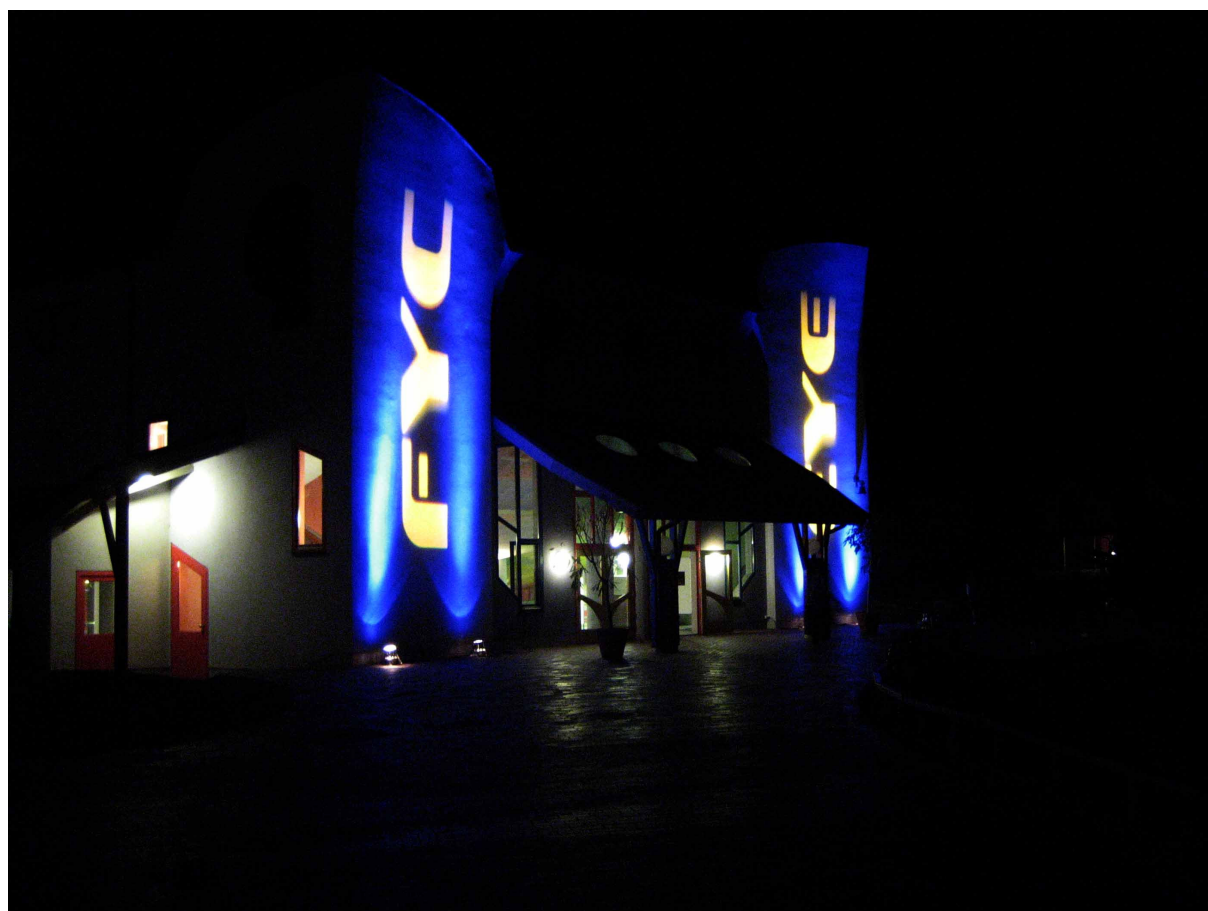


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Evaluation of the FYC in Düsseldorf 2006 and prospects for the future



Evaluation of the FYC in Düsseldorf 2006 and prospects for the future.....	1
Prolog.....	2
Goals of FYC.....	2
The EYE Festival.....	2
Original idea	2
Important features	3
Evaluation of the FYC in Düsseldorf 2006.....	3
Successes of the EYE 2006.....	3
Things to improve.....	3
The future of FYC	4

Prolog

This report aims to fix the fundamental ideas of the Forum for Young Citizens and the European Young Expressions festival, evaluate the FYC in Düsseldorf 2006 and finally give proposals for the future development of the Forum. This report will be sent to all city councils of the Eurocities and all former and present FYC members. The goal is to inform and thus facilitate communication between city councils and FYC members.

Goals of FYC

- Exchange experiences and best practices of European youth culture policy, primarily between young people but leading up to an interaction with politicians.
- Identify common problems young people have, linked to culture, and proposing solutions.
- Inform politicians and provide an inside view of the situation of young Europeans and important issues for them.
- Present participants as individuals but also as representatives of their cities, able to in a relevant way inform about the situation of youth culture policy in their city.
- Create a network to facilitate communication between young people in Europe.

The EYE Festival

Original idea

- Organize simultaneous festivals in several cities and through media channels connect them into one big EYE festival.
- Use the public space so that art will be everywhere, e.g. in the form of art exhibitions on the outside of house walls. By bringing the art to the people we will reach a big audience and encourage young people to get involved in culture
- Encourage young people to express themselves and interact. There is a lot of potential out there.
- Exchange feelings and experiences. This meeting place will enable discussions about European cultures, ideas and trends.
- Create a network between European countries which will make artists feel part of a process towards greater freedom and understanding.

Important features

- Enabling a 24 hour program. When there are no local shows you show the performances from the other festivals.
- Placing of the screens so as to create a feeling of being at one huge international event. This could be done by placing screens on the concerts cite so that you, while you enjoy a concert at the same time can see people in another town dancing and jumping to a concert of theirs.
- Handing out a common magazine to all host cities, containing the festival program for all cities, information about artists, art forms and the cities themselves. This would increase knowledge about the cities and hopefully encourage young people to travel and contact new cultures.
- Create information points across the festival area with information about existing culture in your city, organizations etc.
- Enhance interaction. This can be done through creative spots such as a blank canvas, a speaker's corner, a virtual wall and workshops.

Evaluation of the FYC in Düsseldorf 2006

In July 2006 the FYC session took the form of the first ever European Young Expressions (EYE) festival. The idea of the EYE festival was born in the Bergen forum in 2004 and further developed in Bristol 2005.

Approximately 120 young people, artists and FYC-delegates, from nine different countries participated in performances, workshops and discussions during the four days in Düsseldorf. The festival was made possible by the voluntary work of the diligent and devoted Düsseldorf team.

The city of Düsseldorf sponsored accommodation and equipment as well as the festival location. This festival was a pilot project to find out how the original idea of the EYE festival should best be implemented.

Successes of the EYE 2006

- Good mixture of art forms presented, we saw everything from contemporary dance, trough surrealistic street theatre to heavy metal.
- Multicultural atmosphere. Youth from all over Europe attended the session and for many it was the first opportunity to meet and interact with people from such a wide range of cultures.
- We made it real! Young people were involved in all steps of the process, from idea to implementation.
- High quality performances, which shows potential for growth and increased interest.

Things to improve

- The core idea of the EYE festival, to use the public space as an arena for culture, can be reached by placing the festival closer to the city center.
- To reach a larger audience more promotion is needed, for example using the city councils existing data base to invite youth organizations and other relevant groups.
- The communication between FYC members, artists and city councils has left a lot to wish for.
- Not enough interaction. FYC members and artist should take bigger part in planning, organizing and implementing the festival.

- The forum element was partially lost since the organizational issues of the festival took up too much time. More time has to be devoted to discussions and forum workshops.
- Not enough effort was put in to bringing together the participants as a group. It is crucial to make people feel involved.
- It is important that we have a good technical team, e.g. sound and light technicians and curators, willing to share their knowledge.

The future of FYC

There is an evident problem of continuity within the FYC organization and the lack of communication between the city councils and FYC members has shown to be problematic. Many artists and even new FYC-members came to Düsseldorf feeling totally unprepared, not knowing enough about the history and the goal of the FYC and the EYE in order to participate in the forum discussions. It is crucial that we solve these problems if we want the project to evolve and progress.

We suggest the following changes and amendments to the form of the forum:

- Putting together an information pack containing the Stockholm manual, the summary of the ideas developed in Bergen 2005, this report, the DVD documentaries made at each forum and summaries from all forums to come. This information pack should be given to all new FYC-members and participating artists as well as the officials involved in the project. This information pack should also contain guidelines for and general tasks of FYC members.
- Improve communication, requiring efforts from both the city councils and the FYC-delegates. The delegates should update their council on what happened on the last forum. Being a delegate is not an assignment that ends when you get back home, the communication with the council has to remain.
- The communication has due to a new website¹, containing an online forum, been simplified. Through the online forum FYC-delegates and EYE-artists can exchange information and keep each other updated on relevant issues. This way the forum will continue to exist after a session, we hope that this will deepen the bond between the cities and delegates and help to take discussions concerning for example best practice even further. The site also contains a short presentation of each FYC city, a photo album and offers the possibility to post articles about youth culture in your city.
- Some city councils want to change FYC delegates each year and are reluctant to let older, more experienced, participants go as well. Ensuring that new people are given the possibility to join and share their ideas is important but at the same time continuity is a basic condition that has to be fulfilled if we want the forum to be able to pull off bigger projects (e.g. the EYE festival) and progress in discussions. We therefore suggest a system of mentorship amongst the FYC-members: each member is allowed to be a member of the forum for a maximum of four years: after two years a new delegate joins in, who the first member has to inform about the forum and help prepare for the session: after two years of mentoring the old member drops out and a new jumps in, and a new cycle of mentorship begins. This would create a strong foundation for the FYC and ensure that the new delegates feel involved right from the start.
- Create pamphlets with comprehensive, concise information about the Forum and the EYE suitable for artists and public.

¹ www.forumforyoungcitizens.org

- The year of Intercultural Dialog 2008. The European Commission has dedicated year 2008 to Intercultural Dialog and chosen to focus on the issues of
 1. Young people
 2. Integration and immigrants
 3. Dialog between religions

The FYC will be held in Turko this year and we plan to participate to this set theme. The issues are relevant to all young Europeans and would be a natural part of the forum discussions. We suggest continuous work leading up to a big event in Turku. This should include the holding of local FYC sessions, involving local youth from different backgrounds, social classes and areas to ensure diversity in discussion. Discussing partially the same questions in all local forums and then collecting this information to present at the international forum will give a more correct description of the situation in Europe and give a stronger foundation for future forum tasks.

- An interesting topic to discuss at coming forums is the question of a European identity.
- Den Haag will host the FYC in 2007.
 1. Here the EYE festival could be further developed, aiming towards implementing more of the original ideas (see outline attached).
 2. We could prepare through local forums, as described above, to discuss the issues of intercultural dialog. Digging deeper into these questions, finding new relevant points of interest and further defining our goals and tasks in respect to Turko, will result in a more profound preparation and thus a more interesting session in 2008.
 3. With the meeting in Düsseldorf in mind, we find that the best structure of the FYC in Den Haag would be a combination of workshops, festival and discussions, preferably held in that chronological order. It is good to have the festival in the beginning as a way to gather the group. The forum elements must not get lost and by having the forum after the festival we ensure that the discussions can focus on relevant issues and not only preparation for the festival.