



YOUTH STRATEGY (PROJECT)

In accord with the decisions of the Cevaa Executive Council (particularly ...) and the resolutions of the General Assembly (...), the Youth Workers and Leaders of the Cevaa member Churches, meeting from March 12 to 18, 2012, at Ho (EP Church, Ghana), propose that the Cevaa authoritative bodies adopt a new Strategy which is itself an expression of the youth actions decided at the GA held in Bouznika, Morocco, in 2006.

Introduction:

The Cevaa, aware of the importance of youth activities for the development and expression of the young people of our Community of action and sharing (on the spiritual, moral, and intellectual levels as well as the physical one), decides to set up a new Youth Strategy which aims mainly:

- ***For the Cevaa:*** *In setting up a genuine youth dynamic which promotes meeting together and intercultural reflection among youth workers and leaders, and encourages training for them so that they can become a relay team (those who transmit acquired knowledge) on the regional and local levels.*
- ***For the Churches:*** *In having shared meetings and actions so that youth leaders and the youth themselves can, first of all, get to know one another and work together, and then also apply the Cevaa's main themes.*
- ***For the young people:*** *To raise up and stimulate Cevaa young people to take initiatives in order to carry out their own life projects, and to prepare them to assume responsibilities in the Church and in society, with the goal of their becoming responsible Christians and citizens.*

The new Youth Strategy that we propose includes six main axes:

I. Training for Youth Workers and Leaders:

Training for youth workers and leaders is a necessity. The organization of training seminars should consequently be continued, with one very big difference from what has been done up until now:

- The training of youth workers and leaders will take place in international seminars. This will be training for trainers who will, in returning home, train their young people in local, regional, and bilateral camps. These training seminars for youth workers and leaders will be offered to one worker and one leader from each Church. One of these two persons should be a male. Training for a greater number of young people will be done from now on in regional or bilateral youth camps with the “Cevaa label” (see point II).

II. Regional or bilateral youth camps with the “Cevaa label”

These will be organized by the Churches themselves. They will follow the themes decided by the various Cevaa authorities. The resource persons who will lead these youth camps will be those who have been trained at the international training camps already mentioned. The organization of these camps will be under the responsibility of the youth workers and leaders who have (if possible) taken the training for youth workers and leaders. These camps will not be organized by the Cevaa Secretariat, but the Secretariat will offer its assistance (technical assistance, an outside point of view concerning the project, links to resource persons, and some eventual financial help).

The young people who take part in youth camps with the “Cevaa” label should be between 18 and 25 years old.

III. Exchanges of persons and sharing of capacities:

The exchanges of persons between Cevaa young people that are already taking place should be continued, in expanding them to include sharing of knowledge, methods, and materials.

Up until now in the Cevaa, the existing youth exchanges take place through visits between certain groups of young people from Europe to Africa and vice versa. There are also exchanges that take place during major events organized especially by Churches in Europe where young people from Africa or the Pacific region are invited. It is important that from now on youth workers and leaders or young people from the other Cevaa regions be invited to attend major youth events held for all the member Churches.

In addition to all that is already being done, it is hoped that from now on training internships can be offered for youth workers, youth leaders, and

young people whenever a member Church organizes training or a project on a given theme.

In the same way, it is hoped that the possibility of taking training similar to the Brevet d'Aptitude à la Fonction d'Animateur (BAFA) can be offered or suggested to youth workers, leaders, and to young people who do not have the possibility of taking it.

IV. Permanent accompaniment and giving responsibilities to Cevaa young people:

Accompaniment for young people should be one of the axes of the new Youth Strategy. In light of the situation our world finds itself in at this time, with on one hand the disintegration of moral and spiritual values and youth unemployment on the other hand, we think that young people have an imperative need to be accompanied and given responsibilities.

- Spiritual and ethical accompaniment
- Professional accompaniment (entrepreneurship and employment, monitoring, etc.)

To show their commitment, the youth workers and leaders who met at Ho (Ghana) propose that the young people of their Churches contribute annually in support of the youth activities of the Cevaa in the amount of at least (depending on the country) 1€, 1Ghc, 100 CFA francs, 100 CFP, etc.

V. Setting up a network of Youth Workers and Leaders:

Creating a network of youth workers and leaders should be one of the axes of the new Youth Strategy of the Cevaa. It would include the youth workers and leaders of the Cevaa member Churches. This network would be responsible for keeping the flame of youth work alive within the Cevaa Community. It would meet together face-to-face during one of the training seminars for youth workers and leaders once every two years to do an evaluation, preferably before a Cevaa General Assembly is held (see point I). The rest of the time it would meet virtually (by Internet).

VI. Appoint someone in the Cevaa Secretariat to be responsible for Youth Activities:

Designating or recruiting an employee in the Cevaa Secretariat to be in charge of youth activities seems to us to be an unavoidable element in order

to guarantee the success of the new Youth Strategy that we propose for our community of action and sharing.

Since young people are a priority for the Cevaa, as stated in our official documents (minutes and resolutions of the GA, decisions of the Executive Council ...), it is necessary to give the Cevaa's youth dynamic the means it needs in order to function correctly.

Themes or subjects to be taken into account in the training of young people and/or the youth workers and leaders:

Training for young people in human rights and citizenship, in intercultural and interreligious themes which were handled during previous training sessions should continue to be included in future training.

In addition to these themes and subjects, other subjects should be taken into account from now on, especially:

- Protection of the environment (ecology)
- Holistic development
- Conflict resolution
- Christian values/ethics
- Youth entrepreneurship and leadership
- Globalization and the influence of new technologies
- Women's place in leadership
- Youth and sexuality

Ho, 3/17/2012

