Weizmann Young European Network (WYEN) – Main Principles

1. Introduction

The following document serves as a suggested outline for the launch of WYEN. It offers a model of operation which takes into consideration the critical elements that underlay its interfaces with ECWIS, ECWIS Societies of Friends, as well as with the Weizmann Institute of Science.

One of the most important concerns of the European Committee of the Weizmann Institute is to secure its continuity for many years to come. As such, embracing and welcoming into our societies all over Europe young potential new friends and leaders, who share the passion for and the devotion to the institute and its philosophy, is a top priority for us.

WYEN is envisioned as a platform comprised of men and women, ages 25-49, from ECWIS Constituencies, who are deeply committed to advancing the Weizmann Institute and its philosophy; dynamic, creative individuals with intellectual curiosity and social openness, who are capable of forging enduring friendships and securing the future support mechanisms for the Weizmann Institute. Members are distinguished by their communal life and their personal leadership qualities.

They want to make an impact. They want engagement. They want to be closely connected to the Weizmann Institute and to their peers. They want to be taken seriously as friends and donors.

WYEN will be recognized as a subcommittee of ECWIS, and as such it will be subjected to the mandate of ECWIS’s Chairman. Its daily mode of operation will be supervised by the Executive Vice President of ECWIS and his team in full transparency and cooperation with ECWIS’s Chairman.

2. Objectives of the WYEN

In the spirit of ECWIS’s friend-raising approach, which emphasizes the need to develop long warm bonds of friendship between our supporters and the Weizmann Institute, the WYEN will focus its efforts on the following objectives:

A. **Identify and locate new young prospects** who will serve as future donors and supporters of the Weizmann Institute. This could be achieved, among others, by assembling a continental network of young leaders, personal acquaintances of the members.

B. **Create relevant mechanisms** to interest and engage those new prospects through networking opportunities, annual events, conferences, etc.
C. **Generate** a spirit that will enable a long-term and progressive engagement that starts from becoming a member of WYEN and developing into an Institute's ambassador and donor (supporting projects individually, or as a group).

**Leadership of the WYEN**

**Committee**

A. The leadership of WYEN will be comprised of a committee of seven selected individuals from ECWIS constituencies and the Director of Development of ECWIS (Ex-Officio Member), Mrs. Liat Lando. It is agreed that the steering committee that was assembled by the Executive Vice President of the European Committee of the Weizmann Institute, Mr. Zohar Menshes, on January 21, 2015, will serve as the first formal committee of WYEN.

B. The Executive Vice President of ECWIS will approve the nomination of the eight members comprising the WYEN's committee and will send each one of them a formal nomination letter, along with this WYEN Main Principles document, asking for their consent. After receiving their acceptance, a letter marking the start of his/her term will be sent to each board member.

C. It is agreed that a committee member will serve for a term of 3 years.

D. A board membership is renewable after three years upon the approval of the Executive Vice President of ECWIS as per mechanism mentioned in item 3B.

E. Any changes in the number of individuals serving as board members of the WYEN (increase or decrease), will require the approval of the Executive Vice President of ECWIS preceded by the request of the board.

F. In case of change of individuals prior to the end of their term, WYEN's board will make a suggestion as to another nominee and will seek the approval of the Executive Vice President of ECWIS.

G. Committee members must have a diverse network of acquaintances through personal and professional contacts.

H. Responsibilities:

- Committee members are expected to be Institute donors within their personal capacity and by that serve as a role model to the members of WYEN.
- Help designing, planning and organizing Weizmann awareness events for targeted audience at any of ECWIS constituencies.
- Obtain sponsorships in support of the events of WYEN.
✔ Continuously introduce new potential paying members from their network to WYEN.

✔ In addition to the events of WYEN, committee members are expected to attend from time to time the annual events of the International Board of the Weizmann Institute as well as the activities of ECWIS and their local societies. This is to ensure that committee members are continuously updated about developments taking place on campus.

**Chair**

I. The chair is being elected by the WYEN’s committee for a three-year term.

J. The Executive Vice President of ECWIS will approve the nomination of the elected Chair and will send him/her a formal nomination letter marking the start of his/her term.

K. ECWIS Board and ECWIS Committee will vote and approve the nomination of the Chair of WYEN as an ECWIS Committee member for a term of 3 years. The nomination will take place within the first Annual ECWIS meeting following the start of his/her term. The Chair of WYEN will participate at the annual ECWIS general assembly and will report on progress made as a yearly agenda meeting point.

L. Responsibilities:
   ✔ To summon the board for meetings and discussions and lead them.
   ✔ To decide together with the committee upon an annual development plan with specific objectives and means of action.
   ✔ To monitor the progress of fulfilling the action plan.
   ✔ To report to ECWIS’s Board and Committee on progress made.

**Board Meetings**

In general all relevant means of communication and social media are eligible as an official method for communicating (formal meetings, conference calls, video conferences, WhatsApp group, etc.)

3. **WYEN Members**

**Membership Qualifications**

WYEN should be perceived as an elite group of people who share a passion for science and who recognize basic research as a significant milestone in benefitting humanity.
✓ Annual Membership fees: EUR 1,000 for a single membership, and EUR 1,500 per couple.
✓ Participation: in addition to the event/s of WYEN, members are advised to attend from time to time the annual events of the International Board of the Weizmann Institute as well as the activities of their local societies.

✓ Members’ status: members of WYEN will not have any voting rights regarding issues such as: policy, regulations, and nomination of board members and chair.

Membership application: will be based on personal acquaintance and recommendation of another member. A nominating committee comprised of 3 board members (including the Director of Development of ECWIS) will have the mandate to decide if a candidate who wishes to join and willing to pay the membership fees can register.

Membership Benefits

✓ Exciting research updates delivered by post to their e-mail
✓ Invitations to Weizmann prestigious and private local and global events (some of which are subject to additional registration fees)
✓ Invitation to the exclusive Annual Delegation of the European Committee of the Weizmann Institute
✓ Complementary membership in the local societies of friends
✓ Private tailor-made campus visits for members and their families

4. Interface Between the WYEN and Local Societies of Friends

✓ It is expected that as a result of the complementary membership in the local societies, young and new members will join the local chapters and will support its course of development.
✓ Should local initiatives stem from the activities of WYEN, they should be discussed with the local chairperson at the very preliminary planning stage and receive his/her full support. Furthermore, it is essential that the local chairperson will be an integral part of the planning and developing process of any initiative taking place in his/her constituency.
✓ By no means will WYEN be perceived as competing with the existing societies of friends. On the contrary, WYEN should be viewed as a complementary activity that is designed to promote and strengthen the existing societies by having new and young members arriving from it.
5. Funding

✓ Activities of WYEN will be self-funded with the membership fees and sponsorships per event. Sponsorship can be obtained from sources outside WYEN, or from its members through corporate or individual sponsorship. Every sponsorship will be recognized in the events' publications.

✓ WYEN will not compete on resources that are already supporting the activities of the local societies, unless it is approved by the Chairperson of the local chapter.

✓ All financial monitoring of WYEN will be conducted by the ECWIS’s Office Manager, and will be reviewed and subject to all regulations by ECWIS’s accountant.

✓ WYEN’s board will elect a treasurer from among themselves, who will be the liaison between the Office Manager of ECWIS and the committee.

✓ Responsibilities of the Treasurer:

A. To review the financial status of the forum every 6 months (accompanied by the professional accountant and ECWIS's office manager).

B. To report the financial status at the annual meeting of WYEN and to seek the approval of the board of WYEN for the report.

✓ Mode of financial operation for WYEN's events:

Any event will be fully covered by sponsorships and tickets sale way in advance. For example, if the 1st event of WYEN is planned for the 24/5/16, a detailed budget will be approved by the board of WYEN no later than Nov. 2015. A full confirmation of sponsorships must be presented to the Board of WYEN no later than January 2016, and then tickets sale will start. By mid-April, the Board should receive a status report of the tickets' sale. If the organizers will fail in bringing all the needed sponsors, or selling all the tickets in advance, the event will not materialize, unless the Board will immediately find an alternative resource to cover the gap. The Executive Vice President of the European Committee might consider filling the gap through ECWIS budget based on his professional considerations. In case a decision will be made to cancel an event, and there will be various cancellation fees as per contracts, ECWIS will fully bear these costs.