

IFM·SEI Newsletter

June 2012



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VAP Seminar in Medan, Indonesia



From 5-12 April, 24 volunteers met for their first 'Volunteering against Poverty' seminar in Medan, Indonesia.

People from Chap (Peru), Acacia (Colombia), Esplac (Catalonia), Kinderfreunde (Austria), Antar Bharati (India), Woodcraft Folk (United Kingdom), OGCEYOD (Cameroon), Action Enfance (Senegal), DUI leg og Virke (Denmark), Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi (Latvia) and KKSP (Indonesia) got together in this seminar to discuss poverty and to define a common message for our documentary film on child and youth poverty, which is:

Poverty is everywhere – it has many different faces in many different places. If I am poor, you are poor, if you are poor, we are poor.

The root of change lies in all our communities. We need to educate, empower and inspire people around the world to join the fight against the causes of poverty. P.S: Capitalism sucks!

We also acquired lots of media skills, such as how to develop a story, its characters and a script, composition rules, the different kinds of camera shots and much more. With all this knowledge we will all together create a documentary film to spread our message. In the coming months, all participants will collect film material and make video portraits about youth poverty in their communities.

In August we will meet again in Catalonia to edit all these materials to create our common film. We will also publish a 'web documentary' with film material from all communities, and an educational handbook on poverty, child labour and youth unemployment. You can look forward to seeing our results in autumn 2012 and follow the development of VAP on blog.ifm-sei.org.

International Committee Meeting



This year's International Committee meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal where we were kindly hosted by Action Enfance and the Mouvement National des Pionniers du Senegal.

During the meeting, the delegates accepted the membership upgrade of several organisations, so that we now have three new full members: Esplac from Catalonia, OGCEYOD from Cameroon and Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi from Latvia. WELCOME!

Agrupacion Integridad Absoluta Chile was upgraded to associate member and Mundo Nuevo from Peru was welcomed as a new observer.

We discussed our priorities for the new work plan 2013-2016 that will be agreed on by the Congress in 2013. Many ideas came up, and it became quickly obvious that the IC would like IFM 'child and youth participation' to be the main theme in the work plan. During the last days of the meeting, we discussed the new proposal for changes to the constitution and will bring these to Manchester, UK where the Congress 2013 will take place.

African Network Meeting

IFM-SEI recently organised the first African Network meeting in Dakar, Senegal following directly from the International Committee Meeting. In this successful meeting young people from the IFM-SEI member organisations Pionniers du Mali, OGCEYOD Cameroon, Mouvement National des Pionniers Senegalais and Action Enfance Senegal discussed their common priorities and set up a co-ordination structure for the African region.

The participants decided to form a small coordination team that will be in close contact to update each other about work in their organisations and that will plan common activities. One person of each member organisation joined this team.

The two topics they most want to work on within their region are gender equality – a topic that they have much experience on, but that needs still a lot of work in many communities – and visa difficulties when wanting to join international activities of IFM-SEI and its member organisations. The coordination team will meet regularly online and will start working on these issues as one region. If you want to know what's going on in the African region, join the facebook group IFM-SEI Africa.



Woodcraft Folk's Annual Gathering



Woodcraft Folk's Annual Gathering was held at the end of April at a campsite in London. The conference was attended by Woodcraft Folk members and IFM-SEI comrades were invited to come along and join in with the action.

The conference saw speakers as young as Elfins (6-9 years olds) discuss and debate motions such as:

- Making stronger relationships with Trade Unions
- Working with the Co-operative movement to expand the national network of centres and campsites
- To start a national campaign on visa regulations – to lobby the government to make it easier for young people and leaders to get visas for Woodcraft and other youth events in the UK
- To support the Co-operative Group's anti-fracking campaign.

All of these motions got passed.

Members from Esplac in Catalonia, Marc and Irene, saw many parallels between Esplac and Woodcraft's conferences and styles of working, which has resulted in the two organisations embarking on a bilateral project over the coming months. Another guest to join the gathering was one of the founding members of a future IFM-SEI organisation that is in its beginning stages, called Woodcraft Folk Nederland (Netherlands). Dewi came to take inspiration from Woodcraft Folk and we looked at ways that Woodcraft can support this exciting new organisation. I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them in the future!

We had an inspiring speech from our extra special guest Jeremy Corbyn, who is a member of parliament for the Labour Party in the UK and a great friend of Woodcraft Folk. Participants could also choose from workshops on topics such as European Voluntary Service (EVS), sexism, the new strategic plan and the Leading for the Future educational pack (a new resource about young people becoming Woodcraft leaders) outside of the plenary sessions.

Despite the rain not stopping for the whole weekend until we packed our tents away, we still enjoyed the evening entertainment singing round the campfire and a fantastic interactive quiz evening run by the DFs (the 16-20 year old members of Woodcraft). We look forward to seeing more of you next year at Woodcraft Folk's Annual Gathering 2013 to get a taste of how we engage our children and young people in our decision-making processes and our movement as a whole.

APFUTU Pakistan

APFUTU opened two schools for brick kiln workers children in Pakistan. The inauguration was held on 13th and 14th of April in Punjab with the cooperation of All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU) and Woodcraft Folk members from Sheffield, who have helped to raise some money for the schools. APFUTU have launched a campaign to enrol these children in the schools.

Prior to this a British Trade Union (UNISON) had already opened two schools here with the cooperation of All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU). These new schools in the brick kiln workers areas are very important and we believe that quality education for children is necessary for the future of children in Pakistan.

It is now up to the brick kiln workers to make sure that these new schools are properly maintained and that they continue providing quality education for their children. Education is not only the basic right of every child but also a necessity for national development.



Nueva Generacion Bolivia, City Carnival



Children from Nueva Generacion Bolivia participated in the 2012 city carnival in La Paz with many other children's groups. The carnival was a good opportunity to claim the right to play and have fun while spreading the activities of our Children's Centre. The children from Nueva Generacion co-operated with the group of 'zebras' – young people who promote road safety education in the city.

They also organised entertainment on May 27 to celebrate mother's day at the children's centre with gifts, games, contests and activities integrating neighbours and families. We also want to seize this opportunity to invite everyone who is willing to volunteer with Nueva Generacion in La Paz.

Fenix Slovakia

Greetings from Fenix, Slovakia. We have a new project called 'Sú medzi nami', which means 'They are among us'. It is a seminar ABOUT children and FOR children. The seminar took place from 1st June – 3rd June in Zvolen, Slovakia.

There were 70 children from 10 to 18 years at this seminar on tolerance. They learned about the lives of other children, for example how it feels to live with your twin, how it is to live in a family with 7 other siblings or how difficult life with a disability can be.

Everything was discussed with a professional psychologist and we prepared lots of activities related to these topics.



VAP and Rode Valken

On Saturday 2nd of June Rode Valken held their 'Jeugdriendentrefdag', their Children and Youth Friends Meeting Day at Zandvliet on the Ruige Heide in Belgium. At the same time they held their spring youth training with the main theme being the Voluntering Against Poverty (VAP) project of IFM-SEI.

Members of Rode Valken asked IFM-SEI to come and explain what exactly the VAP project is about. In this way all districts could gain some knowledge and make some contributions to this interesting project. Liesbeth, Rode Valken's educational coordinator and Delphine Konda one of the VAPers and EVS volunteer in the IFM-SEI secretariat in Brussels explained what 17 young people are Participating in all over the world. They took interviews with the children and youngsters and made some short films on how they see poverty, and if they witness poverty in their home towns and among their friends.



Combining the meeting and the Youth Training enabled us to reach a much broader audience. We hope that it is a first step in thinking over what kind of poverty we are also witnessing in our neighbourhood, whether it is hidden or very visible.

Furthermore we had a wonderful day with a lot of popular folk games, 'smikkelroute' where you had to fill in questions which should have resulted in one slogan 'Being poor is unjust'. This day of Friendship ended with a very tasty BBQ and a lot of new and old friends!

Educating for Social Change, Middle East

The Middle East cooperation is working on full power. At the moment there are, next to the regional leading group weekend-seminars, four teams working on different projects:

- Preparing seminars for guides
- An IFM-SEI regional conference in Autumn 2012
- A joint camp in spring 2013
- A first seminar for Palestinians from Israel and Palestine, about what it means to be Palestinian on either side of the green line, Palestinian history and future perspectives.

Of course there are also single events like European delegations visiting the Middle East or the movements visiting each other's events.

From the 10th to the 12th of May the regional leading group of the Middle East regional cooperation had a weekend seminar. During the first evening and morning 10 years of Israeli- Palestinian cooperation and projects were evaluated to understand more about the resistance in Palestinian society today to cooperate with Israeli organisations.

All these years of creating dialogue between Palestinians and Israeli didn't bring peace, one could even say almost the opposite, so it became almost impossible to believe in common projects. The uniqueness of the IFM-SEI regional cooperation is that the goal is not to bring people together only for the sake to meet and have a dialogue, but to learn better how to make a change in their own society.

Also during this weekend, the group learned together about 'The meaning of the Holocaust for Israeli identity and the Palestinian perspective on the meaning of the Holocaust for Israeli identity'. The workshop started with tackling the difficult but obvious questions, like 'why is it so sensitive to talk about the Holocaust in this group?' or 'Who uses the Holocaust today and for what purpose?'

After talking about these and more questions, the group watched a documentary about the Holocaust, and the Israeli movements explained how they do educational work about the Holocaust with their youth. Everyone thought it was a very special and valuable workshop, and it is very unique that Israeli and Palestinians learn together about the meaning of the Holocaust for identity today.



Action Enfance Celebrates Environmental Day



Environmental issues are very important especially with climate change affecting the earth and bringing an increase in natural disasters, changes in rainfall pattern and crop yields, and threats to health.

Action Enfance Senegal under the auspices of OCEANIUM celebrated the World Environment Day with the theme 'Green Economy, Will you take part?'

The aim of the day was to encourage young people's participation and awareness of the importance of protecting the environment. The participants gathered around the gardens in Ndiagamar, Fass Mbao and Diamagune Sicap Mbao. The spaces in these establishments have been converted to a green space.

These actions are of great educational importance, because the parks are a tool for educating young people to respect the environment and nature.

The presence in these gardens allowed participants to stick to the theme to highlight the impact of economic activities on the environment. The activity mobilised 208 children and young people in organisations as well as various institutions. Volunteer groups have been formed to monitor 300 plants reforested.

Invitation to Workers Youth Festival, 9 - 12 May 2013

We warmly invite all member organisations of IFM-SEI to the Workers Youth Festival from 9 to 12 of May 2013 in Dortmund, Germany.

We will celebrate 150 years of Workers Youth Movement together with the youth of the social democratic party (www.jusos.de). During the festival, we want to bring our convictions, principles and history to our minds. We will show that we stand strongly united and continue to fight for change and solidarity in society!

What is the Workers Youth Festival? It's four days full of workshops, discussions, open space and panels. Thousands of comrades from all over the world will learn, laugh and live together. Concerts, parties, city tours - a variety of free-time activities will show that politics are versatile! A full day of action in the centre of Dortmund will make clear: We make our values public and set a sign for political change!

Which topics will we focus on? Actually everything - because internationalism and solidarity have many faces. Workshops and discussions will deal with democratisation and participation, global inequality, feminism and equal rights, employment and socialism, environment and exclusion. There will be something for everyone's interest.

You are invited! Our movement stands for internationalism - let's live up to it together. We will not only look back in time - we will shape our future and find answers for global questions. Everyone can participate in the political programme. Contribution and points of view from comrades all over the world will strengthen our movement.

There will be more than 2000 comrades from different workers youth movements in Germany and 800 comrades from IFM-SEI, IUSY and ECOSY. We will sleep in schools and tents in a park, and a congress with well known speakers from all over the world will take place in the city hall on Saturday. There will also be a Day of Action in the town centre ending with a big concert. Of course we are also able to help you organise an interesting programme before and/or after the festival in the region or in Germany.

Please don't hesitate to contact Maja Toelke (maja.toelke@sjd-die-falken.de, Tel. +49-30-261 030-15) for further questions and information. More detailed information will follow on this website: www.workersyouthfestival.org



**Workers
Youth
Festival**

**DORTMUND,
9. BIS 12. MAI 2013**

**UNITED WE MAKE HISTORY -
SOLIDARITY NOW!**

Dates for your Diary

29 - 8 June/July 2012 **LYFU “ Our Power is Our Unity”** Camp Pasaka (Lithuania)

16 - 26 July 2012 - **UNITED 2012 Falcon Camp** , Doebrich (Austria)

13 - 20 August 2012 - **VAP Production Meeting**, Catalunya (Spain)

13 - 16 September 2012 **Presidium Meeting** Werftpfuhl (Germany)

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

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

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 2012.

Friendship!