

# IFM·SEI Newsletter

February 2013



**VAP Resources published / Report of 'Rainbow Resources' study session**

**Seminar on right-wing extremism / Co-operACTION / IFM-SEI Congress**

**Queer Easter / Capacity building camp for girls / Learn to be a Hobbit**

**Sharing our heritage in Latin America / International Winterschool**

**FENIX National meeting / 'The Group Matters' in Cameroon**

**Faucons Rouges work on sustainability / News from Mundo Nuevo**

**New volunteers in Nueva Generacion / Join the Workers Youth Festival**

**International Camps of Esplac, Nuoret Kotkat, Lithuanian Young Falcon Union**



## Volunteering Against Poverty Resources now available

After a year of hard and exciting work of the VAP volunteers, we can proudly announce that a whole set of resources on poverty and inequality is now available!

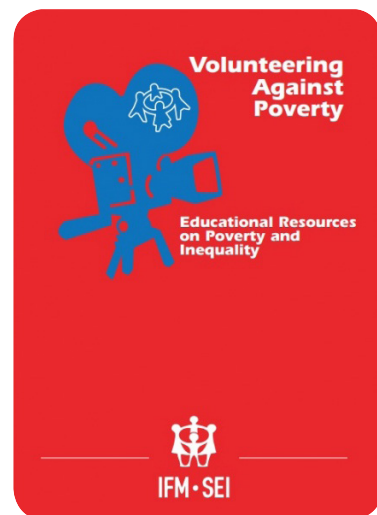
Watch our documentary film 'If you are poor, I am poor': A 45 minute film with very inspiring portraits of young people from all over the world, giving insights into their lives and talking about why poverty exists. The film is available on DVD with subtitles in German, Latvian, English, French, Danish, Spanish and Catalan or on youtube in English, French and Spanish and German.

English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhJ4SD3PiA0>  
French: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQhxespyC2M&feature=youtu.be>  
Spanish: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36fYbtzKITs&feature=youtu.be>  
German: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itKzcileZyw&feature=youtu.be>

You can find more perspectives on poverty in our web documentary, an online space where you can dip in and out, choose which portraits on poverty to watch and hear more about the impressions of the young film makers from our member organisations. You find the web documentary here: <http://vap.ifm-sei.org>

And finally we have again published a handbook with educational resources for you: the VAP manual full of activities on poverty and inequality for all age groups, ranging from short energizers on the topic to simulation games on capitalism and Fair Trade. The publication is available in English (also in print), Spanish, French and German. You can find them all under publications in the document section of our website. You can also search for individual activities in the online toolbox: <http://ifm-sei.org/toolbox>

Every member organisation received hard copies of the book and the DVDs. If you would like to have more copies, please email us at [contact@ifm-sei.org](mailto:contact@ifm-sei.org)



## Working on Volunteering against Poverty



My name is Delphine and I come from OGCEYOD, Cameroon. In 2012 I was one of the volunteers in IFM-SEI's global project Volunteering Against Poverty (VAP). I joined other VAPers for the first time in September 2011 in Spain to start an exciting journey in 2012 when I was an EVS volunteer in the IFM-SEI office.

Before I started VAP, I used to look at poverty from a different perspective. I thought that with collective effort in providing education and good health, poverty can completely be eradicated. But providing education and health sometimes does not solve the whole problem. The system has made it difficult for many people to get out of poverty. In Cameroon it is the system of the Godfathers and in the world it is called capitalism. We live in a world where people get jobs and services just because someone that they know is connected to the job in question.

Why do you think that so many young intelligent people graduate from school yet cannot find a job? Why do you think that to have a good job in Cameroon, you have to know someone who is influential? Why do you think that poor people work twice as hard as rich people yet they are still poor? Why do you think that immigrants with good qualifications and legal documents in resident countries cannot get a decent job? I have realised that to eradicate poverty, we must provide education that helps people to reflect power relations and oppression of people.



Working on the VAP project for me was very challenging. It was particularly hard because I had to work on a familiar topic on unfamiliar grounds. It was scary because my new environment challenged me to change the way that I knew things, the way that I had grown to see things. It compelled me to accept the truth that has always been staring me in the face, the truth that I was scared to admit: that the system that we live in reinforces poverty and inequality. The truth that capitalism sucks!

My part of the VAP documentary should be on something very special, captivating and interesting. Then I met a beautiful African woman who became self-employed and she inspired me to do a story on her life.

### **The Dream and the Nightmare**

To me this young woman represented the dream that most young people in Africa have: that leaving Africa and moving to Europe will immediately make us rich and solve all our problems, that Europe is a land of milk and honey. But no one actually ever tells young people the truth, so we are ignorant about the life in Europe and once we get here, we start facing challenges that we never knew existed such as residence permits, bureaucracy and racism. Just like Marion, the woman I portrayed, I know I am black but I never understood what it means to be black to the world!

### **Life after the VAP project**

I now see the need for constant activism, for fighting for the rights of women and young people. I see a world challenging us to get out of our comfort zones to do something as inspiring as VAP, but I also see us overcoming these challenges. I see us making mistakes, because mistakes are part of life and there isn't a better way of learning than learning from experience. I see us in a world that is free, fair, secure and just, where the violence, killing and injustice will cease to exist just because we raised our voices against it.

### **Once a VAPer, Always a VAPer**

VAP was not just about being in a project. It goes beyond that. It was about volunteering against poverty and all the causes of poverty. It was about putting humanity first before individual interest. Once you acquire these values and principles, you don't lose them ever. I want to use this unique opportunity to thank my fellow VAPers for all the time that we have spent together. Thank you and never stop being a VAPer!

## **Study Session on 'Rainbow Resources' took place in Budapest**

In 2011 IFM-SEI, published a resource on gender and sexuality education with children, since we found that the existing ones focus more on teenagers and adults. The "Rainbow Resources" have become very popular in our organisations and beyond.

To introduce more educators to Rainbow Resources, we organised a study session on gender and sexuality education with children in cooperation with the Council of Europe in November 2012 in Budapest. We discussed gender and sexual identity, talked about different forms of education, participants' experiences as educators and had a closer look on child development.



We also dealt with the many obstacles that educators meet when they want to work on gender and sexuality with children and put homophobia and gender-based discrimination into a wider, structural picture.

Everyone had the opportunity to adapt and try out activities from Rainbow Resources to become more familiar with the publication and more confident in using them back home, and finally created 'Action Plans' for the work in their organisations. They planned to organise leaders' trainings, group nights for children, thematic camps, visits in primary school and much more.

The participants are highly motivated to use Rainbow Resources at home and to show the publication to other educators. Although there are still many challenges to overcome when it comes to sexual rights and gender equality, it is good to know that many youth activists are eager to promote Human Rights and want to educate their children groups for a world where everyone can equally take part in society, no matter how they identify themselves, no matter who they love or how they look.



With this study session our Rainbow network became stronger, also including organisations outside IFM-SEI. Together we will continue to disseminate our resources so that as many children as possible will have the chance to take part in our activities.

You can download either the whole book as pdf-file or look for single activities or notes in our toolbox on [www.ifm-sei.org](http://www.ifm-sei.org). The [Rainbow Study Session Report](#) has also been published on the Website of the Council of Europe.

## Turning the tide: Seminar against right-wing extremism in Europe

The horrific attack on AUF Norway in 2011 is still hard to come to terms with, but sadly this was not a one-off or freak example of right-wing, anti-democratic action in the last few years. Other IFM-SEI organisations, their partners and meeting places have also faced attacks. The rise of right-wing populist parties in many European countries is particularly shocking. The parties and their programmes have not changed much in the last years, but they have become more and more popular in the mainstream society. Anti-democracy, racism, anti-semitism, islamophobia and homophobia are rising everywhere in Europe. Easy solutions for complex challenges and difficult circumstances become more and more popular.

IFM-SEI invites members from our European organisations to a seminar on right-wing extremism. We want to discuss the roots and manifestations of rightwing extremism in Europe and its impact on individuals, on organisations and communities. We will explore non-violent strategies to stand up against right-wing extremism. Inspired by street-artists we will to carry out a street action against racism and right-wing attitudes in Vilnius.

The Seminar takes place in Vilnius, Lithuania from April 28th – May 5th 2013. Due to funding reasons, only members from European organisations can apply. If you are interested, check out the call for participants for more information.

<http://ifm-sei.org/articles/turning-the-tide>



## Co-operACTION gets off the starting blocks

IFM-SEI has a new super-exciting project in 2013. Eleven peer educators from IFM-SEI member organisations worldwide will soon meet in Bogota and learn about Co-operatives, about Fair Trade and democratic and ethical forms of business. We will also visit and get inspired by existing co-operatives in Columbia. With Julie from Woodcraft Folk and the Cooperative College the peer educators will have great resource person to learn from.



After the seminar in Bogota everybody will educate their peers at home and will set up youth co-operatives in their communities. Local teams from each partner organisation will gather at a high visibility Co-operACTION event in Manchester in August 2013 to share their ideas for co-operative enterprises, discuss how co-operation can reduce inequality and learn how to develop and implement their business plans. The group will share their ideas and resources on a Co-operACTION website that will continue to serve as a space for information and exchange on youth co-operatives after the end of the project. We will inform you as soon as the website is up and running for the public.



## Invitation to the IFM-SEI Congress

It is with pleasure that we invite all member organisations to the XXVI. IFM-SEI Congress. It will take place in Manchester from **6-9 June 2013**, where we will be hosted by the Woodcraft Folk. The IFM-SEI Congress is our opportunity as a democratic, membership-based movement to contribute to the development of our international, to consider how best to work together for the achievement of children's rights and to motivate and empower our members for the work ahead.

We will discuss in what direction we would like to see IFM-SEI moving in the coming period, adopt a new strategy and work-plan and elect the next IFM-SEI Presidium. Of course there will also be enough time to get to know comrades from sister organisations, learn from each other and share ideas.

We are looking forward to meeting many of you in Manchester!

## Invitation to the international seminar Queer Easter 2013

The next Queer Easter seminar will take place from 25 March to 1 April 2013. Queer Easter is an annual seminar hosted by SJD - Die Falken on behalf of IFM-SEI. The week combines workshop sessions, the opportunity to run your own forums, a social programme and creative working groups. Each creative working group focuses on a specific topic relating to the theme of the seminar. This year's topic is a critique of the gender binary system that splits people just into male and female gender roles and gender identities.

The grant financing the seminar unfortunately only allows the participation of young people from Europe and the Middle East. If you are interested or if you have further questions, please contact Tim Scholz [t.scholz@kurt-loewenstein.de](mailto:t.scholz@kurt-loewenstein.de).



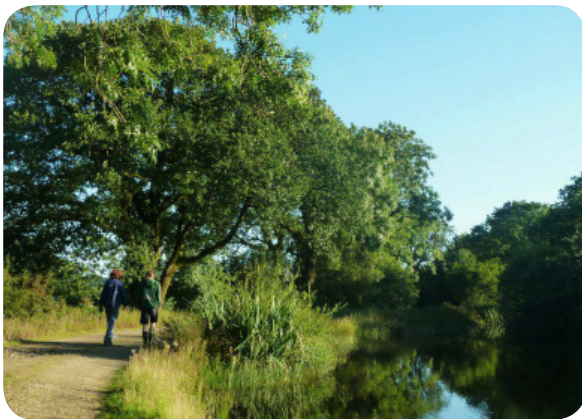
## Senegalese Pioneers organised capacity building camp for girls

From 23 to 30 September 2012 the Senegalese Pioneers organised a camp for Pioneer girls from the regions of Thies, Dakar, Fatick and Ziguinchor. The girls took part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. They had workshops on topics such as sustainable development and the role of women in society, discussed HIV/AIDS prevention and the fight against child abuse; they went on excursions in the surroundings and could even take yoga lessons every morning.

This first capacity-building camp was a great success in terms of intensive sharing, learning from each other and living together in respect of the Pioneer values. The girls had the possibility to think about what place they want for themselves in society and within the Pioneer movement. The camp was only the start for a new era for girls in the movement! A committee was set up to follow up the results of the camp and to prepare the next girls camp for the coming year. The camp 2013 will be a meeting place for girls from the whole of Senegal and from abroad.



## Woodcraft: Learn to be a Hobbit



From 27 October to 3rd November 2012, eleven teenagers from Woodcraft Folk learnt to build hobbit holes. We visited Lammas, an Eco Village in Pembrokeshire, Wales, which has 9 plots with 9 families living there, all devoted to living off the land in the most sustainable way they can. We were trained in green building, permaculture, timber framing and organic growing.

We've got another trip run and funded by Woodies aged 16 to 21 lined up for April 2013. So we are organising another mind-blowing week-long training course in earthbag building, organic veg growing, knife and saw sharpening, cob building, timber framing, cutting and joining and a tour of an internationally recognised permaculture community.

## Latin American region: Sharing our heritage

From 23 - 25 November 2012, Integridad Absoluta invited the Latin American Falcons to the workshop 'Sharing our heritage and identities of the Latin American region'. The goal was to explore the relationship between cultural identity, heritage and traditions of the Latin American region, analysing experiences of cultural identity, heritage and its application in everyday life. The activities were funded by the Regional Government of Coquimbo and took place in three cities: La Serena, Coquimbo and La Higuera.

We had participants from all over Latin America: from Movimiento de Expresión Política (Mexico), Acacia (Colombia), Milavf (Nicaragua), Mentas en Acción (Honduras), Mirim-Brasil, Horneros punto AR (Argentina), CHAP (Peru), Los Cachorros (Peru) and Nueva Generacion from Bolivia.



## International Winterschool of SJD-Die Falken

More than 120 young people from left youth organisations in Europe and the Middle East have met after Christmas for a seminar on social exclusion and inequality. The overall topic was 'intersectionality'. Participants analysed how the combination of a person's identity (gender, ethnic origin, income, status) creates hierarchies and multiple discrimination in society. They realised that the present capitalist system is working through exclusion. People who are excluded tend to also exclude others because they are afraid to be discriminated against even more. It is important to integrate marginalised groups and fight together for more participation. We must begin in our own organisations and live solidarity.



Also outside the official program many interesting discussions and sharing of experiences took place. Participants took ideas and educational concepts home to their own organisations and will hopefully empower others to stand up against social exclusion and inequality.



## Mundo Nuevo organises many new activities

In the last months lots of exciting activities took place in our organisation Mundo Nuevo. At Christmas, which is a special day in Peru, we organised a big celebration. Many people took part and shared good and cheerful moments of fraternity. During the last months educators from Mundo Nuevo delivered interactive after-school workshops in mathematics and English to support children in their formal education.

Our first charity concert was held on 10th January 2013. The benefit went to a community of children in the northern part of Lima in which Mundo Nuevo is active. Generous and caring musicians, three rock bands and volunteers participated in making this concert a success. The funds will be used to buy educational materials and build up classrooms to carry out our workshops and classes properly.

Now we are about to start our next project, "Art as Vehicle for Change", which you will hear about shortly.

## 4th national meeting of FENIX

The last national meeting of Fenix took place in September 2012 in the national park Slovensky raj, which is famous for its beautiful nature. During our meeting it was full of 150 children and young people from Fenix for four days. Every national meeting of Fenix is held on a different topic, and in 2012 it was ecology. We recycled things, talked about what we can do for the environment and how we see the world in the future. Groups of participants committed to one ecological action. Some of them were:

"We won't use our cell phones" or "We will use the shower only for two minutes." We had a lot of fun with lots of activities and games and long walks every day to discover as much as possible in the national park.



## 'The group matters' in Cameroon

To mark the end of a successful year, a colourful celebration was held in Limbe which brought together over sixty children from the two OGCEYOD Falcon groups for an event filled with drumming, dancing, speeches and singing. The event showcased the talents and the creative methods used throughout the year and the impact of non-formal education which resulted in the children learning about global issues such as climate change and children's rights and helped them to improve their self confidence.

Laura, who has been an EVS volunteer in OGCEYOD, says: "This year has been immensely rewarding for me, I have especially enjoyed working with the young people in my groups. My highlights of the year have included: Setting up two children's groups and taking them on educational outings to plant trees and take part in national events such as the Day of the African Child, organising local educational events such as the Rio +20 day, exploring and filming development issues such as gender and unemployment, orphanages and rural poverty, designing and delivering workshops to hundreds of young people and talking to the public about sexual health and STI prevention for World AIDS Day. This year has allowed me to follow my interests and design projects to tackle development problems particular to Cameroon as well as learn about the challenges in the NGO sector such as corruption and lack of government support."



## Sustainable Development in Faucons Rouges

One of our projects for 2012-2013 is called 'Sustainable development in the organisation of events is possible!'

Through this important project we aim to raise awareness of sustainable development and especially sustainable transport among youngsters. Mobility without cars or even coaches has to become a priority in terms of the environment, quality of life and economic efficiency. We chose to focus on one aspect of sustainable development which seeks to enable each young person to be on the road again and to travel independently and safely by bike.

What did we do? We purchased bicycles and helmets that are available to local groups so that they can have a great journey to go on camps, overnight stays or for weekly activities. In the provinces of Liège and Hainaut, hundreds of children have already benefited. For groups who have never rode a bike before, we organise a training session for about hours, given by a specialised team leader of the Central Bureau of the Faucons Rouges.

A brochure to specifically help leaders in organising safe group travels by bike will soon be published with the support of the IBSR.

For facilitators, we organise specific training sessions on the ecological footprint, on sustainability and on handicraft to reuse different materials. Many objects can live several different lives.

We also created an educational tool especially for camps and an activity pack with training activities about sorting waste. Our teams are now working on making a mini-container park attractive and functional with educational panels, playful workshops and informative teaching resources. These mini-parks and mobile containers can then be used in regional and community gatherings. Local groups will also be able to use them in their activities.



## New volunteers in Nueva Generacion



In December 2012 we held a gathering for all new volunteers working in Nueva Generación. For six weeks we will organise workshops with information and trainings to initiate our work on children's rights in schools, sexual and reproductive health with pre-teenagers, a parents club and a 'waiting club' for pregnant women.

January 15, 2013 marked the second anniversary of our Children's Center 'Alegria'. Children and parents of Nueva Generación presented and renewed their wish to continue to develop this service to a good childhood by educating the values of tolerance, respect, solidarity and democracy.

We kindly invite all our Falcon comrades to visit our work. We would be pleased to host you.

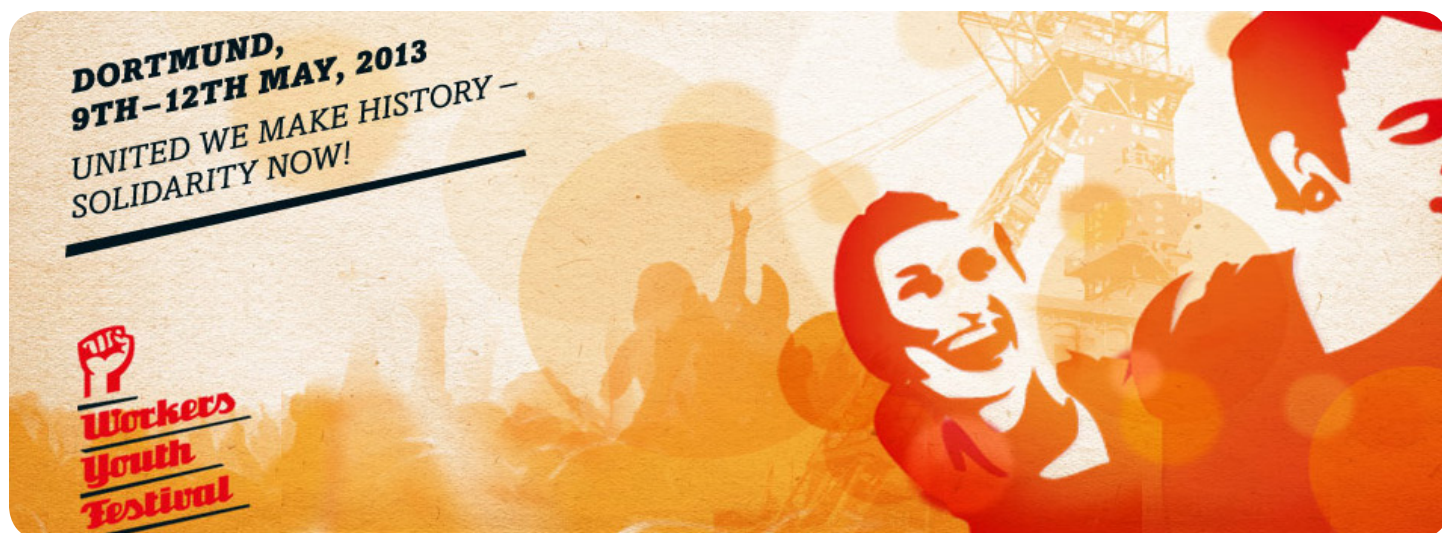
## Invitation to the Workers Youth Festival: Registration is now open

SJD-Die Falken and our partners fight for social change and a world of justice, solidarity and freedom, for a socialist world in which people count – not profits. We fight for a democratic world, in which young people can participate and co-decide.

At the Workers Youth Festival we will show to the world the ideals that we are fighting for. From 9-12 May 2013 we will prove: youth are not turned off by politics, they are turned off by its system! The festival will encompass four days of various political actions, workshops, discussions and concerts.

Comrades from all over the world, trade unions and fellow organisations are invited – and you are, too! All information about registration, programme and locations can be found here: <http://www.workersyouthfestival.org/?lang=en>. You can also find us on Facebook and join us on Twitter.

Participation fee will be 35 Euro. Travel reimbursement will be available under specific conditions, contact Maja Toelke [maja.toelke@sjd-die-falken.de](mailto:maja.toelke@sjd-die-falken.de) for details.



## One step forward in 'Together for Diversity' Esplais Catalans International Camp

The preparations for the camp 'Together for Diversity' (19 to 28 July 2013, Pedraforca campsite in Catalonia) have taken an important step forward. Different esplais of Esplais Catalans have prepared the basic programme of the four villages that will compose the camp. Each village will host three delegations. Now starts a period of sharing activities with partner organisations to enrich the programme with new proposals.

The common theme of all villages will be diversity. The topic will be explored from different perspectives (gender, human rights, participation, poverty, discrimination, democracy, intercultural learning, inclusion) and with different methodologies (Theatre of the Oppressed, painting, playing, music, role playing, group debates), encouraging youngsters from 13 to 17 to have an active role in decision-making processes.

The results of the activities that will happen during the first four days will be shared during the last three days, aiming to transform all villages into one big camp where a common sense of European citizenship and living together will be created. We expect the participation of around 300 youngsters, coming from Kinderfreunde – Rote Falken (Austria), Nuorten Kotkien Keskuslitto (Finland), Solidaritätsjugend Deutschlands (Germany), Arciragazzi (Italy), Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi (Latvia), Lithuanian Young Falcon Union (Lithuania), Framfylkingen (Norway), APCC (Portugal) and Woodcraft Folk (United Kingdom).

We will soon launch a call for volunteers who want to give logistical support to the camp, such as cooking, taking pictures, etc. The deadline of this call will be on 15th April. If you want to volunteer at our camp, you should come to the 'volunteers meeting' planned for the 11th May, arrive to the campsite two days before its opening and ideally stay during the whole camp. We can cover meals and accommodation of volunteers, but not travel expenses.



The registration of delegations will start on 1st April.

A preparatory meeting of the camp will take place between the 7th and the 9th of June. We expect one youth leader from all partner organisations.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Marc Garcia, international Project Coordinator of Esplac ([internacional@esplac.cat](mailto:internacional@esplac.cat)).

## Invitation to KAMU 2013 Summercamp in Finland

# KAMU

KAMU 2013 • 23.7.-1.8.2013 • Sauvo, Finland

Tent camp for people of all ages!



Hello friends all over the world,

We are in full speed of preparing our 70 years Jubilee camp KAMU2013 in summer 2013.

We want to welcome you all to spend 10 days with us in Sauvo, Finland from 23.7.-1.8.2013. The camp is called 'Kamu', which in Finnish is a nickname for the word friend (kaveri).

The camp will take place in Sauvo, Ahtela - a youth campground by the sea, 50km from Turku, 150km from Helsinki

The camp fee is 250 €. It includes transportation from Helsinki and Turku (harbors and airports), meals, sleeping in your own tents and a diverse program from swimming to workshops and from handicrafts to camp celebrations. Under 4-year olds can camp free of charge. Participants/groups are expected to bring own tents.

Please register until 15th April. After 15th April the camp fee will go up to 300€. If your group/organisation has difficulties paying the camp fee, please contact Soili Sirenne : [soili.sirenne@nuoretkotkat.fi](mailto:soili.sirenne@nuoretkotkat.fi)

Come to make new friends from all over the world!

Visit our website on [www.nuoretkotkat.fi](http://www.nuoretkotkat.fi)  
You can also find Nuoret Kotkat on Facebook.



## International Summer camp of LYFU '10 parent-free days'

The Lithuanian Young Falcon union invites you and your friends with great pleasure to the summer camp.

- 1 one amazing camp
- 2 two thousand steps to the sea
- 3 three surprises
- 4 four afternoon games
- 5 five workshops
- 6 six non-formal education classes
- 7 seven intriguing evening events
- 8 eight fantastic and a bit crazy leaders
- 9 nine disco evenings
- 10 at least 10 new friends



- Time:** June 26 – July 5, 2013
- Place:** Campsite 'Pasaka' by the Baltic sea
- Price:** 650 LTL (appr. 190 EUR)
- Main goal:** To organize a meaningful leisure time through creative, civic and social activities
- Values:** Tolerance, non-discrimination, gender equality, citizenship, volunteering, solidarity and justice
- Themes:** children's participation in decision-making, self-education, children's rights, real childhood, gender roles.
- Activities:** Fantastic games from leaders' childhood, non-formal education workshops covering the main camp themes, LYFU Parliament and Presidential elections, forest and sea festival, dance marathon, 'Falcons have talent' concerts, hiking and many other activities
- Major languages:** Lithuanian, English and Falconian – the language of friendship
- Size:** 200 members of the organization and their friends
- Age of participants:** from 7 to infinity, smaller children can participate with their parents in a separate registration
- Registration:** Begins on March 1, 2012, ends on June 15. Please send registration form and parents' agreement to e-mail: [sakaliuku.stovykla@gmail.com](mailto:sakaliuku.stovykla@gmail.com)



Friendship and see you soon!  
[www.sakaliukai.lt](http://www.sakaliukai.lt)

## Upcoming dates for your diary

- 03.-10.03.2013 **Co-operACTION core group meeting** \* Bogota (Colombia)
- 19.-21.04.2013 **Presidium meeting** \* Manchester (UK)
- 25.03.-01.04.2013 **Queer Easter** \* Werftpfuhl (Germany)
- 11.-14.04.2013 **European Falcon Network** \* Salzburg (Austria)
- 28.04.-05.05.2013 **Right-wing extremism seminar** \* Vilnius (Lithuania)
- 09.-12.05.2013 **Workers Youth Festival** \* Dortmund (Germany)
- 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.-05.2013 **Lithuanian Young Falcon Union's summer camp „10 parent-free days“** \* Pasaka (Lithuania)

### 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](mailto:contact@ifm-sei.org).

The deadline for articles for the next edition is 1st May 2013.

**Friendship!**