



## **EYP SWITZERLAND**

### **Board election 2014-15 – candidate manifesto**

#### **Yannick Weber**

#### **Name, age, occupation, hobbies:**

Yannick Weber, born 25.4.1996, Law student at the University of Zurich, passionate actor who enjoys playing the drums and likes to attend EYP Sessions.

#### **What position are you running for?**

1. External Affairs

#### **What are your school, university and life plans from February 2014 until February 2015?**

Still in my first year of University, I plan to continue pursuing my bachelor's degree, which I hope to obtain by 2016. I will therefore be living and studying (possibly working) in Zurich during the relevant period. Personally, I find it very important that board members reside within Switzerland, not only to make attendance of sessions and other events possible, but also to ensure that urgent meetings can be arranged at short notice and that members of our NC can approach the board at any time (also in person!).

#### **Please outline your past experiences within EYP as a delegate, official or within EYP Switzerland? What other experience relevant to your position do you have?**

My EYP journey started at the National Conference Aarau 2012, where I was selected to attend a session with my delegation and the IS Munich as an individual. Since then, I've had the possibility to take part in a number of sessions as organiser and chairperson. Having been involved in our organization for less than two years makes me a member of a younger generation of EYPers: The generation whose responsibility it will be to shape EYP Switzerland's future through their ideas, commitment, and hard work.

My international experience is not extensive, but I am confident that I have the skills relevant for the position I am running for. In the course of the last few months in my position as department member for External Affairs and Fundraising, I have familiarized myself with Erasmus+, the program which replaces Youth in Action from 2014 onwards, at trainings by EYP and our National Agency. I also rest convinced that my experience as head of fundraising for Romanshorn 2013, possibly one of our best funded NSCs, will also prove highly valuable.

#### **The new board and regional structures are an exciting step forward for EYP Switzerland. Internationally, the EYP community agreed in 2012 that each NC ought to develop and implement their own long-term strategy. In your opinion, what direction(s) should such a strategy for EYP Switzerland take? Which con-**





**create steps would you foresee for the year 2014-2015 to implement that strategy?**

EYP is an organization devoted to non-formal learning, its primary aim should therefore be to continuously increase academic quality. EYP Switzerland can contribute to such an improvement at the international level by taking a step towards individual selection: delegation size should be decreased (to 3-4 delegates) to allow for more outstanding individuals to be selected to accompany delegations to sessions abroad. In long term strategies for EYP, inclusivity undoubtedly is an important keyword. In the Swiss context, it should for one be understood geographically: high schools in many parts of the country have not yet come in contact with EYP. The goal of having delegates from every Canton is one that the regional structure serves to work towards by promoting EYP at the local level. I very much endorse the new regional structure of our association and I believe it is an important step which we should take further, as it bring EYP closer to its members.

Participation in EYP is currently only open to individuals who have attended a session as a high school student. At the moment, 'missing' your chance to get involved in EYP before you graduate from high school is just though luck, a situation I am not entirely satisfied with – EYP presents itself anything but inclusive concerning this issue. I would find it important to launch a discussion whether some officials' positions (such as the one of organiser) should not also be open to interested young people with a background in other youth NGOs.

Increased public visibility is a goal our whole organization should be working towards in the 2014/2015 term, and one to which every member can contribute. Nevertheless, mouth to mouth propaganda, although the most effective means of advertising our work (especially when it comes to delegation recruitment), is not enough. We should aim for every Session to have professional media coverage with at least one media output. Collaborations with other youth organizations could make our association better known and would allow us to reach out to more potential participants for our events.

A solid financial strategy is undoubtedly key for the future success of EYP Switzerland. In 2014/2015, I will be looking after association fundraising, the aim is to launch a long-term partnership with a private sponsor. More funding will not only allow us to provide a financial back up for our sessions and make planning more reliable, but more importantly, we will be able to use more money for our members: indirectly by funding events and trainings, and directly through the travel grant scheme, which could undergo a significant enlargement to generously support more Swiss EYPers to attend sessions abroad.

