

# Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe



Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe aisbl | Conseil Œcuménique de la Jeunesse en Europe aisbl  
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*Called to Freedom  
Justice and Peace!*

*Galatians 5:13*

EYCE is an umbrella organisation of Christian Youth organisations from all over Europe who seek unity between Christians and are engaged in the work for justice, peace & the integrity of creation.

The organisation was founded in 1968 as an initiative of youth leaders engaged in ecumenical peace and reconciliation work, later known as the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe.

Its vision statement reads as follows:

*EYCE being the only pan-European ecumenical organisation for young people from all contexts, we promote our shared Christian values for a better life by giving witness of our hope and mission towards young Christians, members of church, society and politics participating in decision making processes on all levels.*



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**ECUMENICAL:** a Christian organisation, which is not bound to a certain denomination – in order not to argue about dogmas, we go deep and deal mainly with the principles of Christian beliefs and its implication to society – which is acceptable to different denominations and even religions. Ecumenical also means that we are rich in diversity.

**YOUTH:** we are an independent, youth led organisation – as we believe that young people should have the responsibility and the power to decide what do.

**COUNCIL:** an umbrella organisation covering some 27 member organisations in 23 countries. Members are either independent ecumenical youth organisations or departments of youth of a specific national “grown-up” organisation or denominational church.

**IN EUROPE:** we are a European organisation – of course with an interest for the other continents, but our target group are young people in Europe. Through the European perspective we reflect the world and we learn how to change a world into a better place from an European perspective.

*EYCE in the last years...*

- ❖ Ongoing theme which focused on body, soul and nature
- ❖ We had planned different activities involving the nature (e.g. workcamp)
- ❖ Our engagement in ECEN – preparatory workshop before the assembly & climate justice campaign with religious youth organizations all over Europe (WCC, CEC, ECEN and LWF)
- ❖ Climate justice campaign together with WSCF-E



## Experience from engaging on climate justice:



- ❖ Climate justice affects each and everyone of us – as a European youth organization we tried to stay as involved as possible
- ❖ Lots of members of the executive committee have been involved with this topic
- ❖ When young Christians unite towards one common goal, there are always results showing up
- ❖ Personal note

**What is missing in big political initiatives:**

❖ Confirmation

❖ Awareness

❖ Update



❖ Changes

❖ Concrete advice

❖ Interest for smaller counties

**What is missing in churches engagement**



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## **How would you increase the engagement of youth:**

- ❖ First of all, EYCE would most likely remain as active as possible in climate justice and the first step towards increasing engagement is to offer possibilities: training sessions, workshops and other physical activities
- ❖ Thematic focus on climate justice for some years
- ❖ Cooperate with bigger, more influential organizations that can offer support

**Thank you!** 😊