



HJ YOUTH ACADEMY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRO

The HJ Youth Academy is a project of FFWPU EUME in response to True Mother's call to raise the next generation to lead the providence. The image of pure and flowing water that cleanses and brings life to this world is at the heart of the Academy's vision. The staff include Yaviel and Victoire Ben Zvi, Andreas and Karen Pock, Sonja Read along with 16 other volunteers supporting different activities. Bogdan Pammer directed the academy in 2023.

2023 started out with the HJ Staff retreat where a comprehensive analysis of the challenges of young people in our community was published. In response we initiated the HARP and Young Adult Leaders' support program. Meanwhile the Academy continued to offer EMPOWER (full-time, on-site) and FOUNDATIONS (part-time, online) as development programs for young Unificationists. Both programs are in their 3rd season. With the 14-Day Divine Principle workshop and the 21-Day HJ Youth Pilgrimage to Korea two attractive opportunities were added to the course program; inheriting the former from the Witnessing Department and newly initiating the latter in cooperation with the CheonBo EUME Branch.

FINANCES

The current budget of HJ Youth Academy is small, but efforts to diversify its funding are made continuously. The total income in 2023 was € 11,414.86, 60% of which are funds reallocated from the regional Vice President's wage. The compound surplus from Foundations and the 14-Day Divine Principle WS amounts to 40%. The total expenses were € 8,955.47: 64% staff compensation, 32% subsidies for two retreats (HJ staff and HARP & YA leaders) and 4% miscellaneous expenses including software, office supplies and gifts for volunteers.

The EMPOWER program and the HJ Youth Pilgrimage is not included in this overview. We are deeply grateful to the CB Branch for supporting the first HJ Youth Pilgrimage substantially, which allowed us to keep costs low for participants.

14 DAY DIVINE PRINCIPLE WORKSHOP



The 14-day Divine Principle workshop took place in Gafrenz, Austria, from the 14th to the 27th of July. The workshop gathered 32 members and guests from the EUME region and a team of 12 staff members, with the aim to profoundly study the Divine Principle from both theological and practical perspectives. The programme offered an opportunity for participants to delve into self-reflection and gain a more profound understanding of their beliefs. It also provided a unique chance to introduce guests to the movement. The daily schedule consisted of morning and afternoon lectures, with the rest of the day dedicated to discussions, various activities, and optional sports for interested participants. Evenings were often reserved for fun interactions as well as creating a space to open our hearts in more profound activities.

Special events, such as the Peace Cup in collaboration with a YSP Korean group touring Europe and the challenge day, added memorable experiences to the workshop. Mark your calendar now and ensure you don't miss the opportunity to join next year's session planned for mid-July.

"There is something special about trying to understand the DP and life together with others, coming up with questions and answers together rather than alone. Working as a community, not just ourselves. I learned a lot about the character and heart of True Parents, which drives me forward on my path"

"Through the Divine Principle, I gained a deeper understanding of the fundamental things that go on in our everyday life. It became clearer for me what things to focus on in my life. And most importantly, I understand my important position as 2nd in this time."



HJ YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

"A quest for Heavenly Parent's dream and our true selves" served as motto throughout our transformative journey in Korea. Our quest involved forging a profound connection with True Parents, involving the encounter with True Mother, exploration of Korea and its Holy Grounds, direct engagement with the life course of True Parents, and active participation in the Cheong Shim Won prayer.

A diverse group comprising young adults from 30 different countries, totaling 134 participants, including staff members, came together for this pilgrimage, marking the first visit to Korea for the majority.



The itinerary spanned three weeks, each with a distinct focus. The initial week emphasized Spirit and Truth, allowing participants to immerse themselves fully in the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Center experience. The schedule mirrored that of an international workshop, featuring Chanyang Yeoksa sessions and the Cheong Shim Won prayer. Throughout this period, participants delved into the Divine Principle and received guidance from various speakers. The second week unfolded as a true pilgrimage, traversing significant landmarks set by True Parents across Korea—from the DMZ in the north to the Rock of Tears in Busan. The third week was marked by the special meeting with True Mother. Subsequently, online meetings took place to help participants on how to carry forward the insights gained during this journey into our personal lives and the surrounding environment.



"Being in this WS has been an amazing grace, my faith was very small, it was a candle about to be extinguished. Cheongpyong was the perfect place for me to refine and sharpen all my edges."

"Through this workshop I could achieve proper spiritual growth and reconnect with our Heavenly Parent. I realized that I must put aside my view of black and white on the world and calm down my anger to approach the world in a more loving way."



HJYA STAFF RETREAT

The HJYA Staff retreat took place from 20-22 January 2023 and gathered 20 youth leaders and EUME department leaders working with youth. The facilitated sessions aimed at examining problems and obstacles and developing solutions in order to prepare impactful and coordinated activities that contribute towards a common vision. By discussing together, they could organise the next steps to take to improve the HJYA and create meaningful programs for youth in the EUME.



The HARP and young adult leaders' support seeks to empower HARP and young adult (18+) activity organisers in EUME by equipping them with the essential resources and support needed to create high-quality youth activities while having a rewarding and positive mission experience. The programme encompasses an in-person retreat in October 2023 and monthly online sessions from November to June on a variety of practical topics of interest, including time management and mentoring. A survey was conducted in August to understand the challenges and needs of HARP and young adult leaders, and the programme was built to address these needs. The programme has included self-reflection exercises on leadership, opportunities for sharing and peer-to-peer support, and discussions on how to address difficult topics and conversations.

HARP & YOUNG ADULT LEADERS' SUPPORT



EMP & EMPOWER



The second season of the EUME Missionary Programme (EMP) started in February 2023. The team of 6 witnessed in Lebanon and could create 40 new contacts for IAYSP and FFWPU in Beirut. Later this year EMP was renamed by EMPOWER. EMPOWER is a program that creates an environment for young members to grow in their life of faith and relationship with God and True Parents. It creates opportunities to deepen the understanding of the divine principle. It provides activities for members to explore their unificationist roots and identity. Our vision is to inherit and take ownership of God and True Parents' dream, heart, and legacy which grounds our identity as Their children. The participants have done 2 fundraising conditions and 3 workshops since beginning the program in October. During this time they have gotten to know each other, experience God and the spirit world on the front line and set goals towards becoming the people they want to be by the end of the program.

FOUNDATIONS 2023

FOUNDATIONS was a 3-month course for young Unificationist members to explore our identity, the essence of our Movement and gain practical tools for leading a well-balanced life of faith. The course was divided into 12 sessions from September 25th until December 11th, all sharing the same motto "I am ROOT(ed)". Although a big part of the course was online, the participants had the exciting opportunity to join a 2-day in person retreat in Prague. Each session had valuable talks from different speakers, some activity related to the topic and a discussion with similar aged participants. After each session, the participants received an assignment to practise what they have just learned. The programme was organised by a group of young EUME members and gathered 101 young participants from our EUME region!

