OVERVIEW

- What, Why and How of the ERA
- History of WSCF European Regional Assemblies
- Organizational details
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WHAT IS ERA?

The Regional Assembly of WSCF-Europe (ERA) is the highest decision-making body of the WSCF-Europe. ERA gathers bi-annually, and consists of all Student Christian member movements of WSCF-Europe. The tasks of the ERA are the following:

1. To discuss and vote on the organisational and thematic direction of the region for the upcoming two years;

2. To elect new European Regional Committee (ERC), which consists of representatives of representatives of the Federation, which come from associate or affiliated member movements. The elected ERC serves as the standing committee until the next ERA;

3. To review and vote upon possible changes of the By-Laws, which govern as the constitution of WSCF-Europe;

4. To renew as a community and to pray together for a common vision.
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF THE ERA

There have been European meetings in WSCF before the regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, etc.) were formally established in 1968. At that time, the annual forums for discussion and exchange were the so-called European Staff Meetings, at which "genuine students were rare birds". However, the discussions were only about national activities and there were no attempts to start international projects that embraced several or all European movements. Until the late 1960s, WSCF was conceived as a world movement operating out of a single global office in Geneva.

Two ideas were conceived following the 25th WSCF General Assembly held in Otaniemi, Finland, in 1968:
- that the European Committee be composed half of students;
- that there be annual European Student Conferences in cooperation with Pax Romana, JEC and Syndesmos.
The first mention of a European Regional Assembly is found in 1987 - the ERA is specifically included in the programme of the 11th European Students Conference that took place in Bouldern near Zurich, Switzerland. The Bouldern conference theme was "Europe - unfinished business. The identity of Student Christian Movements in a Diverse Europe."

In 1989 the European Regional Office moved from Uppsala, Sweden, to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Instead of a "European Student Conference", WSCF organised its first Big E Festival in Birmingham, England, in early August 1989. And so the European Regional Committee decided to hold that year's European Regional Assembly separately - in late August, in Firenze, Italy. At that ERA, European By-Laws were approved which anchored the ERAs in European Student Conferences.
HISTORY OF THE ERA: PERIODICITY AND THEMATICS

WSCF Europe's magazine Mozaik describes the 1993 ERA in Sweden as "(an assembly) combined with a thematic conference looking at the identity of Christian students in modern society in Europe." Corrie van der Veen remembers this, her very first ERA, as a very festive occasion, with much emphasis on the spiritual and thematic content, and not at all a heavy statutory meeting.

3rd ERA - Hirschluch, Germany, in 1991. Theme: "Happy as those as God's Feast"
4th ERA - Hoor, Sweden, in Dec 1993-Jan 1994. Theme: "Take off your shoes - You are living in Modern Society"
5th ERA - Iasi, Romania, in Aug 1995. Theme: "Christian values challenging higher education"
6th ERA - Stavanger, Norway, in September 1997. Theme: "The Church as a Challenge for Students"
7th ERA - Agape, Italy, in September 1999. Theme: "Generation X or Generation 🙏?"
WHAT, WHY AND HOW OF THE ERA

TIMELINE OF ERAs

2015 - Czech Republic
2013 - Austria
2011 - Denmark
2009 - Romania
2007 - France
2005 - Serbia
2003 - Finland
2001 - Germany
1999 - Italy
1997 - Norway
1995 - Romania
1993 - Sweden
1991 - Germany
1989 - Italy
1987 - Switzerland
1985 - Finland
WHY

The ERA is held every two years, and it marks the end and the beginning of WSCF Europe’s two year cycle. It is a time for reflection on the past and the future. What work has been done in the past two years? What work do we want to do in the next two years? What is our vision and our dreams for the future of WSCF Europe?

HOW

The ERA is prepared by the currently elected ERC, and volunteers. Proposed changes to the WSCF-Europe By-Laws, applications to the European Regional Committee, as well as applications to change affiliation status must be communicated in writing to the ERC, which disseminates this information among all WSCF-Europe’s member movements.
ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

ORGANIZERS

Regional Committee members and staff from our Trento office co-organise the ERA

Zuzana Babicova, Chairperson (Slovakia)
Natia Tsintsadze, Regional Executive (Italy)
Rachel Power, Vice-Chairperson (Ireland)
Clare Wilkins, Treasurer (UK)
Armine Babajanyan, Capacity-Building Coordinator (Armenia)
Krista Autio, Global Networking Coordinator (Finland)
Pawel Cecha, Thematic Coordinator (Poland)
Melany Bresciani, Office Admin (Italy)
Pavlina Manavska, Co-Opted member (Macedonia)
Annika Foltin, Executive Committee member (Germany)
Jurgita Kozeniauskaite, Links Coordinator (Lithuania)
Ellis Tsang, Executive Committee member (UK)
NEW REGIONAL COMMITTEE

ERA elects new European Regional Committee (ERC) whose members come from associated or affiliated member movements. The elected ERC serves as the standing committee until the next ERA.

Currently the ERC consists of:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Treasurer
- 2 Executive Committee members
- Links Coordinator
- Global Networking Coordinator
- Thematic Coordinator
- Capacity-Building Coordinator
- Co-Opted Member
Participants of the ERA are mostly representatives of SCMs who together with the ERC have voting rights.

The affiliated movements have the right to send up to two representatives to the ERA, each with the right to vote. The associated movements have the right to send up to two representatives, with only one collective vote per associated member movement.
AGENDA OF 2017 ERA

DAY 1
- Introductions
- Accepting new members
- Regional Committee Reports 2015-2017
- Financial reports
- Approval of Budget
- WSCF Global updates
- Reviewing of the WSCF-Europe's By-Laws
- Election of new committee members

DAY 2
- Thematic Working Groups
- Capacity-building Working Groups
- Approving the outcome of Working Groups and voting on Policy Papers 2017-2019
WHO BENEFITS FROM THE ERA?

MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE ERA

are students from countries where WSCF-Europe has a member movement

WSCF-Europe works with all Christian denominations, as well as with Jewish, Muslim and unaffiliated young people

Our target age category is 18-29 years, but we reach all age groups in our work
ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

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