

Annual Report 2010-2011



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Executive Committee 2009-2011

Alessia Zammit	President
Dylan Seychell	Vice President
Carl Joseph Farrugia	Secretary General
Daniel Frendo	Administrative Secretary
Karl Lepre	General Coordinator
Michele Fenech Adami	ICT Manager
Stephanie Deguara	SEL Manager
Rebekah Tanti Dougall	SEL Coordinator
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Glenn Fenech	LFS Manager
Abigail Baldacchino	LFS Coordinator
Sarah Faith Azzopardi	TSC Manager
Aldrin Seychell	TSC Coordinator

Past and Future Challenges

Throughout the past year, YEL has focused on establishing its five sections. In preparation for the year dedicated to volunteering, YEL together with KSU and KNZ organised a seminar that discussed the role of youth organisations in the voluntary sector. YEL decided to organise the seminar in December 2010 so as to ensure that youth organisations working on a national level would start thinking of the challenges and the opportunities that the voluntary sector offers before the start on the year of volunteering. The Law and Financial Services Section has also organised positive projects in the past year. In partnership with GHSL (the Faculty Law Students Association), LFS has organised groups of first year students for visits to the law courts. This was an important step forward as students were exposed to life in the law courts in their first months of study. The response for such events was very positive and YEL and GHSL will remain committed to organising similar events in the future.

The Tourism Sports and Culture section has organised a Kayaking event in summer with the aim of promoting sports and the leisure activities that our country offers. The event had a positive response and it has generated interest in similar events such as sailing and hiking which will be organised in the coming months. The ICT section has compiled the information gathered on teleworking and it will now be discussing ways how it can effectively promote this method of working. The Education, Health and Environment section will be working on the plans for projects that promote education as a means for improving the voluntary sector.

These events have allowed YEL to develop its sections and start implementing its mission statement of exploring a sector and aspiring towards achieving results. YEL has also organised a number of social activities that were aimed at allowing the organisation to improve its internal and external relations. The first two years of an organisation are never plain-sailing but YEL has worked hard to lay the foundations for an organisation that is able to grow and develop its aims and goals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the executive members while welcoming new team members who I am sure will give their utmost towards the aims of YEL.

Alessia Zammit
President

Vice President

YEL is 2 years old and so is my experience within this dynamic organisation. When YEL was established, a two-year term was chosen for the executive in order to ensure a sound foundation for this new organisation. In these first two years, YEL started to find its balance and manage to stand up and walk together with other organisations which have been established very long before YEL was even thought of. Standing up and walking means a lot. These first two years of YEL were active years for YEL where this fresh organisation explored grounds in various sectors. One of the underlying principles of YEL is collaboration rather than direct competition. This philosophy encouraged all executive members to embrace the variety of fellow youth organisations and come out with ideas that are not only relevant for young people who are not in youth organisations but also to everyone involved in the youth field.

The idea of cooperation and networking is the driving force of YEL. Right from the establishment of YEL in Malta, we always thought about YEL going international. By being an international youth organisation, YEL would be seriously implementing its philosophy of networking. Youth organisations worldwide are already connected by various networks. YEL aims to be such a network but with one channel of focus; entrepreneurship and leadership. In the first year, within YEL, there was a debate about the philosophy of this international structure which then resulted into a statute. One has to appreciate that this is a lengthy process and the fruits might be actively harvested when the current YEL generation ends.

Nonetheless, the crucial steps of this strategy are those which have to be actuated in the coming months and years. The sound structure of YEL in the future solely depends on the way these steps are taken. This international venture materialised further when there was a strong interest to establish YEL in the United Kingdom.

During the second year, YEL focused on materialising its philosophy further and engaged in discussions with industries while started implementing pilot projects. The last year saw the realisation of sport initiatives within YEL particularly the success of the Kayaking event which proved to be an event which is desired by Maltese young people. YEL also formulated a

programme for itself which would hopefully enable a successful implementation in the coming years.

Despite being only two-years old, YEL has boldly shown its strong potential and its need in the Maltese community. I am sure this need will be satisfied by the activities which YEL will provide to the Maltese society and with its motivation, also to the international community.

Although in the past years I served in various voluntary organisations, I must admit that YEL was a wonderful experience, built on teamwork and offers a continuous open environment for its members to express themselves. This is within itself the main ingredient for YEL's success. I wish all the best and success for the forthcoming generations of this fresh organisation, YEL!

Dylan
Vice-President

Seychell

Secretary General

The term of the first executive of YEL has come to an end and this means that YEL is nearly two years old. During these two year, those forming the executive have worked together in order to create the foundation and the path forward for the next executive. The experience gathered in this executive will for sure help the new executive of what are the difficulties and what are the strengths of the organization.

Since its launch in August of 2009 YEL organized a number of social and educational activities. These included a number of seminars by the different sections. YEL organized a seminar about creative thinking for teacher, a seminar discussing psychology of crime, discussing the role of voluntary organizations in the year of volunteering and also discussing in a number of seminars 'What makes an effective leader?'. Also YEL organized a kayak event and also a number of opportunities for the members to meet each other with a number of meals.

YEL also took part in international activities such as the MeYouMe in Falerna and the Creativity and Innovation for Youth Development training course in Bulgaria. YEL took part in the European Commission's competition of the 'European Entrepreneurship Video Award 2010 with the video titled 'Colour the Globe'. YEL also applied and was accepted as a Registered Organisation with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped YEL during these two years in many ways. Those who formed part of the executive, those who attended the events and all those who gave us the moral support to continue with our work. I wish the new executive a successful one which will continue on the work already done but also expand the horizons.

Carl Farrugia
Secretary General

Administrative Secretary

The second term of the first executive of YEL has come to an end and it's time to assess the work done during the past year. The goal during the past year was to build on last year's success, strengthen certain vital administrative aspects and widening the communication within the executive members, members, partners and the general public by various ways and means.

In the last year, YEL assured to have its website continuously updated in order to inform both our members and the general public about its work and also its events. Certain upgrades were carried out on YEL's web portal to widen our administrative aspects, such as that of the possibility where a prospect member can now become a member through our website. Such upgrades were necessary for YEL to improve its communication with the general public. Adding to this, YEL's databases were also widened to reach as many as possible contacts and transmit our message by all available means.

The same applies for YEL's internal communication. I always believed that to satisfy good communication levels with the members and the public, one needs to ensure that the communication level and means internally are strong and effective. The Administration this year more than ever, emphasised on the importance to improve the communication between the executive board members, this for the simple reason that each section needs to know what the other section is planning in order for the whole executive to have one common goal and to ensure that any activities being organised by a particular section are also being promoted by all other sections and the administration.

The final but likewise important point regarding communication was that YEL worked and cooperated with other organisations with similar aims and goals. A good number of activities such as the organisation of seminars were organised in collaboration with other youth organisations in the field, with the advantage of reaching more youths to participate.

Daniel Frendo
Administrative Secretary

Social Entrepreneurship & Leadership

Young people take a leading role in discussing the challenges of the voluntary sector

The voluntary sector has an important role in the enhancement of the social sector and this year we are encouraged to better appreciate the role of voluntary organisations in our countries. The European Union has dedicated this year to volunteering as it believes that voluntary work has a central role in advancement of our societies. The EU also recognises the benefits of voluntary work to the individual. In dedicating time to volunteering, volunteers experience great satisfaction from helping others, engage in social activities and acquire skills that improve their employability opportunities. These are the results of voluntary work but many volunteers give a contribution because they believe in the main purpose of their organisation which in many cases is a social purpose. This is an important aspect of volunteering and organisations in the voluntary sector must ensure that they remain focused on their main purpose. It is therefore important that voluntary organisations collaborate and cooperate so as to enhance the sector and increase their access to resource. Competition is healthy but in the voluntary sector, cooperation and collaboration should be the main purposes relating organisations.

The voluntary sector and the challenges of youth voluntary organisations were highlighted during a seminar organised in December by Young Entrepreneurs and Leaders (YEL) in collaboration with the University Students Body (KSU) and the National Youth Council (KNZ). Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, Clyde Puli, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Kenneth Wain and Chairperson of the Council for Voluntary Organisations, Robert Farrugia, participated in the discussion. Young people outlined as a challenge, the need of networking and cooperating so as to supersede limitations related to resources and finance. Creativity is a key tool for ensuring sustainability of the voluntary sector. Through their creative initiative, many organisations manage to organise activities with very little costs being incurred. Training is also an important tool for sustaining and enhancing the sector and the provision of professional training is a challenge to voluntary organisations but an opportunity for the coordination bodies of the sector.

The year dedicated to volunteering is also an opportunity for researchers and students. It should serve to encourage research on the sector as we can only look at ways for improving the sector if it is professionally analysed from its micro and macro environment. The discussion also tackled the 'snowball' effect of volunteering especially amongst young people. With many being influenced by their friends' behavior, an altruistic act by a young person may encourage his/her friends to also participate in the positive activity. A voluntary organisation has purpose that positively influences society and voluntary work gives a positive purpose to the volunteer. Young people are strengthened in character and personality when they engage in voluntary work and the purpose of a voluntary activity gives a positive purpose to their life.

The voluntary sector in Malta is vibrant and diverse. For many years, the sector has grown with very little regulation to support it. The enactment of the Voluntary Organisations Act in 2007 was a positive step forward, safeguarding the right of freedom of association and assembly whilst allowing the sector to be better organised and structured. The year dedicated to volunteering is however an opportunity to assess the current legislative situation and the changes occurring since the enactment of the Voluntary Organisations Act. We must continuously seek ways of improving the sector in its administrative, organisational and legislative aspects but throughout this year we are being given the opportunity to focus more profoundly on the challenges that we face as volunteers. I augur that 2011 will be a year on which we look back and attribute the success of projects that improve the voluntary sector. I look forward to working with other voluntary organisations and meeting volunteers in common projects, in the months to come.

Rebekah Tanti Dougall & Stephanie Deguara

Law and Financial Services

The Law and Financial Services sector has since YEL's first year been organizing a number of activities be it social or educational. Its first social event was a BBQ organized at Gnejna Bay. This activity, apart from seeing its first new members, provided the ideal opportunity for team building where people present discussed *Facebook* while eating and drinking in a relaxed atmosphere.

Later on, the LFS section in collaboration with Gh.S.K (Ghaqda Studenti tal- Kriminologija) organized a seminar named 'Psychology of Crime' primarily aimed at Law and Criminology students. Two professional psychologists, Ms Chantal Avellino and Ms Roberta Holland discussed the two main subjects for that seminar, being 'Psychology in the Courtroom' and 'Mental Disorder and Crime'. This event was successful as over 60 individuals participated in the seminar.

This year, LFS in collaboration with Gh.S.L (Ghaqda Studenti tal- Ligi) sought to give First Year law students the opportunity to visit the Law Courts. This event was, with the help of members from YEL and Gh.S.L, a huge success, whereby nearly 70 students participated. The Court visits were held on four days, each day having a number of students divided into small groups who were taken around the Law Courts, and where given the opportunity to hear parts of the sittings being held on that day.

These successful events has left us with enough enthusiasm to organize similar events in the coming years, being seminars on legal and financial topics as well as the Court Visits which will be a great opportunity given to First Year law students to make their first step in the real legal world.

Abigail Baldacchino & Glen Fenech

Information and Communication Technology

During these two years, the ICT section has compiled a detailed research on teleworking which includes various ways on how teleworking can benefit a county's economy, infrastructure and its effect as a family friendly measure. Various methods of teleworking were also analyzed and discussed.

Following this research, the ICT section began to plan a national event which will consist of a discussion between two groups of youths. One group would be based in Malta, whilst a similar group will be based in Gozo. Focus is to be given how teleworking can help Gozitan workers perform their work from Gozo, reducing the discomfort, time and expenses of regularly travelling to Malta. The groups would use the internet to communicate with the group in Gozo and this will illustrate how easy working from a distance can be. Tools which will be used are basic tools which are not expensive to buy, such as a webcam, microphone, speakers and Skype, a free software which allows voice and video calls to be made for free assuming each group has an internet connection and a computer.

Following this event people would be more aware of Teleworking and its benefits, which hopefully will find its way into the industry where more people will make use of this method of working.

Michele Fenech Adami

Environment, Health and Education

During the past two years this sector has mainly focused on the environment and education. As part of its initiatives in the environment we decided to support WDCS by adopting a dolphin named Spirit. We believe that only through a positive spirit will YEL manage to organise projects on the environment that will inspire young people to take on leading and entrepreneurial initiatives in this sector. Spirit is a gentle female dolphin and has a calf named Sparkle who was born in July 2007. She was given this name because her gentle and spirited nature inspires youngsters.

A half day seminar regarding education was also held, YEL teamed up with The World Centre for New Thinking to organize a training session for student teachers and teachers alike so as to help them in implementing creativity in their teaching methods and classrooms.

Alexia Georgakopoulos & Ryan Mercieca

Tourism, Sports & Culture

Throughout this year, the TSC section has been working on a plan of a major project for YEL. The orienteering project consists of involving adventure and skills in order to achieve a level of leadership and sports. The main concept of the project is to create an adventure based learning of sites in Malta which may be natural sites with historical landmarks along the way. YEL aims to teach young people about orienteering and the necessary skills such as using the compass, map and outdoor skills. Apart from educating the participants about the environment, orienteering is an Olympic sport which even though it is not a mainstream sport, could be a good opportunity for Maltese young people to participate in. The idea is to have different levels of the scheme offered by YEL where different and more advanced skills are required by higher levels. This project appears to be welcomed by the Kunsill Malti għall-iSports (KMS) and needs to be further discussed with them so that they can offer their assistance in starting the YEL Orienteering Scheme.

In September, the TSC organised a Kayak event with the aim to encourage youth to take part in sport activity. The activity was held in the touristic zone of Mellieha near a wonderful environment in Malta. An encouraging number of youths took part in this activity which helped them appreciate one of the wonderful views of Malta.

Aldrin Seychell & Sarah Faith Azzopardi

YEL-London

Following on the 2009-2011 plan of action, the YEL Administration has sought to strengthen its international reach. On YEL-Malta's recommendation, the year 2010 heralded the birth of the first international branch of YEL. And with a clear vision for further international expansion in the coming years, the YEL executive has decided that international branches would be named according to city.

With a statute based on the original, YEL-London will be the first international extension of this voluntary organisation. Through contacts and friends, interest is being generated and brainstorming discussions held regarding what the focal role of YEL-London should be - with the suggestion at the forefront being to learn about and share with YEL some useful perspectives from the entrepreneurship scene in the UK. The first project of YEL-London therefore aims to be a regular contribution to the publications of YEL(-Malta).

A SMART plan of action will soon follow. YEL-London is always open for more members, ideas and contributions.

Ivan Zammit