

Trustee's report of the Charitable Committee of European and Middle East Young Friends (EMEYF) for the financial year 2017

Registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, Number 328611

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Trustees Financial Year 2017: Rachael Booth, Esther Köhring, Annie Womack, Emmie Touwen, Rose Almond, Evan Welkin, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisette Nijboer.

Trustees as of the date of this report: Rose Almond, Esther Köhring, Silja Pfeiffer, Lisette Nijboer.

Aims and structure of the organisation

EMEYF aims to promote religion according to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends (commonly known as Quakers), particularly amongst young people, to promote, maintain, improve and advance education, and to support the work in the fields of religion and education of the Religious Society of Friends in Europe and the Middle East. In particular, these aims are fulfilled through organising gatherings and workshops for young Quakers from this area and by building links to other Quaker organisations, to make the voice of our generation heard.

The structure of EMEYF ChC is detailed in the constitution

<http://www.emeyf.org/sites/emeyf.org/files/emeyf-chc-constitution.pdf>

As a Quaker organisation, we follow the Quaker business method. All decisions made are published on our website www.emeyf.org.

Activities and objectives in the year 2017

Activities in 2017 included a Spring Gathering in Poland, which brought together Young Quakers from various countries, including notably three families with children, two of these from Russia. The theme of the gathering was "Sustainability", and was explored in diverse ways and from various perspectives. Both aspects resulted in reevaluating some of our policies, for example our policy for children at Gatherings and our travel compensation scheme. Later in the year we also started updating our data policies and Safeguarding policies.

EMEYF sent representatives to other Quaker Bodies: to the European and Middle east Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC-EMES) and to the Quaker Council of European Affairs.

At Annual Meeting in Brussels, EMEYF added an extra workshop day to the usual weekend-long event, to strengthen the community. It was devoted to the Living Archive Project, a third-party-funded project EMEYF is running at the moment, to engage with its past in order to encourage its future.

Achievements and Performance

Both Gatherings were well attended and feedback from participants shows the importance of the events for the individuals, and the impact it has on their home communities.

In particular, links to Friends in Russia have been strengthened, so much that there are plans for a gathering in Russia in 2019.

After 2016 having been such a busy year, celebrating our 30 year jubilee, 2017 was a year of consolidation and review, as reflected in the Living Archives Project and the review of policies, resulting in a bigger community involvement in these topics.

More importantly, though, EMEYF managed to nurture isolated individuals, who are living their faith in difficult situations all over Europe, and to build a network for Young People to work together.

Financial Review

As discussed in the financial year 2016 Financial Review, the jubilee activities in 2016 resulted in a five times higher than usual turnover and a surplus, which was used for activities in 2017. Financial year 2017 had a regular turnover again and ended with a planned deficit in order to reduce our reserves held. In 2017, there were no fundraising activities directed at organisations, but our ongoing small-scale support scheme resulted in some donations, nonetheless.

The budget for 2017 and 2018 is publicly available at <http://www.emeyf.org>

Reserves are usually held to cover 12 -18 months of typical expenditure (around 10.000 Euros), as the organisation's income varies due to not having regular income, but irregular donations.

EMEYF does not have any debts or interest in property.