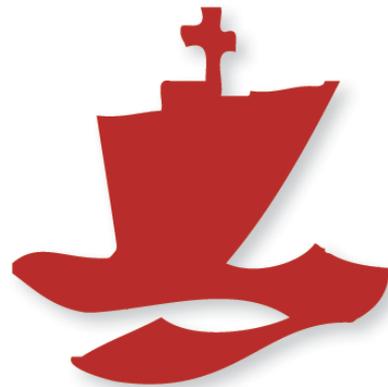


Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe aisbl



BREAK THE CHAINS! EYCE Campaign to Overcome Poverty

Concept Paper

Background

The 5th of April 2013 marks 1000 days until the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first MDG listed on the homepage of UN is "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". EYCE recognises the work that has been done by many organisations, governments, activists and others in order to achieve this goal. However, there is still a very long way to go to its full achievement. Poverty is one of the key elements that has to be addressed in the context of the MGDs, as in its many aspects it is directly linked to other goals, such as education, health, ecological sustainability etc.

Despite being aware of urgency of absolute poverty in the Developing Countries, tackling the theme of poverty would be incomplete without taking into account our nearest neighbours in need. Showing solidarity and working on eradicating relative poverty on grassroots level in Europe is a basis for solving a more complex global problems.

With the project proposed EYCE wants to bring more focus to the problem of poverty, especially among children and young people, in the last years before the expiration of the MDGs, as well as directly after their expiration, since we believe that it is an ongoing work to alleviate poverty.

EYCE campaign

EYCE wants to propose a 3-year long project entitled "***Break the Chains! EYCE Campaign to Overcome Poverty***" with its main **aim** *to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the creation of a sustainable society through the active involvement of young people.*

In order to achieve the aim the following **objectives** have been identified:

- to explore and analyse mechanisms behind poverty from theological, political and social perspectives
- to identify social groups mostly affected by poverty and tools to alleviate poverty

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- to equip young people with tools and methods to combat poverty on the local, national, European and global level
- to raise awareness on various forms of poverty
- to ensure the practical impact of the campaign activities on different levels

Three year thematic division

To ensure more in-depth exploration of the theme, as well as to have very specific and measurable outcomes and sustainable results, the campaign will be thematically divided in 3 parts, each part having a specific thematic focus, lasting throughout one year of the campaign:

2014: Mechanisms behind poverty: Within this year the mechanisms behind poverty will be explored and addressed from theological and political perspectives. Special attention will be paid to analysing the social backgrounds of people living in poverty and linking it to certain trends in society, as well as enhancing solidarity among young people and in society in general.

2015: Faces of poverty: This year will be dedicated to highlighting very concrete aspects of poverty - the fact that it is linked to concrete contexts, real people and can be influenced by actions of every individual. This year of the project will explore very concrete themes and examples from global processes related to poverty, as well as draw a particular attention to the expiration of MDGs and their follow-up.

2016: Impact on EYCE and its member organisations: The last year of the campaign will be focused on a sustainable impact of the campaign on various levels. Throughout all the campaign, but in particular during the last year, a special attention will be paid to education, training and empowerment of young people, so that they can take follow-up actions and address poverty in their own contexts. A specific focus on training in advocacy and activism will be provided.

Campaign elements

To ensure the uttermost efficiency of the campaign, concrete results and sustainable impact, there will be several elements composing the whole of the campaign.

1-2 events per year: each year of the campaign will be highlighted by one or two international activities (e.g. training course) bringing together about 30 participants, which will take place in various European countries, relevant to the theme of the campaign, e.g. Romania, Ukraine, Macedonia. Those international events aim at involving young people into the work of the campaign. They will highlight and explore deeper the specific focus of the particular year, as well as discuss concrete examples and look for answers and solutions. With the outcomes of these activities the follow-up and dissemination of the results achieved so far, as well as further developing themes of focus and discussion will be achieved.

Practical impact: one of the most important aspects of the campaign will be to ensure direct practical impact in the alleviation of poverty. Together with its member organisations and various youth organisations on the local level, EYCE will organise practical work camps, which will include elements, such as organising soup kitchens, helping in shelters, assisting in renovation etc. This aspect will also ensure cooperation and



establishment of a network between young people and youth organisations involved in this work.

On-line Magazine (2 issues per year): EYCE will highlight and explore specific issues and concrete topics through regular publications. Young people from different contexts will be invited to contribute to the content of those magazines with articles, drawings, pictures and other materials. The on-line magazine will be available for free downloading on EYCE's website, as well as the link will be sent out in the Newsletter and promoted on EYCE's Facebook page.

Practical local visit: during each year of the campaign practical local visits will be organised in cooperation with EYCE's member organisations in respective countries. The main aim of those activities will be motivating the local partners to take concrete action in their own context, to empower and educate young people in various contexts to contribute to the eradication of poverty. Those visits will serve several purposes of the campaign: sharing the experience and materials of the campaign, provide space for exchange, activate local youth with inspiration and motivation of taking initiatives and, give young people concrete tools and knowledge and finally ensure practical impacts on the local level.

Theme days: to achieve more visibility to the campaign, as well as to raise awareness of the specific topics addressed through it, small scale activities will be organised, such as Facebook and Twitter campaigns, street actions etc. on specific days related to the theme of the campaign (e.g. International Day of the Eradication of Poverty - 17th of October). Through these activities, a great number of young people on the local level will be reached and local initiatives organised.

Materials: Materials, such as the campaign leaflet, postcard, T-shirts and buttons will be developed during the campaign in order to further promote it and raise awareness of the specific topics addressed. The materials will be available at EYCE activities.

Campaign logo: The logo will be created to reflect the aim and idea of the campaign within the work of EYCE.

Networking with other initiatives: in order to achieve better and more sustainable results of the campaign, it will be important to network and cooperate with other organisations working on the issues of poverty. EYCE will seek to take part in bigger events (e.g. festivals), where the campaign can be promoted, as well as organise joint activities with other organisations.

Estimated project time frame

The overall span of the project will be from January 2014 – December 2016.

The planning of the campaign will start already in September 2013, when the volunteer will start his mission in EYCE office. After the end of the campaign in 2016, there will be an evaluation carried out to estimate the overall impact and results.

Each year and each specific activity of the campaign will be planned in detail separately, taking into account the specification of the respective activity.