

IFM·SEI Newsletter

October 2011



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VAP Volunteering Against Poverty

Exciting new global projects in IFM-SEI: Volunteering Against Poverty

We were successful in securing two very big grants for IFM-SEI activities in 2012! A large-scale **European Voluntary Service (EVS)** and a documentary film project, both called 'Volunteering Against Poverty'.

Volunteering Against Poverty: A global documentary project for volunteers

17 volunteers will volunteer for 8-12 month in 9 IFM-SEI organisations around the world. Volunteers coming from KKSP Indonesia, OGCEYOD Cameroon, Action Enfance Senegal and Acacia Colombia will come to Europe for one year, working in Woodcraft Folk, in the IFM-SEI office, in Liepajas Jaunie Vanagi, Kinderfreunde Austria and Esplac Catalonia. At the same time, the sending organisations will host volunteers coming from Europe.

In September, the group of volunteers met in Spain during the 12th University on Youth and Development to prepare their voluntary service, to get excited about their year abroad and to plan their common project: Producing a documentary film on child and youth poverty, unemployment and decent work.



The EVS volunteers together with local volunteers from their own and other IFM-SEI organisations will work together in one common project: They will raise awareness of youth poverty and the struggle for decent work by producing a thought-provoking and inspiring documentary.

The young people will be trained in peer education and documentary-making to facilitate local video projects. Together with local youth groups they will interview others about their fears and hopes regarding their working life, talk to experts, employers and decision-makers and develop ideas to fight youth poverty and exploitation. The first training course will take place in March 2012 in Medan, Indonesia. You will get regular project updates and see VAP video clips during the first half of 2012. The premiere of the documentary will take place in autumn 2012 in Brussels and all other communities involved. See the trailers here: www.vimeo.com/channels/ifmsei

Our New EVS



Volunteer in the IFM-SEI Secretariat

Hello everybody! My name is Eugeni Brigneti Masgrau and I'm 23 years old. I'm from Esplac, Catalunya. I'm the new EVS volunteer in the IFM-SEI office until August next year.

I'm a graphic designer and I'll make the layout of the different publications that IFM-SEI will produce during this year. I'll also be part of the new IFM-SEI project VAP - Volunteering against Poverty. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all at various IFM events.

International Committee Meeting 2011

This year's IC meeting was hosted by SJD die Falken in their new federal office in Berlin (Louise & Karl Kautsky Haus) and in the Kurt-Loewenstein Education Centre in Werfpuhl. 50 delegates from all world regions met for two days for very fruitful discussions, important decisions and an inspiring informal time.

The main programme elements were discussions about the statutory changes that will be voted on at the next Congress, workshops on equality, child poverty and health that brought together best practices from our organisations, and sessions focussing on the important development of IFM-SEI in Africa and on the educational guidelines of the Middle East region.



The delegates also elected new members of our statutory bodies. Diye Diallo from Action Enfance Senegal is joining the Presidium as Vice-President, and Morten Lyager from DUI Denmark is a new member of the Control Commission. Congratulations!

Co-Camp An International Festival of Co-operation

From the 30th July to the 9th August, 2500 IFM members came together to collaborate on a fabulous international co-operative project: CoCamp. Hosted by Woodcraft Folk, CoCamp was a living example of the cooperative spirit.

CoCamp was based on the principle that everyone should contribute to the running of the camp. From the cooking of meals to the running of programme, from the late-night entertainment to the daily newspaper, young people from around the world collaborated to produce an alternative vision; a community that rejected competition and capitalism, and embraced co-operation and socialism.



With delegations from around the world, CoCamp was a truly international event. There were many opportunities to celebrate the diverse mix of people at camp, and we must thank every delegate's enthusiasm to get involved, offer activities and introduce new games, songs and dances to all the young people participating in the camp – without our international delegates CoCamp would not have been the vibrant, energetic, hectic, joyous occasion that it was.

CoCamp also gave IFM the opportunity to showcase the IFM projects: All Together Against Climate Change and Rainbow Resources. The activities that IFM project delegates shared were some of the most creative and innovative and were a clear example of the great work that these projects are doing all around the world.

We leave CoCamp feeling excited and motivated. Excited that we created an alternative vision – not just talked about it. Excited that we've made huge numbers of new friends. But also motivated to take the lessons that we have learnt back to our groups, our children and young people. CoCamp has inspired a surge of international co-operation, and we hope that this will continue into the future.



ICMYO Meeting

International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) 2011

ICMYO is the platform of international youth organisations that aims to strengthen the cooperation among youth organisations at regional and global levels and to coordinate political inputs to global youth policy processes. Two IFM-SEI delegates participated at this year's ICMYO meeting in July in New York:

Jessica Pamela Obando Burgos from Fondation Acacia, Colombia and Nina Langslet from Framfylkingen, Norway. (IFM-SEI's third delegate, Diye Diallo from Action Enfance, Senegal did not get her visa in time to be at the meeting.)

The aim of the meeting was to evaluate ICMYO activities of the past year, and to prepare future activities, starting with the United Nations High Level Meeting on Youth (UN HLM on Youth) that took place directly after the ICMYO meeting. At the HLM, ICMYO called for:

- Increased, accelerated and improved implementation of the World Programme Action on Youth (WPAY) in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals
- The full and effective participation of young people and youth organisations in decision making at all levels, especially on issues directly affecting them
- The establishment and strengthening of youth-led organisations, national youth councils and regional youth platforms.

During the meeting, IFM-SEI brought up the issue of visa challenges that international youth organisations face. All organisations agreed that we need to come up with a common strategy for dealing with visa difficulties, because all youth organisations face the same problem when inviting participants to their activities.



Action Enfance Building a Great Green Wall

Action Enfance Senegal is participating in a large-scale reforestation project, running from Dakar to Djibouti over a length of 7000km to restore the ecosystem that is severely damaged in this part of Africa. In nine days, the volunteers will plant 30,585 plants in the area of Widou Thiongoly. The project aims to promote a more sustainable and harmonious development. To reach this aim the organisation feels it is necessary to take action for reforestation, the fight against poverty, land rehabilitation, development of biodiversity, education and health.

Action Enfance will continue to fight for these pressing issues, with the help of two IFM-SEI EVS volunteers who will work for Action Enfance in 2012.



OGCEYOD Activities

Youth: Rights and Responsibilities in society

A four day workshop on 'Youth: Rights and Responsibilities in society' was held in August in Limbe. It was aimed at educating youngsters and children about their rights and responsibilities. Being one of the main promoters of youth activities in Limbe, OGCEYOD played a great role throughout the course of the workshop. The workshop dealt with:

- Stages of Human Development
- Youths, Rights and Activities
- Youths and Career Development
- Youths and Sexuality

The workshop was a great success as the participants not only learned a lot, but also made lots of new friends. The last day of the workshop was one of the most interesting as kids aged 5- 13 participated in socio-cultural activities such as singing, dancing, drama, poems. One of the participants even composed a song thanking OGCEYOD Cameroon for its active role in developing youth work in Cameroon.

Interns in OGCEYOD

During the summer holidays, OGCEYOD welcomed six students from the Department of Women and Gender Studies as new interns. The young people already did some field work regarding the upcoming environmental project that OGCEYOD Cameroon will carry out in primary schools in the Limbe municipality. They also organised a team building event for all staff and friends of the organisation. Presently, all interns as well as new volunteers are undergoing a leadership and team building training. Along side this training, the interns are working on their presentations about HIV/AIDS to be presented to the Women's Forum Limbe.



IYU Young Farmers



Independence Youth Union, Palestine organised a children's camp called "young farmers". The aim of the camp was to educate children on how to cultivate land, in order to help their families in their farming activities. IYU saw the need for this camp because through many Israeli settlements around Hebron, Palestinian families are left with very little land that they need to cultivate sustainably.

The camp will now be followed by the practice of the children on their own lands. IYU will also help them in selling their products on the markets.

IYU An invitation to Palestine

“Hearing from far away differs from seeing in reality”

There are many problems caused by the Israeli occupation that Palestinians face every day, like settlements and check-points.

Many groups visit Palestine and with our cooperation you can be one of them! Do you want to support the Palestinians? Our movement IYU (Independence Youth Union) runs a program for groups who come to Palestine to see the real face of the occupation (settlements, check points, the wall...) and to get to know Palestinians as simple, happy, kind and always welcoming. You can learn our traditions and see many beautiful places in Palestine.



If you visit Palestine, you help us to end the occupation. You can help in many ways, for example:

- You can bring your stories from Palestine to your movement and society.
- You can participate in peaceful demonstrations against the Wall and the settlements.

If you decide to come, you will be hosted by Palestinian families, and you will be part of these families. If you want more information you can contact us on info@iyup.org.

Greetings from **Los Cachorros, Peru**

This year is our anniversary - 32 years working with children and young people!

Our organisation was created in the summer of 1979, when a group of people decided to give an alternative to the youth of the area. Our marching band Club of Cachorros paraded the streets of Lima on July 15, 1979.

Our aims are to teach children music and to support them in completing their formal education, but above all we want to pass on important values such as tolerance, solidarity, democracy and coexistence.

This is why we rely on human and children rights to help young people to participate in society.

In 1992, we joined IFM-SEI's international camp in Chile, and then we became part of the movement.

This has helped us to share values with many other people from around the world and we hope to share many more moments with you!



LYFU Inclusion Project

'All Together' – Lithuanian Young Falcon Union supporting children in Roma settlements

For two years the Lithuanian Young Falcon Union has run an inclusion project that was inspired by IFM-SEI's "All Together" strategy. Around 20 volunteers from LYFU organise weekly group activities as well as individual assistance for Roma children that are territorially and socially excluded and marginalised from the rest of the society. 15 children from the Roma settlement have also attended the LYFU summer camp for the second year in a row and brought back many interesting memories and new friends.

Despite many obstacles and problems faced in the public sphere, LYFU continues its work and is calling out for new volunteers to join the work

with children in the Roma settlement, as we consider most of the problems that they face a result of the poverty they live in. Xenophobic attitudes from people and even governmental institutions only make us want to work harder. We try to convince people that children who are left unattended, sometimes not eating for days, cannot choose whether they want to go to school or not, because their essential needs are not provided to them by anyone, especially when they do not have parents.

The name of the project is "Help me to fit in: first steps in school", because one of the main aims is to assist children in strengthening their social skills and to prevent early school-drop outs. We target schools and parents, because most children drop out due to poverty, a lack of attention from the school, lack of an adapted school curriculum for non-native Lithuanian speakers and constant bullying and discrimination.



Manque Chile Activities

A Busy Year for Manque Chile

Manque Chile ran many activities during the first half of 2011, including a puppet show travelling by bus around the country in January and February. The same bus continued travelling around with the 'Mistral Tour Route' to get to know different cultural and historical characters.

In April Manque Chile published a book that received much attention from the media, "Concón en el tiempo de los Picunches" about the people who lived in Concón, Chile 500 years ago. In August the day of the child took place. Many invited friends and families went to the zoo together and ended the day with a big party. In September Manque Chile held the 1st Day of Children and Youth with the participation of several university teachers.



ACACIA: Decreasing Criminality Through Education

A security strategy based on what we know best: Non-formal education

Santa Cecilia, an area in Bogotá situated at the top of the mountains, used to be an extremely dangerous place where young people and children were at risk of becoming gangsters or were very close to or even touched by violence.

After years of working intensively through arts, literature, movies, empowerment and leadership programmes together with several organisations and the local mayor of Usaquen, IFM-SEI member organisation Acacia managed to reduce by 30% the number of murders in 2011.

When we arrived in Santa Cecilia in 2006 we started to help the community to put together a local library that could become a meeting place and also a meaningful space for reconciliation. During 2008, with a bleak picture ahead, we decided it was time to go further in fighting against fear, trusting that non-violence was the key to open hearts and would bring back hope and trust. So we started doing what we know the best: Non-formal education. First in arts, crafts and literature, but later we found the true spirit of this amazing community: something that combines courage, resistance, love, friendship, empowerment, fighting for rights, non-violence and care - values that all together now let us have hope that better times are arriving and that for sure peace is a process of inclusion, dialogue and recognition of the differences.



We are in Santa Cecilia to stay, to keep teaching non-violence ethics and to keep empowering young people.

So far this has been an amazing journey that we were also able to share with IFM-SEI. Several members of this project from Acacia participated in the really fruitful project 'Peers Without Frontiers', and now with much hope and strength we will participate in the new IFM-SEI project 'Volunteering Against Poverty'. Santa Cecilia is no longer an Acacia project alone; it is also an IFM-SEI project, bringing to this particular community all our experiences and ensuring that with care, friendship, rights and education we can fight social injustice and violence.

Pionniers of Mali Camp

The Pionniers of Mali organised several summer camps in August where they offered a wide range of activities. The young Pionniers could participate in reforestation activities, had public speaking training and shared other skills that they each have. The photo is from a camp in the rural area of Toukoto.



Human chain for children's rights



The German National Coalition for the implementation of the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child put up a virtual "human chain for children's rights" on the website www.fuer-kinderrechte.de. It is a website for children about children's rights that is operated by SJD - Die Falken. Until 20th November, the birthday of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, you can build your own "avatar", and by this extend the human chain. We think, even though the website is in German, it is simple enough for children and youngsters in your movements to take part. It would be nice if you would participate during your next group meeting, seminar or board meeting. You can build your avatar by choosing clothes and different children's rights.

<http://www.fuer-kinderrechte.de/menschenkette/mitmachen>

DUI Activities Festival

From the 30th of September to the 2nd of October the Danish Falcons from DUI – LEG og VIRKE held our annual Activities Festival. The festival had about 300 participants from all age groups and from all over the country plus a couple of friends from the Woodcraft Folk.

The weather was amazing and the festival was, as always, a fantastic weekend. This festival this year had the theme circus and all participants had the opportunity to learn how to be a circus clown or even a real circus princess.

One of the biggest events of the weekend was the annual elections for the national board of children and the national board of youth. Inspired by the national elections in Denmark, all of the children voted in the exact same way their parents had a couple of weeks before. The elections were a great success and the new boards are ready to start planning activities.

We hope to see even more of you next year at the Activities Festival 2012.



IYF Protest against U.S. policy

A group from Independent Youth Forum (IYF) attended a demonstration against U.S. policy, specifically its refusal to adopt a resolution from the Security Council to establish a Palestinian state. The demonstration was organised by youth networks and other youth organisations.

A letter from all youth organisations was sent to the US Consul in Palestine, stating that the conflict is with the occupation and not with the United States of America. They stated that it is the right of Palestinian young people to act to end the occupation using all internationally legitimate means and asked the US to have a more balanced role in the region instead favoring Israel over Palestine.

Dates for Your Diary

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| 6-9 October 2011 | European Falcon Network Meeting - Oslo, Norway |
| 3-6 November 2011 | All Together Against Climate Change: Resource Development Meeting
Prague, Czech Republic |
| 30 Nov-3 Dec 2011 | Presidium Meeting - Brussels, Belgium |
| 4-6 December 2011 | Volunteering Against Poverty Preparation meeting - Brussels, Belgium |
| February 2012 | All together Against Climate Change: Training Course on Media Campaigning Against Climate Change - Liepaja, Latvia |
| March 2012 | Volunteering Against Poverty Training Course - Medan, Indonesia |

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 11th December 2011

Friendship!