

## Youth Unify - Profile

### **Vision**

*Our vision is for every YMCA in Europe to have at least one young leader who has had a life changing encounter with Jesus and is committed to living for his Kingdom in their YMCA.*



At YMCA Youth Unify, Jesus Christ is at the heart of all that we do. Inspired by His message of love, unity, and service, we are a platform where young people from all walks of life can come together to grow in faith, character, and leadership.

We are committed to fostering an environment where every young person feels loved, valued, and empowered to live out their God-given potential.

Rooted in the Christian values of the YMCA, we bring together young YMCA leaders, offering them a place where they can connect, support one another, and develop the skills they need to serve both their local communities and the world. Through camps, faith-centered mentorship, service projects, and leadership programmes, we aim to inspire a generation of young leaders who reflect Christ's love in everything they do.

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The following areas are key focus points for Youth Unify:

- Strengthen (Personal & Institutional) Christian Identities
- Train Leaders
- Serve the YMCA
- Cultivate Unity & Reconciliation

## **1. Strengthen (Personal & Institutional) Christian Identities**

At Youth Unify, we are dedicated to fostering both personal and collective Christian identities. We believe that a strong foundation in faith empowers young leaders to live authentically and serve with purpose. Our work begins by encouraging personal spiritual growth, helping individuals deepen their relationship with God and discover how their faith can guide their decisions and actions.

On an institutional level, we aim to reinforce the Christian roots of YMCA organisations by creating spaces where faith is celebrated and integrated into their mission. We aim to empower both individuals and institutions to confidently express their faith, ensuring the YMCA remains a movement grounded in its mission to serve God through serving others.

*"Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."*

— Colossians 2:7

## **2. Train Leaders**

At Youth Unify, we recognize the importance of mentorship and training in shaping the next generation of leaders. We create opportunities for young people to grow together in faith and leadership through meaningful connections with mentors, peers, and online training programs.

Our leadership development focuses on equipping young leaders with skills rooted in Christian values, fostering their ability to lead with integrity and compassion. Through mentorship, online learning, workshops, and camps, we ensure that young leaders feel supported, guided, and connected as they navigate their journey within the YMCA, their churches, and their communities.

By embracing one another in a spirit of unity and care, we aim to develop leaders who reflect Christ's love and serve with courage, humility, and purpose.

*"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

— 2 Timothy 2:2

### **3. Serve the YMCA**

We are dedicated to strengthening the YMCA movement by equipping young leaders with the tools, values, and motivation to serve both their local and global YMCA communities. This includes fostering a deep understanding of the YMCA's mission and empowering young leaders to actively contribute to its goals.

Practical initiatives could include organising youth-led programs that address community needs, participating in international YMCA campaigns, and collaborating on projects that align with the YMCA's global priorities.

By encouraging active service and leadership, we help young people become ambassadors for the YMCA's Christian foundation, ensuring the movement continues to thrive and impact lives worldwide.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

— 1 Peter 4:10

### **4. Cultivate Unity and Reconciliation**

At Youth Unify, we believe true peace begins with reconciliation—both with God and with one another. Rooted in Christ's teachings of forgiveness and grace, we aim to inspire young leaders to be bridge-builders in their communities. This includes fostering unity within the YMCA, addressing divisions, and promoting healing through faith-based initiatives.

Practical steps include workshops on conflict resolution, outreach projects that encourage mutual understanding, and initiatives that promote cooperation and shared purpose. By emphasizing our shared identity as God's children, we seek to build a culture of love, acceptance, and peace.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."*

— Matthew 5:9

## Main Activities

The main event each year is the **Youth Unify Camp**. Here young leaders are equipped to serve the YMCA powerfully and effectively. It is perfect for young people, volunteers and staff from local YMCAs and also those working in national or international contexts.



Our programme is made up of Christian spirituality, high quality leadership training and many opportunities for connecting and developing friendships with young people from across Europe and beyond.

We offer **Online Development Training** for young YMCA leaders, designed to foster personal and leadership development. This course provides an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of the YMCA's history, mission, and governance, while also exploring key topics such as mental health, volunteerism, and effective communication.

Through mentorship and practical learning, participants develop skills to enhance their leadership capacity and contribute to their communities. The training encourages the creation of meaningful projects that can be applied within the YMCA or church settings, providing a platform for growth and service.

Youth Unify partners in organising a growing number of **mission trips and regional gatherings** each year. These events provide valuable opportunities for participants to deepen their spiritual growth and strengthen relationships. By collaborating on these initiatives, Youth Unify amplifies its impact, inspiring young people to live out their values both locally and globally.

## **History**

The first Youth Unify camp was held in Poland in 2015. Since then events have been held annually in Romania, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. During the COVID pandemic there were regional mission trips and Youth Unify has supported the running of larger YMCA events across Europe.

Since Youth Unify began we have directly supported the development of young leaders in 20 nations

## **Who leads Youth Unify?**

Youth Unify is overseen by a Governance Group of senior YMCA leaders from Czech Republic, England & Wales, Germany, Hungary, Scotland and Ukraine.

The operational activities are delivered by a diverse Planning Team of young leaders from across the continent.