



International Falcon Movement Socialist Educational International 2007-2010 · Report



Span the world with friendship

Who are we?

The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International is an international educational movement working to empower children and young people to take an active role in society and fight for their rights. We are an umbrella organisation for child and youth-led movements all over the world, educating on the basis of our values of equality, democracy, peace, co-operation and friendship, and advocating for children's rights globally.

By children and young people, for children and young people

Children and young people are involved in all levels of decision-making in our movement, from their local groups to the world congress. It is our firm belief that children are competent to make decisions and have strong opinions on global issues as well as matters directly affecting them. They only need the empowerment to feel that their voices will be heard in society.

2007 – 2010 has been an exciting period of change and development in our movement. All over the world, falcons have been working tirelessly to promote children's rights and to empower young people to contribute to social change in their communities.

All our world regions welcomed new member organisations in the last period, new national and local organisations joined our activities and new partnerships with international children's and youth organisations were forged. Partnerships enrich the work of our movement and ensure that IFM-SEI is achieving its goal of becoming better known in the field of children's rights and youth empowerment.



The three-year strategy and work-plan, developed by the Presidium in 2007, was ambitious but effective. The plan identified ten priority areas for the development of the movement in the three-year period and supported us in progressing towards clear targets, ensuring all our activities were focussed and contributed to our overall development. Priority was placed on children's rights, social inclusion and reviewing our educational approach. This created a heavy workload for the movement but all our members pulled together and achieved significant progress in the three years.

IFM has moved from strength to strength, more and more people are getting involved on the international level and children and young people are continuing to take decisions about our future. None of this could have been achieved without the commitment and energy of our volunteers all over the world. Their contribution is invaluable and the results are visible for all to see.

We hope you enjoy this review of our last three years,

Friendship

Tamsin and Tim



Celebrating 20 years of children's rights

Children and young people all over the world celebrated 20 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2009. They organised events, open activities and games to raise awareness of children's rights in their local communities. Amongst other activities, children from CHAP, Peru, organised workshops for children in a poor community near Lima and supported them in organising a children's rights march through the town centre. In Catalonia, Esplac organised a story-writing contest based on the UN Convention, encouraging children and young people to think about their rights and what they mean to them. Rote Falken/ Kinderfreunde Austria organised a public fun day with face-painting, banner decorating and music, followed by a demonstration in Vienna, aiming to educate the public about children's rights in an active way. Particularly focusing on child poverty, Framfylkingen, Norway decided to organise a nation-wide public campaign as well as a seminar for children and young people on the topic.



Children's Rights Education

IFM-SEI has continued to develop its approach to children's rights education throughout the period. In October 2007, a seminar on Human Rights education with children and young people took place in Werftpfuhl, Germany. The participants learned about Human Rights with a special focus on children's rights, shared approaches to working with children on Human Rights issues and developed strategies for working in their local communities. The participants were all young peer educators, just beginning their work with children in falcon groups.

In March 2008, a seminar on Children's Rights took place in Vienna, Austria. The meeting brought together the leadership of European organisations to share their experience of children's rights education as well as advocacy for children's rights. A particularly useful element of the programme was the session on contributing to the national shadow reports on the implementation of the CRC. The member organisations shared their experiences of contributing to the shadow reports and developed plans to better involve children in the national processes.

Compasito: Children's Rights Education

A highlight of our educational work in the period 2007 – 2010 was our study session on Human Rights education with children in March 2009. The focus of the



event was the new Council of Europe publication 'Compasito' and participants from all our world regions gathered together to share their approaches to children's rights education and to learn from one-another. The group shared their ideas for empowering children and young people to understand and fight for their rights as well as testing and developing methods for Human Rights education with children.



Children's rights advocacy

European Forum on the Rights of the Child

In 2008, IFM-SEI was selected as one of thirteen NGOs to fill the permanent seats on the European Forum on the Rights of the Child. This European Union initiative brings together key actors in the field of children's rights including representatives of member states, UNICEF, the Council of Europe, parliamentarians, the European Commission, children's ombudsmen and civil society. The Forum is one element of the development of an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, addressing children's rights policy within the EU as well as EU action on the global level. In addition to the seat on the Forum, IFM-SEI was selected as one of three NGOs to sit on the Forum's steering group as the representative of child and youth-led movements.

Council of Europe expert group on Child participation

In addition to the EU child rights processes, IFM has engaged in wider European processes in the last period. Being selected to join the Council of Europe's expert group on child participation has given us the opportunity to share our approach to involving children in all levels of decision-making as well as influencing the development of national policy reviews on child participation.

Following the decision by the 2007 Congress to prioritise advocacy on children's rights issues, the Presidium put energy into ensuring swift and sustainable progress in this area. A strategy was drawn up, identifying the key processes and institutions with which to engage. Clear progress has been made in this area.

EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child

Since summer 2007, IFM-SEI has been an active member of the Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG) in Brussels. CRAG is a network of the largest international children's rights NGOs co-ordinating on the issue of the EU strategy on the Rights of the Child. The organisations meet regularly and are in close contact with the European Commission and Parliament. IFM-SEI contributes to all CRAG position papers, particularly with regards to child participation.

South East Asia Stop the use of Child Soldiers

KKSP Indonesia has represented IFM-SEI as chair of the steering committee of 'South East Asia Stop the use of Child Soldiers' (SEASUCS) since 2007. In this position, they conducted an assessment of the situation of children engaged in armed conflict in Moluccas and Aceh and worked with partners to carry out a consultation on the integration of child victims of armed conflict into society. One outcome of this work was the development of a common strategic plan for advocacy in Indonesia.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

In the last period KKSP also represented IFM-SEI in the 'ASEAN Civil Society for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism' process. Two consultation workshops took place in 2008, discussing the development of an ASEAN Human Rights mechanism and considering the impact such a mechanism would have on civil society in the region. The second consultation particularly focussed on the women's and children's commission (ACWC). The result of the consultation was a common submission to the high-level preparation of ASEAN including the principle that the member states must take measures to ensure the fulfilment, protection and promotion of women's and children's rights.

Globalising Children's Rights

Engaging more actively in the field of advocacy for children's rights on the regional level has raised the profile of IFM effectively amongst children's rights organisations and key institutions. Whilst we are content with the progress we have made in the last three years, we are keen to extend our influence to the global level, co-operating with international children's rights organisations and adding our voices to the call for respect of children's rights world-wide.



Inclusion

All Together

In 2007, IFM-SEI initiated its ambitious and long-term inclusion strategy, All Together. The project aims to increase the inclusion of children and young people with fewer opportunities in our activities and structures through supporting our members to undertake pro-active inclusion work. The European project was designed by six organisations that formed the project steering group. The pilot organisations led the long-term project, meeting three or four times a year to evaluate our practices and activities, share approaches and develop resources to support organisations in being more inclusive.

Between 2007 and 2010, the steering group organised a variety of meetings and events. The **All Together sharing seminar** in April 2008 focused on evaluating approaches to inclusion and sharing experience with external partners. The **study visit** in August 2008 gathered the steering group in Vienna, Austria to learn from the experiences of different inclusion projects in the city, discussing approaches with grass-roots practitioners. The **All Together Training Course** in November 2008 was the next step in the project.

More than 30 young people from all over Europe met in Vilnius to share their experiences and develop inclusion strategies and projects.

Throughout 2009, the steering group focused on the development of the All Together **Handbook and Website**. In Autumn 2009 the Handbook 'All Together, Making Inclusion Happen' was published, followed closely by the launch of the specialist website in January 2010. The handbook contains case studies, games, exercises and examples of inclusion projects as well as tips and advice for youth leaders and peer educators. The website contains a database of inclusion projects and aims to be a space for inclusion workers to share approaches and experiences (www.all-together.eu). Finally, the second All Together **Training Course** took place in February 2010 in Düsseldorf, Germany. The training course built on the content of the previous training course by using the Handbook as a tool in the training.

Rainbow Network

The Rainbow Network brings together national falcon networks and individuals working on LG-BTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans and Queer) education and empowerment. The network has expanded since 2007, with more IFM-SEI organisations creating their own internal rainbow networks. IFM-SEI members have been organising, and participating in the annual Queer Easter year on year; Queer Easter 2009 saw the conception of the rainbow education pack for leaders, filled with a wide selection of activities in order to conduct rainbow work in new and exciting ways with children and young people. Across the board, rainbow issues have been on our agenda, at IFM-SEI networking meetings, within our organisations and in the preparation for Train for Change.



Education for Social Change

Peers without Frontiers

For the first time, IFM has developed a long-term global educational project for 2010. Peers without frontiers brings together 36 motivated young people from 18 falcon organisations worldwide to create a global network and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The young people have the motivating and challenging possibility to develop peer education projects for 17 local communities in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, facilitating the participation of other young people in the achievement of the MDGs. Following a co-ordination team meeting in March, two network seminars will take place in May and July 2010 and the group will design and run educational activities at the Train for Change camp.

Educational strategy

Following the 2007 Congress decision to explore and redefine our educational approach, a Presidium task-force set to work considering whether our educational strategy remains relevant in the 21st century. Member organisations were consulted during IC meetings, regional educational seminars and through a detailed educational questionnaire, beginning the process of defining why, for what, and who we aim to educate. The educational process, despite its challenges, has been both rewarding and fascinating, member organisations have shared their approaches to education and as a movement we have grown more confident in our educational role. In addition to the process itself, IFM has been very active in the educational field:

Queer Easter and Winterschool

IFM-SEI has had close links with the Kurt Löwenstein Education Centre run by SJD-Die Falken, Germany for many years. In addition to the regular participation of falcon members in KLH seminars, every year we run two seminars in co-operation. **Queer Easter** brings together more than 100 young people from all over Europe and the Middle East to discuss the situation of young LGBTQ-people, to consider how to overcome heteronormativity and to fight homophobia. In various workshops, strategies for social inclusion and methods to explore sexual orientation and identity are developed. One important aspect of this seminar is also to experience being in the majority, as in daily life LGBTQ people always have the feeling of being a minority. The other co-operation project is the **international winterschool**, where 140 people gather over New Year to discuss and share on a given issue. The topics of the last three years were gender, fighting right wing extremism and socialism. During the seminar, participants from all over Europe and the Middle East discuss on theoretical and practical levels, developing educational tools and media products on the topic.

Train for Change

Train for Change will be IFM's biggest and most exciting activity in 2010. The camp will bring together over 1000 people for two weeks, building a children's republic together. To ensure ownership of the camp from the beginning, a team of 40 young people met in 2009 to prepare the programme. The young people agreed on the theme of Action for Social Change and the sub-topics of Children's Rights, Gender and sexuality, Prejudices and Stereotypes, Climate Change, and The world economic system as the basis of the educational programme.



Co-operation in the field of youth

The IFM-SEI Presidium made a conscious decision in 2007 to increase our contribution to regional and international youth platforms. We have been an active member of the European Youth Forum and FLAJ (the Latin American youth forum) throughout the period, as well as pro-actively seeking to support embryonic youth platforms in Asia, Africa and the Ibero-American youth space.

FLAJ (Latin American Youth Forum)

FLAJ has continued to be an important priority for IFM since 2007. IFM Vice President Anna-Maria Forsberg de Paula represented IFM in the comite directivo until 2008, representing the interests of IFM and young people in Latin America very effectively. In 2008 Ana-Maria Almario from Acacia, Colombia, continued this work, being elected to the comite directivo, as Secretary. In this position, Ana-Maria took on the essential task of formally registering the platform and setting up a secretariat.

Global Youth Co-operation

In addition to regional co-operation, IFM-SEI is a member of the International Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) bringing together global youth organisations and regional youth platforms. We have consistently contributed to the network, providing trainers for events, representatives to meetings and in 2009 we were selected as one of eight ICMYO organisations to join the steering group preparing the World Youth Conference in Mexico. The World Youth Conference aims to gather young people and decision-makers from all over the world to co-ordinate input to UN youth priorities. IFM-SEI was also selected to represent ICMYO organisations in the UNFPA Youth Advisory Panel. The Panel meets annually with the purpose of establishing a dialogue between UNFPA and youth organisations and advising UNFPA on its actions specifically concerning population and development, gender equality and reproductive health rights.

European Youth Forum

IFM has actively contributed to the development of the European Youth Forum in the period. In 2007, Tim Schrock was elected to the bureau of YFJ ensuring that our views were well represented in European Youth Politics. Our particular focus in the period has been children's rights. Working together with other member organisations actively working with children, we have co-ordinated our input to various processes, ensuring a strong voice for child and youth-led movements in the field of children's rights.



Espacio Iberoamericano de Juventud (EIJ)

Since its formation, IFM-SEI has been a member of the Ibero-American youth space. EIJ brings together youth organisations active in Latin America, and the Iberian peninsula aiming to strengthen the capacity of young people in those regions. IFM delegates have attended meetings and training courses of the space, contributing to its development.



Building children's republics

Anti-apathy Venturer camp 2008

Woodcraft Folk's international anti-apathy camp in 2008 brought together 700 young people aged 13 – 15 to plan and run their own camp and a week full of activities around the themes of anti-apathy and taking action for social change. The camp was inspirational and an excellent example of children and young people taking ownership of their own events. Teenagers chose the camp theme and developed a programme of activities aiming to empower young people through peer education to take action on issues they feel passionately about.

Creating children's republics is a central element of IFM's work. International camps run by and for children from all over the world, allow children to build an alternative community, learning from one-another.

15 years hand in hand, 2007, Lithuania

To mark the 15th Anniversary of the Lithuanian Young Falcon Union, a camp entitled '15 years hand in hand' took place in 2007. During the camp, participants from different European countries analysed the topics of anti-discrimination and anti-racism, using the media of art, theatre, film and dance to express their opinions.

Framfylkingen camp, Norway 2007

Nearly 300 participants from Woodcraft Folk, IFM-SEI, Nuoret Kotkat and Framfylkingen enjoyed 6 days of fun and friendship in 2007. The camp combined workshops on topical themes such as the 'All Different All Equal' campaign, reproductive health education and international participation with fun activities designed to build a positive community. Participants joined the theatre group, circus school, international choir, media workshops and outdoor activities in international groups. On the last evening, the camp celebrated the new skills each group had learned at the camp during the closing ceremony performance.

For A Safe Childhood, 2008

In 2008, the Lithuanian young falcon union camp was entitled 'For a safe childhood'. The camp programme included a variety of workshops building children's knowledge on children's rights and empowering them to take action to protect their rights. During the camp, the participants also organised a campaign to save campsites in the region, demonstrating and singing with around 400 children.

LOSSi camp, July 2009, Finland

300 people from Europe, the Philippines and Indonesia gathered together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in July 2009. The groups met in Forssa, surrounded by beautiful Finnish forests and lakes and discussed how children's rights are implemented in different countries. In addition to the children's rights celebration, the beach, sauna, canoes, fishing and other nature activities were popular among campers.

Framfylkingen celebrates 75 years

230 participants had an unforgettable week when Framfylkingen organised their anniversary camp in summer 2009. About 230 participants from seven different countries (Denmark, Austria, England, India, Mauritius, and Norway) had six fantastic days together. The camp themes were children's rights and environment, but of course also a lot of time was spent making new friends and having fun!



Africa

Network in Africa: NGOs against HIV/AIDS, for Democracy

Grounded in the belief in South-South cooperation as an important strategy for strengthening dialogue among peoples, IFM-SEI member organisations, Mirim-Brasil and Unga Örnar, developed the project 'Network in Africa: NGOs against HIV/AIDS, for democracy'. The goal of the project is to strengthen the role of young Africans in the response to HIV/AIDS. The work has been done in partnership with organisations working with and for young people in 15 African countries. One of the project's objectives is to support young people to acquire and strengthen their abilities in the field of advocacy and political accountability so that they can act as multipliers in their organisations, communities, regions and countries, promoting the changes needed for an effective response to HIV. In order to achieve these objectives, several educational activities have been organised:

In **December 2008** a seminar took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, bringing together eight representatives from civil society organisations active in southern Africa. During the three-day seminar, the participants increased their understanding about the partner organisations, discussed the main topics related to the project (youth, HIV/AIDS and advocacy) and provided inputs to the project's work plan. The seminar was designed to enhance the equal participation of everyone involved to create a joint strategy for the next steps of the project.

In **December 2009** the project's **second seminar** was hosted by Les Pionniers du Senegal and Action Enfance, Senegal involving representatives from 12 organisations. During the seminar a clear strategy was designed on how to jointly tackle issues regarding youth and HIV/Aids and cooperation was strengthened with African partner organisations.

Youth exchange and international camp in Senegal

In April 2008, an exchange between a local Woodcraft Folk group from the UK and the Pionniers of Senegal took place. The Woodcraft group stayed in Tivaouane and took part in activities with the Pionniers (games, craft and music) as well as holding discussions between the two groups. One young person reflected: "It was interesting to see how many similarities there are between our movements, such as, fundamentally, a strong belief in social justice and activism, peace, solidarity and the importance of young people's opinions." As part of the peer education project that was at the heart of the exchange, the group organised parachute games, ran a lantern-making workshop and shared music and songs. The group participated in a three-day International Camp in Tivaouane during their stay involving three regions of the national Pionnier movement and visited the families of their hosts.



New members

Several African organisations involved in the MIRIM project are now progressively getting involved in IFM-SEI educational activities and willing to be part of our International. These are: Ajupis, Mozambique, Molo Songololo, South Africa, Organização dos Pioneiros, Cape Verde and Les Pioneers du Mali.



Asia

Study visit to KKSP Indonesia

Following the regional meeting in Kuala Lumpur, a study visit to KKSP Indonesia took place, aiming to gain inspiration for developing our work throughout the Asian region. The study visit included meeting the young people responsible for organising the annual children's rights camp in the Tsunami affected Aceh region, meeting and discussing with a rural children's group and visiting a project run by and for street children in Medan.

South East Asia Regional exchange on writing UNCRC NGO Reports

This activity aimed to inspire organisations and national networks to monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and submit their own reports to the United Nations Committee alongside governmental reports. KKSP Indonesia presented their experience in this process and supported others in starting the drafting process.

Regional Development

In December 2008, the Asian regional Vice Presidents and the Secretary General met in Kuala Lumpur to discuss future action and develop an Asian regional strategy. Given the size and scope of the Asian continent, it was decided to split into two sub-regions, each with a Vice President responsible for co-ordination and development. Strategies for expanding the region were discussed and the Vice Presidents each took on specific areas of responsibility.

South East Asia

In the last period, priority was placed on developing contacts and partnerships with organisations active in South-East Asia. In September 2007 study visits took place to children's organisations in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam and discussions took place regarding the Asian Regional Network and the work Asian organisations are doing in their countries. There was a great deal of interest on both sides to deepen the contacts made through participation in IFM activities and regional partnerships. In March 2009, the Asian Vice Presidents took the opportunity of the conference on social democracy to meet comrades from other progressive organisations in South East Asia and introduce IFM-SEI to them. An umbrella organisation of progressive youth organisations in SEA was established in 2008 called the Young Progressives in South East Asia (YPSEA). The network met again in November 2009 providing the opportunity to introduce IFM-SEI and its work in more depth and invite other organisations to get involved.

South Asia

The priority of the South Asian Falcon Network has continued to be reproductive health education and the role of young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS since 2007. In August 2007 an IFM-SEI seminar took place in Agra city, India aiming to develop the capacity of youth organisations in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS through peer education. 35 delegates from six countries participated in the seminar to share their educational approaches, discuss how to deal with taboos and to develop strategies for youth action.

In September 2008 the Asian Falcon Network organised a second international seminar in Gurgaon, India. 30 delegates from nine organisations based in South and South-East Asia participated. The topics of the seminar were reproductive health education and strengthening the Asian regional network of youth organisations. The participants developed a strategy for future co-operation and a work-plan for the coming years.



Europe

European Falcon Network

The European Falcon Network (EFN) is the network of European IFM-SEI member organisations. Every year they meet at the EFN seminar, a non-formal coordination meeting and educational space, aiming to share experience and develop new approaches for the work of IFM-SEI in Europe. The EFN met twice during the last period, both times in Vienna, Austria. In March 2008 the seminar focused on children's rights and contributing to the UNCRC shadow reports. In October 2009, the topics were child and youth participation and the development of the programme for the Train for Change IFM camp.

EFN activities are coordinated by the **EFN-Coordination** team (EFN-CT). The coordination team is a non-formal body of volunteers from different European organisations, which meets to prepare the content of seminars, coordinate European projects, and facilitate an exchange of experience related to European Youth Policy and the European Youth Forum. In the last three years three meetings of the EFN-CT took place.

Get in touch with inclusion, migration and democracy in a common Europe

Around 60 young people from five different IFM movements met in Austria in the summer of 2008 to participate in an exciting activity week around the topics of democracy in Europe and the inclusion of minorities.

Young people aged 13 – 17 from the Lithuanian Falcons, Nuoret Kotkat Finland, Czech Pionyr, Woodcraft Folk UK and Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken Austria had a lot of fun together and learned a lot in this week. The programme included a nice mix of workshops, games, outdoor activities and free-time activities. Many of the young people became friends and are still in contact with each other.

The climate - the children's future, Copenhagen, December 2009

Parallel to the Cop 15 meeting in Copenhagen, 20 children from our nordic organisations attended a seminar focussing on climate change entitled 'Children are the future, also when it comes to climate change!'. The participants visited a nature centre, learned about climate change in the future, attended different activities in the city centre of Copenhagen and the big demonstration on Cop 15 together with almost 100 000 people. The participants worked in groups, forming demands to the meeting with the climate spokesperson in the Danish Labour party.

ABN congress

ABN is the network of Falcon organisation active in the nordic countries. In 2008, 25 participants gathered for the ABN congress in Denmark. The congress developed a new work-plan as well as motions on climate change, child poverty and children's participation. The three year work-plan identified the priorities of children's rights and participation, children's future and climate change, child poverty in the Nordic countries, children and health, and inclusion.

Child poverty in the nordic countries, ABN youth seminar

In October 2007, ABN organised a seminar on child poverty. The aim was to raise awareness of child poverty, both politically and in the internal work of our organisation. 20 participants from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway spent four days in Oslo, learning about the situation, developing demands to politicians and considering how we as organisations can include children and young people from poor families in our activities. On the last day of the seminar parliament members from each country were invited to discuss the theme and our demands.



Latin America

Stop Child Exploitation camp, Lucre, Peru

A highlight of our Latin American programme in 2009 took place in the majestic Andes of Cusco, Peru. From August 1st to 8th, Club Infantil 23 de Mayo Chap hosted a beautiful International Camp in the city of Lucre, close to Cusco, celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The event, 'Stop child exploitation', brought together delegations from Latin America and Europe. The camp combined social and educational activities, including conferences and workshops on children's rights as well as recreational tours around the city, once the capital of the Inca Empire. Participants tried on traditional costumes and developed creative and artistic products to represent their thoughts about child exploitation.

Children's Rights & Solidarity Seminar Recife, Brazil

In December 2008, Mirim-Brasil hosted the International Seminar 'The effectiveness of children's rights in the world and the role of International Solidarity'. IFM-SEI organisations from Latin America as well as Europe attended the seminar. The participants identified achievements in the implementation of children's rights and shared methodologies and strategies. International solidarity, south-south cooperation and democratic institutional processes were identified as key issues in order to advance children's rights in the world.

HIV/Aids and democracy seminar, Bogota, Colombia

In April 2009, The Latin American member organisations met in Bogota to reflect on the network's previous years' activities on the struggle against HIV/Aids and for Democracy. The participants discussed Latin America's strategic plan for the next three years and the role of international solidarity, internal democracy and south-south cooperation in IFM-SEI activities. Finally, the seminar was an opportunity for Latin American organisations to discuss and agree on common political positions to be put forward within the international, for example the motion against Cuba's Economic Blockage that was subsequently adopted by the International Committee Meeting held in Yopal the same week.

International camp, La Serena, Chile, 2007

250 children and young people from Latin America and Europe came together in August 2007 in La Serena, Chile. The camp was hosted by Manque Chile co-ordinating an international team of volunteers. The camp programme included workshops on gender and leadership encouraging a fruitful exchange between the delegations and strengthening their commitment to children's rights and youth empowerment.



Regional Seminar in Axvall, Sweden

In August 2007, Latin American organisations met in Axvall, Sweden, for the second International Seminar of the 'Youth network against HIV/Aids, for democracy' project. Participants from 13 organisations met, identified common institutional priorities and built new strategies for the development of the Latin American network within IFM-SEI. After the meeting, Latin American organisations took part in Unga Örnar's International Camp and Congress.



Middle East

In 2007 the organisations from the Middle East region agreed to renew their co-operation under the umbrella of IFM-SEI. The regional leading group, made up of representatives from all the movements, was established in 2007 and devoted the first year of their process to exploring and agreeing on common values, forming the basis of the project. The group identified a number of key concepts for exploration:

“**Critical Thinking** is for us the tool and perspective to create and educate towards an alternative reality. We need to use it constantly in our co-operation. **Human Equality** taught us that occupation is immoral and corrupting both societies and must be ended. We need and want to be a platform where all **identities** are understood, reflected and contained. **Non-Formal Education** promotes the values of equality, social justice and morality, it guides our co-operation. **Equality** between the partners within the process is another basis of our co-operation. Our partnership is built and based on solidarity, responsibility and commitment.”

In 2008 the co-operation was enlarged to include guides and multipliers from the movements. The group agreed to work on a common analysis of the reality in the region and to consider the issue of two states for two nations. Between 2008 and 2010, the leading group met once a month to shape and prepare the process with the guides/ multipliers and to continue their internal educational process. Through peer education the group tackled issues such as states, peace, nations, the movements’ visions and narratives. They also addressed their feelings about the war in January 2009.

Five regional seminars took place in the period, bringing together multipliers and guides from all the movements (around 50 people). The participants explored the key concepts together as well as discussing poignant and challenging questions. The participants established joint working groups on culture, media and education which work on products to promote peace in the region.

The region has gone through a lot of highs and lows in the period. Some organisations joined the process and others were lost temporarily on the way. But the regional co-operation process has continued even in the very hardest of times when no one else in the region was able to co-operate. It is open to those who want to join and agree to the common basis and aims. The region will continue their process of co-operation and partnership to change societies towards the understanding that peace is the only solution.

The aims of the co-operation were agreed by all partners:

- To promote social change in the spirit of human equality and socialism
- To build a deep common ground between organisations through a long-term educational process
- To integrate the process into the debates inside the organisations
- To ensure the process tackles the needs of all organisations hence strengthening and empowering all organisations
- To ensure the process is led by a joint and committed leading-group
- To develop long-term educational co-operation in the middle east region through the project
- To empower all member organisations to work to change their own societies towards human equality and peace



Finances and secretariat

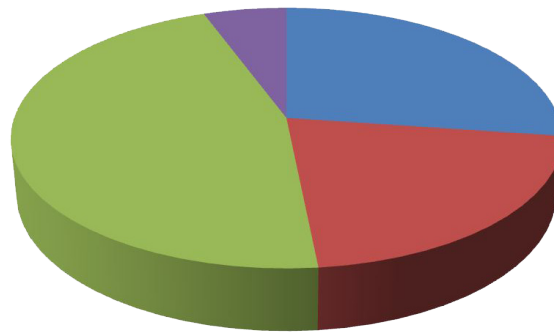
Finances

Throughout the period the IFM-SEI finances have remained stable. We were successful in securing a three-year operational grant from the European Commission, annual administrative funding from the Council of Europe and significant project funding.

In 2010, we have been successful in securing approximately 150,000 Euros in project funding, including a grant of 100,000 Euros for the Peers without frontiers project.

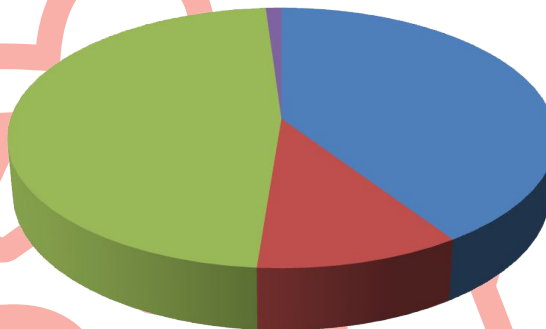
The pie charts to the right illustrate the main income sources and expenditure lines in the past three years. The figures are based on average.

Income



- Membership fees: 77,000€
 - Core grants: 60,000€
 - Project grants: 130,000€
 - Donations: 16,000€
- Total: 283,000€**

Expenditure



- Office and staff costs: 115,000€
 - Governance and meetings: 30,000€
 - Projects: 135,000€
 - Materials/publications: 30,000€
- Total: 283,000€**

Secretariat developments

Expansion of the office team has been an important priority of the past three years. Since 2007 we have doubled our capacity to support member organisations and organise activities by employing a project officer and developing a number of European Voluntary Service projects. We hope to expand our team further in September 2010 when we will welcome two new EVS volunteers including one from Latin America, aiming to provide more effective support to our Spanish-speaking member organisations.

Secretariat Team 2007 – 2010

Tamsin Pearce, Secretary General
Ingrid De Kock, Office Secretary
Christine Sudbrock, Project Officer (since January 2010)
Martin Mensing-Braun, EVS Volunteer (since September 2009)
Birute Sabatauskaite, EVS Volunteer (April 2008 – April 2009)



Statutory meetings

Since 2007, IFM-SEI has organised three International Committee meetings, bringing together the leadership of our member organisations to define the annual work plan and direction of the movement. The meetings took place in Werftpfuhl, Germany, London, UK and Yopal, Colombia. A big development in the International Committee meetings in the period was the introduction of a theme for each meeting. Delegates explored one topic in depth at each meeting, ensuring thorough discussion between the movements on key issues. The themes for the meetings between 2007 and 2010 were: Our educational strategy, Child Rights and contributing to UNCRC shadow reports and Internal Democracy. External speakers were invited to share their experience with delegates, providing inspiration and food for thought. In addition to the International Committee meetings, the Presidium and Control Commission met three times per year to ensure the smooth running of the movement and progress towards our three-year work plan.



Presidium and control commission members 2007-2010

Tim Scholz	Jiří Let	Ali Hlayel
Tamsin Pearce	Madhu Talwalkar	Djibril Faye
Anna Maria Forsberg	Sri Eni Purnamawati	Lea Väänänen
Edan Kaushani	Marcela Carreño	Günther Leeb
Gro Tvedt Anderssen	Birute Sabatauskaite	Jiří Tomcala





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