***You shall be my witnesses* (Acts 8:1)**

**Youth Pre-Assembly Event**

**General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches**

**28-31 May, 2018, Novi Sad, Serbia**

**Project Overview**

The Youth Pre-Assembly Event is an ecumenical formation and community-building programme designed for young adults between 18-30 years of age participating in the General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches in Novi Sad. The event will bring together young adults who will take part in the Assembly as stewards, advisors and delegates.

The main objectives of the Youth Assembly are:

* **to provide a general overview** of the development of ecumenical relations in Europe, and **practical information** on the life and running of the General Assembly that will **ensure efficient participation** of young adults,
* **to provide** **space and time for young adults to engage** in the discourses of the General Assemblythrough introducing its goals and themes and providing **possibilities for interaction** in working sessions and social events,
* **to enrich the discussions of the General Assembly** with perspectives of different generations on relevant issues of the GA Agenda.

**We plan to use the following methods** for the programme, which intends to bring together young adults from a wide variety of Christian expressions from across Europe:

* building trust and developing the sense of community by enhancing intercultural and ecumenical communication,
* familiarizing participants with the history of ecumenism in Europe, opportunities and concerns,
* developing respect and appreciation for the diverse spiritualities and theological expressions in Europe,
* listening to and articulating fresh perspectives on witness, justice and hospitality in Europe today.

*Advisory Team to the Youth Pre-Assembly Event: Krista Autio, WSCF-E; Satu Koikkalainen, EYCE/APC; Sasha Kuridza, Local Youth event coordinator; Triin Salmu, Esthonian Evangelical Lutheran Church/AWC; Rev. Dr. Benjamin Simon, Ecumenical Institute, Bossey; Katerina Pekridou, CEC*

*Steward Programme Coordinator: Maria Mountraki, University of Helsinki, Finland*

**PROGRAMME**

**28 May 2018**

***-Arrivals – youth participants will have been advised to arrive by 15:00, upon arrival they will be welcomed and taken to their rooms –A person from the Youth coordinating team will be responsible to organize their travels once the information is received by the CEC Secretariat***

**18:00-18:30 Opening Prayer *– Triin and Sasha responsible for the session. Fr Misha will lead the prayer. A small choir will offer byzantine hymns***

**18:30-19:00 Welcome by Fr Heikki Huttunen, General Secretary of CEC,**

**Round of introductions *– Maria* to lead them**

**19:00-20:00**

**The Conference of European Churches: History and Strategic Partners**

Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill, President of CEC; Very Rev. Karin Burstrand, Vice-President of CEC; His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Vice-President of CECto bring greetings

Facilitator: Jean Fischer, former General Secretary of CEC to give an historical overview,

Elizabeta (incl. video on minority rights), Peter, Frank-Dieter, Henrik, Katerina to talk about CEC’s areas of work – *Maria responsible for the session*

*The session aims at familiarizing participants with the theological, political, and historical foundations of the Conference of European Churches and locating its foundation within the framework of the wider ecumenical movement in Europe and beyond. Participants will be exposed to main partners historically and at present, the areas of programmatic work of the Conference of European Churches. Further, the session will inform participants about the purpose, overall running and content of the General Assembly and enable them to be actively involved in its life.*

**20:00-21:00 Dinner at Hotel Park**

**21:00Optional informal gathering in the evening with beer and chips**

**29 May 2018**

**9:00-9:15 Morning Prayer - Triin responsible**

**9:15-10:30 Icebreakers – getting to know each-other –***Krista responsible for the session, simple rules for the group will be introduced, sexual and other harassment will be discussed. Material will have been communicated in advance. Name game, Dot game, Bingo game with 9 points.*

*Krista and Benjamin will be introduced as responsible for pastoral care for the group. Sasha will be introduced as the local host to whom questions can be addressed. Two persons from the local team (Sasha will identify them) will be introduced to provide participants with help in cases of health emergencies.*

*Icebreakers are designed to create a safe and supportive environment in which participants can reflect and express freely, share their cultural and religious experiences, understand the limitations of their own perspectives and choices, and are enabled to respond positively and constructively to diverse views. This part of the programme will set the rules for the group which will allow participants to build trust and engage with cultural, religious and other diversity. Further, it will discuss sexual and other harassment policy****.***

**10:30-11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30**

**Introduction to Serbia and to the Orthodox Church**

*Facilitators: Sasha Kuridza and Dr Julija Vidovic, Governing Board Member of CEC- Sasha responsible for the session. He will talk to Julija about how to organize it.*

*This session is going to introduce participants to the unique context of the country of Serbia, and the province of Vojvodina, where the 15th General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches will be hosted. It will also provide participants with a general overview of the history and spirituality of the Serbian Orthodox Church as well as ecumenical relations in the area.*

**12:30-14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00-15:30**

**Group A - Stewards’ training – Satu responsible for making sure people are in their right place**

*Facilitator: Marc-Henri Heiniger, Conference Expert, World Council of Churches*

**Group B - Delegates’ introduction to General Assembly processes**

*Facilitator: Andreas* ***Henriksen Aarflot, Governing Board Member, CEC***

**Game: Model of GA, 1 hour 11-11:45, Triin to send the rules**

**15:30-17:00**

**Training continued**

**17:00-17:30**

**Coffee Break**

**17:30-19:00**

**Building relationships in ecumenical networking in an era of rapidly changing communication and social media technologies.**

**Presentation by communication expert followed by discussion in small groups –** *facilitator needs to be identified. Katerina to talk to Henrik*

*The session aims at facilitating conversation over new ways of communication, especially among young generations, and how they affect the ways young adults relate to faith. It also explores the way new technologies and means of communication shape ecumenical relations today.*

**19:00-20:00**

**Dinner**

**20:00-20:30 Evening Prayer with candles in the yard of Villa Park – Triin and Sasha responsible**

**Triin:**

**-‘I’ll tell you a story’ book: sharing the light> doesn’t diminish but becomes larger**

**-Small prayer and bible reading**

-Biblical material for everyday to be organized by Triin, combined with verse of the day, short reflection  
-Add the Bingo paper in the booklet

**20:30 Departure: Two buses need to be organized for transportation. 40 minute ride – Sasha responsible**

**Open Air Zurka time with local guitar music – Sasha responsible**

**30 May 2018**

**9:00-9:30 Morning Prayer – Triin responsible**

**9:30-10:30**

**Ecumenical learning and the future framework of the ecumenical movement – Maria responsible for the session**

*Facilitators: Dr. Sara Gehlin, PhD at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, University of Lund, Lisa Schneider, EYCE Chair,*

*A WSCF-E speaker needs to be identified*

**10:30-11:00**

**Coffee break**

**11:00-12:30**

**What Future For Europe? - Witnessing Christ – Maria responsible for the session**

*Facilitator: Alison McDonald, CEC Governing Board Member*

*Orthodox from the East to be identified- perhaps Romania?*

*The purpose of the “What future for Europe?” sessions is to open up discussions for young people in relevant topics of recent and future challenges and possibilities in their European environment. They can exchange their views taking into consideration the main themes of the Assembly and thus they can be prepared to express their opinions in the ecumenical community of the Assembly in a more visible way. Experienced moderators will guide young participants in re-understanding the phenomenon of witnessing, the theological and social elements of justice and the Christian responsibility in hospitality.*

**12:30-14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00-17:00**

**What Future For Europe? - Advocating for Justice**

*Facilitators: Eva Guldanova, TRG on Ecclesiology & Theological Dialogue, Co-President, Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women, Torill Edøy,**Coordinator for Europe, Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network, Norwegian Church Council*

*War and conflict – Middle East, add a person from International Affairs, WCC Commission, Nora? Tamer?*

**17:00-17:30**

**Coffee Break**

**17:30-19:30**

**What Future For Europe? - Demonstrating Hospitality**

*Facilitators: Doris Peschke CCME, Sotiris Boukis, pastor of the Evangelical Church in Greece – anyone from CEC-CCME meeting?*

-nationalism

-love thy neighbor

**19:30-20:30**

**Dinner**

**Evening Prayer – Triin responsible – check names of stewards to see who will be involved**

**Exploring the city centre of Novi Sad – Sasha responsible**

**31 May 2018**

**9:00-9:30**

**Morning Prayer**

**9:30-10:30**

**Preparing input for Plenary for the General Assembly – Benjamin responsible for the session**

*The aim of this session is to come to conclusion of the previous discussions in a form that can be presented during the General Assembly in order to secure a meaningful contribution to the discussions of the member churches and delegates.*

Note: 5 Listeners (delegates, advisors) will have been identified at the beginning of the programme. Their reports will be used in the session

**10:30-11:00**

**Coffee break**

**11:00-12:30**

**Preparing input for Plenary for the General Assembly**

**12:30-14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00-16:30**

**Evaluation and Closing of the Youth Pre-Assembly – Krista- evaluation form to be developed**

**18:00 Participating in the Opening Worship of the General Assembly of CEC**