



Minutes of the 19th European TEN SING Conference

22 – 26 February 2006
Lakeside/England

Place: Lakeside, England

Participants: 23 participants from 10 countries were present.

Guest: Ken Livingston from YMCA England, North Western Region

Devotions: Morning and evening devotions during the ETS conference were prepared by different national delegations: Wednesday – England; Thursday – England, Belarus; Friday – Switzerland, Germany; Saturday – Finland, Denmark.

1. Opening

Jason Worlock, ETS chairperson welcomed all delegates and Ken Livingston as guest and opened the conference.

Ken Livingston is responsible for the North Western Region of YMCA England. He welcomed the conference in England, in the name of the YMCA of England and in the YMCA national centre Lakeside. He exemplarily introduced the work of some English YMCAs.

Voting Countries

The Conference agreed the following 10 countries were eligible to vote: Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland.

Greetings and apologies

Greetings were received from Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Sabine Ponater from the EAY, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia.

TEN SING in Europe and worldwide

Sindre presented the weather forecast of TS. First, the TS situation in Europe was shown and then also the countries, where TS is existent. It was discovered that Romania is missing.

Agenda

The agenda was sent out with the working documents.

National reports

Wednesday: England

Thursday: Switzerland, Belarus,, Norway

Friday: Germany, Finland, Czech Republic; Ukraine + Lithuania (written report)

Saturday: Slovakia, Denmark, Estonia

Enclosure: National reports received in written form

Report of the Executive Group

Jason gives the report of what the Executive Group has done since the last conference. (Attachment)

Information about the elections (Jason)

There are five places in the Ex. Group. Every year, two or three places are free for election. This year, three regular places and Silke's place, who resigns, should be voted for. Everybody can propose a candidate. The candidate has to come from a voting country. Neither of the leaving Executives will run again. The names of the candidates must be received by Friday evening by the present Executive Group.

Finances (Silke)

Silke presents the accounts of 2005 as there were in the papers given to every participants (attachment). The conference accepts the accounts of 2005 with 10 votes. Thanks to Martina Hudcovska who administers the ETS account and has prepared the report.

Guidelines (Jason)

Jason introduces the guidelines in general. There are two proposals this year. They have been sent to the participants with the working documents six weeks before the conference. The proposal of Switzerland concerning a member fee will be discussed later in the conference and therefore also decided later.

Decision: The proposal of England to change the last paragraph of the guidelines was approved with 10 votes as it has been written in the proposal.

Next conferences (Jason)

2007: Belarus has invited the conference and the last conference already agreed to go there. Michael Yankovski gives some explanations: there are two options for the venue. The first one is near Minsk, ca. 40 min. from the airport. It is a house from the Orthodox Church and suitable for bigger groups. The second possibility is the house of the YMCA in Woloshin. It is cheaper, but only for 20 persons and also more far from Minsk.

Advice: it is good to fly to Vilnius and then to take a bus than to fly directly to Minsk. The conference was also reminded to think of visa. The prices should be between 30 and 40 USD per day incl. food, accommodation and conference facilities.

Dates: First priority: 21 - 25 February 2007; second priority: 7 - 11 March 2007

The conference recommends to have the conference at the bigger place nearer to Minsk.

2008 and 2009:

Switzerland would like to host the conference in 2008 or 2009.

Estonia also would like to host it in 2009.

There was a suggestion to have the conference in 2008 in Czech Republic because of the YMCA Festival 2008. Czech Republic could be asked if the conference wants this.

Decision: Czech Republic and Switzerland check with their TS boards and national YMCAs if it would be possible for them in 2008. They will give a yes or no to the Executive group until 31.8.2006.

Attention: the Executive group has to check that the conference does not collide with a possible Programme Forum for the Festival 2008.

2.ETS Festival 2006

Jesper presents facts of the festival and shows pictures: (see also the attachments)

Organisation:

- There are a lot of other events in Aarhus at this week (mainly sport).
- Breakfast at school. Lunch and dinner at festival site.
- Schools are reserved. Few schools in walking distance, most have to take bus. It is worked on public transport to get it free.
- There are teams for every organisational item (electricity, rubbish, ...).
- The PR team produced postcards, posters, leaflets.
- Web page: 20 – 70 visitors per day. 50 persons for newsletter.
- There will be an Internet café with about 20 computers for free to use.
- Sign-up process: Web page is open for direct payment. Groups can pay through their national movements. Please give in the informations about how to pay to your country.
- Numbers of participants:
Belarus: 25, Czech: 60; Denmark: 300; Estonia: 45; Finland: 20-30; Germany: 300 at the moment; Lithuania: 40, Norway: maybe up to 1000; Russia: 60; Slovakia: 30; UK: 70, Ukraine: 20; CH: 30; Netherlands are interested. Armenia: strange e-mail (we see). Iceland: Gospel choir interested but too old. DK is working on South Africa and Kenya.
- Technic: organised by Pete Bürki. Will come to DK in March.
- Age range: 13-99
- Crew: Lone and Lene are responsible for crew. Half price and work 6 hours per day. 3 days before and 3 days after. Also musicians (travel costs will be covered by festival), programme people.
- Belarus asks to write a letter to ministry of foreign affair for getting visa.
- Venue: pictures from Tangkrogen; with circus tents, fence around the area.
- There will be the possibility of getting drinks on the site
- Money on the site: Bank of Aarhus will have a change office there. You buy at the festival in Danish crowns or Euros. It was planned two prices for Eastern and Western people. Central Europeans can pay max. 1,20 Euro. Water for free.
- Festival T-Shirts? It's planned to have some merchandise articles for selling. Suggestion: possibility to order a T-shirt in the internet beforehand.
- Selling the ETS books.
- No alcohol at the festival area, that's a decision. But we are close to the city. Group leaders are responsible for their youngsters.
- Smoking: there will be some places on the site where you are allowed to smoke.

Spiritual part:

- Each day starts with „Singspiration“.
- It follows an input about the three themes: God, yourself, neighbour

- After the input, there will be small groups working on the theme. There will be a meeting of the group leaders every evening before.
- There will be a Church tent for the whole time.
- On Tuesday evening will be the Service shopping with a collection of different services.
- Concept of spiritual team:
Each day has another focus: relationship to God/yourself/your neighbour socially-politically, personell, of the gaps
- Spiritual group is looking for: 3 persons, 100 group leaders, 1 catholic priest, 9 young people for „hot seat“.
Suggestion: find the group leaders through the groups registering. Every group has to name 1 group leader per 10-20 (?) persons. Offer also Scandinavian speaking groups.

Programme:

Opening evening: DK; Second evening: GER, Service Shopping: Norway, UCoTS: Steering Group

Workshops: need ideas for Workshops, but only with a concrete name.

Sightseeing day: organised by YMCA-YWCA in Aarhus. Programme not yet decided. Concert at the end on one square in Aarhus (= promotion for TEN SING and YMCA in DK)

Festival band: 3 Norwegian and 1 Ukraine. They are still looking for a piano player, a saxophonist, a male and a female singer.

Germany has problems to get people at the festival. Some reasons, why to come to the Festival?

- just to meet thousands of TEN SINGers of whole Europe
- to see the greater family of TS
- you travel the whole world but there you meet a lot of different people.

ETS at the ETS Festival:

Silke will make a presentation about “What is ETS?” during the workshop times on Monday and Tuesday afternoon. It will be in the café tent which will be open to leaders only in this time. There will be coffee provided for the leaders for free.

Irene will make a stand with informations about ETS, also located in the café tent.

Mary will produce a film/trailer about ETS which can be shown on the main stage in breaks between programmes.

3.Funding

Silke presented the different actions of the EU programme YOUTH. (attachment) More information about it in the internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/>.

4.Focus on TEN SING idea

Coming from the focus of the ETS group defined at the last conference, the conference developed this further the point: Common agreement on TS idea. In small mixed groups

different important headlines characterising TS were discussed and shared with the whole group.

The whole human

- Body, Mind and Spirit
- Everything is beautiful in God's eyes (controversial)
- Everything is connected (BMS)
- The activity is the important thing
- harmonic development of personality
- S.P.I.C.E.S. - social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotional, spiritual development
- Emotional resilience (strengthen self confidence)
- accepts everyone – whole human incl. Faults, limitations...

Culture, Creativity, Christ

- add competence?
- Inter-faith
- add care?
- Diversity of culture (national culture, youth culture...)
- use culture in creative way to show Christ
- all Cs are important
- culture is defined locally
- all sides of the triangle are not always equal

By young people, for young people

- democratic process
- older ones support younger people
- on young people's terms
- young people design/create the programme
- stay in contact with youth culture
- education for life
- S.P.I.C.E.S.
- by young people, for young people about young people

Process not product

- hardest for young people to understand
- good slogan! But...
- skilled people could be prohibited
- good to see less-abled achieving things
- need a product or „aim“ for in order to enable the process
- product is important for funds, profile, etc.
- process and product
- concentrating on the process makes the product beautiful

Young responsibility, adult presence

- duty of care
- by young people, for young people with presence of adults
- engagement instead of responsibility
- adult presence good for coaching, mentoring and training
- young people don't always want responsibility

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- hard to let go of responsibility for adults
 - hard to get commitment
 - best bits

Open membership, Christian leadership

- Everyone (leaders) welcome – accept basics and don't block Christian
- C.L.: preferred that all leaders are Christians, but not a must. But the main leader is Christian.
- At least one leader in group is Christian <-> all leaders are Christians
- open to all faiths and to none faith (atheists)?
- Preaching within the group and not to the audience/outside.

Music, Dance, Drama, Video and Technical

- TS as a platform for the youth to live out their creativity by using* music and other ways of expression.
- * „performing arts“ instead of last part from „music.“ on.
- Yes, no and more
- youth work
- each group is unique

Including

- TS brings together people from different social groups
- open membership
- Inclusive to all
- not only for well-educated and successful and talented.
- TS does not discriminate. It is for everyone.

General

- safe atmosphere to try out things
- stay open minded
- local to local connections
- local, regional, national, international character and events
- fun
- there should be a accreditation to recognise skills, talents and achievements.

5. Member fee debate I+II

Bähram presented his proposal and how it had come to this at the last conference. He also presented some advantages and disadvantages:

Advantage: a short term solution for getting money for the ETS conference

Disadvantage: not every country can afford this.

He then opened the discussion with the following questions:

- Do we need/want it?
 - How much to pay?
 - Fee for every country?
 - Advantage/Disadvantage by paying/ not paying?

- To use for what?
 - Participation in the Ex. gr.
 - ETS at EAY GA?
 - Visiting speakers for the conferences
 - use money for get working the financial group

Martina recommends to call it something else, as it would be very confusing for EAY because the national movements already pay a member fee to EAY.

If we are voting, need 7 votes. Question: Can any country vote if not present at conferences? According to the guidelines, that's not possible.

Decision: Who is in favour to have member fees?

in favour: 1, Against: 6, Abstain: 3

There won't be a membership fee.

Futher suggestions for money income:

- Increase of participation fee of the conference to get an income.
ESY (European Sports group) is doing similar things by taking 5 Euro per participant at their championships which is going to ESY. It's something like an administration fee.
Question: What would happen if hosting movement makes a deficit? Wouldn't they expect the extra to be used for the balance of the deficit?
- Place money in higher interest account. Martina explains that our money is now in a Czech EAY account which is quite good at the moment as the Czech Crown is getting better. In general, it is a good idea, but it is not practical with relative small amounts.

There came up the suggestion to wait until we really have a purpose for which we need the money. Until then, the following follow-ups are suggested:

- Raise awareness at the EAY level.
- Need for a financial group
- take question of how to finance ETS to next conference

6. Projects and seminars

Longterm planning:

2006:	conference	
	ETS Festival	
2007:	conference	TT + UU
	<i>seminar for preparation of 2008 Festival</i>	
2008:	YMCA Festival	
2009:	<i>„Year of Exchange“</i>	
	<i>Leaders Reloaded</i>	
2010:		TT + UU
2011:	ETS Festival ?	

2006:	conference	
2012:		
2013:	YMCA Festival ?	

Italic: suggestions

7. Elections

In an secret election for the Executive group, Jesper Damgaard (DK), Øivind Landmark(N) and Štěpán Černý (CZ) were unanimously elected (each with 10 votes). Together with Jason Worlock (ENG), they build the Executive group. The fifth place is vacant.

The question was raised if we are in accordance to the guidelines as there it is written: "The Executive group has 5 members,..." The sentence can be interpreted either that the Executive has to have 5 members or that it has maximum 5 members. This should be changed in the guidelines in the next conference (proposal sent to the Executive at least three months before the conference.)

It was also recognized that there is now no woman in the Executive and that this is sad. Jason asks if the Executive group can co-opt another person for this year to help fulfilling special tasks. The Executive can do this any time. It was also done last year, when Jesper joined parts of the Executive group meeting for festival reasons. The person has no vote in case of decision making.

Can this co-opted person be from any country? Yes, as it was with Jesper and Lene last year.

Martina emphasizes that national movements should bring suggestions for Executive candidates for the meeting next year.

8. Internet

Faeroers Islands helped Sindre, mainly in chasing people for promised articles. The list of articles promised by the different countries worked less well than hoped.

In recent times, Sindre was working on a new website system for both executive and conference members to post news and pictures. Unfortunately, it was not possible to finish it before the conference. As Sindre will leave the ETS group, we have to look for others to take over website management. The countries are asked to continue to submit articles and picture. Meinhart is still willing to help.

Several ideas for getting the webpage used:

- include links from ETS site to national sites (ref national report)
- more material, news, pictures have to be put on the page to attract people to visit it.
- Give each month a topic
- should be used to advertise big events
- use the festival to interest people to visit the page
- WS: content for the ETS webpage
- Suggestion that every day at Festival somebody wrote up the day's events.
- A computer in tent where pictures could be uploaded.

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- Diary about the events of the day on festival
 - use webpage after the festival for 'meet and greet'. That's good even if it will die after some weeks. At least people have been on the page. Do we need the effort of writing daily text, rather than platform to exchange own ideas.
 - Should there be a newspaper at the festival? Tendency was rather to no.
 - PR group of the festival will do the preplanning of how the page may be used during the festival.

We need a new system, so that all people within the ETS group can put something on the page.

There is a need for reports for EAY and probably nationally.

Sindre asks to make a list of countries responsible for one month again.

Please send all material by email to Martina or put it on webpage and email link.

Please update email addresses and write it to Martina.

9.EAY Role and Strategy 2006-2011

Peter Posner, President of EAY, presented the new EAY role and strategy plan 2006-2011. It is based on the GOP process of the World Alliance or YMCAs and has three pillars: Mission awareness, Relevant programmes and Institutional Development.

Several aims of the plan concerns also the European Programme groups. So shall there be a development of working closely together between the "movement development" and the "programme" field. Further is the new YMCA Festival 2008 one aim and also the establishment of a staff person for the Programme groups.

10. YMCA Festival 2008

Ideas for mass programmes:

- 10.000 participants at the Festival make a concert together. To achieve this, every day one part will be taught from stage
- Living triangle -> photo from sky.
- Line Dance
- Stomp or rhythm choir
- World record in stage diving, crowd surfing, skipping line
- Balloons, flags
- Pantomime of „Real Life“ from every country („UCoTS in pantomime)
- Foam party
- Snow party
- look at Olympic openings to get ideas.
- Speed dating
- Vote with feet
- Water fight

TS should/can/would do or needs:

- concerts

- > should be there to show TS's face
- > would get more TS groups to apply
- Workshops: typical for TS (dance, drama, choir....)
- Workshops about TS and „Try TS“: Good for new people, advertisement

General ideas for the festival:

- intercultural games and intercultural learning either in a small version just as workshops or in a bigger version as a real programme for one session/half day/day.

11. Finances II

Budget 2006 (for this years money until conference 2007)

Item	Income	Expenditures
Ex. gr. Meeting		500 €
South Africa donation		850 €
EAY GA participation		800 €
Webpage		250 €
Free coffee for Leaders café at ETS festival		50 €
ETS conference in England		100 €
Contribution of CH	50 €	
Total	50 €	2.450 €

Comments to single items of budget:

7 votes for budgeting 800 Euros for the EAY general assembly, 2 abstentions.

4 votes in favour of giving England 100 Euros to cover the loss from this conference. 3 votes against and 1 abstention.

Voting to accept the budget for the coming year: 9 in favour (1 country not present).

12. Miscellaneous

Cancellation fees

Lene explained how the Executive group has handled this topic this year and introduced the following proposal about how to go on:

“If you cancel your registration one month before the conference, you have to pay a) 50%, b) 75%, c) 100% of the participation fee.”

Bits of discussion:

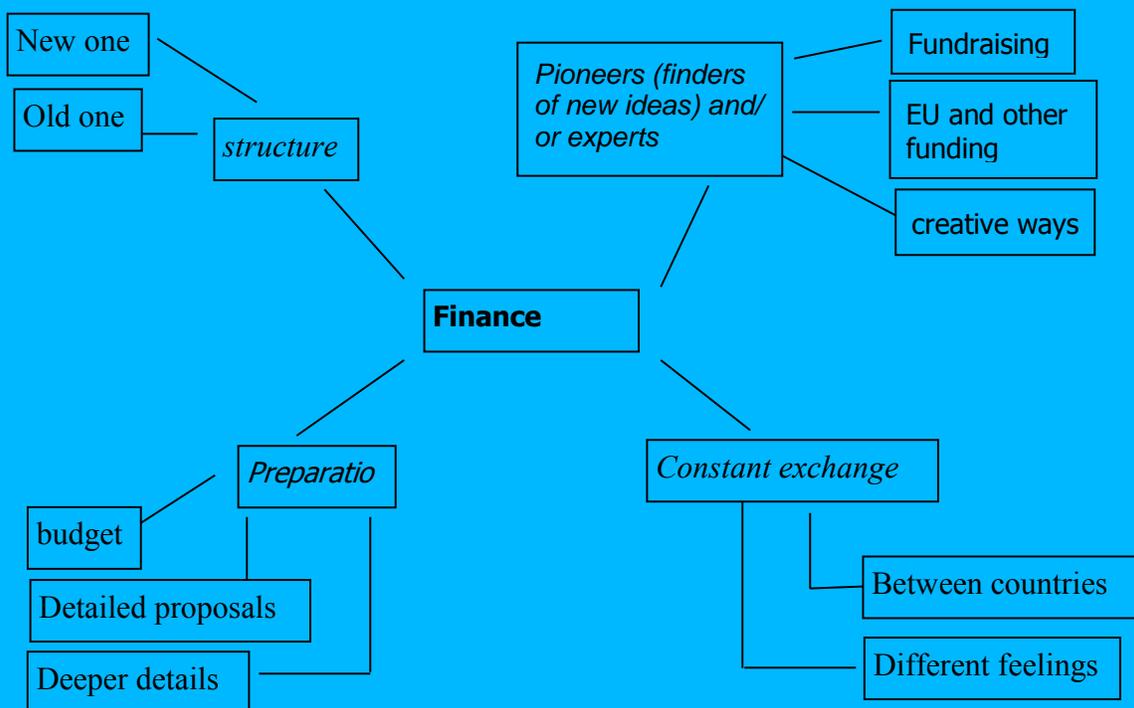
- Take into consideration the venue cancellation conditions = more flexible wording
↳ "...after the deadline stated in the registration form, ..."
- Down payment of 50% beforehand? ↳ It is not practical as the bank fees would cost too much.
- Register when „trip“ is booked? ↳ An argument against is, that e.g. train or coach tickets were bought just shortly before the conference.
- Replacement of free places by another country? In general, every country is free to send more than 2 delegates as guests. But if people cancel, the others should be informed, so that the other countries can probably think about an replacement from their country to make the deficit smaller. This person has to pay the for his/her country corresponding price.

After some discussions it was voted for the following version until the next conference:
"If you cancel your registration after the deadline stated in the registration form, you have to pay 75% of the participation fee." (First voting: 50% (4 votes), **75%** (4 votes), 100% (1 votes); second voting: 50% (4 votes), 75% (5 votes) (One country absent))

The Executive group have to prepare a paper of conditions for various cases for the next conference. For the conference in 2007, the fees above will apply.

Finances group

Matete explained his thoughts about such a group to the conference. It is no decision expected, but just to have it on the agenda also for the next conferences.



Comments:

Good idea, but how to do it. There are at the moment neither time nor financial resources. We don't need experts in the beginning, pioneers are enough.
A very small step would also be, when one person is committed to find another person to start this group. Doesn't have to be that the whole mind map is organised at once.

Miscellaneous:

Information about intercultural learning = T-Kit no. 4 of EU. It is to be found at www.training-youth.net. There are also working materials to other themes available.

Topics for conference 2007:

- some time to networking -> local-to-local partnerships
- Exchange year 2009
- Proposal to think over the guidelines concerning the Executive group, e.g. 5 members or must be 5 members or max. 5 members.
- Festival 2008
- preparation seminar autums 2007
- finance group development
- common agreement on TS idea
- a new focus?
- EU Funding for the next conference in Prague/Switzerland/Estonia. Actions!

Minutes written by Jason Worlock, Irene Butlin, Stepan Cerny and Silke Leitenberger.
Edited by Silke Leitenberger ().

Attachments:

- national reports
- report of Ex. Gr.
- financial report 2005
- new version of guidelines
- festival presentation of Jesper