

# **Working Paper on**

## **International Leadership Training 2008-2010 (PYD 9013)**

### **Background**

The LWF has a history of training young leaders in a combined global/regional program. The focus of this particular program is to help young leaders to participate meaningfully in their home churches and to make an impact on the global level. For this, the close connection to the LWF General Assembly 2010 is helpful and will be used.

### **Theme development**

The theme of the General Assembly in Stuttgart 2010 is "*Give us today our daily bread*". It is about what we need to live, what are the essentials of life. To think about a youth contribution to the theme means to explore the needs young people discover in themselves and in their societies – socially, materially and spiritually. The Leadership Training does not promote a certain thematic focus (like globalization) from the start but develops the priority areas together with the participants.

### **Goals for the program (from SoN)**

- "Enhanced communication, constructive interactions and mutual accountability between youth and church
- Youth structures are promoted in LWF member churches to secure and enhance interactions between local church and local youth
- Strengthened youth leadership in the life of the LWF communion and its member churches
- Thinking globally and responding locally is encouraged."

In order to achieve these goals, a leadership training needs to focus on the participants:

### ***Aims for the Participants (SoN application)***

#### **1. Area: Values**

- Faith grateful for God's grace
- Participation of children, youth and young adults as an important part of being church
- Church as an inclusive communion of women and men, young and old, people with different abilities, health issues etc.
- Dignity of all human beings
- Justice for all people in God's creation
- Accountability to each other

## **2. Area: Knowledge**

- Knowledge about the assembly theme and its implications for the youth of the region.
- Knowledge about the Lutheran World Federation and youth participation both in the regions and globally.
- Basic knowledge about the theological understanding of communion and youth participation.
- Critical and constructive understanding of leadership and power in the church.

## **3. Area: Skills**

- Basic skills in reading bible with other young people
- Skills in inter-cultural interaction.
- Ability to critique constructively the project proposals of others.
- Group facilitation and group motivation skills.
- Basic project planning and project implementation skills.
- Advocacy skills.

## **Participants' profile**

The participants are young leaders in the youth ministry of their churches (there is going to be an effort to keep the average age under 25 years). They have already shown great potential and are committed to make the youth's voice heard in the their churches.

Means of Learning:

- Regional Seminar
- Participants' Project: A limited activity on the local or National level
- Youth Pre-Assembly
- General Assembly as Steward (in individual cases as delegate)
- Global Debriefing seminar

## **Larger Process Design: Campaign**

The leadership training is not a stand alone event but part of a global youth campaign culminating at the Stuttgart General Assembly 2010.

There are two major goals for the campaign:

- A push for more youth participation in LWF member churches.
- A youth contribution to the assembly theme.

The campaign would provide a conceptual framework for the entire work of the youth desk up to the assembly. The individual programs and events of the youth desk are to be seen in connection to the larger campaign goals. The campaign is spearheaded by the projects of the leadership training participants but can be accompanied by other projects in member churches.

## Phases of the project:

1. *Announcement* of the program in the respective region
2. *Selection of participants*
3. *Final Preparation* with the input of participants (based on the application essay)
4. *Regional Workshop*: Training and individual project planning
5. *Final Project Draft*: Participants contextualize their workshop idea and test feasibility (The final draft is read and approved by the youth desk).
6. *Project Implementation* (accompanied by the youth desk and the regional mentors)
7. *Project Reporting*
8. *Assembly participation* (as stewards or delegates)
9. *Debriefing* and Celebration event after the assembly

## Methodology and Process

**Note:** The term “project” is used to describe a planned activity that has a clear beginning and a clear end. A “project” intends to achieve clearly stated objectives and can be evaluated accordingly. In many cases this method is helpful for youth ministry and other church activities. Young leaders can utilize this methodology in order to achieve the goals of young people. The use of the term and the methodology, however, is not intended to create the impression that projects are always funded by outside partners.

The **regional workshops** are being conducted together with a volunteer mentor from the respective region.

- The program is based on a strong interrelation of group learning and own project work. The Regional training sessions are being conducted in a workshop style: During the course of the week, the participants are going to be trained in important aspects of project work and subsequently utilize the newly gained skills in the development of their own project.
- Presentations, discussions and bible studies on the regional focus of the larger theme deepen the understanding of the context and the problems at hand. The groups as a whole identifies what the priorities of the theme are in their region.

After the workshop week, the participants **finalize their project proposals** by finding and involving other youth or young adults in their communities and to lobby their decision-making bodies to support their idea. The re-drafted project proposal receives comments by both the youth desk and mentor and is being approved by the youth desk.

The participants receive a small grant to assist them with the **implementation** of their projects. The participants are encouraged to report about their projects and the hurdles they discover continuously. After the implementation phase, a final report is submitted. This is the prerequisite to be able to attend the next steps of the program.

The participants bring their experiences from their projects back to the global level by participating in the **Pre-Assembly Youth Conference** and as stewards (if they are not delegates) in the **General Assembly in Stuttgart**. The participants translate their insights from the project work in youth participation projects to policy recommendations. Thus, they gain further experience and knowledge about advocacy and democratic processes in the church.

A **debriefing event** after the assembly focuses on further skill training as requested by the participants, a thorough evaluation of the whole program and a concluding youth message.

It is integral to the program that on all stages, there is time for **sharing and reflexion**. This is necessary to enable to learn.

## Expected Outcome

The program will draw strong attention to the issues young people see as most relevant in their churches. In their struggle to get their voices heard, structures or the lack of structures of youth participation is being revisited. The program will produce both thematic contributions to the member churches and LWF and will propose ways to increase youth participation.

## Time Schedule

	<i>Asia/Pacific</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>The Americas</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Global</i>
Invitation Letters	August 2007	January 2008	June 2008	September 2007	-
Application Deadline	November 2007	March 2008	September 2008	November 2008	-
Selection	December 2008	April 2008	October 2008	December 2008	-
Regional Meeting	March 2008	September 2008	January 2009	March 2009	-
Project Proposal deadline	May 2008	November 2008	March 2009	May 2009	-
Project Phase	May 2008 - September 2009	November 2008 – October 2009	March 2009 – January 2010	May 2009 – March 2010	-
Project Reporting	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	February 2010	April 2010	-
Pre-Assembly Youth Conference	-	-	-	-	Jul 2010
General Assembly	-	-	-	-	July 2010
Global Debriefing Session	-	-	-	-	Jul/Aug 2010

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