

**WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN
FEDERATION IN EUROPE**



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024



Living Faith Together for Justice

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Henriette Greulich
Chair person

The year 2024 was a pivotal chapter for WSCF-Europe, marked by ambitious projects, strengthened partnerships, and the overcoming of various challenges. This 2024 highlight report captures our achievements, celebrates our collective efforts, and recognizes the invaluable partnerships that have supported and enhanced our work throughout the year.

Our flagship initiative, “Share the Care,” addressed the critical issue of mental health among young university students, a pressing concern in today’s crisis-laden world. This multi-phased project, with online and in-person activities, exemplified our commitment to meaningful engagement with young people.

Following the European Regional Assembly (ERA) in November 2023, we began the year with a renewed European Regional Committee (ERC), combining fresh energy from new members with the experience of seasoned ones. While 2024 brought significant challenges, we overcame them through extensive outreach, persistent networking, and the tireless dedication of our Regional Secretary, Serena Tiburtini. Thanks to her efforts and the generous support of Otto per Mille of the Waldensian Church, we secured vital resources and strengthened our partnerships, enabling us to move forward.

INTRODUCTION

With a largely new team, we embraced the challenge of securing funding and fostering collaborations to create impactful projects for young Christians across Europe. We dedicated significant effort to building new connections, strengthening partnerships with key religious and ecumenical organizations, and deepening relationships with our members, the Student Christian Movements (SCMs), the inter-regional office, and other WSCF regions.

We actively participated in notable events, including a seminar at the European Parliament and the World Forum for Democracy organized by the Council of Europe, showcasing the strength and relevance of our network.

Throughout the year we further secured funding for three impactful projects to be implemented across Europe in the coming year.

A great thanks goes to the members of the European Regional Committee, Serena’s leadership, and the dedication of our staff, especially in communications and producing two editions of Mozaik. Without all of them the success of WSCF-Europe would not have been possible.

As we reflect on this incredible year, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the ERC to everyone who contributed to our shared mission of empowering young Christians and fostering meaningful change in Europe. Let’s continue living together in faith for justice!



SHARE THE CARE

Overview

In 2024, WSCF-Europe dedicated its annual project, "*Share the Care*" to advancing **mental health as a fundamental human right**. This ambitious initiative sought to empower young people from diverse backgrounds across Europe with the knowledge and tools needed to engage in democratic processes, champion human rights, and foster inclusive societies where everyone feels valued. The project unfolded in several key phases:

- 1. Online Workshops and Focus Groups (March-May 2024):** Through a series of interactive online workshops and a comprehensive survey, we explored the mental health challenges faced by youth across Europe. These activities collected and amplified young people's experiences, forming the foundation for targeted advocacy and support.
- 2. Social Media Campaign (June-October 2024):** We launched a social media campaign to raise awareness of mental health as a human right. This initiative emphasized media literacy and aimed to educate and engage a broader audience on the importance of mental health.
- 3. Youth Conference in Croatia (28 October – 1 November 2024):** The cornerstone of "Share the Care" was a dynamic youth conference in Croatia. Participants identified and addressed forms of mental health discrimination, collaborating on strategies to combat these injustices in their communities.
- 4. Buddy and Mentoring Program (October-December 2024):** To sustain the impact of the project, we established a mentoring program to support young mental-health advocates. This program equipped them with the skills and confidence to become multipliers of change, fostering a network of empowered youth leaders across Europe.



Survey answers

71



Events organized

4



posts shared on social media

38



Participants

49

Insights into the “Share the Care” project



Mozaik Edition 42

Most of the learnings and experiences from the annual project “Share the Care” are gathered in this year's edition of our magazine Mozaik, complemented by contributions from all over the world. Following the focus of our project, this issue centers on the theme **Mental Health**, that resonates deeply within our current societal landscape. In a world that often feels like it's moving at a million miles an hour, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, stressed, or alone for the pressures of daily life can weigh heavily on our minds and spirits, so it is crucial to prioritize our emotional and psychological well-being.

We invite you to delve into this powerful edition, including articles, poems, prayers and much more to explore.

[\(Here you can access it online.\)](#)

A Participant's Perspective on the Youth Conference in Croatia

"For a Northerner, it is a strange feeling remembering the sunny days of November, with lots of warmth, ice cream, and activities in the sun. But this is my throwback from when I attended the Share the Care Youth event in Croatia, from 28 October to 2 November 2024.

The setting was idyllic. We took a ferry to a Croatian island and were blessed with the hospitality of a local youth organization, which provided us with a venue, accommodations, and amazing food. The bay offered beautiful sunrises and lovely surroundings. Personally, I enjoyed quiet mornings with coffee from a local café before the group gathered for breakfast. As we say in Sweden, "morgonstund har guld i mun" (morning time has gold in its mouth)—a proverb akin to "the early bird gets the worm."

The week was filled with meaningful activities. The venue's walls became a testimony to our creativity and ideas. Energizers and discussions under the sun were accompanied by the sounds of birds, boats, and island life. The schedule guided us from understanding mental health and its connection to democracy to discovering remedies and practical tools for local initiatives. Perspectives from across Europe enriched our journey, and I'll never forget the people I shared these moments with. As November arrived and it was time to leave, I left with a tan—and a toolkit of ideas to create change back home."

— Agge Angusson, participant

OUR MOVEMENTS

Student Christian Movements (SCMs) are vital to WSCF-Europe, serving as dynamic groups of young people organized locally, regionally, and nationally to engage with social and ecumenical issues while fostering community cohesion. The SCMs are at the heart of our federation, providing the platform for young Christians to connect, learn, and participate in our events and projects.

This year, we placed a strong focus on highlighting the work of SCMs through our newsletter, showcasing the **inspiring initiatives of SCMs in Sweden, Norway, Austria, and Germany**, as well as **global perspectives** from **Brazil and India**. These features not only celebrated the diverse contributions of SCMs but also strengthened international cooperation and mutual learning.

Furthermore, we had the opportunity to engage directly with some of our member movements. Henriette and Sarah from the ERC represented us at **SCM Germany's General Assembly**, introducing participants to upcoming projects and events. In November, Serena met with **Eline, the General Secretary of SCM Norway**, to learn more about their current work and events.

We also collaborated with SCMs to support and organize impactful events. **SCM Germany's sustainability group hosted three webinars on eco-justice**, and Serena, facilitated a **workshop at FGEI**, our Italian member movement. Additionally, Jan, our Campaign Coordinator, led a **workshop in Vienna on the influence of social media on mental health**, while **SCM Finland explored well-being and activism** in their own workshop with our support. These activities reflect our commitment to supporting SCMs as they create meaningful change in their communities and beyond.



Affiliated Movements

16

Associated Movements

2

Contact Movements

8

Celebrating with our movements

In 2024 two of our movements celebrated a big anniversary and we were happy to get invited and celebrate with them in person or through sending congratulations.



* On 16 February 2024, SCM Norway celebrated its **125th anniversary** with a weekend of festivities, highlighted by a Saturday evening event that brought together generations of members. The celebration featured heartfelt speeches, historical displays, and opportunities to reconnect and reminisce, creating a vibrant atmosphere of camaraderie and shared heritage.

image: Forbundet

**Norges Kristelige
Studentforbund**

SCM Norway

Anniversary

125



* On 14 September 2024, SCM Germany marked its **77th anniversary** with a service and celebration in Berlin during their General Assembly. With around 150 guests and delegates in attendance, the event included inspiring keynote speeches reflecting on the ESG's history and vision for the future. Today, the 110 ESGs across Germany focus on sustainability, democracy, peace, and international engagement, remaining vital spaces for young people to question, explore, and act from a Protestant perspective.

**Verband der Evangelischen
Studierendengemeinden in
Deutschland (ESG)**

SCM Germany

Anniversary

77



PARTNERS & EVENTS

This year, WSCF-Europe prioritized strengthening relationships with partner organizations and building new connections through active involvement in various events and projects. Whether contributing as invited participants, providing support, or leading initiatives, we focused on advocating for youth voices at the European level, ensuring their perspectives are represented and valued in important discussions.

Conference of European Churches (CEC)

* In 2024, WSCF-Europe strengthened its close partnership with the Conference of European Churches (CEC) by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding** in January. This agreement formalized our longstanding collaboration with CEC emphasizing mutual accountability, shared networks, and the vital role of youth participation in CEC's work. Together with EYCE, we organized a **Youth Round Table** in November on revising the Charta Oecumenica, ensuring its relevance to today's challenges. In December, WSCF-Europe had the honor of representing CEC at a **European Parliament seminar**, where our Chairperson, Henriette, emphasized the importance of intergenerational dialogue in addressing Europe's future challenges.



Henriette at the Seminar at the European Parliament

* Council of Europe (CoE)

This year, WSCF-Europe deepened its engagement with the Council of Europe to advocate for youth voices. As a member of the **Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO)**, we participated actively in its structures and events. Henriette and Serena attended the Spring General Assembly in Strasbourg, where Henriette, as Head of Delegation, was one of the youngest voters. This role provided invaluable experience in understanding CINGO's committees, processes, and networking opportunities. Over the summer, CINGO hosted three **Youth Round Tables** to develop a Youth Strategy, with Henriette selected as a youth delegate to contribute further.

Additionally, we strengthened our relationship with the **European Youth Foundation** by attending trainings on Non-Formal Education (Henriette) and Program Management (Patrick) to enhance our youth activities and organizational impact.

* World Forum for Democracy

A significant highlight of the year was Henriette's representation of WSCF-Europe as part of the CINGO delegation at the 2024 **World Forum for Democracy (WFD)**. Her participation in this prestigious event emphasized the vital role of youth in democratic innovation, fostering inclusive participation, and addressing marginalized voices. Being present at such a globally influential platform not only validated our federation's efforts but also positioned WSCF-Europe as a key advocate for young people in shaping democratic futures. Insights gained from the Forum will undoubtedly inspire our future projects and initiatives.

Henriette with other delegates at the WFD



* Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW)

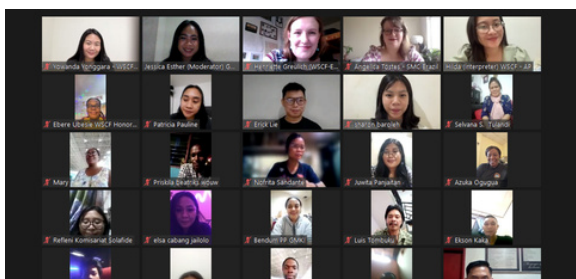
Through project collaboration efforts we got more engaged with EMW (Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany), which led to Serena facilitating a **training on EU Funding and project management for EMW members and partners**. The program explored topics including how to build a good project proposal, how to build a consortium, what funding opportunities are there and what are the risks and opportunities for a faith-based organisation approaching EU funds for the first time.



Serena facilitating the workshop on EU Funds at EMW

* WSCF Global

This year, WSCF-Europe collaborated closely with other regions of WSCF and the inter-regional office on various events and initiatives. To mark **International Women's Day** in March, our Chairperson Henriette joined the global webinar "*Leading with Inclusion: Empowering Women Leaders at the Forefront*" where speakers from across WSCF regions reflected on dismantling barriers to women's leadership in patriarchal contexts. We also engaged in the **educational webinars** organized by the inter-regional office as part of their Senior Friend campaign and global strategic plan, addressing critical issues such as Climate and Economic Justice, Democracy and Human Rights, and Gender Justice. In August, we joined the **Ecumenical International Youth Day**, co-organized by the World Council of Churches, WSCF, and ACT Alliance. This global gathering emphasized the vital role of youth in advocating for peace and justice. Later in the year, Jonna, one of our representative in the Executive Committee, traveled with Serena to Lusaka, Zambia, to attend the **Inter-Regional Ecumenical Training on Climate and Economic Justice Advocacy** and the **WSCF Executive Committee Meeting**. This event addressed the intersection of climate change and economic systems that perpetuate inequality and exploitation, calling for immediate, prophetic action to uphold the integrity of creation. These collaborations highlight our commitment to global solidarity and addressing shared challenges through ecumenical partnerships.



Webinar to commemorate International Women's Day



Advocacy Training and ExCo Meeting in Zambia

* Further events and partnerships

In early September, we partnered with the Evangelische Akademie Berlin, the IONA Community, and Adelfia within the **Oikosnet network** to host an **international youth exchange** titled "*Social Minorities, Solidarity, and New Cohabitations – Young European Perspectives*". Youth from across Europe gathered in Berlin/Potsdam to exchange experiences and insights on migration, social minorities, solidarity, and innovative ways of cohabitation.

Later in September, we contributed to the **Youth Climate Action Days**, an international online event focused on "*Advocacy in Climate Justice*". This event featured inspiring keynotes, interreligious dialogue, and workshops exploring topics such as regenerative economies, social media advocacy, and practical steps for climate action.

From December 2–4, Sarah, our Links Coordinator, joined the **60th anniversary conference of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)**. The event, themed "*Europe Protecting People More Than Borders – CCME Beyond Borders Since 1964*" brought together 60 participants to explore how churches and related organizations can advocate for a European migration law rooted in solidarity.

PLANS FOR 2025

Building on the achievements of 2024, WSCF-Europe is poised for an ambitious and impactful 2025. Drawing on our experiences, projects, and partnerships, we aim to elevate our work with three key initiatives.



FRAME THE FUTURE

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES & PEACEBUILDING

We are excited to launch another major annual project, **“Frame the Future”**. In response to ongoing international conflicts, identity tensions, and generational divides, this initiative will place peace at the heart of our efforts. Frame the Future will empower young people to lead the way toward a peaceful and inclusive Europe by combining intercultural dialogue, creative tools, and actionable strategies. The project will unfold in five phases, including training in participatory video techniques, visits to locations of successful peace processes across Europe, advocacy campaigns, and a final international gathering in Sarajevo to strategize youth-led peacebuilding. A special Mozaik edition will amplify participants' voices, sharing their stories and initiatives.

Study Session: Youth in Leadership Today

We will host a Study Session titled **“Youth in Leadership Today – The Pathway Forward”**. This 5-day program will focus on equipping young leaders within our Student Christian Movements with inclusive, fair, and justice-driven leadership skills. Participants will explore ways to mobilize their communities for social justice, deepen their engagement with the ecumenical movement, and strengthen communication strategies to enhance the relevance and impact of their work. The Study Session will be in March at the European Youth Center in Budapest.



Mission Diversity

Our project **“Mission Diversity: Building Inclusive Churches”** will tackle the pressing issue of racial discrimination within church communities across Germany, Italy, Poland, and Finland. In collaboration with our partner EMW, the project will examine how exclusion manifests in church settings through focus groups, raise awareness through a targeted social media campaign, and engage church leaders in fostering inclusion. A Winter School in 2026 will empower young people to design solutions that promote diversity in church activities and spaces.

THE ERC & STAFF

The success of our annual project "Share the Care" and many further projects, events and meetings was driven by the dedication and collaboration of our incredible team. Two key kick-off meetings laid the groundwork for the work of WSCF-Europe this year. In Copenhagen (March), the team set goals, strengthened connections with movements, and planned core areas such as finances and communications. In Torre Pellice (June), the team evaluated Phase 1 of the "Share the Care" project, built the campaign's visual identity, and created engaging content, including videos for social media.

Special recognition goes to **Serena Tiburtini**, our Regional Secretary, who oversaw the entire work of WSCF-Europe, managing fundraising, reporting, and organizational tasks single-handedly. Her leadership and dedication is the backbone of WSCF-Europe.

We also extend our gratitude to our social media team: **Christiane Ehrenguber**, who spearheaded the initial phase of the "Share the Care" campaign, and **Marcos Dorneles**, who later joined the team, traveling to Croatia to capture the project's essence through videography, continuing the social media campaign, and contributing to the work on the Mozaik editions. Additionally, we thank our dedicated Mozaik magazine editors and graphic designers: **Daniel Jara J.** (Editor-in-Chief) and **Mariana Jorge** (Illustrator) for Edition 41, as well as **Laura Gomez Reyes** (Editor-in-Chief) and **Eleonore Seiferth** (Illustrator) for Edition 42.

A heartfelt thanks to **Cihan Kilic**, our non-formal education trainer, who accompanied us through the "Share the Care" project and ensured compliance with European Youth Foundation criteria, facilitated events, and provided valuable feedback to strengthen our work.

Finally, this work of WSCF-Europe would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers in the European Regional Committee (ERC): **Agge, Benedetta, Henriette, Jan, Jonna, Patrick, Paudie, and Sarah**. Balancing ERC responsibilities, they took on many more projects with passion and determination, playing a vital role in our success. They deserve the greatest thanks.



European Regional Committee at the Youth Conference in Croatia

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