

IFM·SEI Newsletter

October 2012



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VAP production Meeting in Coma-Ruga



The Volunteering Against Poverty group met in Catalunya in August for their 'production meeting'. Having worked hard in their local Falcon groups around the world to produce film material on child and youth poverty, they met in Coma-Ruga to put all their material and ideas together

The material ranges from children in Bogota interviewing each other about what they would like to change in their community to struggling interns and immigrants in Brussels, a homeless young man in London, a young single mother in Cameroon and child labourers in a village in Indonesia.

During the meeting, the editing group worked hard watching many hours of video and started to edit them into one common documentary. The final film will be 52 minutes long and will have subtitles in every language of the VAP project. Another group worked on a web documentary: an interactive online platform giving access to videos and short information material from 12 communities, where the user can dip in and out, choosing what to watch or to read.

A third group developed methods around poverty and capitalism that will be published together with the documentary in the end of the year. This will help groups to organise educational activities around the topics of the documentary. It will be available in English, German, French and Spanish. As soon as the products are finalised we will share them with you. Watch this space!



CooperACTION is Approved!



Once more IFM has been successful in securing a large global grant for a new project called CooperACTION.

CooperACTION aims to promote the co-operative model of enterprise to young people at risk of unemployment through education, exchange and practical experience of setting up social enterprises in 12 countries.

The project will educate young people about co-operatives and social enterprises and will raise awareness of Fair Trade and its benefits to communities as well as support them in developing social enterprises in 12 local communities across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

CooperACTION will take place in 2013, IFM-SEI team is excited to embark on another global project with you! Check on our website and newsletters in 2013 for more details!

Invitation to the VAP screening in Brussels



Save the date! The Premiere of IFM-SEI's Volunteering Against Poverty documentary will take place in Brussels on 30 November.

24 volunteers from four continents have portrayed people from their communities, talking with them about causes and consequences of poverty, about their hopes for the future and about what they think needs to change to end poverty. The result is an impressive and powerful 52-minute long documentary film.

Join us for the Premiere in Brussels to watch the film and discuss with the young filmmakers.

EVS Experience



In 2012, 17 volunteers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe spent up to a year in another IFM member organisation. Hywel Sedgwick-Jell talks about his experiences

My European Voluntary Service in Cameroon was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. The country itself is charming, crazy, chaotic, creative, confusing, and cool and many other words which may or may not begin with C!

Our sister organisation OGCEYOD (the Organisation for Gender, Civic Engagement and Youth Development, if you didn't already know) is full of great people, with endless ideas and enthusiasm for creating a better world for people in Cameroon. It took a lot of getting used to the way of life, but now I have, I'm not sure I can adapt back to European culture anymore.

Hywel 'Ebong' Sedgwick-Jell , Woodcraft Folk, UK.

Rainbow Study Session

IFM-SEI is organising a study session in cooperation with the council of Europe on " Rainbow Resources: Compasito Companion on Sexuality and Gender" in the European Youth Centre Budapest from 11-18 November 2012.

The study session aims to provide support to our members in undertaking childrens right education, particularly in the often taboo field of gender and sexuality rights. Participants will test methods in the publication and will share challenges and successes.

This activity will bring together 30 young people from different IFM member organisations including four from outside Europe. We are all looking forward to having an excellent time of learning and sharing with each other.



Summercamp: United 2012

In July 2012, Rote Falken Austria packed their bags for two weeks of camping in Döbriach. Falcons from Austria, Italy, Finland and Germany were present at the camp involving nearly 600 children and young people. Every one had an exciting and beautiful time there.

A Children republic and a camp council decided on the camp programme for two days and organised a Las Vegas-night (not so much about gambling, but about camp weddings, alcohol-free cocktails and enjoying yourself).

They also had a girls and boys reflection day on gender stereotypes including football for girls and a wellness-session for boys.

More than 80 young people visited concentration camps in Austria and Slovenia and used this day to have a solidarity and memorial ceremony about last year's events in Utoya, Norway.



British Youth Council Welcomes New Vice President



The British Youth Council (BYC) brings together approximately 250 youth organisations up and down the UK, including UK Youth Parliament, the National Union of Students, Scouting UK and – of course – the Woodcraft Folk.

Woodcraft Folk arrived at the BYC's Annual Council Meeting in Cardiff ready and raring to go on the 1st September, following a busy summer of camping, residential and international ventures.

Not only did Woodcraft bring one of the biggest delegations, but they had the youngest delegate for the third year running.

Members from Woodcraft spoke on almost all motions, supporting: the equal marriage campaign, better access to training for young people, economics and politics education in schools and more support of international opportunities for young people. In between motions were the elections of the new officers and trustees of BYC.

This was an extra-special year as one of our Woodcraft members, Carly Walker-Dawson, was up for election for Vice-Chair Participation and Development. Gaining more votes than the other three candidates combined, Carly was successful and will represent Woodcraft Folk and IFM-SEI for the next year as a BYC officer holder. Congratulations Carly!

The 13th University on Youth and Development

In September 2012, the 13th University on Youth and Development was organised by the North South Centre in Molina, Spain. Many different working meetings, training courses and seminars for young activists take place in this week, and IFM was represented in two of them by our volunteers Delphine and Eugeni .

Eugeni represented IFM in the European Youth Forum Working Group on Youth Work Development, which aims to improve the awareness and the recognition of youth work. The group finalised a publication on how to set up national youth councils to improve activism of young people. They also finalised a paper on the mechanisms that the European Youth Forum can use for the recognition of youth work on international, national and local level.



Delphine was a trainer in a training course on Global Education that brought together 20 young people from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The young people spent an exciting week learning about global education from a blended approach (combining an online course and a face to face meeting) and also shared their experiences as global educators in on different levels. At the end of the training course Delphine and the team of trainers took the views and recommendations of the participants to the 2nd European Congress on Global Education in Lisbon organised by the council of Europe

The University on Youth and Development is part of a network of Universities – similar events are organised every year in Cape Verde and Uruguay and participants from IFM regularly take part in all three of them.

Hear the Word, Heal the World

FÉNIX organised a seminar 'Hear the Word, Heal the World' from the 1st - 8th July in Bratislava, Slovakia. Participants came from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

The main aim of this project was to show and teach youth leaders how to make youth organisations visible and interesting, how to design logos and cooperate with the media. Participants also learnt about effective communication and how to improve their flexibility, creativity and communication skills with the help of experts.

Even though it was a seminar, participants also had fun visiting the city and every organisation made a short presentation about their activities, traditions and culture. It was really a great experience for everyone and they are all looking forward to an even more exciting experience next year.



Migration Never Ends!

SJD- Die Falken are very concerned about the situation of four children who were deported to Macedonia with their family. During this year's summer camp of SJD Die Falken Hamburg, the children were faced with the threat of deportation by the German authorities.

After their father was deported to Macedonia, the Aliens' Department also tried to deport the mother and her children by force. This was only delayed because the children were attending the Falcon summer camp on the island Föhr and it was too late in the evening for the ferry to leave.

Despite the dedication of the Falcons during and after the camp to prevent the deportation, the entire family has now been deported. In their so-called 'country of origin', the family now faces a difficult life because they are part of a discriminated minority.

We as Falcons will continue to support children and young people from refugee families to participate in our seminars, camps and international exchanges. We will fight for the right of children to live free of persecution. We demand that authorities act according to the best interest of children, also of those without a German passport. The origin of young people does not matter! We demand the right of residence and better living conditions for Sinti and Romanis from so-called 'third countries'.



Young Leaders Seminar 'Madazim'



As part of the IFM-SEI Middle East Process we planned to have bilateral cooperation and Palestinian – Palestinian meetings in the coming years. As a pilot project 15 young leaders of the Interdependence Youth Union youth section 'seeds of freedom' participated in the young leaders' seminar 'Madazim' of NOV's Arab section. The seminar took place in two different venues: Kibbutz Ravid and the Karmiel mountain next to Haifa, each with 250 participants. In the middle of the seminar everyone changed from one place to the other by boat on the Jordan river.

The main topics of the event were identity and leadership with the aim to train participants as leaders for children's activities in their branches. According to the evaluation of the IYU participants, it was a great experience for them, not only because they learned about leadership and how to run activities and branches, but also because they learned about the differences between Palestinians living in West Bank and Palestinians living in Israel. Before meeting them in person it was hard for them to understand the Palestinians living in Israel, but now they understand that the surroundings and struggles are different in the different places.

We can conclude from this pilot project that it is very important to have a Palestinian-Palestinian cooperation process, to look at the similarities and differences and their surroundings, and to build a bridge. In the Middle East and also in the IFM process, we should not expect the Palestinians in Israel to be the bridge between Palestinians and Israelis. On the contrary, the Palestinians from the West Bank and the Israeli should be the ones to build a bridge to the Palestinians in Israel, in order to reach each other. This meeting gave us a good outline for the coming Palestinian-Palestinian process.

Summer Camp at Woodcraft Park Farm



Woodcraft Folk tried something new this summer. They mixed experienced group leaders, young people interested in leading groups, and new groups of children and parents together at Woodcraft Park Farm. The aim was to match up the young people who wanted to develop their skills with the people who already had those skills, plus the children who would enjoy the games run by the new young leaders as they practised what they'd learned.

Rich Worth, a young leader from Camden, said the camp reminded him of what the Folk is about: "At 23, I was one of the oldest participants. The Blue Skies camp was so full of programme, the nightly campfires were brilliant, but far more sedate than my previous Woodcraft experiences, as we were all processing the day's sessions on technique, theory and games that make us better facilitators in this fantastic, fun, but most importantly free-thinking, peace-loving and self-bettering organisation. We had a small corps of younger and youngest comrades, with whom we played, crafted and nature-walked - they learning of nature and making, us learning the leading of those activities.

We had seminars on running a group, on dealing with issues people growing up in the Folk go through, of games through which to learn and teach and grow. We had campfire singing with some members who knew the old songs, the stories and people behind them. We not only talked of our politics and the inalienable right to live, love and learn free from oppression and suffering, but of how to create and shape that brave new world. Halfway through the week, we were joined by people who had started new Woodcraft districts. They were there to learn from us, just as we would learn from them.

I am returning to university this September, and I know I will have the time and some of the knowledge to truly be involved in the movement, to run groups, to help form and be part of our communal dream. To take part and learn, rather than to be taught!" The organising team are evaluating the camp and writing up all the sessions, which will be shared with the wider movement online and in print very soon. Next year's Blue Skies Camp is already taking shape in our imaginations!

Interactive 'Yoy' Festivity



Last July, Nueva Generacion, Bolivia organised an interactive Festivity called 'My first negotiation' together with boys, girls, parents and neighbours of our working area.

The young people organised little stands with typical national dishes, where they could sell, buy, and share food with miniature fantasy money.

The objective was to encourage boys and girls to solve practical problems on a small scale, to develop negotiation skills and to exchange products.

Breakfast in Ramadan



Independent Youth Forum, Palestine (IYF) together with the Temporary International Presence (TIBH) in Hebron organised a breakfast in the month of Ramadan for about 400 people from the area of tal Rumeida, one of the most vulnerable areas in danger of Jewish settlers.

This activity promoted and supported the presence of Palestinians in the region. Many national and international volunteers participated in this activity.

Diversity Congress – Fight Power Structures, Live Liberation!

SJD- Die Falken organised a big congress on diversity from 17th- 20th of May 2012 in the education centre Kurt Löwenstein House (KLH). The four-day congress brought together more than 160 young people from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Israel to discuss the mechanisms of power and exclusion in a variety of workshops, seminars and activities. The workshops dealt with gender and sexism, anti-racism and migration, political and social conditions, critique of capitalism and how to overcome capitalism and live liberation.

These seminars were a very good starting point to discuss the presentation of Prof. Dr. Albert Scherr on “Diversity and Inequalities in Post-Modern Capitalism”. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to learn more about interesting projects from different branches of the German, Austrian, Swiss and Israeli falcon organisations that were presented at the ‘diversity bazaar’.



Summer Camp at Bundley Bay



Falcons from Hamm (Germany), Schoten (Belgium) and Woodcraft Folk from Spelthorne and Stanley (U.K.) had a summer camp at the border of Scotland near Durham. With more than 70 participants they spent 10 lovely days with good weather.

They visited the Holy Islands and the castle where they ran workshops with the children. During the camp they also had a BBQ, walks on the beach, went swimming and sailing. Everybody had a good time at the camp and made a lot of friends.

Children's Rights Seminar in Peru

Club Infantil 23 de Mayo CHAP recently organised a dynamic workshop on the rights of the child with children living in poverty.

This workshop was inspired by the need to help children living in poverty in Peru. 7 million children and adolescents (0-17 years) live in urban areas of Peru and 33 percent of them live in poverty, especially in Lima.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Lima has identified 17 areas where children have no access to basic services like health, water, electricity, sanitation, and are exposed to diseases. Peru is no longer a poor country but still thinks of itself as poor.

No investments are being made in the social area, which could eradicate child malnutrition and maternal mortality. It is shocking to see that in cities like Lima there is so much wealth alongside poverty.

The workshop was supported by Jack Low from the Woodcraft Folk who joined the group as a volunteer for children's work.



Learning About Racism Together

‘Learning About Racism Together’ was a five day seminar in Kibutz Ravid, that brought together participants from Czech Pioneers, Austrian Kinderfreunde, International Youth Federation, Palestine and Noar Oved Vehalomed, Israel in Ravid in August 2012.

Even though not everyone spoke English, the participants got to know each other and communicated well throughout the week by keeping an open mind and the willingness to promote intercultural learning.

They had sessions and lectures about racism and violence as a threat to society, experienced creative methods, learned about the Middle East, prepared workshops for children and young people about racism and violence and learned about life in a Kibbutz.



Dates for your Diary

25 - 28 October - **European Falcon Network Seminar** Oer- Erkenschwick (Germany)

4 -11 November 2012 - **Childrens Rights and Human Rights Education seminar organised by Kurt Lowenstein Educational Centre** (Germany)

11 - 18 November **Rainbow Resources Study Session** Budapest (Hungary)

30- November 2012 - **VAP screening** Brussels (Belgium)

27 December -3rd January 2013 - **Winterschool on Class Gender and Race organised by Kurt Lowenstein Educational Centre** (Germany)

Contributions to the IFM-SEI Newsletter

If you would like to tell other members about the work you are doing in your organisation, or a co-operation project you have set up in partnership with another organisation, please send a short article and photo to contact@ifm-sei.org. The deadline for articles for the next edition is 1st February 2013.

Friendship!

