



**Assembly of European Regions
Youth Regional Network
2nd Meeting of Youth from the European Regions**

'Shaping the Future of Europe – on the Eve of the European Elections'

**Krzyzowa, Dolnoslaskie (PL)
20-22 May 2009**

Information Paper

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe. Bringing together more than 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 interregional organisations, AER is the political voice of its members and a forum for interregional co-operation. One of the main achievements of the AER in 2008 was the creation of the AER Youth Regional Network.

Introduction

Created by the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the **Youth Regional Network (YRN)** is a platform of regional-level youth organisations, councils and parliaments from across wider Europe. The platform works as a forum where young people can influence regional and European policy while exchanging experiences and good practice.

The AER's Youth Regional Network was established on 25th November 2008 in Wiesbaden (Hessen region, Germany), where a founding meeting of ninety young people representing 55 European regions launched Europe's first and only platform of regional youth councils, parliaments and organisations. The YRN was founded on the idea that decision-making should be based upon the principle of subsidiarity. This means that, on the one hand, youth policy at European level should reflect the diversity of the regions and of the young people that live in those regions. On the other hand, youth policy within the regions should maintain a European dimension so that the common challenges faced by all young people can be tackled in co-operation with the sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences.

The YRN has four main objectives: networking, influencing policy, exchanging best practice and experience as well as promoting sustainable governance.

2nd Meeting of Youth Regional Network in Krzyzowa – Wroclaw.

AER is organising the 2nd Meeting of Youth from the European Regions in Krzyzowa (near Wroclaw, Dolnoslask) in Poland from 20 to 22 May 2009. The main objectives of this meeting are:

- to continue networking between youth regional councils, parliaments and organisations
- to foster the cooperation in terms of the issues already discussed during the first meeting: aging societies, migration, education, employment, youth entrepreneurship, values, global economy, natural resources, modern life, culture, identities and integration.
- to adopt the YRN Strategic Programme for the next two years (definition of objectives, organisation, structure, membership, calendar)
- to elect the President of the YRN

The topic of the meeting will be: 'Shaping the Future of Europe on the Eve of the European Elections'. The meeting will start on 20 May in the evening by an opening dinner and will be followed by one-and-a-half day conference (plenary sessions and youth committees session).

AER is planning to invite 100 young representatives between 18-30 years old from youth parliaments, councils and organisations acting in the European regions. In addition, the journalists will be invited from different European media.

The first meeting was the great success and AER member regions are strongly interested to support youth Network, which in the future will be transformed in the Youth Assembly of European Regions. In Krzyzowa, the YRN will reinforce its position by creating the concrete paper starting the future shape of cooperation.

The meeting in Krzyzowa is funded by Dolnoslaskie region and the AER. The regions sending young people for the meeting are kindly asked to cover the travel costs (or part of the travel costs) of maximum two young people from region (for more information please see the practical information).

Strategic Programme 2009 -2010

The YRN will focus on the topics which are the most important for young people and which were defined thanks to the Wiesbaden Questionnaire, results of Working Groups in Wiesbaden and Wiesbaden Resolution. On this basis, AER Secretariat created the first draft of the Strategic Programme for 2009-2010 that is a charter of structure, organisation, priorities and main activities. This draft programme is already available on the AER Website: <http://www.aer.eu/events/committee-3-culture-education-interregional-cooperation/2009/youthregionalnetwork.html>

All YRN members are asked to read the draft proposal and to prepare their remarks and amendments for the meeting in Krzyzowa. Also before the meeting all young persons are invited to start discussion about this strategy via YRN Facebook Group: <http://groups.to/aer-ym> .

Choice of Youth Committees

In the registration Form, young participants need to choose which of the Youth Committees they want to be active in. Once registered, all participants are invited to read the Strategic Programme where they can find detailed information on each Youth Committee: that can facilitate your choice.

Election of the First YRN President

Together with the invitation AER is sending the registration form to fill in by those who would like to stand for the election of YRN President. If you would like to stand for election as a Youth Regional Network President you need to fill in this registration form and send it back before 30 April.

The participants of the 2nd AER Youth Meeting in Krzyzowa will elect the First President for a two-year term. The President will be in charge of chairing the YRN meetings and Youth Presidium meetings and represents the YRN outside. The President will stay in contact with the AER President and the AER Secretary General in order to maintain the close relations between youth and AER.

The President will be elected during the YRN meeting among the participants of the meeting. Each Youth regional organization has ONE vote. There is only one tour: a candidate with the largest number of votes becomes the President.

From the 1st of May, you are free to start your virtual campaign to convince young YRN members to vote for you. You are welcome to use AER Youth Regional Network Facebook Group: <http://groups.to/aer-ym> During the meeting in Krzyzowa, you will make a speech in front of the YRN members before the elections in order to present yourself and your ideas.