

The History of IFM-SEI 1922 - 2014



The Beginning in 1922



In the first decades of the 1900s, more and more organisations were founded who worked for the ‘socialist education’ of children. In groups, children from working-class families could self-organise, critically reflect society and experience solidarity.

In 1922, representatives of socialist educational organisations from Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia met in Austria to discuss the role of socialist education.

They founded the ‘International Committee of Socialist Educational Organisations’ with German, Austrian and Czech founding organisations.



The First Members of IFM



Founding members

Kinderfreunde (Austria)
SJD-Die Falken (Germany)
Pionyr (Czechoslovakia)

1927

DUI-Leg og Virke (Denmark)
Latijas Bernu Draugu Biedria (Latvia)

1928

Hungarian Childfriends

1930

Schweizer Kinderfreunde

1934

MEO (France)
SKIF (Poland)
Faucons Rouges (Belgium)

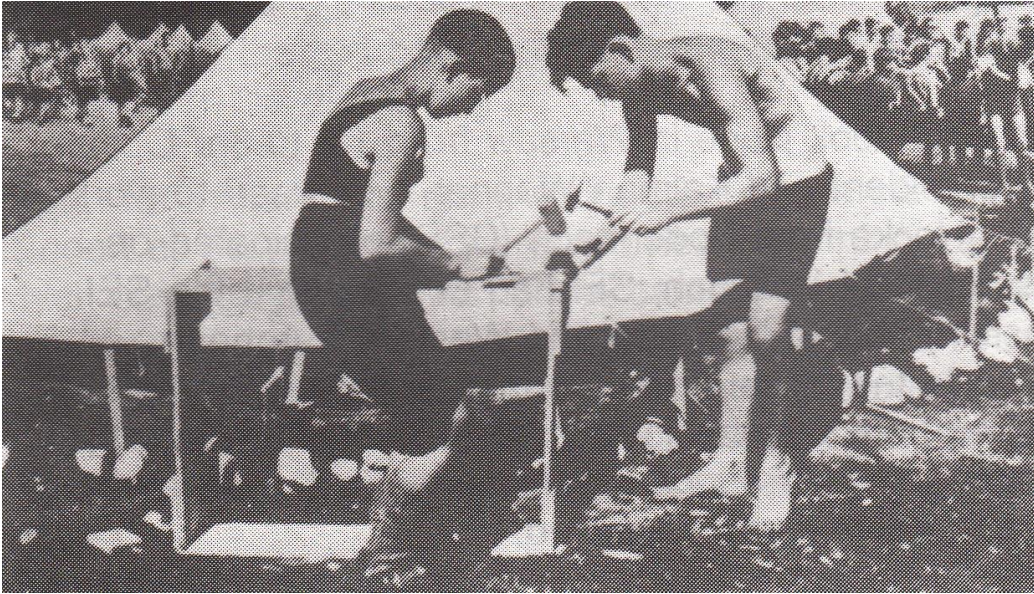


First 'Children's Republic' 1927 Seekamp, Germany

This camp with 2300 children was not just a holiday camp where children could play games, eat well and return home with some additional pounds; no, the camp was also a great educational experiment.



1933: First SEI Camp 'Falcon Republic' Oostduinkerke, Belgium



700 children from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Poland and Switzerland enjoyed the camp.

Camp anecdote:

Near the end of the camp the Austrian delegation, who already had great problems with the fascist dictatorship in Austria, asked the Flemish Rode Valken to keep their flags safe for them until they would be free again to use them in Austria. These flags remained hidden in Belgium during the war and were handed back over afterwards.



More Falcon Camps: 1935 – 1937 - 1939



2nd Falcon Republic, Verneuil L'Etang (France), 1935

900 children, from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, UK and Switzerland.

Theme: 'Trotz Alledem' ('Despite all')



3rd Falcon Republic, Brighton (UK), 1937

2000 children, from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France UK, Spain, Switzerland and Tunisia.

Theme: 'Solidarity'



4th Falcon Republic, Wandre (Belgium), 1939

1600 children, from Belgium, France, UK, Switzerland, Tunisia and refugee children from Spain.

Theme 'Liberty and Peace'



More Organisations Joined

- 1935 Framfylkingen, Norway
- 1935: Woodcraft Folk, UK
- 1936 Red Falcons of America
- 1938 Rode Valken, Belgium
- 1938: Spanish Pioneer Federation
- 1947 Unga Örnars Riksförbund, Sweden



First International Camp after WWII

In **1946**, in the immediate aftermath of global war, the **Woodcraft Folk** hosted an international camp in Brighton.

It brought together children and young people from previously warring countries, to create, for a fortnight, a community of hope for a better future and a better world. The event was instrumental in helping restore the shattered international links between children's and youth organisations dedicated to peace and social justice.



The International Falcon Secretariat

The S.E.I. practically ceased to exist in the 1930s because of the suppression of the socialist children's movement in Hitler Germany and other countries before and during WWII.

In 1947 the organisations decided that the time was not yet ripe for a strong international movement, but they founded the 'International Falcon Secretariat' with its headquarters in Amsterdam.

Aims: to work for the better knowledge and understanding between the different national affiliates.



Post-War Conferences, Congresses and Camps between 1947 - 1953

Hanoar Haoved
Vehalomed (Israel)
joined IFM in 1959.



Several conferences, congresses, large camps and leader training courses were held. During those year the IFM gained a reputation and was recognised as a partner by for example UNESCO.

However, it took some years until all national Falcon movements decided that it was time to set up a real organisation again.

Rashtra Seva Dal (India)
joined IFM-SEI in 1962.



At the Congress in Nuremberg in 1953 the **International Falcon Movement** was founded.



IFM-SEI in the 60s



In 1962, the 8th IFM Congress in Vienna took some important decisions:

- Full recognition of the challenges of developing countries; main task of the IFM defined as: *spreading the ideas of socialist education in the developing world*
- Decision to cooperate with IUSY and other Internationals of the Labour and Social democrat movement
- Headquarters of IFM moved back to Vienna
- Adoption of IFM educational principles

In the 60s, IFM-SEI became more and more international by including organisations from newly decolonised countries.



A New Old Name

New areas of work resulted in the development of new statutes and a new/old name that was adopted at a conference in Germany in 1970: International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International or **IFM-SEI**.

The name change and several changes in the statutes expressed a willingness to cooperate with like-minded organisations which didn't necessarily have the same background as the traditional Falcken groups.



Malta Labour Party
Brigade joined IFM-SEI



IFM-SEI in the 70s



Study visits to other continents, Congresses, leaders seminars, action plans in the framework of the International Year of the Child and different camps were organised in the 70s.

In that time, IFM-SEI strengthened their relations with the European Youth Forum, the Socialist International and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, organised joints activities with International Union of Socialist Youth and had several cooperation meetings and joint activities with the Scouts and Guides movements and CIMEA (communist youth).



IFM-SEI in the 80s

The main topic in the 80s was **Children's Rights**. The UN Convention was still under discussion and IFM-SEI played an important role in the advocacy work towards the adoption of this Convention.

Other topics were child labour, child abuse, peace and the situation of children in war and conflict areas.

We also paid special attention to the work and co-operation in the **Middle East**.



Expansion of International Relations

CAIC (Children's and adolescents' International Cooperation) 1981

IYNF (International Young Naturefriends), CIMEA (International Committee of Children's and Adolescents' Movements), WOSM (Scouts), WAGGGS (Girl Guides) and IFM-SEI formed an International Cooperation called CAIC.

CAIC organised common youth activities between **Western and Eastern Europe** in the spirit of peace, friendship, cooperation, children's rights, understanding and mutual respect

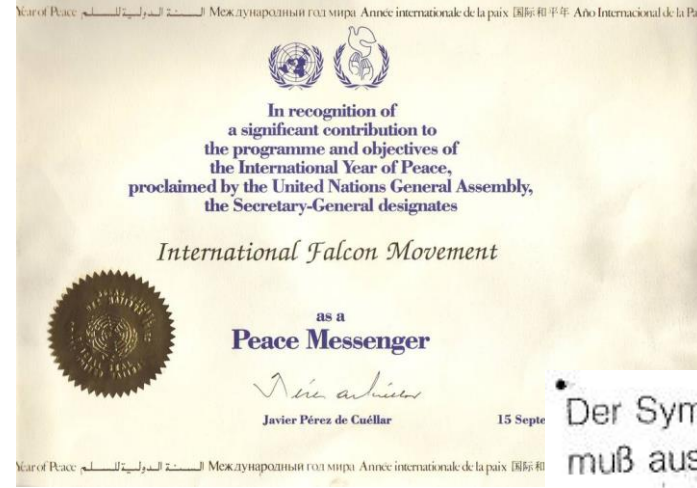


Camps, Campaigns, Awards

In the 80s, IFM-SEI ran a big **anti war toy campaign** with many European member organisations. We also developed a successful toolkit to discuss **child poverty** with children's groups.

Peace Messenger Award 1987

In recognition of a significant contribution to the programme and objectives of the International Year of Peace, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General designated IFM-SEI with the honorary title of 'Peace Messenger'.



IFM-SEI Peace Activities in the Middle East



In 1985, the IFM-SEI Secretary General handed over a letter to the UN, written with blood by Palestinians. The IFM decides to encourage peace activities among member organisations in the Middle East.



In the 90s and 2000s, almost yearly peace camps and seminars were held in the Middle East and in Europe in the framework of IFM's Peace Project Association and the Middle East Youth for Peace Movement.



More and More Organisations Join...

les francas

L'éducation en mouvement !

Les Francas,
Franca (1970)



apcc

associação para a promoção
cultural da criança

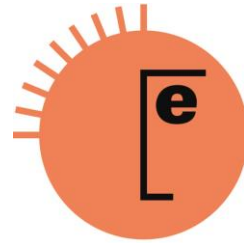
APCC, Portugal
(1980)



IFM camp 1988 in
Imatra (Finland)



Leo Lagrange, France
(1979)



esplac

Esplais Catalans

Esplac, Catalunya
(1986)



Expansion in Latin America

Thanks to the voluntary work of Alejandro Moraga in the IFM-SEI office in Brussels, IFM-SEI could improve relations with Latin American members. This resulted in Latin American Commission meetings and camps.



Latin American Commission Meeting, Uruguay 1989



Latin American Commission Meeting, Chile 1990



IFM-SEI in the 90s

Reforestration Camp (India), 1991

A big camp organised by Antar Bharati which took direct action for a better environment by planting trees.



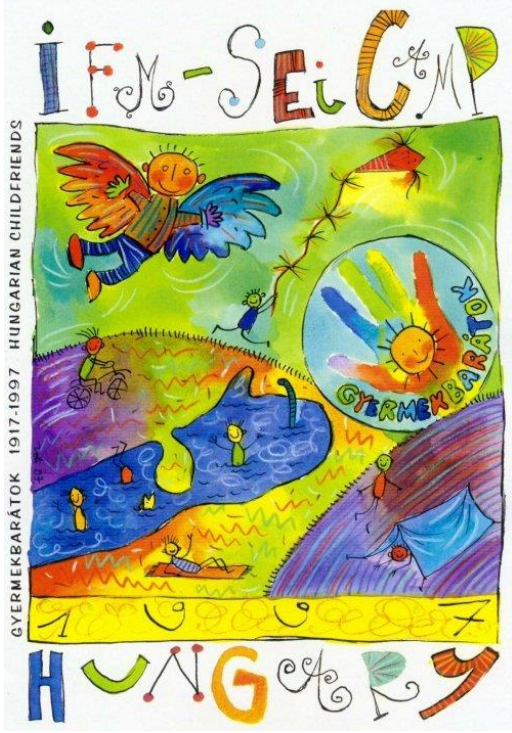
International Camp Norrköping (Sweden) 1991

This camp, hosted by Unga Örnar, brought for the first time large groups of Palestinian and Israeli children together. In total more then 5000 children participated in this camp!



IFM Camp: Youth cultures - World cultures, Zánka (Hungary) 1997

Children and young people from all over the world met at Lake Balaton in Hungary.



Women Power in IFM-SEI



1995-2001

For the first time two women are leading IFM-SEI: Odette Lambert (Faucons Rouges) as Secretary General and Jessi Sørensen (DUI Leg og Virke) as President.



Reproductive Health Education

From 2001 on, IFM-SEI was very active in the area of Reproductive Health Education.

In Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe a series of seminars took place to tackle this taboo subject and to train peer educators to work on this topic.



More Activities and Actions

Child Labour Seminar 1997

Hosted by Antar Bharati, IFM-SEI organised an International Seminar on Child Labour in the Era of Globalisation



IFM-SEI Pedagogical Briefcase 2000

The IFM-SEI Pedagogical Briefcase 'Fighting against Child Sexual Abuse' was realised with the support of the European Youth Foundation.

Children's World Conference, Wiesen (Austria) 2000



Seminars to Strengthen Eastern Europe

In the 90s, a series of seminars was organised to strengthen the Eastern European region, in France, Hungary, Romania and Russia. They focused on different topics (campaigning, strengthening participation, etc) and were instrumental in establishing a network of organisations in Eastern Europe, many of which have now collapsed unfortunately.



Camps in Other Regions

In 2004, an international camp was held in Huancayo, Peru.



Global Village 2006



In 2006, an IFM camp was held in UK, hosted by Woodcraft Folk, 60 years after the organisation invited its sister organisations to the first camp after World War II. Global Village brought together 4500 children and young people from all over the world for two exciting weeks.



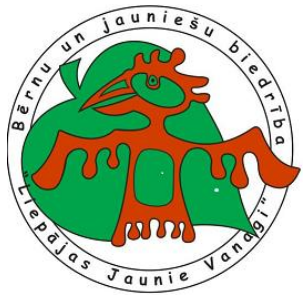
More members joined IFM-SEI in 2010



Fenix, Slovakia



YOBEC, Liberia



Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi, Latvia



OGCEYOD, Cameroon



TRAIN FOR CHANGE

800 young people, 12 days, two campsites, one Train for Change

Train for Change', organised by Kinderfreunde Austria, Czech Pionyr and IFM-SEI brought together more than 800 children and young people from all over the world. The children themselves decided that the camp should be about 'Action for Social Change' with the themes Gender and Sexuality, Discrimination and Prejudices, the World Economic System, Climate Change and Children's Rights.



Middle East Youth For Peace

The Middle East Youth for Peace cooperation continues until today. The Palestinian and Israeli members work closely together in the regional 'leading group', which has a very big impact on the cooperation between our Israeli and Palestinian member organisations.



Educational work in IFM 2007-2014

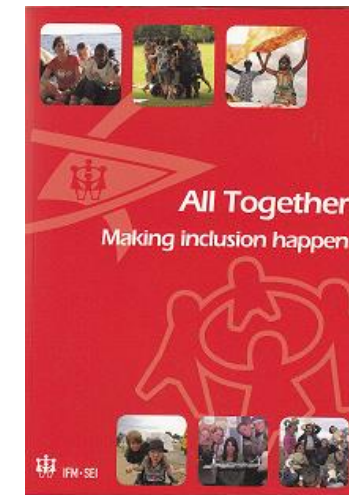


In the last years, IFM-SEI increased its number of projects and activities especially on global level on a number of topics, notably poverty, equality and inclusion, sustainable development, cooperation and the MDGs.

Inclusion Strategy 'All Together'



This strategy, aimed to make member organisations and IFM-SEI more inclusive, led to many new initiatives and projects and is still ongoing in 'All Together 2.0'.



EVS –Volunteering Worldwide

Since 2008, IFM-SEI regularly hosts EVS volunteers and since 2011 also coordinates volunteering programmes between member organisations.

The volunteers support their host organisations in their regular activities such as running children’s groups and organising campaigns.



Peers without Frontiers



Peers Without Frontiers



In this project in 2010 we set up a global network of peer educators working together on the Millennium Development Goals. The participants shared approaches to peer education and supported each other in developing local projects. These projects have been implemented in 16 communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and reached more than 2000 young people in the communities, 800 participants of IFM's global festival and several thousand users of the educational materials.



All Together Against Climate Change



With the project 'All Together Against Climate Change' (ATACC) in 2011 we created a European network of peer educators who received professional training on media and communication and climate change to transmit to their local youth groups and wider communities. They work with their peers to develop creative media campaigns on the fight against climate change which address young people in their environment and in the form and language best suited to them.



Rainbow Resources



The main aim of 'Rainbow Resources' is to empower and support young people to facilitate human rights education with children through development of LGBTQ educational resources, tackling hetero-normativity and increasing understanding of gender and sexuality amongst children.

The "Rainbow Resources", published in 2011, have become very popular in our organisations and beyond. In 2014, IFM-SEI publishes a new edition of this useful resource.



Volunteering against Poverty



The aim of 'Volunteering against Poverty' (2012) was to develop a strong network of young volunteers from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America to raise awareness on youth poverty and the struggle for decent work by producing educational tools and a thought-provoking and inspiring documentary. 24 young volunteers from all over the world have been trained in peer education and documentary-making to facilitate local video projects.

The 43-minute documentary film '**If you are poor, I am poor**' shows perspectives on poverty from around the world. The group 24 volunteers from 4 world regions have given people living in poverty a voice to express their opinions on changes that need to happen in society.

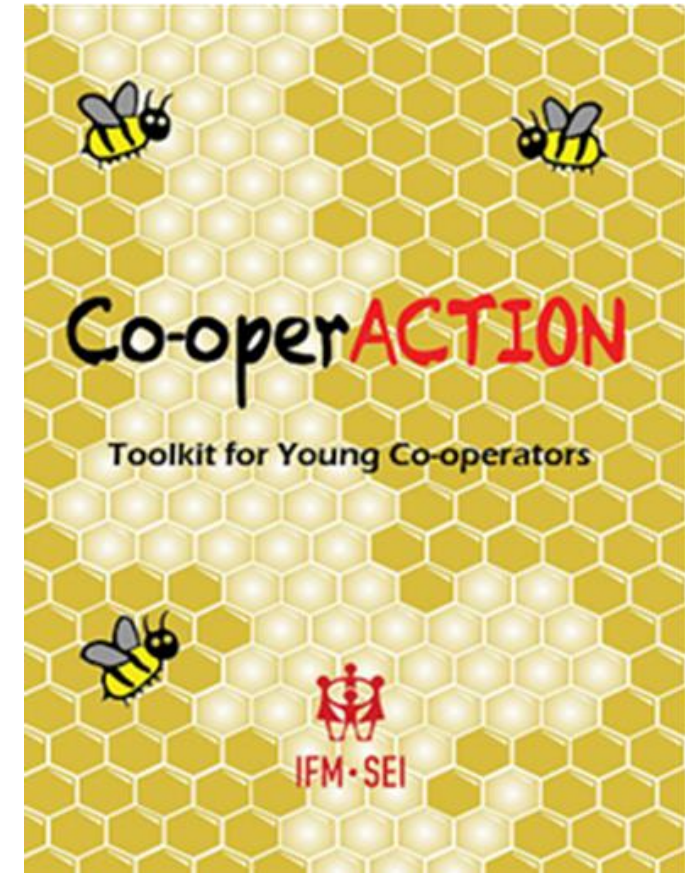


CooperAction



The Co-operAction project in 2013 aimed to promote the co-operative model of enterprise to young people through education, exchange and practical experience of setting up co-operative enterprises in 11 local communities.

Local groups learned about co-operative values and principles, developed ethical business ideas, decided on rules, roles and responsibilities in their co-operatives and are now running their small businesses.



External Recognition

In the last 15 years, IFM-SEI was stronger and stronger represented in other youth bodies.

- 2002: A delegation of children took part in the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Steering group for the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child
- European Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG)
- Represented in the board of the European Youth Forum and the Latin American Youth Forum
- ICMYO Taskforce (International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations)
- Steering groups organising the World Youth Conferences in 2010 and 2014
- Ad-hoc expert groups of the Council of Europe



And our Socialist Education continues...

