

IFM·SEI Newsletter

April 2012



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Living the VAP EVS Experience



IFM-SEI was successful in securing two big grants for two very exciting projects in 2012. These two projects are called Volunteering against Poverty (VAP). Through the European Voluntary Service project, 17 volunteers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe are spending up to a year in another IFM member organisation, working with groups of children and contributing to the work of the organisation at local and national level. Together with local volunteers from 3 other organisations, they will participate in the global VAP project, making a documentary film on youth poverty and unemployment.

As the curtains of 2011 closed, IFM-SEI bid all volunteers a safe trip and positive start to their new lives, homes and new experiences as they travelled across the world. With difficult visa processes the road to VAP has not been the easiest but so far almost all the volunteers have been able to get visas to their host countries and have started their EVS. VAPers are around the world today living the VAP Experience.

From Latvia to Indonesia, Eva and Janis are working with KKSP. Even though North Sumatra is very hot for them, this does not stop them from doing their work with the children in Indonesia. They are teaching these children lots of games (and are taught by them!), as well as learning about the rate of child labour in the country. Many kids in Indonesia mould heavy bricks and they get \$ 5 at the end of each month for all this hard work. They are also visiting the beach and having fun.

From Spain to Latvia, Anna is in Liepaja working on the VAP project. She lives in a community house where she has her own room and shares the space with others. she also attended a seminar for volunteers in Latvia. At the seminar she got to know other volunteers who work in the same town as her. She also took part in the ATACC training course in Liepaja.

From Colombia to Spain, Raul is working with Esplac and he is having fun working with the other volunteers there. Together with Papa, they will be doing the VAP project in Spain.

Kat and Mireia are having fun learning how to live in Senegal. They are experiencing how slowly time passes in Senegal. They enjoy the cultural differences especially when it comes to weddings. They also attended a big seminar on child rights which is very helpful for them to improve their work with children in Senegal.

They are working together with Papa, another VAPer who is yet to leave for his EVS. Moving from England to Cameroon Laura and Hywel are having the time of their lives living and working in Cameroon. Laura wants to experience every aspect of the Cameroonian life except mosquito bites. Together with Hywel, she is exploring Limbe. They even started a group for young people called OGCEYOD Falcons.

For Angelica, Eko and Elvis, even though the UK is cold, the snow is very fascinating. They are also working with children from the Woodcraft Folk and teaching them games and songs in Spanish and Indonesian.

In Latin America, Lucie is exploring Colombia with volunteers from Acacia. She has been learning about Colombian's struggles for Independence and is teaching English in the Library Santa Cecilia.

Abi from Indonesia will be starting a bit later in May. He will be volunteering in Kinderfreunde in Vienna.

Finally, Eugeni and Delphine are in Brussels working at the IFM-SEI secretariat in various projects as well as learning French and Dutch respectively. Delphine has also attended the EVS on arrival training seminar. They have also started working with children from Faucons Rouges in Ath.

All VAPers are very active on the VAP blog. The blog is filled with passionate words and efforts that these young people bring into the Project (blog.ifm-sei.org). They are each committed to making a difference wherever they are working. We are happy that the EVS/VAP feeling is experienced around the world today. Even as VAPers are busy working with their different host organisations, they are all looking forward to the upcoming VAP Training course in Medan, Indonesia that will take place in April. There the participants will start working together on the documentary film on child poverty.



IFM-SEI Welcomes a New Volunteer

IFM-SEI welcomes a new EVS volunteer Delphine from Cameroon. She will stay one year in the IFM office, supporting us in our work for children's rights and participating in the 'Volunteering against Poverty' Project. She is from our member organisation OGCEYOD Cameroon.



My name is Konda Delphine. I am the new EVS volunteer at the IFM secretariat. I come from Cameroon and I am 25 years old. I studied Women and Gender studies at university and I am very interested in the rights of women and children.

I will be working with the IFM office for one year and I am very excited about all the interesting things that we are going to do together. Eugeni and I are also going to do lots of work on youth poverty concerning the VAP Project.

Living in Brussels the first week was not easy for me because I left my country with a temperature of about +35 degrees and entered Brussels just when it started to snow. So far my experiences have been very exciting.

Each day to me is a challenge but I keep an open mind willing to know the people around me and learning the culture here. And that is what the EVS/ VAP Experience is all about. Hope to see you soon in all the IFM events.

VAP In Peru

On February 19th, 2012 the leaders of Club Infantil 23 de Mayo – CHAP held a meeting with a lot of games and songs with the children in a region located 25 km from the centre of Lima-Perú. Between laughs, games, songs, gifts and workshops we worked with children who do not get a good education and good nutrition to fight extreme poverty in our region. The meeting was led by Mauricio and Karlha, the VAP participants of IFM's VAP Project.



OGCEYOD Fights Against AIDS

OGCEYOD, our member organisation from Cameroon, carried out a very beautiful project to celebrate the World Aids Day on December, 1 2011. They went out into the streets of Limbe to demonstrate. Their target group was young women who work as prostitutes in the Church street area of Limbe, Cameroon. This is an area where young women between the ages of 17-25 stand in dark corners waiting for men to sell their bodies for sex.

The members of the organisation went to this area on World Aids Day to raise awareness amongst these young women on the use of female condoms to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The nature of their job is risky and most women do not really have sexual bargaining power, so teaching women to use the female condom will be of great use to them. The campaign was a huge success and the organisation is looking forward to an even bigger campaign this year 2012.



International Committee / African Network Meeting Dakar

It is with pleasure that we invite all member organisations to the IFM-SEI International Committee meeting 2012. The meeting will take place in Dakar, Senegal, from 3-6 May 2012, where we will be hosted by Action Enfance and Mouvement National des Pionniers du Senegal. The International Committee brings together representatives of our member organisations and we hope that many of you will come to contribute with your ideas to the development of our movement.



The African Network meeting will take place directly after the IC Meeting. It is very important for all IFM-SEI member organisations in the African Region. During the meeting we will discuss major issues affecting the development of the region including:

1. Possible strategies to improve communication between organisations in the African Region.
2. Methods to ensure effective co-operation between member organisations and IFM-SEI
3. Strategies for the participation of the IFM-SEI African region in the Rio +20 process.
4. The position of the IFM-SEI African region on external co-operation processes (African youth platform and the Euro-Africa youth platform). We are looking forward to seeing you all in Dakar.

ATACC Training Course In Latvia

25 young Europeans participated in the seminar 'All Together against Climate Change' (ATACC) in Liepaja, Latvia. The seminar was run by participants from IFM-SEI's long-term ATACC project, passing on the knowledge that they gained throughout 2011 to other young people in our organisations. The participants came from Esplac, SJD Die Falken, Nuorten Kotkain Keskuslitto, Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi, Framfylkingen and Fenix.

In this seminar we kept fighting against climate change, thinking about how to involve more people in this fight. At the same time we started to create a network of young activists fighting climate change in our organisations.

The participants developed new methods and came up with new ideas for our campaigns in the different IFM organisations. These include summer camps where the kids will learn where their food comes from and vegetarian camps and a lot of other interesting activities.

We visited the brand new office of Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi and learned a lot about living in Liepaja through the local participants and the VAP volunteer Anna who is doing an EVS in Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi this year. All these things made this seminar a really binding and great experience.



Le Zymes: A New Game From Faucons Rouges

In 2010, young members of Faucons Rouges developed a project to discover the intolerable situation of workers around the globe! Millions of people work in conditions that are very bad and even risk their lives for meager salaries. Aided by the Central Office team, this project known as The Zymes world is now a reality and it is available as a boxed game.



Stunned by their discoveries, the young creators of the Zymes World wanted to create a tool that can be used to inform as well as raise awareness on the poor working conditions of workers around the world. The game aims to initiate action and civic engagement in the fight against the outrageous exploitation of workers. It consists of two elements: the game itself and a teaching book indispensable to appease the participants after the phase of the game but also designed to go further in the discussion.

One of the designers of the game explains:

“We opted for strong symbols to make things visual: the game’s currency, the Lezym’s World, takes the form of chips, in this way, the difference between the earnings patterns of plants and the amount earned by families jumps the eyes! The houses are represented by the rope perimeters in which families should live. At the end of the game, we see bosses lying in a huge perimeter while families of six, seven or eight people carry each other to fit into one square meter! We wanted to put participants in the shoes of exploited workers, they live for one hour, what others live a lifetime”

The creators of the game did not make a mistake there. The game can be upsetting for the young people involved. It brings out new questions and requires understanding which can be frustrating. The players are working overtime performing repetitive and boring tasks to earn wages that are not even enough to enable them meet their basic needs. Even though the game can prove very difficult at the beginning, once the players get to know how to use it, not only will they enjoy the game but they also realize the purpose of the game.

Holiday Camp in Bolivia

During the new year holidays, organisation Nueva Generacion in Bolivia had some interesting activities of the Club de Vacaciones Alegria. In these months they worked in the area of child rights through games, theatre and stories, to help discover powerful youth leaders inside each children’s group in the Club.

To close these activities, they had a camp where they did artistic and sport activities and games, as well as some reflection workshops about the different problems that children in this country are facing. The Club de Vacaciones Alegria, Bolivia will open again in the Winter holidays.



Die Falken Host New Volunteer

A new volunteer service between Israel and Germany started in September. The volunteer service was developed by different NGOs (including HaNoar HaOved VeHaLomed, HaShomer HaTzair and SJD – Die Falken). During the last decades hundreds of young adults from Germany have gone to Israel for a volunteer service but only a handful of young Israelis have gone to Germany to do the same.

To change this situation, “Kom Mit Nadev” was created. The first volunteer between the Israeli and German blueshirts is Mohamed Abo Elhega from the arab section of the HaNoar HaOved VeHaLomed. Mohamed is volunteering in the Berlin regional branch of SJD – Die Falken.

He says “I see the volunteer exchange project as a model to promote volunteering in a different society - the German society. Through it, I hope I will succeed in building a better human society, based on the codes of informal education, by which I was educated and which I am using to educate others.

Informal education is my main tool as a youth movement member and an educator to promote change in different societies for the better. I arrived in Berlin on the 5/9/2011 and was hosted by “Falken Berlin” to start my adventurous educational year in Berlin under the KOM-MIT-NADEV program. The first days I had a tour in Berlin with some members of the Falken and the federal board of the Falken in Germany. During the tour, they showed me the city and the culture. I established the Arab part of the Falken, and I started this in a club that was formerly called “Eiertanz” and now “Haifa”. I chose the name Haifa as it is a city in Israel with a long arab and jewish culture. Basically, my work is going to the school in the morning, work with the young people there and in the afternoon, I work in the Haifa club. So far I am enjoying Berlin; I am having so much fun and enjoy every minute in Germany. I am looking forward to going back to Israel with the experience that I gathered while working with international organisations especially as a part of IFM-SEI”.



Mouvement National des Pionniers du Senegal: “No to Child Abuse”

Pioniers du Senegal recently had advocacy lessons to fight sexual abuse against children. During these lessons, they also advocated for many other issues that are crucial to children’s developments, such as the consideration of children’s rights in the political programme and training young people to respect the rights and dignity of children. Finally they also discussed ways through which problems faced by children could be solved.



IYF Advocates for Child Rights

For the past three months, IYF has been working on a project on effective partnership between home, school and community .

The project has been carried out in cooperation with the local council, schools and the Directorate of Education in the province of Jerusalem. The project was also carried out in full partnership between the Independent Youth Forum (IYF), SAWA Institution and Woodcraft Folk – London.

The closing ceremony included an exhibition of works carried out by the participants and an exhibition of photographs and film which covered the project activities during the period of its implementation.

At the end of the ceremony, the floor was opened for discussion. The participants listened to feedback and plans for the future were presented.



Antar Bharati Children's Carnival

The third Sunday of February turned out to be a fun, relaxed and colourful Sunday at the Lal Bahadur Shastri School, as 'Antar Bharati' organised a Children's Carnival "The Baal Mela" with 350 children. The gathering of over 20 volunteers, 30 school teachers and members of Antar Bharati made this exciting event a grand success.

The program began with the 'Baal Geet', the fun songs sung by the kids with their teachers. Their hands swaying in the air and singing out loud marked their enthusiasm. This was followed by 'Abhinay Geet'. The action songs that their teachers taught them added colours to the air of excitement in the hall. The children in all their merriment and joy sang and danced beautifully, making everyone clap and smile with joy.

The Puppet Show of various animal sounds and the creative puppets elated the kids. The energy levels in the hall were amplified by the peaceful yoga sessions. The first half of the function ended with the delicious lunch served at the school.

The post lunch session began with the 'drawing and painting sessions' (Chitra), in which 250 students participated. The wonderful paintings by the little skilled artists were an expression of pure delight. This was followed by the 'Creative Clay work' by the little sculptors. The 80 students engaged themselves in the innovative clay designs and showed their ingenious prowess.

The day ended with wonderful, interesting games, which the students enjoyed . This special day was a success, as the kids went home with smiles on their faces. This wonderful event organised by the 'Antar Bharati' was not only a memorable experience for the students but will be imprinted in memories of all who were present . The Carnival marked the perfect blend of fun, innocence, joy and the spirit of togetherness, the qualities 'Antar Bharati' stands for.

The grand success of this event is attributed to 'Antar Bharati', its volunteers, the students and teachers of the Lal Bahadur Shastri school, making this such a memorable experience.



UNITED: European Falcon Camp 2012

From Britain to Lithuania, from Oslo to Barcelona: Everywhere in Europe there are Falcons like us – who are working in groups regularly and are also going to camps. Now we invite all these Falcons to our European Falcon Camp UNITED. We want to show each other how we work in our groups: Which games we play, how we treat each other, which songs we sing ... To learn in groups and have fun together is the focus of all this because: The group matters!



Our Camp:

This summer children, youth and families will be our guests in Döbriach. Together we will have a lot of fun & action and we get to know new friends from different countries. Our cool and varied programme will focus on 'group work'. There are perfect facilities for recreation on our camp-site in Döbriach: from beach volleyball to canoeing, from billiard to cycling. Don't miss this unique chance to come with your kids to United – THE European Falcon Camp 2012. We invite children, youth and family groups from all over Europe to UNITED and will design a programme addressing the needs and interests of all these different groups.

Date: **16th to 26th July 2012**

Location: Falkencamp Döbriach, Glanzer Straße 66, 9873 Döbriach, www.falkencamp.com

Camp fee: for Western Europeans 220 €/for East Europeans 170 € per person (incl. accommodation in your own tent, food and programme)

Come and be there!

Our Power is Our Unity - Lithuanian Young Falcon Union Camp

Lithuanian Young Falcon Union is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2012. And we cannot imagine our birthday celebration without our IFM-SEI family and its members. Therefore we would be really glad if you come along to celebrate it together with us from 29th June-8th July, 2012.

The last 20 years have been amazing, we believe we have grown; we have children growing inside the movement, we have learned a lot and are willing to learn further.



We will not only celebrate our birthday, but our diversity; we will educate ourselves, have fun together. The earlier you register, the earlier we can ensure there is a programme created that each and everyone of us can enjoy. Where do we meet? In campsite "Pasaka" at the seaside. Find more information on www.sakaliukai.lt, and if you have any questions or wish to send us a congratulation messages next year, please contact us sakaliukai@gmail.com .

Price: For organisations from Western Europe it will be 200 €, and for organizations from Eastern Europe 188 €.

Dates for Your Diary

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| 2-9 April 2012 | Queer Easter, Kurt Lowenstein Haus, Berlin |
| 5-12 April 2012 | Volunteering Against Poverty Training Course - Medan, Indonesia |
| 15-22 April 2012 | Training for Trainers Seminar - Education for Social Change, Serbia |
| 3-6 May 2012 | IC meeting - Dakar, Senegal |
| 6 May 2012 | African Network Meeting - Dakar, Senegal |
| 16-26 July 2012 | UNITED 2012 Falcon Camp - Doeбриach, Austria |
| 29-8 June/July 2012 | LYFU "Our power is our unity" Camp - Pasaka, Lithuania |
| 14-20 August 2012 | Volunteering Against Poverty Editing Meeting - Barcelona, Catalunya |

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 June 2012

Friendship!