

Worlds of experience



No. 11 (June 2006)

I N D E X

EDITORIAL

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 11th issue of the ICYE Federation's Newsletter, focussing on "Young Volunteers working with Refugees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), and Migrants".

Since the beginning of civilization, human beings have been searching for a home, better life, land and peace. Push and pull factors keep people on the move – due to migration fluxes within and between continents, today there are 191 million migrants world wide. Acknowledging that International Migration could be one of the most important issues of the 21st century, on 14-15 September 2006 the UN General Assembly will deal with the findings of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

Not surprisingly, many ICYE and EVS young volunteers wish to share their experience and work along side people of suffer from the negative impact of voluntary and forced migration. Volunteer Voices present testimonials of volunteers working, *inter alia*, with IDPs in Georgia and Refugee Women and Youth in Azerbaijan. In the main volunteers provide support and assistance to youth and children in need, try to alleviate the impact of social exclusion under which refugees, victims of human traffic, and all those who have lost their homes, jobs, community and often family, suffer. With their words: "no day passes without learning something new, ..being surprised, meeting someone new from whom I can learn..." and " (the refugees) are not a threat,just need temporary help....the great majority wishes to return to their own homes But if a refugee does stay, ..s/he can often become a very valuable asset to a receiving community."

News from International Organisations features, among others, the ratification by forty-six UNESCO member states of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; and the "All Different - All Equal" European campaign on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation. NGOs News reports on the 12th Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN); the findings of the "Europe For A Change" campaign; and the Control Arms Campaign jointly run by Amnesty International, IANSA and Oxfam.

ICYE news feature testimonials by two volunteers working respectively with homosexuals in Bolivia, and People Living with HIV/AIDS in Mozambique. Brief reports follow on a Training Course on Volunteers and Host Organisations in Spain, and the "Networking Asian and European Young Volunteers" Conference held in Vietnam.

Wishing you an enjoyable reading, please note that the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", to be published at the end of October 2006, will focus on "Youth and Community Service". Please email your contributions, in form of articles/pictures, to icye@icye.org before 30 September 2006.

Best regards!
ICYE International Office

“Young Volunteers working with Refugees, Internally Displaced People (IDP’s), and Migrants”

VOLUNTEERS’ VOICES



WORKING WITH IDPs IN GEORGIA

My name is Francois, I am from France and I am volunteering in Georgia. My article will be about internally displaced persons (IDPs)!

I am working mostly with Abkhazians, who fled from their country after that in 1992, the Abkhazian separatists fought against the central government of Georgia and declared their region as Independent Republic in 1993. The International Community doesn't recognize this region as independent, but the Independent Republic of Abkhazia is assisted by Russia. As a consequence of this conflict 242 000 Abkhazians (maybe more) had to flee and leave their properties and all they had behind.

The organisation I work with, called Society and Justice, is working to protect IDP's social and economical rights and to legalise their identity. The organisation's lawyers can appear in International Court to defend property's rights.



The official objectives of Society and Justice are: Economic, political and cultural development of Georgia; democratisation of the state; Human rights protection; migration processes; mediation and resolution of conflicts; protecting IDP's and refugees; fostering understanding between nations based on language, culture and religion; facilitation of peace processes and strengthening culture of each region of Georgia.

My role as volunteer is a bit difficult and abstract. I take part in the social activities issue, and the IDPS are glad and appreciate that I as French volunteer shown interest and provide support to alleviate their situation.

I also assist the lawyers during consultations, mobile visits to the IDP's collective centres or trainings. It was somehow on my decision to find the way I could really be useful in this organisation, as I am not a lawyer. So I decided to involve in the information side of this organisation. I am on the way to create a website for and about Society and Justice, and of course about IDP's rights and situation in Georgia.

Francois Belzic
EVS Volunteer from France to Georgia

SALAM!



My name is Päivi, I am from Finland, and I've been volunteering in Azerbaijan, in the Caucasus, for over three months. Azerbaijan has a population of around eight million and

the majority of the people is Muslims. It borders with Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iran and Turkey. In the daily life Islam doesn't show more than Christianity in Finland. The official language here is Azerbaijani, but most of the people speak also Russian. I didn't speak either one of these languages when I came here, but I had some lessons about basic Azerbaijani, and at the moment I'm learning Russian.

I live in Baku, which is the capital city of Azerbaijan. I live together with two other volunteers. One is from Germany and the other is from France.

Azerbaijan became independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Now it's officially a democracy, but it's ruled by strong autocrat, president Ilham Aliyev, whose father was the former president. In Azerbaijan there's also something like a million refugees and IDP's, mostly because of the ongoing conflict with Armenia, but from other countries too.

I work in the Refugee Women and Youth Center of UNHCR (RWYC). Beneficiaries are refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Russian Federation (Chechnya) etc. RWYC is open from Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 18.00. My workday starts at ten o'clock and I finish my work normally at five. The aim of my voluntary work is to work with youth and children in need and – in general – to tackle the problem of social exclusion.



I teach English to children, young people and adults. And I also give music, computer and art lessons for the children. At the moment I'm planning summer activities for school age children and youth. When children and young people have their summer holiday, I'll organise activities like sport, art, visits to interesting places etc. Children and youth will

have enjoyable moments in their holiday and RWYC will have new models to work with them. At the moment the activities of RWYC are mostly addressed to adults (women) and little children. I feel that it's highly important to develop strategies how to respond their special needs.

This is the first time I'm living outside of Finland. Surprisingly it has been easier than I thought. I think it's mainly because people here are very open and friendly, so it was not difficult to come here. Also the structure of the project has been very clear and all details have been well organised, from the things related to work to our pocket money. So all the time I have had a feeling of safety. And it's very important for me that I know here are always people who I can contact, if I have problems and who are really interested of my well-being in Azerbaijan.

Päivi Hemilä
EVS Volunteer from Finland to Azerbaijan

MESSAGE FROM MOLDOVA!

My name is Aline, I am from France and I am a volunteer in Moldova. I'm involved in a rehabilitation centre for victims of trafficking. The traffic of human beings in Moldova is a huge national issue, being one of the consequences of the poverty and the inequalities among the population. Many people unable to see any opportunity here are trying to get a job abroad, going there illegally, taking unlimited risks.

I work at the Centre run by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which hosts the victims of human traffic, who suffered from many traumas (both physical and psychological), and managed to escape from the slave conditions they were living in and were able to return to Moldova. The centre is divided in 2 parts, one with adults and the other one with minors and mothers together with their children. The aim of the project is the progressive reintegration of the beneficiaries in their families, in the society. Thus, they get different kind of assistance: medical, social, psychological.

I was able to get involved quite quickly, having the opportunity to propose different activities: reflections about human rights, values, life skills, conflict management using role plays, discussions about contraception, prevention of STDs, sport activities, games with children. I have been encouraged to take part in the project and I'm free to take initiatives and feel

the motivation of my colleagues (struggling on political level, willing to give the chance to everyone whatever his past, whatever his background) but it is not easy to face impunity and omnipresence of corruption.

After more than 2 months here, life in Moldova is still surprising me everyday. No day is passing without me to learn something new, discovering, being surprised, meeting someone new from whom I can learn...so much more to learn. Long life to EVS! Long life to Moldova! Hoping for this country to be better known!

Aline Grisard
EVS Volunteer from France to Moldova

PROMOTING DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES



It is with great pleasure that I have come to write a few lines for ICYE's Worlds of Experience newsletter. I am one of the thousands of young individuals who once decided to make a difference in my life and the life of others, and joined the ICYE exchange programmes. My name is Mauricio and I worked as a volunteer at the ICYE International Office in Berlin in 1998-1999. This experience represented one of the major highlights of my life, bringing about understanding, personal development and lots of fun into my life to this day. I later returned to Costa Rica to complete my studies at the law school of the Universidad de Costa Rica.

In early 2003 I began to work for another organisation in the humanitarian field, UNHCR. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its

primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. In more than five decades, the agency has helped an estimated 50 million people restart their lives. Today, a staff of around 6,540 people in 116 countries continues to help 19.2 million persons [data obtained from www.unhcr.org].

Refugees are legally defined as people who are outside their countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, and who cannot or do not want to return home. As a humanitarian, non-political organization, UNHCR has two basic and closely related aims – to protect refugees and to seek ways to help them restart their lives in a normal environment. Its staff work in a variety of locations ranging from capital cities to remote camps and border areas, attempting to provide the above-mentioned protection and to minimize the threat of violence, which many refugees are subject to, even in countries of asylum.

In Costa Rica, UNHCR's work mostly aims to monitor government compliance with international refugee law, by working together with the local authorities in ensuring access to the right of asylum and to other basic human rights for refugees. Costa Rica is signatory to the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 protocol, and currently hosts approximately 12,000 recognized refugees, of whom approximately 10,800 are Colombian refugees, the second largest caseload of Colombian refugees in Latin America.

The majority of the refugee population is of an urban profile, and are able to make a living independently in Costa Rica without the assistance of UNHCR. However, during the last 4 years, Costa Rica has experienced an important economic decline accompanied by rising unemployment and poverty levels and rising inflation. This economic scenario has had a disproportionately negative impact on more vulnerable sectors of society including refugees. This situation is further aggravated in a society where the immigrant population is estimated at 15 per cent of the total population.

These circumstances often result in generalized and wide-spread discrimination

against immigrants, which places untold demands on the coping ability of many particularly vulnerable refugees. Furthermore, refugees are often stigmatised as a result of the armed conflict they are victims of. Erroneously, many people often associate the violence and atrocities committed by the actors of the conflict, with the actual victims of the fighting, the civilians, the refugees.

Still, a recent UNHCR Protection Study, located Costa Rica among the top four nations in the region in the “1,000 plus asylum-seekers/year group”, alongside US, Canada, Ecuador, referred to as having “if not the best, quite organized and institutionalised Refugee Status Determination systems...” This is indicative of Costa Rica’s long history of respect for human rights and international protection of refugees.

My area of work at UNHCR focuses on promoting durable solutions for refugees. Most refugees wish to return to their home country and re-start their lives where they left them; however, this is not always possible as long as the conflict that forced them to leave persists. In such situations, refugees assume the challenge to integrate within the society that received them.

This process however is not always easy and here is where the generosity of the local authorities, the non-governmental organisations and the role of UNHCR become of utmost importance. In some very exceptional circumstances, resettlement to a third country is the only safe and viable durable solution for refugees.

Refugees are people who have lost their homes, jobs, community and often family. They are not a threat, and they just need temporary help until they can re-establish their lives. The great majority of people wish to return to their own homes once the situation there normalizes. But if a refugee does stay for whatever reason, he or she can often become a very valuable asset to a receiving community.

This article contains information partly compiled from UNHCR materials. The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of UNHCR. If you wish to know more about UNHCR, you can visit its website at www.unhcr.org.

Mauricio Fallas
Volunteer from Costa Rica to Germany (98-99)

MORE ON MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND IDPs

TRAINING COURSE ON REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND IDP'S IN EECA AND EU COUNTRIES



The training course was organized by the ICYE International Office in cooperation with Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe and with the support of the YOUTH Programme of the European Community. It took place in Baku, Azerbaijan from the 19th to the 25th of June 2006.

The project aimed at building up the capacity of EU and EEAC youth and refugee/IDP/migrant organisations by enabling a transfer of know-how in view of their engagement in current and future

bi- and multilateral European Voluntary Service projects related to the theme.

The programme included inputs by experts, transfer of know-how, discussion groups and workshops as well as project visits to refugee and IDP Centres in Baku and surroundings and provided first hand information and multiple learning opportunities. The participants learnt about the work with refugees/IDP's and migrants in each others countries with a particular focus on the context of IDP's and refugee issues in the Caucasus region.

The training course furthermore prepared the ground and will support the implementation of an envisaged multilateral EVS project with same partner organisations, for which an application the EVS project was recently approved and will start in September 2006, enabling a group of 14 volunteers to engage in refugee IDP's projects in 5 EEAC and 4 EU countries.



INFORMAL INTERACTIVE HEARINGS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The President of the United Nations General Assembly is convening Informal Interactive Hearings with representatives of civil society, NGOs and the private sector on International Migration and Development.

The one-day hearings scheduled for 12 July 2006 at the UN Headquarters in New York will focus on the Secretary General's report on International Migration and Development (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/60/871>) and feed into the High-level

dialogue on International Migration and Development (www.unmigration.org) which will take place in September.

The outcome of the hearings will be a summary by the President of the General Assembly that shall be made available for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (14-15 September).

Click here (http://www.un-ngls.org/site/article.php3?id_article=49) for more information on the Call for Comments.

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



CULTURAL DIVERSITY © UNESCO

In today's world comprising 6000 communities and languages, the recognition and the defense of cultural diversity have become universal ethical imperatives. The challenge is two-fold: to ensure that individuals from varied cultural horizons engage in peaceful dialogue and live together in harmony while acknowledging and supporting their distinctive heritages and creative capacities.

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

As at 31 March 2006, forty-six states have ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which entered into force on 20 April 2006. The implementation of this Convention, which strongly emphasizes the role of communities and groups as bearers and transmitters of intangible cultural heritage, will greatly contribute to the promotion of cultural diversity and human creativity.

For more information about the Convention please go to: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17716&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html



@ YOUTH service

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter @ **YOUTH service** distributed by the YOUTH Unit of the new Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

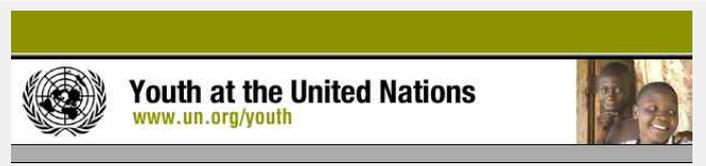
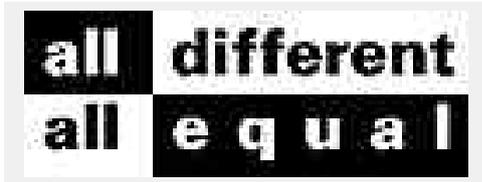
The newsletter can be downloaded from the following web sites

English:

http://eacea.ec.eu.int/static/en/youth/newsletter/youth_01_en.pdf

Francais:

http://eacea.ec.eu.int/static/en/youth/newsletter/youth_01_fr.pdf



All Different - All Equal Preparation Phase

This is the official website of the preparation of All Different - All Equal, a European campaign on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation, that will be launched in June 2006 and will last until September 2007. The structural partners of the Campaign will support the development of the Campaign throughout its own course. They are:

- the Council of Europe and its structures (in particular the Directorate Youth and Sport)
- the European Commission
- the Member States of the CoE
- the European Youth Forum

The Campaign will also benefit from project partners (local authorities, NGOs and private sector) and donors who are joining the Campaign for specific projects. It is run by the Secretariat of the Campaign. The site of the Campaign itself has been deployed in May 2006:

<http://alldifferent-allequal.info>

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 12 August 2006.

Tackling Poverty Together

Team up! It is a great opportunity to rally support and get key actors involved - governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, businesses, and young people - to focus on what has been done to further the World Programme of Action for Youth.

Organize! Hold forums, public discussions and information campaigns in support of young people focusing on youth issues and how they can be addressed.

Celebrate! Plan and organize performances everywhere to showcase - and celebrate - the fact that youth contribute to the societies in which they live. Convene exchanges and dialogues focusing on the rich and varied skills, interests and aspirations of young people.

Take action! A major focus of the Day is practical action to further encourage the empowerment and participation of youth in the processes and decisions that affect their lives.

Email your plans and ideas on how you will be commemorating International Youth Day in your country to: youth@un.org.

NEWS FROM NGO'S



12TH VIENNA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS (VIMUN) -

The 12th Vienna International Model United Nations (VIMUN) will be held from 6 to 10 August 2006 in Vienna, Austria.

VIMUN is the opportunity for **young people aged between 18 and 35** to experience the world of the United Nations and its Committees in form of a simulation conference.

For more information, please read carefully the message below and consult the website : <http://www.vimun.at> or contact the Secretary General : vimun@afa.at



EUROPE FOR A CHANGE II

'Peace' and 'Freedom' top priorities for Young Europeans

What do young Europeans find most necessary to the continued strength and growth of the European Union? For over 3,750 young people living in 41 European countries, 'Peace' and 'Freedom' are the top priority values for the future of Europe- as revealed by the initial results of Europe for a Change II, the second pan-European campaign and research initiative of the European Youth Card Association, supported by the European Commission.

The first Europe for a Change campaign was broadcast throughout Europe during 2003-04, reaching over 21 million people. "Some values should never disappear from our minds!"

The campaign has already revealed a very clear picture of what young people want. An overwhelming majority (43%) have put 'Peace' as No 1 priority value for the future of Europe, with 'Freedom' as an essential second value (26%), agreeing that without freedom or peace, other important values such as 'Education' (9%), 'Equal Opportunities' (7%) and 'Communication' (7%) cannot exist: "The lack of peace implies lack of freedom. Without freedom you can't have an education that fulfils you as a person, because it will always have restraints... Most of us were never involved in a situation of lack of freedom or peace, and so we take it for granted. But we can't! Some values should never disappear from our minds!" - João Daniel Dias Gomes Coelho (22). Europe for a Change II is the second campaign initiative of the European Youth Card Association in the framework of the PRINCE programme of the European Commission. For further information about the campaign, please visit:

http://www.euro26.org/opencms/opencms/euro26_org/data/public/header/projects/europe_change_2/



CONTROL ARMS CAMPAIGN

Control Arms is a campaign jointly run by Amnesty International, IANSA and Oxfam.

Lack of controls on the arms trade is fuelling conflict, poverty and human rights abuses worldwide. Every government is responsible. The Control Arms campaign is asking governments to toughen up controls on the arms trade.

Our Million Faces petition is collecting photos and self portraits from around the world to reach our

goal of one million faces by June 2006. We will use these faces to send a powerful, global message of support to the world's governments for an International Arms Trade Treaty.

Be one in a million. Join us today.

To join the campaign visit:

<http://www.controlarms.org>



YES Kenya 2006

"Creating Markets...unleashing Entrepreneurship"

The Government of Kenya, through its Ministry of Youth Affairs, in partnership with Youth Employment Summit Campaign, will host the next global Youth Employment Summit, YES Kenya 2006. The third global summit of the YES Campaign will be held from 13-16 September 2006 at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi.

The YES Campaign works with national and global partners to develop effective programs and deploy resources that realize the following goals:

- Develop capacity of youth to lead in-country youth employment initiatives
- Promote (in-country) youth employment to address key development challenges
- Build in-country coalitions to develop national strategies addressing youth unemployment

YES Kenya 2006, will build on the previous two global summits of the Youth Employment Summit Campaign, viz. Alexandria YES 2002 and Mexico YES 2004 and showcase the accomplishments of the YES Country Networks across the globe. For more information please visit:

<http://www.yesweb.org/2006/index.htm>

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS



A DIFFERENT WORLD

10 p.m. in a small café in La Paz. The lights are turned down low and the music begins. Three beautiful women appear in the spotlight and give an amazing show. But wait a moment, are they really women? No, they are not...

Of course transvestite shows are not all my project is about but hopefully you have seen that it must be a lot of fun working there, and it really is! ADESPROC is a place where homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals can go to for psychological

support, workshops and meetings, or just to have a chat in the café and feel free to be the way they are without being judged by the society in which they live.

Bolivian society is quite conservative and homosexuality is discriminated against. ADESPROC tries to educate the public about the subject of homosexuality by giving speeches, workshops and a march which takes place once a year. But still there is a lot of work that needs to be done. For me another very important part of the project is the work with the subject of HIV. They try to inform the public about the risk of catching HIV, how to live with the virus and almost every weekend they give out condoms to the people in the café that is part of the project and in other bars. In addition HIV tests can be taken at ADEPROC for free.

ADESPROC also has a telephone hotline called "línea contigo", where people with questions about sexuality, love, HIV and things like that can call. Also a lot of teenagers have the possibility to inform themselves about these important topics without having problems in their families afterwards.

Personally, I'm unbelievably happy to be part of this fabulous and one of the best organized projects in La Paz. I'm glad to help out there in a few things and know that I've already learned so much!

Ultimately, I want to relate to the topic of this newsletter which is ? Minority groups?. My personal opinion is that if you belong to one of these minority groups you should first try to accept yourself the way you are and then be the way you are in public life. If you don't do that and don't show your real face your group will always be a minority group. You are a reflection of the society in which you live and the society is a reflection of you. So only you have the possibility to make a change!

Annika Wilinski
Volunteer from Germany to Bolivia

MAPUTO IS NOT FAR FROM HOME

My name is Hilary Young; I am a volunteer from the United States of America at Rensida in Maputo, Mozambique. Rensida is a non-governmental organization founded on May 24, 2002 and stands for Rede Nacional De Associações de Pessoas Vivendo com HIV/SIDA. The English significance of Rensida is a National Network of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Rensida's mission is for Mozambique to be free from HIV/AIDS, where all people enjoy the right to a life full of dignity.

As a volunteer with Rensida I am able to work directly with the different associations of PLWHA in the province of Maputo. My activities vary within each association however, some tasks include giving English lessons, helping make furniture, or visiting orphaned children to determine how they are doing. There are many aspects of my time here so far that I have found to be rewarding. I am truly thankful that I have been given this opportunity to interact and be of assistance to PLWHA. Learning about and experiencing the reality of HIV/AIDS has also proven to be an incredible experience for me. I am most grateful for the ability to embrace a new culture and have come to realize, although geographically I maybe half way around the world, Maputo is not far from home.

Hilary Young
Volunteer from USA to Mozambique



EU- CIS EVS MULTILAREAL PROJECT Final Evaluation Meeting in Berlin, Germany

The EU-CIS Multilateral EVS Project Youth and Social Inclusion is a reciprocal exchange project involving EU and Partner Countries, sending and receiving on both sides. It enabled 6 young people from EU countries to engage in voluntary service projects in Armenia and Georgia and 4 young people from these countries to acquire experience by living and working in Austria, Finland, Italy and Lithuania.

The main objective of "Youth and Social inclusion" was to enhance youth mobility between EU countries and Armenia and Georgia, offering voluntary service opportunities in projects dealing with young people of disadvantaged background / with less opportunities, such as SOS Children Villages, child care centres, after school activities, and youth volunteering organisations.

The Final Evaluation Meeting was held in Berlin from the 13th to the 16th of June, with a group of 8 volunteers who had the opportunity to share their experiences during the voluntary service and exchange opinions with regards to the situation of youth in EU and CIS countries.



"EU AND LATIN AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS AND HOST ORGANISATIONS"

ASERMUN – ICYE partner in Spain, in cooperation with ICYE Mexico and the ICYE Int'l Office organised a Training Course on "Improving the quality of the relationship between volunteers and hosting projects in the EU and Latin America". The course took place in Castuera, Spain, 17-21 May 2006, and was funded by the EU YOUTH programme.

21 participants, from 10 different EU and Latin American countries, attend the course which aimed at enhancing the quality of relations between long-term volunteers, host coordinating organizations and voluntary service placements/host organizations.

Through a series of training work shops, role games and presentations knowledge and tools were shared and transferred in relation to the preparation of volunteers and host , as well as to in-service support, monitoring and evaluation of EVS long term exchanges.

Around 35 representatives of voluntary youth organisations from 18 Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) member countries gathered to exchange information and experience regarding voluntary activities and to facilitate the creation of an Asia-Europe youth volunteer network.

The objectives of the network are: (a) Promoting volunteerism and raising public awareness of the service; (b) Sharing information and experiences between individuals and volunteer organisations concerning voluntary activities; and (c) Connecting people who have the opportunity to volunteer with community service organisations.



ICYE STePs

A Planning cum Training seminar was held on 23-26 April 2006 in Kampala, Uganda. The event, hosted by UVP/ICYE Uganda, aimed at designing and launching new standardised ICYE Short Term Programmes - StePs. The main stay of STePs are 2-16 weeks volunteering opportunities that can be tailored to meet young people's needs to volunteer, discover and appreciate the uniqueness of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The seminar was attend by representatives of ICYE Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, and from ICYE Finland, Germany, the UK, and the International Office.

ICYE member and partner organisations in China, India, Nepal, in Asia, and Bolivia and Ecuador will also be joining ICYE StePs – the new web site will be launched in summer 2006.



"NETWORKING ASIAN AND EUROPEAN YOUNG VOLUNTEERS"



The ICYE International Office was represented at a Conference held in Hanoi & Ha Long, Vietnam, 24 - 28 June 2006. The event was co-organised by the International Youth Cooperation Development Centre (CYDECO) of the National Committee on Youth of Vietnam (NCYV) , the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS).



ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents

- Ghana: William GORDON ACQUAH (Mr)
- Sweden: Anna LIND (Ms)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **10–16 July 2006:** ICYE Germany Seminar on “Improving participation within the YOUTH program activities – and beyond”. Berlin, Germany.
- **August-September 2006:** Job Shadowing of ADVIT Moldova Project Coordinator at ICYE International Office, Berlin, Germany.
- **August 2006 - May 2007:** EVS Multilateral Project in EU and SEE Countries “Youth Dialogue and Local Development”.
- **September 2006:** ICYE Italy, ICYE Germany & Latin America National Committees – Training on consolidation and development of “National Civil Service Schemes”, Mexico.
- **September 2006–June 2007:** EVS Multilateral Project in EU and EECA countries “Europe and Human Rights – Young People Volunteering in Sensitive Contexts”
- **1-7 October 2006:** ICYE European Association Training on “Enhancing Personal and Organisational Learning in ICYE”. Belgium.