

# World Student Christian Federation - Europe



## Staff and Officers' Meeting 2016

Oslo, Norway

March 3-6, 2016



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Once a year the World Student Christian Federation-Europe (WSCF-E) organizes a Staff and Officers' Meeting for all its member movements. This year, from 3-6 March 2016, twenty-two representatives from seventeen countries and WSCF-E Student Christian Movements (SCMs) were invited to Oslo. The purpose of this event was building the capacity of WSCF-E member movements and facilitating networking between them. This year's meeting focused on communication via social media and on volunteers' management in movements.



The whole meeting was embraced with a good atmosphere, fellowship, communication and cooperation. It started with a welcoming dinner and a short introductory evening, which was a gentle start for new connections. In the morning, all participants were introduced to the programme, facilitators and speakers. We had a great chance to attend sessions about organisational public communication through social media, prepared by Marianne Ejdersten and Annegret Kapp from the World Council of Churches. Marianne, who serves as Communications Director at the WCC, shared her experience on working with organisational communications. Annegret, the WCC Web Coordinator, shared her insights on coordinating a web page. The day was all about communication strategy – all the participants got the chance to share more about their SCM realities. The

evening program was filled with presentations about participants' countries and cultures. We also tasted foods from different countries, listened to traditional Romanian and Bulgarian music and learned some Irish dance. The cultural evening was, as at every WSCF-E event, the key for participants to connect with each other.

Friday, was the second day of the meeting. We continued with a session exploring online communication in greater detail, and a session on project fundraising. In the afternoon, participants had an excursion to the Oslo sculpture park (The Vigeland Park), which was an interesting experience. The Park was filled with naked sculptures of all ages, in different positions and poses. Our local guide from SCM Oslo told us that the meaning of these sculptures was to represent all the stages of human life. After this the participants visited Oslo Opera house. The excursion gave us a great opportunity to feel real winter weather in Oslo, which was welcomed by most participants despite wind and snow. Friday night featured a special dinner with senior friends from SCM Oslo. It was a pleasure to meet with them, to hear their stories and take part in a quiz together on WSCF history.



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Throughout Saturday, the participants deepened their knowledge about volunteer management, which was led by François-David Freschi. The day started with an interactive introduction to team-building games. Volunteer management training also covered the following topics: how to motivate volunteers to stay in the organization, how to retain active members, and how to facilitate meetings. The best feedback was given to the method of “6 hats”, introduced by François. It covers different stages of discussion and assists in making a meeting more productive and efficient.



WSCF-Europe is grateful to the hosts of this meeting – the Norwegian Student Christian Movement “Norges Kristelige Studentforbund” in Oslo. The Norwegian SCM provided the gathering with a big meeting room; professional presentation equipment; a cozy and welcoming chapel; a kitchen and a dining room where we could communicate and share our friendship.



Many thanks to all participants for their active participation, attitude and contributions during the sessions, as well as open discussions during the whole meeting.

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WSCF-Europe also thanks the whole preparatory team: WSCF-E Regional Secretary Natia Tsintsadze and the Officers from the European Regional Committee: Chairperson Zuzana Babicová, Links Coordinator Jurgita Koženiauskaitė, and Co-Opted member Pavlina Manavska. We are also grateful to Gabriela Bradovkova for the delicious food she cooked for everyone, and to Are Kaspersen, for taking care of the spiritual part of the meeting.



Last, but not least, we want to thank our main donor for this event, the European Commission. You help to create spaces where people can share experiences, exchange ideas and create partnerships between cultures.

