae network. Adam- Fundraising Coordinator and David Cleary have been collecting together all important information about people involved in WSCF-E bodies since the regionalisation. Currently we have information on ERC members back until 1989, but we plan to go further than that and have started reaching out since December. There is a big need to get access to materials at Yale archive, which are not in digital format. Yale archive staff has not been able to complete digitization of these important documents and for that reason Europe region will need to have someone to digitalise materials. ERC has agreed to do the following: research if anyone local could digitalize our Europe region materials in Yale for free or do it for remuneration, if this will prove unsuccessful, WSCF-E will send a volunteer from Europe to digitize these materials and to conduct further research. This trip will be a long-term investment in reconnecting WSCF-E Senior Friends with the Federation, but it might require a crowdfunding campaign, or other sources of funding, because this funding would not be available from the Regional Office.

**Global Networking**

Global Networking is a new position within ERC and a completely new area of work which arose after the General Assembly in 2015 where many of us in Europe understood a need for a wider and greater interconnectedness among regions when it comes to; thematic cooperation, resource and information sharing that it currently exists. After electing Krista Autio to be our Global Networking Coordinator, the goals were developed until 2017. The very first goal is to create a database of regional contacts, next step is to make a survey across regional contacts on needs of regions and SCMs, and later a survey on thematic interests of regions and SCMs. This information sharing shall enable better cooperation across regions and sharing of existing resources within the organization. In addition to that, Krista has been sourcing articles from across all regions for our WSCF-E newsletter. To complement Global Networking and cooperation work, there is a plan to make at least one trip over 2016 and 2017 to another region to maintain and create new connections and keep the global networking work alive through personal encounters and exchanges. This will require a specific fundraising of around 1500 euro as it is not within WSCF-E budget and cash reserves possibilities. The plan is to conceptualize the trip and plan it around a regional event so that contact and networking can be made easy and cost effective.
Engaging with WSCF Senior Friends

The ERC sees a need for increased communication and engagement of our alumnae in WSFC-E work. Emails, newsletters, Facebook group and including Senior Friends into our work more as trusted advisors / consultants were proposed as possible ways of gathering alumnae. Zuzka and Rachel have already started emailing their personal contacts, and hopefully these, as well as the upcoming Senior Friends Gathering in Budapest in May 2016 will lay the beginning of a network. At this meeting, Zuzka and Rachel will discuss with Senior Friends how they could work together in the long run- support for WSCF-E and support for national movements. The first step will be to establish communication with member movements to identify potential contacts. The long term goal is to create a database of contacts of our alumnae, this project is already started and ongoing.

WSCF-Europe publication- Mozaik

This year’s Mozaik following up the event in Czech Republic in October 2015 will be the first fully digital edition. WSCF-E is intending to digitalize it in order to avoid further situations in which supply of Mozaiks (usually 500 per edition) is greater than demand. 50 copies of Mozaik will still be printed for archiving and networking purposes.

Events 2017

Regional Secretary Natia Tsintsadze introduced the EYF new funding scheme - Annual Work Plan - which allows to apply for funding for all year’s events as opposed to our current mode of an application per each event. The Work Plan 2017 application deadline is due on April 1, 2016. Natia is working on this currently with Maria. The ERC considered our feasibility to undertake more projects than we usually do. ERC decided to run one conference, Lingua Franca camp, a Staff and Officers meeting and one campaign - No Hate Speech. ERC has made decision on locations for events in 2017: Lingua Franca summer camp - Macedonia, conference - Ireland, Staff and Officers meeting - Lithuania.
(ERC summer meeting 2016 is decided to be held in Riga.)

III. Internal operations

Communications

Communications Officer Maria Kozhinova has reported on her completed and ongoing projects. Completed in December: Christmas cards sending and 2014 Annual / GA reports printing and sending. Ongoing: 2015 Annual Report writing; Easter card sending project; Annual Work Plan application together with Regional Secretary; regular communications like Newsletter, website and social media; WSCF-E website redevelopment; and global communications strategy. WSCF-E website redevelopment is moving gradually, currently questionnaire is publicly available to give thoughts to the work- redevelopment questionnaire.
Maria’s work with the WSCF IRO is just in the process of being defined. Maria will closely work with Necta Montes (General Secretary) and two communications staff members from WSCF North America region. All communications projects will be supervised by General Secretary and reported to / consulted with the WSCF ExCo.

SCM Denmark

SCM Denmark decided in 2015 to merge with YMCA Denmark. SCM Denmark as we know it will thus cease to exist. YMCA Denmark is keen to continue the ecumenical work of SCM Denmark, and to become a WSCF-E member instead of SCM Denmark. The question related to either keeping the same full membership status or not was agreed to be dealt by the ExCo. The European region recommendation is to keep a YMCA Denmark with full membership status as they show commitment to our values and mission.

Closing down of our legal base in Hungary and Germany

WSCF-Europe still has an operating office based in Budapest and Berlin. In 2016 WSCF-E will close down both legal entities due to not needing to operate them further.

WSCF Global report by ExCo members

ExCo’s Annika Foltin and Ellis Tsang summarised the outcomes of General Assembly in Bogota. New officers, except Chair and Vice-Chair, and new Treasurer were elected at the GA. The deadline for Chairperson application was on January 29, so there is no information yet. Transition Team was formed at the ExCo meeting right after the GA, in order to propose by Dec 2015 how we could make the Federation more stable financially. The TT has published their proposal following their meeting with ExCo in Palermo in December 2015. Most of these proposals came up at the strategic meeting in Birmingham in August 2015. The main proposed changes were: Change from 2 Co-Secretary General to 1 General Secretary; to extend normal employment period of Regional Secretaries up to 8 years without possibility of further extension; each region will send only one ExCo to in-person meetings, while the second one will join online; no proxies for ExCos; normal inter-GA period was proposed to be 6 years because 4 years is too short to collect funds. The Regional Assemblies are to take place before the next in-person GA. Regional offices as well as the IRO are proposed to be relocated for costs reasons; currently a committee is taking care of searching for suitable options for IRO relocation in the Global South or by merging with one of the regional offices, and to find one by January 2017. Currently the IRO location and the legal base are in Geneva, but from Feb 15th there will be only one room in Geneva. There will be a small office for the newly elected General Secretary Necta Montes, in Manila.

The ExCo also reported that the debt 200,000$ to WCC was repaid. WSCF will adopt an integrated financial management system to streamline budgeting, reporting and transparency across regions. The ERC then discussed several models based on projected expense figures.
IV. Networking

Part of the official meeting were also reconnecting activities in Helsinki. ERC met with Senior Friends – Ilari Rantakari, Henri Järvinen, Marita Mattila, Tanja Roiha; current SCM Finland staff - Nico Lamminparras (OOL General Secretary) and Minna Mannert (SKY General Secretary), and members of SKY.