



## Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> European TEN SING Conference

21- 25 February 2007  
Minsk/Belarus

**Place:** Minsk, Belarus

**Participants:** 23 participants from 11 countries were present.

**Guest:**

**Devotions:** Morning and evening devotions during the ETS conference were prepared by different national delegations: Wednesday – Germany; Thursday – Belarus, Denmark; Friday – Norway, Faeroers Islands; Saturday – Slovakia, Belarus. Sunday – Czech Republic.

### Opening

After the devotion, Jason Worlock, the ETS Chairperson, warmly welcomed all the delegates. Everyone presented themselves and their role in their respective TS movements.

### Voting Countries

The Conference agreed the following 11 countries were eligible to vote: Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Germany, Russia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

### Greetings and apologies

Greetings were received from Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Martina Hudcovska from the EAY, Igor Kiss from Slovakia, Liina Hauge from Estonia, Oivind Mehl Landmark from Norway.

### Agenda

The proposed agenda send out with the working documents was formally accepted for the conference: 10 votes received in favour (Ukraine was not present)

#### National reports schedule announced and approved

Thursday: Norway, Estonia, England, Ukraine, and Germany

Friday: Czech Republic, Belarus, Russia, Denmark, Lithuania, and Switzerland

- o [Attached: National reports received in written form](#)

### Minutes of the previous conference

The minutes from the last conference were approved, one line added in the Finance (section 11): England thanked the Conference but declined the offer of 100 €, 8 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstain

### Report of the Executive Group (Jason)

The ETS Exec group presented their report (see attachment). Important points:

- Jesper attended the EAY General Assembly in Portugal. There are new ETS contacts in the EAY Executive group: Olga Lukina, Marina Michaildiou. There is a new logo and name of EAY=> YMCA Europe, but informally, it may be still referred to as the EAY.
- The ETS Exec met at the ETS festival in Aarhus and in Prague in November 2006.

The report was approved by the Conference unanimously, 11 votes for.

### **Other introduction**

Guidelines amendment proposals: there are 3 proposals to amend the guidelines, one from each Denmark, Norway and Czech Republic. We will discuss them during the conference, the proposals were sent to the delegates before.

Next conferences (Jesper): so far there is no sure invitation. Switzerland is possible, other possibilities are Norway, Czech Republic (emergency solution) will be discussed later on.

Finances (Jason): there were no expenditures from last year, because the approved expenditures not needed and/or we didn't know how to spend them. The money dedicated to the South African TS will go in the next days.

Elections (Stepan): The ETS Exec is one place short and Jason's term is over, therefore we should choose 2 new executives. Candidates to be delivered to the ETS Exec by Friday evening.

Website (Jason): There is a new website design and structure proposal. Last year problem: no constant flux of information from the ETS. Decision: static web page. Small cost needed to buy a design template (45 Euro). We will keep it on EAY web space. Benjamin: proposed a newsletter to be send with any news that may appear. It will be discussed later in Miscellaneous.

### **Festival 2006 evaluation (Jesper):**

- IPG: had 4 meetings, putting the big picture (rules, big programme frame), in Århus
- DPG: had 18 meetings, 5 Danish, main deal of work. Recruiting crew, initiate SPG, correspondence with authorities. Included one part-time hired coordinator (Jesper).
- SPG: 7 altogether, had many meeting according to their speciality.
- Participants: 1563 out of 1670 promised, from 19 countries.
- Financial: deficit 9.766 €, paid by the Danish YMCA/YWCA, reason: not enough western participants as expected to cover the costs.
- **Feedback of present conference members:**
- Good food, very practical arrangements.
- Good experience for Eastern Europe countries, good technical equipment, important spiritual part.
- Flexibility of the programme team.
- None unhappy during the festival. Good information flow on the festival.
- Perhaps too late for Germany to know what they should do before the festival.
- Long break between festivals: no personal experience with festival.
- PR material: good teaser, but a slight lack of specific information on contact persons. More information on paper to parents. Strategy how to encourage group leaders.
- Stronger integration with the IPG! Broader international team.
- Atmosphere in the Café, many different possibilities.
- Problem: transport to and from venue, late night programme in the school not very integrating.
- Role of ETS at the festival: the plans from last year weren't achieved, but the participants really get to know the European level of TS
- [For further evaluation, see the enclosed evaluation paper, prepared by the DPG.](#)
- **Future festivals (Jesper):**
- Jesper spoke about the future of the ETS festival, mainly in the context of a regular European YMCA festival every 5 years.
- Discussion: What are the current challenges to have an ETS festival?
- Difficult to find 1 country to run it, who will take the deficit?
- Develop strategies to promote it in ALL nations in the ETS, it is important to catch the leaders first, which will bring their groups.
- Many events and many groups have their own projects during the summer. Fear that the members won't be able to visit every event and they will decide upon the price.
- Idea: Make a festival part of bigger events? Use already living structures Fit ETS into Prague 2008? If the two continue as parallel structures, members will choose only one.
- But: You cannot "steal" people to have an intra-festival in Prague 2008.

- Possible solution: Develop the TS part in Prague 2008.
- Germany is thinking about hosting a next ETS festival, but it is difficult to fit it into the tight time schedule of the big TS nations.
- Vote: Should we look to have an ETS festival in between the YMCA festival but not the year before or after a YMCA festival?
- 7 in favour of, 4 against, 0 abstain
- The conference agreed that we want to have an ETS festival on our own in between the YMCA festival but not the year before or after a YMCA festival. All countries should go home and ask if they can host such a festival and inform the ETS Exec As Soon As Possible.

### **The TenSing idea & guidelines amendment proposal of Norway (Fredrik)**

- One of the Conference jobs is to lead a constant discussion about the TS idea. Last year, we came to a number of topics that could be used to specify an all-European TS Idea paper. Fredrik from Norway presented his proposal: a paper discussed by the Norwegians and edited by the Executive, presented to all delegates by email.
- [Enclosed: the final accepted paper.](#)
- What is the Goal of this paper: A COMMON AGREEMENT, that means something everyone can support and every national movement can support.
- What is the Public: everyone who wants to know what TenSing is. General public. It could be used as well to inform the Government and/or private supporters of TenSing.
- Discussion: the proposed paper was widely discussed to reflect all nations views of TS. The biggest discussion was about the 3C's concept and how to include them since some countries have their own explanation of the C's (even have more of them). Remark was made that exact wording should not be discussed here since every nation must translate the paper into their own languages and alternations may appear that way.
- Concerning the order of the paragraphs, it has been stated that it's not important, since the document order represents no priorities in themes and ideas.

Vote: unanimously agree on the statement of the TenSing Idea.

Vote on the guidelines: the document was included as an attachment to the guidelines. The guidelines were altered according to the Norwegian proposal: Vote: 11 in favour of, 0 against, 0 abstention

### **Prague 2008 presentation and brainstorming (Gorm, Misha)**

- Misha Guskov and Gorm Olesen presented the festival and the promotional and fundraising projects that are connected.
- Why do the EAY (=we) want another European YMCA Festival? Success of 2003. The festival is a main tool to fulfil the mission statement of the EAY. There is a new strategy: to have a festival in Central Europe every 5 years.
- Theme of the festival: REAL LIFE – place of YMCA in global dimension. What do we expect for the participants: celebrate, participate, experience. What does the EAY expect: mission awareness, strengthening, increases cooperation; improve global networking, communication & branding. What does the WAY expect: Christian fellowship.
- Misha and Gorm explained how the theme will be developed during the festival.
- Structure of the Festival: involve all levels of EAY. Separate legal entity to run the festival, because we don't have any guarantee movements. National festival coordinators will be responsible for the promoting. Local and national movements will provide financial guarantee.
- Venue: Vystaviste Holesovice (exhibition grounds) in central Prague. It is supposed that it will be much better than Letna Park. It is gated, but the security will still be a big issue.
- Volunteer motivation seminar in Litomyšl (March 24-28): volunteer national coordinators wanted! It is aimed at raising awareness of the necessity of volunteers for the event. National coordinators should participate.

- Support from the ETS needed.
- Group work: how to get the participants involved, brainstorming. Ideas presented. Many interesting ideas appeared, see the attachments.
- **Programme meeting in Litomysl, November 2006 (Gorm Olesen):**
- Steering group of Festival is very open to suggestions of the programme groups (PG). ETS is in charge of the TenSing part of the festival, to make the TS a big part of the festival. They need to have details about our ideas and then everything is possible. We should be involved from the very start.
- Presentation of the themes of festival days: it follows the explanatory paragraph. The WS should reflect the specific themes of each day. The participants need to have a feeling of the daily theme. Further descriptions will follow as the planning progresses.
- There is not yet a daily pattern. It is up to us to find ideas and according to them the pattern can be adjusted.
- There is a budget for ETS: 5.000€ (not confirmed yet). The future ETS responsible person or group will get some funding for their preparations.
- Idea: TS devotion (one of 10). A single group could be responsible (Czech???)
- Tasks for ETS: 1 person or a small group responsible, which will keep an eye on the TS part of festival. Was discussed later on in the conference

### **Discussion of the Conference Rules:**

The ETS Exec realized that there is no Conference rules statement and that it can bring some problems to the ETS Conference. The Czech delegation proposed a set of conference rules, which will be attached to the guidelines. The guidelines will be amended to include this conference rules. A proposal was sent to the delegates before the conference.

Changes of the proposed rules:

- Added: if there would be a surplus, it would be equally divided between the ETS Group and the hosting movement.
- Added: Conference fee: ETS has to agree on the conference fee.
- Added: only two members for each country can take part for the discount price (if they come from a country, which is entitled for) if they want to send more delegates, these pay the full price
- Added: last exemption for the cancellation fee: if the travel company goes bankrupt.
- German proposal: could we vote on important decisions by a two third majority? The conference skipped voting on that proposal.

Question: who covers the costs, when the reasons for the exceptions appear for many persons, or the whole conference needs to be cancelled?

Remarks:

- the ETS-Group doesn't have the money to cover this risk.
- the hosting movements should try to find an insurance, to cover the risks of a cancelled conference.
- everybody should try to get a travel insurance, which covers the costs, if he or she cannot come.

⇒ vote for the changed conference rules: 10 in favour, 1 abstention, and 0 against

⇒ Proposal to the Guidelines from **Czech Republic** for § 5 was accepted unanimously

### **Y-Event Prague 2008**

Conference brainstormed about ideas to have at the YMCA Prague 2008 Festival. These are notes that have been taken from the brainstorming session and will be sent to the steering group.

#### **Brainstorming:**

- concerts a lot, big, many, in churches
- TEN SING land
- passport, visa for non TEN SINGers, constitution (role play)
- café, with border, own land, information to distribute to others
- jam stage
- chill out area
- relaxation areas with TVs, Videos of concerts from TEN SING groups
- united colours of TEN SING
- Hall of fame; famous people starting from TEN SING be present there too (U2)
- pop idol (competition)
- common signs, have you talked to your neighbour today, introduce yourselves
- quiet area (taizée idea)
- merchandising (t-shirts, bracelets...)
- TEN SING party + guests
- workshops,
- throughout the whole week constantly, present product at the end (concert)
- integrated ones for TS and none TSers
- Wall of TEN SING: picture of the TEN SING group, make a mosaic with all of them
- TS-mail: chain mail, continuous letter written by many people given from person to person
- blind date
- talk shops
- special meeting time and place
- Flash mob (certain time, everybody sign out loud no matter where in Prague)
- Exhibition (extension of informational material) Aarhus- like
- common TEN SING sign (buttons, scarfs for nationality and identifying TEN SINGers)
- bracelets idea
- wall of hand prints "Helge was here"
- singspirational sing along
- TEN SING anthem
- books with TEN SING songs, notes, information... could also be sold during the festival
- animation by TS throughout festival
- language courses
- puzzle, or symbol for all program groups (mosaic)
- intercultural evenings, learning, languages, customs
- TEN SING mail, post, mail service/delivery
- TEN SING newspaper
- wall paper, gravity, possibility of being creative
- hidden treasures, messages under piece of glass under the sand
- guest book
- stars boulevard
- role play through the whole festival
- fundraising activities (leaders selling themselves (morally correct))
- asphalt drawings
- speakers corner
- crazy outdoor games
- TEN SING carnival/parade
- linked to how was TEN SING in the old times 100 years ago
- or TEN SING in the future
- Stomp land
- performances at the fountain
- karaoke, and competitions
- TEN SING in Prague city, may be raise money
- charity concerts/events by TEN SING
- full size puppet show
- TS puzzle (letter to national TS to bring useless, senseless things, put together make sense)
- ask all TS groups to bring a produced DVD, price for best actor, best production
- smiling competition
- help the city (collect garbage, clean, earn money with that...)
- United colours of devotions

### **Search for a coordinating Leader / preparation-team for the Y-Event:**

- Many Ideas are already present at the plans in other festival teams (Outdoor, street actions), we need to be aware, and how the TS programme fits well in the whole festival.
  - we need a coordinator, who will be the chief of ETS at the Festival, he/she works together with the Steering group of the festival, he or she should be present at the two coming programme forums and at the next ETS conference 2008
  - how many countries should be represented in the preparation team?
  - the most effective way for the group would be, that the steering group comes from one country or two very closed countries, which can communicate and meet easily. They will delegate different jobs to other countries
- Proposal by Jesper for a NDPG (Norwegian-Danish-planning group), which will delegate lots of the tasks to the different countries  
⇒ this proposal is accepted (in Favour: 9, abstention: 1, against: 0 (Russia missing))

### **Ideas of the brainstorming, the conference-members prefer** (without counted voting)

- Tent
- flash mob
- signs to identify the TEN SINGers
- united colours of TS
- TS Carnival
- intercultural exchange
- TS for non TEN SINGers, promote the TS Idea in the YMCA
- TS Area, which is not only a tent, rooms for the different C's of TS.

The ETS executive will make an order during the conference of all the Ideas and make a proposal of the main points of ETS at the TS-Area

### **Evaluation of the "Focus for the next two years" from 2005**

#### **Strengthening the national movements**

- in small countries, people in national teams had to work together to get to the festival ⇒ good impact, get to know people from other countries
- in DK TS became in the YMCA really famous, better reputation,
- NO, they felt a bit like at a Norwegian festival, strengthen their self-esteem

#### Proposals:

- international leadership training, how to establish national works
- no comments on the national reports, here it would be helpful to get some reactions ⇒ improve troubleshooting projects

#### **Facilitating European networking**

- many groups agreed, that many group cooperate on the local level, without any need of support
- festival brought many contacts, at the festival there was missing a contact place
- on the Festival website there was no place of exchange
- some groups started exchanges out of the ETS national reports
- some national leaders were brought together at the festival
- website: something like a marketplace needed, connection for the national movement
- Information of funding should be promoted better
- Idea: speed-dating of choirs

### **TS Idea**

- difficult theme
- paper: TS-idea successfully agreed on
- good process within the ETS, in some national movements the TS Idea is discussed (Belarus, Ukraine, Germany)

### **Increase the Christian aspect in TS**

- Quality of the devotions etc. at the ETS festival was very good, good balance necessary, more Quality than Quantity
- in some countries the festival had good influence, took fears of the parents away, that TS might be a sect
- sometimes it seems that on a higher level the Christian aspect is stronger
- the high quality should be kept
- question if the European level is the right place to strengthen this aspect and if the National, local level is the better place

### **4. Focus points for the next two years**

The conference voted on a development of the ETS Focus for the next two years (2007-2009): These are the selected main points:

- strengthening the Christian aspect of TEN SING
- TEN SING awareness at the YMCA-festival 2008
- Networking and exchange of practice and people
- spread TEN SING Ideas in new countries

### **Proposal of the Danish group to the §6 in the Guidelines**

- Denmark proposal to add the sentence "*The 5 Members of the Executive Group should consist of both female and male members.*" was refused: (in favour: 3 against: 5, abstention: 3)

- the proposal, to add in this paragraph the sentence (from 3 different versions chosen):  
**"5 members is not a restriction to having a steering group. If at the conference there can not be chosen 5 members, the executive Group has permission to appoint the last member without a conference voting to serve until the next conference."**

was accepted unanimously (11 votes in favour of, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

### **Year of exchange 2009**

- Stepan presented the different focus and what we can understand in the name of Year of Exchange
  - we want to support **group exchange** ⇒ there are lots of funds, to get money for these
  - Exchange of **volunteers**, in the YMCA, in the frame of the Vfe/EVS project
  - Exchange of Contacts, Ideas and solutions (Website could become a database)
  - workshop 2008 at the festival to participate in the year of exchange
  - Idea to build a "Exchange-year-group" which is caring about this and will prepare, international leader training, find a star of the year

- Interpreters (Translators are needed for the different regional events)
- it would be good, to have soon some material, because some countries are planning at the end of 2007 the year 2009
- **Stepan** invites others to join. Germany volunteered to cooperate with him in this group. A meeting is scheduled on Friday evening.

### **Focus for the next two years 2007-2009**

Discussion about the four phrases (see ETS Focus discussion above):

Christian aspect: no changes

Second one: change order of underpoints

Third one: Discussion of what is Networking?

Networking is:

- an overall title for any kind of building contacts
- exchange of practices and people is a focus of networking

That's it:

- Develop the Christian aspect of Ten Sing
- YMCA festival 2008
  - Secure a stimulating TEN SING programme
  - Increase Ten Sing awareness
- Facilitate networking, especially the exchange of people practices
- Establish TEN SING in new countries

The points are in a random order, the order doesn't imply priority.

Time frame: until when do we want to have the focus?

Decision: 2007-2009 which means we discuss it again at the conference in 2010.

Wish: Exec gives a draft of an aim paper for the focus.

The Focus points need some more concrete aims. Exec should prepare a paper until the next conference. But one main aim is the festival in 2008.

Jesper highlights that it is very important that the delegates carry the things home and also discuss it with their national TS work and then bring it back to the conference again next year.

### **Prague 2008 – topics discussed by the ETS Exec**

I what should be there anyway? (organised by the Festival)

- TS Land area
- Lots of space for concerts
- Jam Stage
- WS
- Chill out area

II What the ETS should provide?

- TS Land idea (what will happen in the Land)
- TS identity (common sign, movement...)
- Flash mob
- TS hall of Fame
- United colours of TS
- TS song

- Euro-singing contest (not between TS groups, but rather soloists or anything)
- WS for and about TS
- TS outreach
- Carnival

It's a focus, but the other ideas will also go to the steering group.

Germany will take the ideas back to Germany esp. to the group who is already responsible for the "Global Village" and then feedback to the DNPG. All countries have to go back and have a look what they want.

Send ideas to: [ets@kfum-kfuk.dk](mailto:ets@kfum-kfuk.dk)

### **Volunteer and price specifications:**

Volunteers are:

- at least 4 hours per day of work
- Western 120 €, Eastern 60 €
- Volunteers Coordinators meeting at 23-28 March 2007 in Litomysl

Prices:

- West: Early Bird 300 €, (340 €), 380 €
- New EU: Early Bird 150 €, (170 €), 190 €
- Eastern: Early Bird 80 €, (100 €), 120 €

Without accommodation: 250 €

Czech delegation offers to organise alternative accommodation, but it's not possible for everybody and the discount will not be that important.

### **Finance group**

Why? We use the money we have earned at the ETS Festival in Litomysl in 1999. But since then we just spend money, there is no income. The finance group shall think about fundraising. Every national movement should go back and find a person who will be in this group. Germany is asked to take over the leading: Benjamin said yes.

Idea: 20 or 50 or 100 € Club. Something like a "Friends of ETS" Club.

### **Elections**

There are two places to fill. Jason Worlock/England and Nadine Jording/Germany were nominated. Jason is elected with 11 votes, Nadine is elected with 10 votes.

### **Conference**

Switzerland not yet know, but will check it further and report back to the Ex. latest 20.3.2007. If Switzerland is not able to host it, Norway will check it. Worst case -> Czech will take over. Week 8 or 9 in 2008. Which one doesn't matter.

### **Year of Exchange**

Small group met and worked on the topic. Three main points:

1. Find out about EU funding (-> Stepan)
2. What must be the content of the leader training?
3. Promotion of the year. Idea was to make small movies. Who has people who could do that?

Answers from the participants:

2. nearly no reaction, just general yes, we want to do it. Silke highlights the "How to do an group exchange?"

4. Ukraine (Gerasymlyuk, Pechenyuk), England (TS Kingswood), Norway (Harald Haugerud)

### **Budget for next year**

Income

ETS conf. 2007 200 €

Swiss Donation 50 €

Expenditures

Donation to South Africa from YMCA 2003		850 €
EAY General Assembly		
ETS Executive Group		500 €
Year of Exchange promotion		700 €
Website		70 €

Vote: unanimously accepted

### **Miscellaneous**

Newsletter on the website? Who will write the newsletter?

Is there an option to be informed if something is new on the page? Technically it's possible.

What about e-mail if there are news on the web page?

Easiest way from Ex. is to send around the reports, which it has to do it for EAY anyway.

Is there technically the possibility to have an e-mailing list? If yes, let's do it.

Suggestion: on EAY level there is a digital event brochure. Just put your events there and there will be a link to ETS page.

### **Price of Festival:**

Suggestion: another letter to the steering group from the ETS conference. Make sure that we appreciate the Festival and think it's important but we fear that not a lot of TSgers will come. Examples: Germans didn't come to ETS festival. TT price in comparison (275 € is the maximum). Not the young people should pay for the EAY.

In Western countries, there are so many other options young people can choose. Therefore, price has a strong meaning to them and it will decide.

Lithuania: It's difficult to convince young people why they have to pay for the same festival than 2003 60% more because Lithuania has been moved to the Central European category?

Belarus: you can't compare Eastern and Western prices. Festival in Denmark was very expensive, because visa costs extra; there are no cheap flights.

Suggestion: have a lower price for young people.

The conference assigns the Ex. to write a letter to the steering group of Festival. Copy to the nations. Letter to Olga until End of February.

### **News from the world:**

Slovakia: they are working in close cooperation with Czechs, in the summer we had a common summer camp with Saxony, in autumn we had our Czechoslovak TS Festival that was a big success. We have a project to connect both movements in the organisation level as well.

Lithuania: offers to host the conference 2009.

Georgia: There was a training done by a small group of Germans. They have founded two groups, in Telavi and in Kodjori. One is in a children's' home.

Sweden: three groups. Connection with a regional secretary.

Hungary: One German TS group will have a camp with TS group from Hungary.

Romania: there is a group working like TS.

Finland: no response

Bulgaria: have a sort of TS

TS Norway was in Former Yugoslavia, but don't know.

Northern Ireland: one group but difficult

Latvia: there is one group in Livia.

Germany has several "Volunteers for Europe" placements for Ten Singers. Contact Silke if you have interested people.

Pictures of conference will be at [www.flickr.com/photos/gormolesen](http://www.flickr.com/photos/gormolesen). If you need higher resolution, contact Gorm.