

## **STRATEGY**

### **2016 - 2020**

## INTRODUCTION

**WE STAND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**WE CREATE SPACES**

**WE STRENGTHEN THE YMCA MOVEMENT IN EUROPE**

- ▶ **YMCA Europe presents this Strategy as a result of the consultation with its members, the working platforms and the Executive Committee.**
- ▶ **YMCA Europe recognizes the need to adapt to the changing context of Europe and to create spaces to facilitate programs and cooperation, to strengthen the YMCA movement in Europe and to raise its profile.**
- ▶ **We recognize our mission : “YMCA Europe is a working fellowship of the national YMCA movements where people grow in body, mind and spirit”. The vision of YMCA Europe is inspired by the diversity of its member and the local realities of the young people.**
- ▶ **Youth Empowerment and the inclusive nature of our Christian identity are deeply rooted in the local, national and international reality of the YMCAs across Europe, who respond through programs and initiatives to the social economic and political challenges in Europe.**
- ▶ **YMCA Europe empowers young people by supporting their holistic development and participation at all levels.**

## OUR FOCUS

### YMCA Europe identifies the following **SOCIALLY RELEVANT** priorities

#### **▲ YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

*Encouraging and supporting youth participation is an integral part of the mission of the YMCA on all levels. We emphasize the active involvement of young people in actions related with social transformation and in the decision making process within our Movement.*

#### **▲ PEACE AND JUSTICE**

*YMCA Europe strives for peace and justice through relevant programs and initiatives that provide answers to key issues like radicalisation of youth, violence, cross border conflicts and clashes between cultures and religions.*

#### **▲ REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS**

*Using a social inclusion approach, we focus on providing short and long term responses to the increasing number of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Europe.*

#### **▲ YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

*We believe that providing tools and opportunities for youth contributes to tackle the effects of the existing employment crisis that affects Europe with a special impact on young people.*

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**When realizing initiatives and programmes within these focus areas, YMCA Europe uses methodologies and contents based on **FORMAL - AND NON FORMAL EDUCATION.****

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**In order to RESPOND EFFECTIVELY to these socially relevant priorities, we have identified the following **OBJECTIVES:****

# CREATING SPACES

**YMCA EUROPE CREATES NETWORKING SPACES FOR EUROPEAN YMCAS TO FACILITATE PROGRAMMES AND COOPERATION.**



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- YMCA Europe hosts at least 5 events/year for the national movements to learn and share from each other;
- YMCA Europe and the national movements respond collectively to pan European social challenges;
- YMCA Europe working platforms are reviewed and restructured as required;
- YMCA Europe develops a strong platform to envision and communicate the Inclusive Christian mission of the YMCA;
- YMCA Europe facilitates sharing of knowledge among YMCAs in Europe.

# MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING

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**YMCA EUROPE WORKS WITH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS TO BUILD THE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE YMCA IN EUROPE.**



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

→ **YMCA Europe understands and prioritizes the capacity and support needs of every national movement;**

→ **YMCA Europe has evidence that each national movement is clear about its mission, is socially relevant and institutionally viable;**

→ **YMCA Europe identifies resources for national movements development in Europe by working in cooperation with WAY and other YMCA alliances/partners;**

→ **YMCA Europe identifies resources for youth leadership development;**

## REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

**YMCA EUROPE WORKS TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE YMCA IN EUROPE**



### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

YMCA Europe develops its Youth Policy work by strengthening its input to the European Youth Forum, the Council of Europe, the Big 6 and other institutions and forums;

YMCA Europe and the national movements benefit from increased European Union and global funding;

Young people are represented on all levels of YMCA Europe decision making bodies;

YMCA Europe and the national movements benefit from advocacy on European Union and the Council of Europe level;



**This Strategy will not determine all the work of YMCA Europe and the National Movements in Europe. It sets a basic framework identifying key areas of work and priorities**

**A concrete annual OPERATIONAL PLAN will define the actions and programmes. Attention will be given to measuring impact and relevant indicators.**