



Original

Document No. **GEN/PRO 04**  
**English**

FOR INFORMATION to the Central Committee  
FOR ACTION by the Programme Committee:

### **Actions taken following the Recommendations of the Central Committee 2008**

1. The central committee instructs the programme committee core group, working with senior staff, to develop a more efficient and effective way of handling the programme committee's work, including: a realistic methodology; a way to provide information that entails *critical analysis* of the different proposals and clear proposals for discussion; alternative ways of reporting, naming problems like lack of finance, etc.; a method of senior management handling reports from consultative bodies before the programme committee meeting that tests the programmatic and financial implications of their recommendations.

ACTION TAKEN: The programme committee core group met as instructed by the central committee in Geneva, 17-19 May 2008 and 11-12 May 2009. It discussed the issues listed above and came up with concrete recommendations. Staff used the recommendations of the core group in preparing for the programme committee work at this central committee.

2. The central committee instructs the executive committee to reconsider the feasibility of a return to annual meetings of central committee, and if that proves inappropriate, to develop a reporting cycle for programmes, committees and commissions that is designed fully to match the 18 month pattern.

ACTION TAKEN: This was referred to the group on governance, accountability and staff policy and will be addressed by the staffing and nominations committee at this central committee.

3. The central committee instructs the general secretary to seek ways of securing 1.5 staff in P105, perhaps by assigning the responsibility to staff of other programme areas with a youth focus, and to seek funding for at least 5 interns for 2009 and 2010.

ACTION TAKEN: The internships were increased to five in 2009. Five interns are also on the 2010 draft budget. Activities in several programmatic areas address issues related to youth. It was not possible to increase the number of staff in P105, given the financial situation.

4. **The central committee instructs the general secretary to report on the extent to which the activities of each programme area engage with youth, so providing an overall picture of the proportion of resources expended on this priority concern.**

ACTION TAKEN: A report was given at the core group meeting of May 2008 (see Appendix 1) and a list of activities which include youth in the programme plans for 2009 was prepared (see Appendix 2).

5. **The central committee invites programme directors to reflect seriously on the various suggestions on projects within their purview, and to respond in writing to the programme committee core group no later than 30 March.**

ACTION TAKEN: The timeline of 30 March could not be met as the directors were engaged in a rigorous process of relooking at the plans to make them more focused and to ensure that all the work contributes to the key roles of the WCC and within the framework of a reduced budget. A written report was submitted to the core group when it met in May 2008. This central committee will receive similar reports.

## APPENDIX 1

### WCC Programme Plans 2008 – 2009 Youth Participation

- General Secretariat. General Secretary's visits to UK and Palestine included young CC members, 2007. GS addressed EASYNet India in India visit, 2007. Will include Echos member in visit to Egypt, 2008.
- P101: Interpretation of the ecumenical vision of the WCC (*Common Understanding & Vision, Essay competition*), 6 young essayists to join *Ecumenism in the 21st century* Reference Group, *Echos & Essayists input into Ecumenical Officers' meetings*).
- P102: Global platform for theology & analysis. Participation in the Platform on migration, youth on core group, suggestions on themes from Echos report to Programme Committee of WCC CC 2008.
- WCC US Conference Office. Hired North America Young Adult Coordinator in 2007.
- P105: Youth in the ecumenical movement: challenges & hopes. This includes the *Internships*, Ecumenical leadership training, *World Youth Programme* & Echos Commission on youth in the ecumenical movement.
- P201: Called to be the one church. Involving 'younger theologians' in the F&O Commission.
- P202: Spirituality & Worship in ecumenical context. Seminar at Bossey on youth, identity & spirituality 2007, participation in the Taizé European Meeting in 2007-2008, Youth organizations organized parallel campaign for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- P203: Ecumenical perspectives on mission and unity. CWME joint meeting with Echos in Bangalore, India 2008 and strategizing for youth input into Edinburgh 2010.
- P204: Towards just and inclusive communities. Youth involvement in the Jamaica meeting on slave trade abolition, 2007.
- P301: Decade to Overcome Violence. Youth involvement leading up to the *Peace Convocation* in 2011 and in *living letter* visits. Need to find young person for Peace Declaration drafting group.
- P303: Human rights to enhance human dignity. Intentions to liaise with youth ecumenical organizations especially WSCF intern working on human rights.
- P305: Ecumenical Accompaniment in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Strong involvement of young people as accompaniers.
- P306: Poverty, wealth & ecology: impact of economic globalization. Youth in reference group and organizing youth meeting before consultation in Guatemala, 2008. Worked with WSCF Africa for youth meeting at consultation in Tanzania, 2007. Youth members in CCIA.
- P307: One day event—Intergenerational dialogue on nuclear arms in 2008.
- P401: Ecumenical Solidarity and regional relations. Ecumenical Solidarity Fund has supported youth initiated projects in 2007 (exact statistics need to be checked by staff).

- P403: Migration & social justice. Intends to liaise with youth networks in the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration.
- P404: Faith, science, technology & ethics. Meeting in South Africa and work with Volos Academy in Greece will involve young people in 2008. Intend to have an intern in 2009.
- P405: Climate change and water: caring for creation. Ecumenical Water Network Summer School at Bossey for youth, 2008.
- P407: Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA). Consultations & training workshops indicate youth participants. Would need strengthened participation in reference groups.
- P501: Ecumenical Institute of Bossey. Ecumenical formation of youth through studies and seminars, many concrete suggestions made to Bossey in the Echos report to Programme Committee of WCC CC 2008 including a proposed joint project to make an ecumenical resource book for youth ministries. Young people are members of the Education & Ecumenical Formation Commission.
- P504: Scholarships. Supporting young people in education & formation.
- P601: Strengthening inter-religious trust & respect. Interfaith summer school for youth at Bossey in 2007 and 2008. Interfaith youth consultation in India, 2007. Two Bossey students working for P601 in 2008.
- Finance Services and Administration. Attention to recruitment of younger people into the staff. Intend to bring these statistics to the CC.

## APPENDIX 2

### WCC Programme Plans 2009 Youth Participation

*(A brief selection of highlights where WCC programmes, projects and activities include young people in the programmatic work for the year 2009)*

#### General secretariat and governing bodies

- The general secretary and the staff leadership group monitored the presence and participation of youth in the work of the WCC. In spite of pressures on the budget, efforts were made to ensure that the WCC continues to plan for five youth interns drawn from different churches and regions to serve in five projects of the WCC and to have ecumenical formation sessions.
- As part of its mandate as defined by the general secretary, the planning and integration (P&I) office included the question of youth participation in every stage of the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes.
- The P&I office included a member of Echos to the team responsible for the mid-term programme evaluation.
- The central committee meeting (August 2009) will include 27 stewards from 25 countries and 27 churches. Their experience at the central committee is enhanced by a session of ecumenical formation that precedes the meeting.
- All WCC commissions and advisory groups include youth in their membership.

**(Note:** Echos proposed to the central committee (August 2009) to include one Echos commissioner and 30% youth in the assembly planning committee.)

#### Interpretation of the ecumenical vision of the WCC (P101)

- Youth will continue to be among the main actors in carrying forward the process of discernment by helping to elaborate an appropriate language and the use of modern technology in order to communicate the important role and legacy of youth in the history and development of the ecumenical movement.

The process is driven by the theological imperative to work for the visible unity of the church and a common witness in a rapidly changing and deeply divided world that continues to exist and to live out of God's grace. Youth participation in this activity is ensured. For example, young people were included in the consultative processes and their input and reflections in the discussions were taken into account. In 2009 six young theologians who participated in the WCC 60th anniversary's essay contest were invited to the meeting of the continuation committee. Mr David Fracarro was hired to coordinate the youth work and develop a new website as a follow-up to the "New Fire" meeting.

The WCC, as a worldwide instrument of Christian unity, is mandated to facilitate common theological understanding on certain crucial issues that concern life, work and relationships among churches, Christian world communions, ecumenical partners and specialized ministries working in

different fields. It will provide a space to analyze and interpret the implications of one of the major challenges to the Christian witness of the churches, their ministries and the ecumenical movement in the world today. There will be intentional efforts to ensure substantial youth contributions to the process.

The continuation committee includes youth representatives from WSCF and Syndesmos.

**(Note:** Echos proposed to the central committee (August 2009) to include a young member in the continuation committee for ecumenism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.)

### **Nurturing relationships with and among member churches (P103)**

- Young adults are engaged to strengthen ecumenical witness in North America. The US office fosters ecumenical formation among younger ecumenists and WCC scholars studying in North America. A new generation of ecumenists is equipped to strengthen the ethos of fellowship and consensus among member churches.
- A youth intern, Mr Mark Taylor, from the United Reformed Church, Scotland, serves the activities in the area of church and ecumenical relations for 50% of his time and youth activities for 50% of his time.

### **Relationship with the Roman Catholic Church (P104-2)**

- Relations with the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) are facilitated through the joint working group between the WCC and the RCC. The JWG meets regularly, with the executive group meeting bi-annually and the plenary meeting annually. Between meetings there are two study groups and two groups monitoring important developments and the involvement of youth. The agenda of the JWG touches several areas of WCC programmatic activities, such as doctrinal issues, issues related to mission, justice, peace and reconciliation, ecumenical formation and youth.

### **Youth in the ecumenical movement: challenges and hopes (P105)**

- Internships
- Ecumenical leadership training
- World youth programme
- Echos - the youth commission.

### **Women in the ecumenical movement: challenges and hopes (P106)**

- A group of 10 prominent women politicians, celebrities and ecumenical friends of all ages including youth will be invited as honorary eminent mentors who will give a voice and recognition to the women's work. These will work in liaison with a team of 12-16 women and men activists and educators for gender-justice for peace who were invited as ad hoc advisory on issues of violence against women and children.

### **Called to be the one church (P201)**

- Involvement of “younger theologians” in the Faith and Order commission: In ecclesiological discussions, including the plenary commission meeting, Faith and Order involves networks of theologians from different regions, traditions, languages and cultures, while ensuring in particular the participation of women, youth and people with disabilities.
- A youth intern, Ms Katerina Pekridou, from the Church of Greece, works with the Faith and Order team of the WCC.

### **Mission and Evangelism (P203)**

- The project will facilitate the involvement of young people and ecumenical youth organizations, with the advice of Echos, (the WCC youth commission) in the preparations for the Edinburgh world mission conference in 2010. Attempts are being made to ensure the involvement of young people in the process and event.

(**Note:** Echos proposed to the central committee (August 2009) that youth be included in the WCC delegation to the Edinburgh Centennial. Echos provided the names for this delegation.)

### **Decade to Overcome Violence (P301)**

- Youth involvement leading up to the *peace convocation* in 2011 and in *living letter* visits: The involvement of children and youth was key in the plans to build ecumenical momentum towards the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation. Youth were involved in the International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDPP), Living Letters, and in the drafting of the just peace declaration. The visible involvement of children and youth in the region of the annual Focus and the involvement of youth in anti-nuclear advocacy were ensured.
- A youth intern, Mr James Macharia, from the Presbyterian Church in Kenya, who was himself a member of a Living Letters team, spent a year in Geneva to contribute to the Living Letters visits activity. He is also serving 50% of his time in the project on accompanying churches in situations of conflict (P603).

### **United Nations Advocacy Week - UNAW (P302)**

- This week includes an emphasis on engaging and empowering partners from the global south. The UNLO allocates 75-80% of its budget for the week in order to ensure the participation of partners from the global south. Intentional efforts are made to include women and youth.

### **Human rights to enhance human dignity (P303)**

- The project liaises with youth ecumenical organizations in its advocacy work. The specific role of the WCC is to provide the space for a global/cross-regional focus from the perspective of the churches, ensuring strong participation from the global south. Youth and women will be well represented. Adequate participation of youth and women will be ensured in the work at the global level and in the regions. The WCC will support the WSCF's advocacy on Zimbabwe. The WCC,

together with the WSCF, will support the participation of a young woman in the commission on the status of women meetings at the UN in New York.

- Churches will be helped in understanding UN mechanisms and stimulating participation in the network efficiently by communicating regularly through workshops in the regions, and by inviting one or two youth/women for the human rights council training session organized by Geneva-based human rights organizations.

### **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (P305)**

- Many of the Ecumenical Accompaniers are young people.

### **Poverty, wealth and ecology, climate change and water: Impact of economic globalization (P306)**

- The major ecumenical challenge is to relate poverty, wealth and ecology as a concrete way of analyzing, reflecting and acting against economic injustice. A case study and workshop methodology brings together experiences of churches regionally and globally. Perspectives of women, youth, people with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples will be brought to these discussions through specific hearings that precede church gatherings. A reference group on the project has been formed which advises the WCC. The reference group comprises representatives of the churches and ecumenical partners ensuring that those working on issues such as ecological debt, and women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people with disabilities are included. Input for this work will contribute to the ecumenical peace convocation. The notion of “peace in the market place” is being developed. Church participants will be called on to share their experiences at the consultation. Preparations for the consultation and its management will be done by the programme executive for economic justice, the executive for youth and the consultant.
- The ecumenical water network organized a summer school on water, for youth. As a follow-up youth will continue to be involved in this network.

### **Ecumenical Solidarity (P401)**

- The project supports youth initiatives that don't come under world youth programme criteria/priorities. Among the criteria used for selecting projects for support are the following questions: Does the activity respect the values of inclusivity (of youth, women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, regional balances, confessional balances, etc.)? Does it promote the participation in the church and society of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, people living with HIV and AIDS, refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities, racially oppressed and other marginalized groups.

### **Migration & social justice (P403)**

- The project liaises with youth networks in the global ecumenical network on migration. The publications from the public hearing on the impact of migration on the church will be shared with networks working on undocumented migrant workers, on inter-faith dialogue, exodus of Christian youth, and on youth and economic justice.
- The global ecumenical network on migration (GEM) and regional networks will be supported as needed, in order to analyze the situation and to formulate and implement advocacy strategies. In



2009, the GEM will include participants from the networks on racial justice, multicultural ministries, youth and representatives from migrant churches. The GEM meeting will comprise the participation of 95% of the regional ecumenical networks, including representatives of the churches, multicultural ministries, youth, specialized ministries and from racial justice networks.

- A pastoral visit was organized with six members drawn from member churches, including youth and women, prior to the public hearing to be held in the Asia region between the months of January and June 2009.
- Advocacy will include representatives from migrant churches, youth and women so as to give them voice. The GEM will bring together forty participants from the different regions. Deliberate efforts were made to continue to increase the presence and participation of youth and women as speakers and participants.
- In 2009 the GEM's target is to have the presence of youth and representatives of migrant churches and civil society at the public hearing. The hearing will include about 150 participants. Representatives of migrant groups, youth, women, churches and civil society organizations from the Asian region will be asked to share their experiences.

#### **Faith, science, technology and ethics (P404)**

- Seminar at Bossey with significant youth input. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with the Volos Academy of Theological Studies. In 2009 the focus will be an ethical reflection on stem cell research from a theological perspective. In 2009 a reflection on stem cell research, as one of the current examples of biotechnology will be organised to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1979 MIT conference on faith, science and religion; to produce a report on ethical reflections on stem cell research of the main Christian traditions as well as other religious traditions; and to increase the involvement of Christian youth in the discussion. The methodology to involve youth will be developed in 2009, ensuring that the consultation will allow young people to participate fully (not only in terms of numbers of young participants, but also in terms of organizing the consultation in such a way that they can fully participate in the reflections).
- A young intern, Mr James Packiaraj, from the Church of South India, with a background in science and an interest in ethics, was asked to develop ways of involving young people in the project, particularly those interested and/or involved in science. Links will be made with the WCC Echos – commission on youth in the ecumenical movement. Beginning with the young persons who attended the global consultation in Johannesburg in 2007, the intern will contact other young people to strengthen the participation of youth in the discussions. He will stay in touch with the youth programme of the WCC which coordinates internships for ecumenical formation and through the youth programme with the Echos commission.

#### **Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa - EHAIA (P407)**

- Consultations and training workshops indicate youth participants. EHAIA has several indicators. Among them: More men, people with disability, youth and HIV positive people are involved in proclaiming abundant life and as agents of transformation in the context of HIV pandemic.

### **Ecumenical Institute of Bossey (P501)**

- Ecumenical formation of youth through studies and seminars. Young people participated in the activities of the ecumenical institute and contributed to informed participation and leadership in the churches and broader ecumenical movement.
- The one-month interfaith living experience for young people will be a key feature of the Bossey programmes each year.

### **Scholarships (P504)**

- Supporting young people in education and formation. This project continues to provide scholarships to young people to pursue their studies, as per the needs of the churches or sending ecumenical organizations.

### **Visual arts and design (C106)**

- More and more youth are using internet downloading as a way to gain information about their interests. Through online and downloadable audio programme on relevant subject matters the WCC can reach a new and important audience. Additionally, public and church media look to the web for materials they can use in programming and publications. Adding audio programming would provide another avenue for the press.
- A youth intern, Ms Emma Halgren, from the Uniting Church in Australia, is serving as a youth intern in the communication department, devoting 50% of her time to the visitors programme.

July 2009