Conference
“YMCA working for Refugees and Asylum Seekers”
11-13 March 2016
“Ernst Sillem Hoeve”
Den Dolder (The Netherlands)

Draft programme (version 15-02-2016).

**Friday 11. March 2016.**

Arrivals.
18.15 hr. Dinner
20.00 hr. **Session 1 – “Introduction” (Plenary meeting).**

- Welcome – Peter Klein (President YMCA The Netherlands)
- Introduction, presentation of objectives of the Conference; overview of the programme – Robèrt Feith (National General Secretary YMCA The Netherlands) and Juan Simoes (Secretary-General YMCA Europe)
- Introduction of the participants and expectations – Juan Simoes
- YMCA work with refugees and asylum seekers in the past and what can be learned from it today – Jim Thomson (Former WAY Staff for refugee work; Scotland)
- Experiences of a volunteer with YMCA work for refugees in refugee camp Traiskirchen (Austria) in 1982 – Hetteke Wapenaar (The Netherlands)
- State of play with YMCA refugee work in Europe – Juan Simoes

22.00 hr. Devotion and closure of the day.

**Saturday 12. March 2016.**

08.00 hr. Breakfast
09.00 hr. Thought for the day
09.15 hr. **Session 2 - “What is going on” (Plenary meeting).**

- YMCA projects with refugees and asylum seekers in Spain – Mary Antelo (Executive Secretary YMCA Valencia; Spain)
- YMCA work with refugees and asylum seekers in Germany – Dorothee Pfrommer (Executive Director YMCA Germany)
- YMCA Ukraine working with internally displaced persons – Viktor Serbulov (General Secretary YMCA Ukraine)
Work with migrants in YMCA of the USA – Linda Gonzales (Vice-President for Diversity and Inclusion YMCA of the USA)

Work with unaccompanied refugee minors in Umea; Sweden – Camilo Segura (Manager Fenix Programme YMCA Umea; Sweden)

10.45 hr. Coffee break

11.15 hr. Session 3 – “Good examples” (Two Parallel workshops)

3.1. Support for First Arrivers.

Short pitches of max. 7 minutes as introductions for further sharing; exchange and discussion.

- YMCA work with first arrivers in Bavaria (Germany) – Bernd Decker (President YMCA Lauf; Bavaria; Germany)
- YMCA volunteers project in The Netherlands with children of refugees – Dinet Kreeft (Leader Refugee project; YMCA The Netherlands)

3.2. Longer term YMCA programmes

Short pitches of max. 7 minutes as introductions for further sharing; exchange and discussion.

- YMCA work for asylum seekers in France – Charlotte Faure (Le Rocheton; YMCA France)
- Welcoming programme for refugees – Tim Wieringa/Joe Schmutz (YMCA Munich; Germany)
- Summer Camps for young refugees – Inge Bussink (Manager YCamps; The Netherlands)

12.30 hr. Lunch

14.00 hr. Session 4 – “Learning; sharing and developing” (Four Parallel workshops).

4.1. Requirements and training for volunteers (and Staff) working with refugees and asylum seekers

4.2. Co-operation between YMCA’s in developing new programmes; Strategic partnerships with other organisations

4.3. Inclusive Christianity and interreligious dialogue in the context of refugee work

4.4. Designing YMCA programmes for new immigrant communities

15.30 hr. Coffee break
16.15 hr. Session 5 - “Reporting back and Summary” (Plenary meeting).
   ➢ Plenary reports from Session 4.
   ➢ Discussion

17.30 hr. Dinner

19.30 hr. Session 6 – “Our stories and our plans” (Plenary sharing and energizing for the future).
   ✓ “Personal stories”.
   ✓ “The fish bowl experience”: Free room to express views by participants on whatever may be considered to be relevant, like for instance:
      ➢ Next steps with the outcome of the discussions.
      ➢ What will you do in the work for refugees in your YMCA?
      ➢ Developing partnerships between YMCA’s in Europe in the work with refugees
      ➢ Establishing a European YMCA Working Group on refugees and asylum seekers? (who wants to join)
      ➢ Working on a joint grant application to facilitate our work in the coming years?
      ➢ Advocacy work (through our office in Brussels)?

21.15 hr. Devotion and closure of the day.


08.00 hr. Breakfast

09.00 hr. Thought for the day

09.15 hr. Session 7 – “Summing up and Appointments” (Plenary meeting).
   ➢ Making concrete appointments about reporting of the conference results; about follow-up actions and next steps (including issues of session 6);
   ➢ Next conference.
   ➢ Final conclusions

10.45 hr. Closure of the conference and final remarks – Robèrt Feith; Juan Simoes and Ed Eggink

11.00 hr. Departures

Display.
All participants are invited to display materials they work with and which they like to share with the other participants.