



JECI-MIEC Newsletter

July 2015

CONTENT

REVIEW:

15th to 21st Sept 2014

European Committee in Bettembourg
(Luxembourg)

5th to 12th Oct 2014

Colloquium in Laski (Poland)

20th to 22nd Nov 2014

Council of Members and General
Assembly in Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

12th to 15th Dec 2014

Transmission of Memory Meeting in
Cologne (Germany)

28th to 30th Dec 2014

KSJ National Conference in Rieneck

23rd Feb to 1st Mar 2015

Study Session in Budapest

7th to 14th April 2015

IEC Luxembourg meets MKSU Malta

17th/ 18th Apr 2015

Council of Members and General
Assembly in Brussels (Belgium)

19th to 21st Jun 2015

Preparation Meeting in Rome

PREVIEW:

7th to 13th Sept 2015

European Committee in Rome

For any contact concerning this Newsletter please send an e-mail to office@jeci-miec.eu.

Your contribution, comments, information are most welcome at any time! Visit also www.jeci-miec.eu for updated news.



Dear friends,

The first half of 2015 is already over. Lots of different issues on local, national and European level keep us – some of us more, the others less - in suspense. Let's pray that all things come to a good end!

Nonetheless we present you in this Newsletter – as far as we were informed - the things that have happened in this first part of the year on European level. As we are still working on a better functioning Newsletter system, we hopefully will be able to fill the next Newsletter with more content from your organisations and your international issues.

The last part of this Newsletter is a preview to our European Committee that takes place in Rome (Italy) from 7th to 13th September.

Enjoy it and have a nice summer!

Yours,

SIMON FISCHER
CLÉMENT MAURY
JACQUES NEYENS
JAN SZYPULSKI*
MIHAELA-MARIA SOPON
ROMANA MYSULA
(European Team 2015)

*Expert on Secondary School



JECI-MIEC Newsletter

July 2015

European Committee 2014 in Bettembourg (Luxembourg)

The preparatory meeting was held in Luxembourg from the 15th to the 18th of July. The European Team 2014, namely **MAXIMILIAN NIESSEN**, **ROMANA MYSULA** and **EIRINI FRERI**, together with one of the local organizers, **JACQUES NEYENS**, visited the location, were working on the Agenda and Timetable for the meeting, Reports for the year 2013 and Information packages for the delegates and other documentation needed.



The JECI-MIEC European Committee 2014 itself took place at Home St. Luc at Bettembourg, Luxembourg, from the 15th to the 21st of September.

This year 13 National Organization's representatives were present, from which 11 with voting rights and representatives from the European Youth Forum, the Secretary General and the Program Coordinator of International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) and the Secretary General of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS).

The first days we had the presentations of the National Organizations, which were present, the annual narrative and the financial report of the European Team 2014, the reports of IYCS, IMCS, ICMICA/MIIC Pax

Romana and European Youth Forum.

The last official day of the Committee was the presentation of the candidates and the election of the European Team 2015. The Committee elected as Coordinator **SIMON FISCHER** (AKH Germany) and as Executive Board members **ROMANA MYSULA** (AUCS OBNOVA Ukraine), **MIHAELA-MARIA SOPON** (ASTRU CLUJ Romania), **CLÉMENT MAURY** (JEC France) and **JACQUES NEYENS** (JEC Luxembourg).

EIRINI FRERI

mob focusing on three different dimensions of what had been discussed: Protection of the child as a means to counteract pedophilia and sexual abuse, fidelity in relationships making clear that sexuality can be understood as a place to build relationships and the respect for the human being regardless of one's sexual attitudes or behavior.



Colloquium in Laski (Poland)

The Colloquium *"Young Christians and Sexuality in the 21st Century's Europe - The Choice of our lifestyle"* organized by the European Coordination JECI-MIEC took place in Laski (near Warsaw), Poland, from the 5th - 12th October 2014 and gathered 21 young Europeans (including preparators and experts) to reflect on a topic which is a central dimension of life and therefore of major importance to young people - especially when it comes to Christian believers.

Although it was planned to facilitate this Colloquium from 23rd - 30th March 2014 in Obukhiv (near Kyiv), Ukraine, with 31 participants registered, the emerging crisis in Ukraine made the organizers decide to move the event to a different country and dates while of course keeping the foreseen topic.

The action, which took place at different places in the city of Warsaw, consisted of a flash

mob focusing on three different dimensions of what had been discussed, that in view of the participants the "see"-section as well as the debriefing were too long and too detailed and should have given more space for the "judge"-section especially to focus more on the personal dimension of sexuality as the "choice of our lifestyle".



As follow-up some participants therefore decided to deepen this dimension of sexuality through a joint survey for young peoples' experience with the topic. Two regional groups (Greece - Armenia, Poland - Ukraine - Romania) decided in favor of



JECI-MIEC Newsletter

July 2015

deepening some particular topics discussed within bi-lateral meetings such as the Colloquium.

Apart from the gender-balanced composition of the group the gender aspect has been extensively dealt with in terms of content: The first session of the Colloquium (role-play) made visible gender stereotypes, a session on alternative lifestyles in Europe drew the differentiation between biological and feel sex and finally a session on Judith Butler's philosophy brought up the post-modern critique of these in her view even too traditional concepts. As it regards environmental friendliness the Colloquium did not include such a particular focus. However, the fact that the participants and team were lodged in a center located in a forest near Warsaw, awareness was raised about how to behave in such a setting.

EIRINI FRERI ■

Council of Members (COMEM) and General Assembly (GA) in Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

In November 20-22, 2014 the General Assembly of European Youth Forum took place. It was held in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and served as an opening event of European Youth Capital - status that Cluj has for 2015.



JECI-MIEC European Coordination was represented through **ROMANA MYSULA** as a delegate among hundreds of other young people, who are members either of National Youth Councils or International Youth NGOs. Due to residence in Cluj-Napoca, **MIHAELA SOPON** also joined the meeting and took part in the work.



At this meeting the report for the previous mandate of the board was done, Workplan 2015-2016 was discussed and adopted, and the new board was elected.

ROMANA MYSULA ■

Transmission of Memory Meeting in Cologne (Germany)

Starting 12th to 15th December 2015, in Cologne, Germany, took place the transmission of memory meeting of the JECI-MIEC European Coordination Team. Attendants from both the former and the new team were present, namely **JOHANNES MAXIMILIAN NIESSEN**, the former European coordinator, **EIRINI FRERI** member of the 2014 team, and members of the new team: **SIMON FISCHER** - the new European Coordinator, **ROMANA MYSULA** - who continued her mandate -, **MIHAELA SOPON**, **JACQUES NEYENS**, **CLEMENT MAURY** from the 2015 team, **JAN SZYPULSKI** (ET 2015 Expert for Secondary School), **FR. MARKUS WASSERFUHR** - the European Chaplain, who is

located in Cologne - and **JOHAN VANHOVE** who came as an expert advisor on the financial aspects.



The first evening was a team-building evening where we cooked together and had some entertaining activities. In the morning of 13th December everyone was brought up to date with the current situation of JECI-MIEC, its ongoing projects, activities, the pending tasks for the future activities, and everyone was invited to share their view of being a part of JECI-MIEC European Coordination. After lunch the team gathered again around the working table and reflected upon the work process, the program and dynamics in 2014, at the same time expressing their expectations, aims and wishes for 2015 concerning the team, the coordinator, the work and also trying to fix the weak points and to find together suggestions for improvement. To conclude the working day, everyone had dinner on spot and then left to visit the Christmas Market in Bonn, having met there as well the board of a member organization (AKH Germany).





Different tasks have been assigned to each member of the new team such as the website administrators (JAN and CLEMENT), Newsletter editors (SIMON et al.), Facebook administrators (SIMON and CLEMENT), financial managers (SIMON and JACQUES), membership fee manager, internal debt supervisor, fundraiser, the executive director for implementation of the orientation guidelines, contact persons for COMECE, Vatican, Religions for Peace, ESU, European Youth Forum, European Youth Foundation, IMCS, IYCS, ICMICA. The work plan of 2015 has been established and the finances of 2015 have been discussed and thought about. The evening closed with attending the Public Holy Mass in the local parish.

The evening left space for discussing any other concerns and having a dialogue about past times and future projects/ visions. 15th December concluded the entire meeting of transmission of memories, when after breakfast everyone departed from Cologne.

MIHAELA-MARIA SOPON ■

KSJ National Conference in Rieneck (Germany)

By the end of the year, the new elected and since November appointed European Coordinator SIMON FISCHER was invited to and attended the General Assembly of **KSJ Germany**, which took place at Rieneck Castle in Rieneck (Bavaria, Germany) from the 28th to the 30th of December 2014.

Very interesting was the discussion on gender issues and the kept structural gender traditions due to KSJ's history.



Congratulations to **OZAN ARDICOGLU**, who was elected the new president of KSJ as successor of **SVENJA KORMANN**. Best wishes to both for their future.

SIMON was given the possibility to present himself to the attendants and advertised to Global Training Session and the European Committee 2015 in Rome.

At this meeting SIMON met his predecessor MAXIMILIAN NIESSEN again.

Thank you very much, KSJ, for this invitation!

SIMON FISCHER ■

Study Session in Budapest (Hungary)

After the end of the Study Session in Budapest, we asked some participants to deliver their feeling about the past week. Ioanna (EKNE Greece) and Chiara (FUCI Italy) accepted to give us their impressions.

"The " 'Digital Natives' advocating for Human Rights" Study Session 2015, took place from the 22nd February to the 1st March in the European Youth Centre in Budapest. The session was attended by 37 participants (including the preparation team) from Portugal, Spain, Luxembourg, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania, Italy, Malta, Greece, Armenia, Nairobi (Africa) and Jakarta (Indonesia),

who shared their ideas, experiences and knowledge based on their culture.

All the participants worked hard being focused on human right issues as discrimination, equality, freedom, free speech, right to education, right to health etc. The main methodology of that Study Session was the one of See-Judge-Act. After long discussions, presentations and role-plays, the participants moved on the use of social media and internet (creation of websites and online magazines) for the better information of people not only all over their countries but globe in general. So, two days before the end of Study Session, the participants separated into smaller groups and prepared videos, challenges, photos, magazines etc in order to pass the message of everyone's right to equal confrontation.

Of course, parts of JECI-MIEC's Study Session were both Spiritual development, with morning and lunch prayer, Opening and Closing Mass, and Intercultural evenings, with presentations of each member's country, culture and traditional products.

Thanks to every member of the preparatory team and every single participant's contribution, the activity managed to be completed properly. We all owe a huge "Thank you" especially to the people of the European Youth Centre, who were of any possible help every time it was needed, during our stay in Youth Centre, the experts, who dedicated their free time to give us a beautiful lection and last but not least the European Youth Foundation!"

IOANNA VIDALI (EKNE Greece)

"From the windows of the lobby of the European Youth Center the sun peeps through the dense fog of Budapest, it is fiery red almost



JECI-MIEC Newsletter

July 2015

wanting to burn. I can always picture the sun how it was the door lock of the sky through which God looks at us!

Here everything is quiet at 7:15 am! It is silence except for some small noise that comes from the cleaning staff! Silence eliminates the flooding of the words and the overflowing of something that must be said, preparing for a day that is to begin, I am expecting my fellows of international adventure with which, for the entire stay at the Study Session held in the Hungarian capital (February 22-March 1st), I ran every morning at dawn from our accommodation to reach a church where to attend mass.

An Italian, a Polish, two Romanians, two Maltese who go to Mass in Hungarian may seem like the beginning of a joke, but it was the only way in which a special friendship between the rows of JECI-MIEC was formed, that is much more than an international association: is the meeting of young people with suitcases targeting Europe from every nation on the continent, willing to live together for a week's study session!

It 'hard to describe in words this experience (there are things that

must be tasted to be understood, such as chocolate) because inside there is much more! It's about getting pleasantly lost in the lives of others.

Immersed in English accent accommodated the source language of each, the theme of study focused on Human Rights and Media. We have endeavored to undertake group work creating concrete projects for the protection of human rights through the new media. Human rights are something that often is known only in theory and is printed on the glossy page of a subsidiary of Civic Education as almost not wanting to meddle with our ordinary, real and personal life. We are individual people but not anonymous. Anonymity makes people run from the responsibility of the piece of the world entrusted to the hands of everyone. The fight is difficult because of some digital platforms that are sweeping the tradition today not facilitating the task of education to transparency: there the anonymity acts as a master.

In order to raise awareness of human rights will therefore be necessary to demolish this anonymity and start again from

the particular, from the very detail of the relationships: between me and myself, between me and you that is sitting next to me, between you, me and the others. Knowing each other helps getting empathically in the shoes of the other, to respect them, to understand and accept them – to recognize their right of humanity that they deserve.”

CHIARA CAPPONI (FUCI Italy)

Original source:

<http://www.fuci.net/index.php/news/11-news/1551-digital-natives-advocating-for-human-rights-conclusa-la-study-session-di-jeci-miec>

JEC Luxembourg meets MKSU Malta



From the 07.04.2015 – 14.04.2015 JEC Luxembourg went to visit the beautiful islands Gozo and Malta. 27 JEC Luxembourg members spent a great week in Malta and this was also because of the great help from MKSU Malta.

During the last JECI-MIEC study session in Budapest, 4 Luxembourgers met 2 very friendly Maltese, and these contact resulted in a wonderful visit. MKSU cooked a traditional dish on the second evening, and it was delicious, too much, but delicious, way too much, but delicious. ☺ MKSU accompanied JEC Luxembourg during their visits of the island and showed them very special places and gave





them another point of view and information on the different attractions. Jacques Neyens as European Team Member had the opportunity to visit a friendly and lovely Movement MKSU Malta, which were struggling at that time with new members, but were very helpful and motivated. He also had the chance to meet with an old friend, one of the first persons he met during the European Congress in 2012, Sergio Fenech, who was a European Team Member 2013.

A big thanks goes to Aayrton Muscat and Matthew Pulis for their friendship and hospitality.

JACQUES NEYENS



Council of Members and General Assembly in Brussels (Belgium)

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) invited its member organisations to the first Council of Members (COMEM) this year from 17th to 18th April. For the European

Coordination JECI-MIEC the European Coordinator **SIMON FISCHER** took this vote and set out for Brussels.

There was a meeting of the so called **faith-based Member Organisations (MO)** in the afternoon of the arrival day (16th April), but due to some traffic-related difficulties it was not possible for Simon to join this. As it was his first COMEM, he attended the introductory session for new delegates and in the evening the second meeting of the faith-based MO. They exchanged about the resolutions and the organisation-specific attitudes towards their contents.

There are two types of organisations within the members of the European Youth Forum: National and International Member Organisations. This structural difference in the past was normally also shown by separating these types of organisation spatially from each other during this meeting. The **Extraordinary General Assembly** on Friday started with a little innovation: all organisations were seated mixed.

This measure was appreciated a lot by all attendants.

Contentually on Friday morning it was about the official decisions about adopting the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, report and questions and comments on these. After a short coffee break three experts presented their perspective on the theme of "Creating Quality Jobs for Young People" in a **Public Plenary Session**

On Saturday there were lots of important documents and issues to decide on, but the most interesting was the **Election of Council of Europe Advisory Council (AC) on Youth**, where 27 organisations candidated for 20 seats (13 seats for the International Movements and 7 seats for the National Movements). From our friends of the Faith-Based group **Alice Barbieri (WAGGGS)**, **Patrick Hennelly (WOSM)** and **Tinna Ros (YMCA)** made it into the AC. Special congratulations for that and the best wishes for your work!

After a very intensive work on the Resolutions and their passage through the COMEM this whole meeting ended with a party in a very nice disco.

There were really lots of nice people to meet, fruitful exchanges, lots of new things that I've learned and a short encounter with Márcio Barcelos (YFJ). I am looking forward to the next COMEM!

SIMON FISCHER



Preparation Meeting for the European Committee in Rome

19-21 June 2015 took place the preparation meeting for the European Committee 2015 of

**JECI-MIEC Newsletter****July 2015**

JECI-MIEC European Coordination. The meeting was hosted by Fuci (Federazione Universitaria Cattolica Italiana) and MSAC (Movimento Studenti di Azione Cattolica) at the headquarters of Azione Cattolica Italiana in Rome. The two organizations participated to the preparation meeting through their delegates who arranged with housing, meeting room and also met their teams to decide major aspects regarding the coming committee. On this occasion, the European Team had the occasion to encounter both former and new delegates of the two member organizations as well as members of the former and the new elected team of Azione Cattolica that were present in Rome the very weekend for their national congress and transmission of memory meeting.



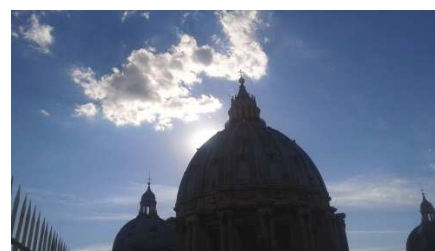
Friday's agenda, the first day of the meeting consisted on

getting everyone familiar with a regular schedule of a European Committee, discussing the general aspects as well as the tasks meant to be dealt with by the European Team and by the host organization respectively. Since it was also the arrivals day, the work started in the late afternoon and it ended with two evening working session developed in parallel of the European Team and of the hosting organizations.



Saturday was split into two parts. The morning was dedicated to visiting the possible venue of the event at Grottaferrata not far from Rome and the afternoon consisted of desk-work again in the office. FUCI and MSAC were kind to prepare a van getting everyone to see the venue, the surroundings, the places suitable

for small-groups work, as well as the kitchen, dining room, sleeping rooms and the outdoor spaces. Once back in the office, subjects such as the timetable and specific sessions were approached in order to get everyone familiar with it. Every day in the schedule for September's event was taken at turn to prepare and establish responsibilities and required details.



Sunday was departure day for most of the European Team members, but there was still time for setting some final details.

MIHAELA-MARIA SOPON ■

PREVIEW**European Committee 2015 in Rome**

As you now have read, the European Committee 2015 takes place from **7th to 13th September in Rome**. For this occasion **the offices of our Member Organisations already received the Calls** for Delegates, Executive Board, European Coordinator, etc.

We are looking forward to this event!

SIMON FISCHER ■