

IFM·SEI Newsletter

May 2013



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IFM-SEI is Recruiting a New Project Officer for Co-operACTION

We are looking for an enthusiastic and talented person to take over the key role of project officer for Co-operACTION, taking the project forward with the Secretary General and the volunteer co-ordination team.

The project started in the beginning of the year and will continue until 30th November 2013. We are looking for a replacement for our current project officer who will take over other responsibilities within the IFM-SEI secretariat. The starting date is 1st July 2013.



The project officer will be responsible for the overall co-ordination of Co-operACTION. They will be full of energy and ideas and will be comfortable taking the lead in a global project. The project officer will work in close co-operation with the Secretary General and the volunteer project co-ordination team to ensure the project meets its objectives. They will also be motivated to support the IFM-SEI secretariat in developing other educational projects.

Responsibilities

- To manage the day-to-day co-ordination of the project and monitor progress towards set project objectives
- To maintain regular communication with partner organisations and the co-ordination team
- To provide regular project updates to the Secretary General and Presidium of IFM-SEI
- To provide support to volunteers in the partner organisations
- To co-ordinate logistical arrangements of the Co-operACTION event together with the host organisation
- To play an active role in the development and execution of the educational programme at the Co-operACTION event together with the co-ordination team
- To oversee the project budget and perform basic bookkeeping tasks
- To regularly update the project website
- To develop educational activities on co-operatives together with the project co-ordination team
- To take responsibility for the production of Co-operACTION educational resources including drafting, editing and proof-reading texts and liaising with artists, designers and printers
- To write the project report including the financial report
- To identify funds and write grant applications for future funding of the project
- To assist with other IFM projects and activities where required

If you would like to apply or know someone who could be interested, please have a look at the detailed job description and application form on our website: www.ifm-sei.org.



Core Group Meeting of Co-operACTION Took Place in Bogota



The core group meeting of Co-operACTION took place in Bogota from 3–10 March. 11 educators spent a week learning about co-operatives, exchanging about (un)fair trade, experiencing co-operation and planning educational processes for youth co-operative projects in 11 Falcon organisations.

Co-operACTION aims to educate young people about co-operatives as a positive alternative form of enterprise. In 11 local communities across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America young people will start running small co-operatives soon, after they have decided together what they want to produce, sell or offer.

In the core group meeting the group leaders learnt a lot about co-operatives, their history, values and the impact co-operatives have to shape a better world. In the second half of the week we thought of ways to introduce co-operatives to youth groups and how to generate and decide on business ideas democratically. Then everyone developed an action plan to start youth co-operatives at home. In August four members of every local co-operative will come to Manchester to present and finalise their business plans. There they will also get help from experts on aspects such as finances, marketing and Fair Trade. At the end of this big Co-operACTION event we will kick-off the start of the youth co-operatives together.

Thanks to our wonderful hosts from Acacia we met two very interesting groups in Bogota that work very differently with co-operatives: You can find a blog entry from Julie (our team member from the co-operative college in the UK) about the two visits, if you click on the links.

- Acacia's work with children and families of low or without income in Santa Cecilia, where group leaders run activities, set up a library and empower women to make some money with self-made jewellery: <http://www.co-op.ac.uk/2013/03/santa-cecilia/>
- A land reform initiative of Colombia's Liberal Party (the socialist party in Colombia). They are working on ways against the unfair distribution of land: <http://www.co-op.ac.uk/blog-posts/co-operatives-peace/>

IFM-SEI and the Colombian Peace Process

After 60 years of conflict and several frustrated peace processes and negotiations on how to redistribute the land in Colombia, May 28 was a historical day: In La Habana-Cuba the first point of the agenda: 'Rural Development' was agreed!

The basis of the agreement is:

- Access and allocation of land (rural reform)
- Co-operative model to guarantee production and better distribution of wealth for farmers
- Access to education, health and poverty eradication in rural areas
- Formalisation of property and agricultural reserve

Why is this important for IFM-SEI? At our Co-operACTION core group meeting in Bogota members of IFM-SEI had the chance to exchange experiences with the peace process experts, sharing ideas on how the co-operative model has been used in solving conflicts. On the basis of the inputs from Sri Eni Purnamawati (KKSP Indonesia) and Julie Thorpe (Woodcraft Folk), a working document was developed and sent to the negotiation team. This working paper was adopted in the first agreement on the peace process!

We still have a long way to go, but it is impressive to see that IFM-SEI planted a seed contributing to long-lasting peace in Colombia.



European Falcon Network: The Importance of Falcon Groups

The annual European Falcon Network Seminar (EFN) took place in Salzburg, Austria and discussed the important issue of inclusive group growth. Most of our organisations are based on group work. Groups have a very positive sustainable impact on the young group members through the experience of solidarity, co-operation and long-lasting friendships. However, during the past years for many young people and funders group work has lost its attractiveness through a stronger focus on one-off projects and higher time constraints on young people. The benefits of sustainable group work are being lost in favour of youth work with very individualistic focus.

Some of our member organisations have set group work as one of their priorities and created strategies to educate their members about the importance and attractiveness of groups.

During the seminar we shared how we run groups and what are our current challenges in keeping them alive or opening new groups. In the second part of the seminar we discussed and learnt about strategies to make groups in our youth organisations more inclusive. We also discussed IFM-SEI's work plan and brought up some suggestions and amendments.



'Being right can't be right': International Seminar on Right-Wing Attitudes

The rise of far-right parties and groups in many European countries is shocking. Sexist jokes, anti-democratic views and racist, anti-semitic, islamophobic and homophobic remarks are accepted in many parts of our society. Easy solutions for complex challenges and difficult circumstances become more and more popular. Also our organisations, individual members and meeting places have been attacked.

We decided that we need to tackle this problem and invited volunteers from member organisations in Europe to participate in a seminar in Vilnius. After having defined far-right behaviour and situations and having shared the present situation in different countries, we discussed roots and manifestations of right-wing attitudes, analysed the impact of discriminative behaviour on us, on our organisations and on communities and came up with suggestions on how we can react towards it.

We also spiced up the 1st of May demonstration in Vilnius and carried out a common street action in the city centre. We coloured grey parts of Vilnius with chalk and graffiti slogans against far-right values, did a flash mob in the city centre and handed out flowers with positive messages to people.



The Red in the Rainbow: Queer Easter 2013

During the last week of March, Berlin became even more queer than usual. Around 90 participants from all over Europe and the Middle East gathered at the Falcon education centre Kurt-Löwenstein (KLH) just outside Berlin to attend the annual queer socialist seminar Queer Easter. Under the title 'Beyond the gender binary', participants from various left youth movements which are members of IFM, IUSY and YES, and from LGBT and trans* organisations tackled the issue of transphobia within society and even within our own youth organisations.

In creative, non-formal education processes, facilitators and participants explored specific issues such as intersexuality, gender fuck, how to be a good 'trans-ally', sexual education or how to bring back the 'T' in LGBT. Queer Easter is also a space where participants can share their knowledge, skills and experiences in open forums and workshops. The week of Queer Easter is peppered with some highlight events such as the women's- and trans* evening, which provides a safe space for people who identify as female or trans*.

Another highlight was the Berlin Day, where participants can provided and attended topic-related guided tours such as a visit to a refugee camp, the gay museum and the 'Karl-Marx-Tour', which culminated in a wild 'Karlem Shake' at the statute of Karl Marx.

It was the first time that an international seminar by IFM and YES dealt with trans* issues. This Queer Easter opened young left activists' eyes and certainly created awareness of the importance of having trans* people in their organisations and being a good ally to trans* people. Especially as socialists we need a high awareness of solidarity within the LGBT community. Great that this Queer Easter brought back the focus on the often forgotten T in the LGBT!



IFM-SEI Rainbow Network Co-ordinator needed!

Nominations have been re-opened for IFM-SEI's Rainbow Network Co-ordinator. The post is a three-year term, starting from June 2013. The Rainbow Network is an open network of any member of IFM-SEI interested in working internationally on the issues of gender and sexuality or setting up national networks.



The role of the Rainbow network co-ordinator includes: Keeping in contact with activists in the network, supporting activists to set up national rainbow networks, co-ordinating IFM-SEI's input into the annual Queer Easter seminar, co-ordinating IFM-SEI's LGBTQ work in co-ordination with the secretariat.

How do I stand for Rainbow Network Co-ordinator? The elections will take place at the Rainbow Network meeting on the evening of Friday 7 June on the IFM-SEI Congress. All members at the IFM-SEI Congress are welcome to attend the Rainbow Network meeting. Any IFM-SEI member can put their name forward for election at the meeting. If you are not attending the IFM Congress, send a manifesto (no more than one sheet of A4) to carly@woodcraft.org.uk by Wednesday 5 June.

IFM-SEI Rainbow Work Plan 2013-16

The IFM-SEI Rainbow Network met at Queer Easter to plan together our next three-year work plan. The work plan includes a video blog on Rainbow issues, regular updates in the IFM-SEI Newsletter, Rainbow spaces at camps, and offering training courses for educators.

Since there are not so many organisations outside IFM-SEI who are working with children on gender and sexuality yet, we also want to reach out and run Rainbow activities with children and educators from other organisations. Also a second edition of Rainbow Resources, our educational handbook should be published at the end of next year.

A new Rainbow Network discussion group has recently been set up to share your experiences and give updates, ask questions and look for support, share good practice and to work on common projects together. If you want to join, email contact@ifm-sei.org to be added to the group.

The Rainbow Network is always looking for new people to get involved. If you want to get on board with a project, or have new ideas, please get in touch with Carly (carly@woodcraft.org.uk).



SJD-Die Falken: Living International Solidarity at the Workers Youth Festival

For four days, more than 3000 young people gathered in Dortmund, Germany and lived international solidarity. Together with the Young Socialists, SJD-Die Falken organised a great festival with almost 800 participants from international sister organisations. Together we enjoyed four days full of interesting workshops, panel discussions, parties, games and sharing. We had fruitful discussions on inclusion and equality, intersectionality, anti-fascism and the importance of an independent youth structure.

At our Action Day, we brought our messages and demands with a big demonstration to the city centre of Dortmund and organised a festival in the streets. If you want to get some concrete impressions and opinions about the Workers Youth Festival, you can find a small video clip here: www.workersyouthfestival.org.



Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi: International Training Course on Inclusion



“Include your will power” was a training course for youth leaders and educators aiming to increase their competences in developing non-formal activities about inclusion.

By using innovative and creative approaches to social inclusion education, we learned about inclusion and participation through theatre plays, outdoor activities and through the IFM-SEI manual ‘All together: making inclusion happen.’

32 youth leaders and educators from youth organisations in Austria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Germany, Turkey and Czech Republic took part. They are all working with children and young people through educational activities on Inclusion. The overall project was 4 weeks long and the highlight was the 10-day training course in Liepaja, Latvia.

New Board and 20th Anniversary of ‘Nueva Generación’

At the occasion of our 20th anniversary, we would like to present our new board members:

Director: Sarah Arnez

Institutional Development Officer: José Ramirez

Administration: Maria Miranda

Youth responsible: Daysi Molina Aliaga

Responsible for teenagers: Maria Silvia Cajías and José Gutierrez

Responsible for children: Camila Chambi y Danner Flores

All board members have renewed their promise to continue to work in “Nueva Generación”, Bolivia. They have planned many activities for the upcoming year in supporting the rights of children and youth.



FENIX: ‘I’m in’ Youth in Action Project Approved



fénix

We are happy to inform you that our ‘Youth in Action’ project ‘I’m in’ was approved. It is a youth exchange that focuses mainly on active European citizenship. The main reason for choosing this topic is the Year of European Citizens 2013.

During this youth exchange for teenagers from 13 to 17, we will talk about ecology and the environment. The exchange will take place in Hrabušice near the national park ‘Slovak Paradise’. The participants will come from Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Latvia.

We thank IFM-SEI for our Latvian partners, because we met them at the European Falcon Network seminar and started our co-operation afterwards.

DUI-LEG og VIRKE: International Solidarity



DUI-LEG og VIRKE in Denmark has a number of international solidarity projects, primarily in India. The projects aim to get children out of child labor and into schools. In April the federal chairman of DUI-LEG og VIRKE, Stig Møller, visited the projects along with the chairwoman of the solidarity projects, Helle Christensen. Here is what he wrote after returning:

“It is emotionally powerful to come into areas of India where international aid agencies usually don’t work; where poverty reigns. The children and young people who live here with their parents and other family members own nothing, really nothing. The clothes they wear are pretty much the only thing they have.

But you will nevertheless meet happy children and young people. They really appreciate the support and encouragement they receive through educational and recreational activities from the local DUI departments day in and day out all year around.

For 5,000 danish kroner (670 euro) per year, we conduct lessons in groups of 25-30 children. If we do not give the children these opportunities for education, there is no future for them and they will be kept in poverty as child laborers.

The classes take place right where the pupils have their daily lives. Under a chestnut tree in the village, in a mud hut in a quarry or in a hut built of branches and cardboard near the village well, where the sound of the water pump or a passing express train mingle with the voices of excited children.

The teaching facilities are not flashy, but things work, and this is most important. Our efforts help to provide many children and young people with a belief in the future and make them aware of their rights, so that they can help change the society they are a part of.”

KKSP organised a Children Freedom Festival Day

In May young educators from the 4th district of North Sumatra, Indonesia organised a festival day for children under the theme ‘Educating creatively for Children’s Rights’. The aim of this activity was to campaign for the respect of children’s rights through theatre performances, a photo exhibition about children’s rights, learning and discussion spaces, music workshops and a VAP film screening.



The participants were street children, children from rural areas, child labourers, and students. There was also an interactive English course, to enable everyone to connect with people around the world. The premiere of the VAP documentary ‘If you are poor, I am poor’ took place in the evening. It is an impressive and touching film that shows different perspectives on poverty from around the world.

The music performances made the day very funny and energetic with street children, child labourers, children from rural areas and adults singing together with the support of an indie music band. This great day has been made possible by KKSP, SJD-Die Falken Bielefeld, Cakrawala Biru film community, Cakrawala Merah Outdoor Equipment and from some money that the singing street children earned.



Woodcraft Folk: becoming a young leader with TREE

Woodcraft Folk have been developing a support structure for young people to make the transition from being a participant to becoming a leader easier. This is the story of Seal, a member of the Steering Group for TREE, our youth participation programme. Attending training events where people of mixed ages and experiences can share leadership skills has helped her appreciate how many different approaches to leadership there are, and how much she has to offer other young people.



What happened?

Through the TREE Steering Group I helped to plan the 'Leaders Old and New' training event, so I was keen to attend and bring other members of my group along. While this event was much bigger than anything I've done before, my TREE experience enabled me to be prepared to make the most of it. TREE had empowered me to speak in a big group and helped me feel more comfortable at bigger events such as this. So I was able to take full advantage of all the cool workshops and ways to get involved.

The biggest thing I got from 'Leaders Old and New' was the chance to talk to other leaders from around the country about what it's like to be a leader.

The event taught me new skills in facilitation, mentoring, bushcraft safety—and gave me a confidence boost. Before attending, I didn't know how much I liked Woodcraft and it opened my eyes to how widespread the movement is but still linked by the aims and principles. It was great to have a range of leaders at the event, particularly the newer leaders who weren't set in their ways, who I felt I could learn most from. In the short term I now plan to run more Woodcrafty sessions with the Elfin and a Ceilidh for everyone in the District plus people from outside Woodcraft who want to get involved. Overall I plan to inspire other people to get involved while having a good time and visiting lots of different places and meeting different people. I'm really keen to reach out more, not only talking to people inside Woodcraft but also those outside.

Recommendations for young group leaders:

- Don't be afraid to ask, people are always keen to help.
- You have more to offer than you think.
- Come along to national events as everyone is always happy to see you and it's always useful.
- Go along to the next event either nationally or locally. If there isn't one, why not make one?



APFUTU and Woodcraft Folk: School for children in Pakistan opened

With great pleasure we would like to inform you that in April 2012 APFUTU, with the support of the Woodcraft Folk district of Sheffield has opened a school for the education of brick kiln child labourers, paper pickers and street children. 62 children are attending the first class in this new school. In February 2013 the children passed their first exams in Urdu, English, drawing, counting and mathematics.

In April 2013, the pupils of the school organised a walk against drugs in Gujrat city. The children shouted slogans like 'no more narcotics', 'go, go, narcotics, go', 'narcotics are dangerous' and 'save our lives from narcotics'.



ABN Organises Nordic Democracy School



In the autumn of 2012 and spring 2013 the network of the Nordic IFM-SEI organisations arranged the first ever Nordic Democracy school. This was a project for young leaders from IFM-SEI organisations in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Four young leaders from each country gathered to visit each of these country's capitals for one weekend.

The idea was to learn how each organisation operates in their country, to compare our work and to share ideas. The meetings so far have already created a strong network and friendships between the young leaders. Each meeting was planned by the youngsters from the host organisation.

Each time we had a different subject to work on. We learned through discussions and workshops about ways of recruiting young leaders and involving children in decision making processes, about different forms of democracy and how to work on sustainable development inside our organisations. Hopefully the project will continue. We got lots of information, ideas and of course lots of new friends.

ESPLAC Summercamp: 'Together for Diversity'

On 19th July the International Camp 'Together for Diversity' organised by the association Esplais Catalans will start. 'Together for Diversity' (T4D) will involve around 300 young people coming from different European countries. Most of the partners are members of the International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI). Young participants aged 14 to 17 and their youth leaders from Algeria, Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and Catalonia will live an unforgettable experience of 10 days together, absorbed in the nature of the splendid scenery of the Pedraforca Mountain in the village of Saldes (Barcelona province).



Diversity will be the main topic of the camp. It will promote non-discrimination, equality, European active citizenship and voluntary youth work, among other topics that our esplais (youth centres) and partners will define. The activities – such as theatre, arts, games, role play, forums, debates, etc. - aim to promote critical thinking and will raise awareness of cultural diversity. During the T4D Camp, participants will live together in four villages. In the end the four villages will meet to exchange activities done during the first days.

By bringing the experiences of all villages into one big camp, we expect to promote new debates. Thus, starting from the experience in autonomous and independent villages, we want to end the camp with building a big community where respect, understanding and sharing responsibilities will be the basis of a society open to diversity. A society where differences are not an obstacle: they are an opportunity to enrich our lives.

IFM-SEI Middle East: Regional Cooperation Seminar

From 7 - 9 of February the first seminar of a new group of guides (this is how we call group leaders) took place. Almost 40 people from the four youth movements of the IFM-SEI Middle East co-operation had several workshops learning together about equality, stereotypes & prejudices and critical thinking. Of course there was also a lot of space to get to know each other, each other's life stories and each other's movements, and we played theatre at a cultural evening.

The whole seminar was prepared and led by a mixed team of members of the Regional Leading Group of the co-operation. Everyone said that the topics discussed laid a basis for further co-operation.

To be continued, next stop: Identity.



Dates for your Diary

06.-09.06.2013	IFM-SEI Congress * Manchester (UK)
19.-28.07.2013	Esplac's International summer camp 'Together for Diversity' * Pedraforca (Catalonia)
23.07.-01.08.2013	Nuoret Kotkat's International summer camp 'KAMU2013' * Sauvo (Finland)
26.06.-07..08.2013	Lithuanian Young Falcon Union's summer camp '10 parent-free days' * Pasaka (Lithuania)
03.-11.8.2013	Woodcraft Venturer Camp * Liitle Eaton Derbyshire (UK)
11.-18.8.2013	Co-operACTION Event Manchester * (UK)
31.09.-09.10.2013	ESPLAC International Training Course * Sant Joan de les Abadeses (Catalonia)

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 September 2013.

Enjoy your Summer and Friendship!



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