

Pre-Assembly Youth Event
28-31 May 2018, Novi Sad, Serbia

Concept

The Pre-Assembly Youth Event is a short ecumenical formation programme designed for young adults between 18-30 years of age. In addition to training, the programme will offer opportunities for community-building and networking to young delegates, stewards, and advisors, who participate in the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches. The programme intends to bring together about 100 young adults from a wide variety of Christian traditions from across Europe.

The main objectives of the Pre-Assembly Youth Event are:

- to provide an overview of the development of ecumenical relations in Europe
- to expose participants to the core questions of ecumenism in Europe
- to provide practical information on the life and running of the General Assembly
- to be a safe space for young adults to engage with the themes of the General Assembly
- to harvest fresh perspectives and critical reflections of younger generations on the General Assembly themes

In order to reach these objectives, the Pre-Assembly Youth Event is going to:

- build trust and develop a sense of community
- enhance intercultural and ecumenical communication
- provide quality inputs on the history of ecumenism in Europe and its main concerns
- inspire respect and appreciation for the diverse spiritualities and theological expressions in Europe
- listen to and articulate fresh perspectives on witness, justice and hospitality

Daily Schedule

Sunday 27 May 2018

Arrival of coordinating team

Monday 28 May 2018

Arrivals of stewards, delegates and youth advisors

17:30 Meeting at the reception of the Villa and walking together to the prayer

18:00-18:30 Opening Prayer and greeting by the local Serbian Orthodox Church

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

19:00-20:00 Dinner

20:00-21:00 The Conference of European Churches: Historical Overview and Key Partners
Greetings

20:00-20:05 Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill, President of CEC

20:05-20:10 Very Rev. Karin Burstrand, Vice-President of CEC

20:10-20:15 H. E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Vice-President of CEC

20:15-20:45 Historical overview by Rev. Jean Fischer, former General Secretary of CEC

20:45-21:00 Discussion

21:00-22:30 Icebreakers: getting to know each-other
21:00-21:20 Introducing rules and addressing respect for each other
21:20-22:00 Dot game
22:00-22:30 Speed dating
22:30 Optional informal gathering in the evening with beverages and snacks

Tuesday 29 May 2018

9:00-9:15 Morning Prayer

The Conference of European Churches: Main areas of work

09:15-09:25 Human Rights, presentation including video on minority rights

09:25-09:35 Economic and environmental justice

09:35-09:45 Employment and social issues

09:45-09:55 Bioethics, Education and democratic citizenship

09:55-10:05 EU policy and legislation

10:05-10:15 Communications

10:15-10:25 Ecclesiology and theological dialogue, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Introduction to Serbia and to the Orthodox Church

11:00-11:30 Mr Sasha Kuridza, Serbian Orthodox Church

11:30-12:00 Dr Julija Vidovic, CEC Governing Board Member

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:40

Introduction to General Assembly processes & Stewards' training

14:00-14:20 Mr Marc-Henri Heiniger, Conference Expert, WCC

14:20-14:40 Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot, CEC Governing Board Member

14:40-15:40 Game: Model of the General Assembly

15:45-16:00 Stewards meet with their supervisors

16:00-17:30 Coffee break

17:30-19:00 Building relationships in ecumenical networking in an era of rapidly changing communication and social media technologies.

17:30-17:50 Presentation by Ms Erin Green, Executive for Communications, CEC

17:50-18:10 Presentation by Ms Miriam Stålsett Follesø, Church of Norway

18:10-19:00 Small group discussion

19:00-20:00 Dinner

20:00-20:30 Evening Prayer with candles in the yard of Villa Park

20:30 Open Air Zurka with the 'Magic Bus' band

Wednesday 30 May 2018

9:00-9:30 Morning Prayer

9:30-10:45 Ecumenical learning and the future framework of the ecumenical movement

9:30-9:50 Dr. Sara Gehlin, University of Helsinki

9:50-10:10 Ms Lisa Schneider, former Chair of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

10:10-10:30 Ms Krista Autio, World Student Christian Federation – Europe

10:30-10:45 Discussion

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 What Future For Europe? – Witnessing Christ today

11:00-11:20 Rev. Alison McDonald, CEC Governing Board Member

11:20-11:40 Dr. Octavian Mihoc, University of Münster

11:40-12:30 Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 What Future For Europe? – Demonstrating Hospitality

14:00-14:30 Ms Doris Peschke, General Secretary, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe

14:30-14:50 Rev. Adriana Florea, CEC Governing Board Member

14:50-15:10 OKRin i.R. Heider-Rottwilm Antje, Chair, Church and Peace

15:10-15:45 Discussion

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-18:00 What Future For Europe? – Advocating for Justice

16:15-16:35 Ms Marijana Ajzenkol, Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women

16:35-16:55 Ms Torill Edøy, Coordinator for Europe, Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network, World Council of Churches

16:55-17:15 Archimandrite Dr. Alexi Chehadeh, Director, Gopa Derdiä, Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch

17:15-18:00 Discussion

18:00-18:30 Coffee break

18:30-19:30 Recapturing the themes of the day in small group discussions:

Witness, Justice, and Hospitality for the Future of Europe

The 7 listeners meet with the coordinating team before dinner

19:30-20:30 Dinner

20:30-21:00 Evening Prayer

Exploring the city centre of Novi Sad (Free evening)

Thursday 31 May 2018

9:00-9:30 Morning Prayer

9:30-10:30 Preparing input for the Plenary on the Future of Europe

9:30-9:50 Small group discussions in Plenary noting crucial issues we are missing

9:50-10:30 Report to Plenary the outcome of the small group discussions and add points to the text (text to be projected on the screen)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30

Preparing input for the Plenary on the Future of Europe

12:30-13:00 Closing of the Youth Pre-Assembly

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Stewards will be going to their assigned posts

18:30 Participation to the Opening Worship of the 2018 Novi Sad General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches

Coordinating team

Ms Krista Autio, World Student Christian Federation – Europe

Ms Satu Koikkalainen, Assembly Planning Committee, Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe

Mr Sasha Kuridza, Responsible for youth, Assembly coordinating team of Novi Sad

Ms Maria Mountraki, Stewards Programme Coordinator

Ms Katerina Pekridou, Conference of European Churches

Ms Triin Salmu, Assembly Worship Committee

Rev. Prof. Benjamin Simon, Bossey Ecumenical Institute - World Council of Churches