

# Worlds of experience



No. 19 (July 2009)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 19th issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to the theme "Youth Volunteering in Arts and Culture".

Organisations promoting arts and various forms of cultural expression, which are willing and able to host young volunteers, are usually far and few in between. We are therefore quite pleased that this newsletter features a few testimonials of young volunteers that had the opportunity to work in projects enhancing various types of art education and handicraft production. It is heartening to note that these contributions show that solidarity and mutual support, as well as the intercultural dialogue can take place and can be very enriching in settings that are primarily dealing with people's creativity and people's empowerment through arts.

*Volunteer's Voices* begins with the account of a Mexican volunteer working in a dance school in Germany, in which she discovered that she had artistic skills she never thought she had and learned that art education is crucial for everyone's personal and professional growth. While a Swedish volunteer in Ghana experienced how effective it is to empower women and promote their independence enhancing their artistic and handicraft skills, a young French volunteer in Mexico whose feet were swept by the "Vientos Culturales" (cultural winds) in Chiapas, added more currents through teaching painting and providing respite and support to disadvantaged children. A British volunteer at "Mozarte" had the invaluable opportunity to learn some of the traditional arts as well as see how an organisation gives full-time employment to artists without hindering their own creative practice. After the testimonial of a French volunteer that worked at the Ethnographical Museum in Moldova, this section is closed by an uplifting report of a German volunteer who volunteered at a music school in South India and lived a life that consists of music, of children and love.

*News from Int'l Organisations* feature, among others: an event co-hosted by the United Nations Programme on Youth on "Measuring Youth Development"; the next International Youth Day dedicated to "Sustainability: Our Challenge, Our Future"; the 2011: European Year of Volunteering; the declaration of 2009-19 as the Decade on Youth Development by the African Union; and the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

*News from NGOs* reports on: a video festival on migration and diversity; the hike of a group of Africans who climbed the Mount Kilimanjaro to combat climate change; a NGO conference to promote Global Learning as a driving force for change towards a sustainable future; a do-it-yourself guide for leaders and facilitators of organisations promoting social change; and the Oxfam report on poverty.

*ICYE Programme News* starts with the recent 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of ICYE Germany, a brief description of an Euro-African EVS Seminar and an Euro-Latin American seminar of women empowerment projects, the ICYE New Zealand Yearbook, and the recent ICYE training seminar "Step by STePs!"

Wishing you an enjoyable read, we would like to encourage readers to send us their articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated to "Youth and women's empowerment" and will be published at the end of October 2009. Please send your contributions to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org), before 30 September 2009.

Warmest wishes!  
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: [www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org)

# "Youth Volunteering in Arts and Culture"

## VOLUNTEERS VOICES

### Art education for children



My name is Teresa Castillo, a Mexican ICYE volunteer in Germany, working at the Tanzwerkstatt No limit e.V., a dance school

for children and young adults ages three to thirty. Over 400 people attend the workshops, focused on modern, cultural, theatrical and professional dance!

My job basically consists in:

- Working with children in different activities aimed at encouraging their creative development, not only during the presentation period but during school break as well.
- Helping out the costume designer in the creation and restoration of dresses as needed.
- Assisting with administrative tasks.
- Keeping the working areas, such as the children's 'creative room' and the kitchen, tidy and clean.

Do I consider my job to be artistic? The main objective of this project is definitely the artistic integration of everyone working and studying in the organization. I have developed different skills during the last few months, some of which I had never realized I had! Painting, drawing, sewing are just some of my every day duties.

So all in all, what does this project mean to me? Tanzwerkstatt No Limit has maximized my artistic potential and allows me to express myself in more ways than one. It has also greatly simplified my integration process in this beautiful country. I have had the chance of participating in numerous rehearsals and official theatre performances.

Also important has been the responsibility of preparing a group of girls aged 6 to 7. I think tasks such as working on the attires, taking care of the children during their different activities or just applying make-up, have had a very positive effect on me. Seeing them grow artistically is a very rewarding experience!

I am very happy that I could work in an arts and culture project. It is very interesting to see how the government supports it and how the artistic education of the children and young adults is considered to be a fundamental part of their personal and professional growth.

Teresa Castillo

Mexican volunteer  
in Germany



### Women empowerment through Arts

My name is Agnes and I am a Swedish volunteer in Ghana, working at the Corban Foundation, a project empowering women through arts. Women in the Ghanaian society are often in a disadvantaged position and have few chances to develop as a person before they get their own family to take care of.

Corban Foundation's vision is to empower young vulnerable women, not only economically but also to give them a positive self-esteem. The project identifies the vulnerable women in deprived communities and provides vocational and artistic skill training in order to create job opportunities and self-employment. The training is provided in a variety of fields, such as batik & tie-dye, catering, hairdressing and fashion design. The target groups for the project are young women, students waiting for their results and housewives. At the moment there are approximately 30 students enrolled in the project and they choose which field they are interested in for their training, which lasts for six months.

On a regular day at the project, I start to prepare for the task of the day (which could be tie-dye, for example) by fetching water, setting up the buckets, the fabrics and the dye together with the batik students. As soon as Madame Phidelia, the founder of the project, shows up, we can start dyeing the tied fabrics. After we finish the dying, all students can just gather together and admire the beautiful fabrics we make.

Afterwards, I do some research about micro-credits in Ghana and try to find someone who could explain to the students how it works. To raise women's rights and to encourage women to be more independent is very important for the development of whole societies, especially the deprived ones.

It has been a wonderful experience to see how at the Corban Foundation the enhancement of artistic and handicraft skills for women promotes solidarity and independence among women and helps to strengthen and unite them!

Agnes Stenström  
Swedish volunteer in Ghana



### Vientos Culturales in Mexico

My name is Camille, from France, and my volunteering experience with ICYE in Mexico is about to end. I will never forget my time in Mexico!



It has been a unique experience that I highly recommend - a time in which I learnt a lot of things and found good people that I will miss very much.

Working in Vientos Culturales has been one of the best experiences here in Chiapas. The work with children is one of the things I love, but the most important thing for me is that I was able to share my culture, my way of living life and at the same time, an opportunity to learn from the Mexican life and culture. I learnt a lot of things I never thought of.

Vientos Culturales is like a big family. There you are free to create and teach the children all kind of workshops that you can imagine!! Most of the children we work with have a very hard life and painting and participating in the workshops is almost their only entertainment.

It was very impressive for me to realize the impact of my work in children mentality. Sometimes you think that your work in a project is not very important, but when you realise the difficulty that these children face in everyday life, then you know how important is your work and in my case, I wanted to make a difference, I wanted to contribute to make children's lives easier.

It has been very gratifying to see that children enjoy the workshops. It makes me feel very good to see that I can contribute a little bit to their happiness and that children prefer to go to the workshops with us, instead of using drugs or alcohol in the streets.

I enjoy working at Vientos Culturales and I like to see that the project has found a way to interest children in learning how to paint, how to make crafts, to be with other children their age and with young foreigners.

I can finally say that my time in Mexico has been wonderful and working in a cultural project has been a very pleasant experience, something I will remember all my life.

Camille Ange  
French volunteer in Mexico



### Mozarte



My name is Alexandra, a UK volunteer who chose to spend her volunteering year in Mozambique, Africa, because of its wide variety of traditional and modern art. From music to painting, ceramics to batik, Mozambique has a colourful combination of traditional and modern arts and music.

The Portuguese influence is still visible from colonial times, and then there is art inspired by the countries independence in 1975, then by the civil war that ravaged the country until 1994. Now this peaceful, if injured country, is starting to grow and with it, the arts and music grow too.

I am volunteering at Mozarte, a Ministry run organisation that gives young people a place to define and develop their artistic skills. They can choose from traditional weaving, paper recycling, clothes making, ceramics, metal, leather and batik. They spend two months learning and refining their techniques.

Constantly surrounded by art and creative people it's difficult to see why Mozambican art and music hasn't taken the world by storm. Just give it time and eventually the world will see what a rich artistic culture Mozambique has to offer.

My main job here at Mozarte is to document the goings on through Photography. With its Ministry connection there is always something happening here. Lunches, lectures, meetings and Ministry speeches are held here regularly. The employees are generally always making something or another as well, except during their lunch break when nothing happens at all!

All the different departments here work together, as well as practicing their own art they also make things that can be sold in the centres shop. The weaving and batik departments create fabric that can be used by the clothing department to make bags, clothes, purses and other items. The metal department create lamp frames and stands that the weaving, paper recycling and clothing departments decorate. The leather department make bags and shoes, which are lined or decorated with the different fabrics by the clothing department. All the work compliments that of the work before.

At Mozarte I have had the invaluable opportunity to learn some of the traditional arts as well as see how an organisation like this gives full-time employment to artists without hindering their own creative practice. I truly hope this project continues to grow and I hope I can bring some of the ideas and practices back to the UK.

Alexandra Perry  
UK Volunteer in Mozambique



## History and Culture of Moldova



My name is Gwladys, a French EVS volunteer in Moldova. The Ethnographical Museum appealed to me because I have had an interest in history for a long time. It was important to me to volunteer in Eastern Europe since I had recently spent time in Georgia and wanted to see more of this part of the world.

I'm in the process of writing a self-guided tour book, for foreigners visiting the museum, in English and in French; my job is to write the French part. I also organize guided tours for other volunteers and French speakers. Working at the museum is nice because I get many opportunities to visit different parts of Moldova such as Palanka, where we saw the inauguration of a church recently restored with help from the museum. In March I was very lucky to help with the excavation of a mammoth found in a dried lake in the centre of Chisinau. Sometimes I help to prepare temporary exhibitions such as the exhibit of Martisor, which is a Moldovan holiday celebrated at the beginning of spring. I enjoy very much the temporary exhibits and traditional music.

It has been great to experience that a museum is something alive - it's a different vision of what a museum is than what I had in the past. I was pleasantly surprised by the rich culture of this small country. Choosing a cultural project has worked out great for me because it has allowed me to learn more about the country in which I am living and its history.

By Gwladys Mermet  
EVS Volunteer in Moldova

## Classical Music in India

In four weeks I have to leave Kalkeri, because my year working as a volunteer in India will be over. I will have to leave the place where I have learned more in one year than in all my life. I learned about myself and got a better vision of how I want my future to be. I learned about other totally new things that are now so important to me and that I will bring back to Germany and use in my daily life.

One of these things is for sure playing the sitar and the interest in Hindustani Classical Music in general. The school where I live, the Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya, or Kalkeri Music School, is the perfect place to get to know about this wonderful music. It is a boarding school free of charge for children



mainly from economically marginalized families. It has its focus on teaching Hindustani Classical Music but the academic classes are very important as well.

After living in Kalkeri for a certain period of time, it is impossible not to get touched by this special music. You will get woken up by the children practicing Flute, Tablas or Vocal and the sound of this music will still be ringing in your ears when you fall asleep. I chose the sitar for me four weeks after my arrival. Its sound is just magical. I have been taking classes with Hameed Khan, a well-known Sitar player, whose family has been playing and teaching the use of it for generations.

Hindustani Music is built up totally differently than any western music. For example, if you have to play Bach on the piano you will have to play it how it is written, whereas Hindustani Music gives you more space for your own interpretation. The fundaments of it are more than 2000 ragas written a long time ago. Each raga has one specific melody made out of one scale. Two ragas can never have the same scale. With the scale of one raga you can do more or less whatever you want during the play if only you come back to the melody that repeats itself between your improvisations. I really like this different way of playing.

Apart from the music I was able to look at many other aspects of the Indian culture. Since Kalkeri is a very small village in the middle of Karnataka the life of the people still remains very traditional. I had the possibility to go to many Indian marriages (which are still arranged by the parents in most of the cases) and I celebrated many Indian festivals like for example the one for Ganesh, the elephant god, with all the locals. But most important, I lived the everyday life together with all the children who became important for me.

When I now think about leaving in some weeks I get very sad. During this year, I have had so many wonderful, new, different and sometimes difficult experiences. It was a very important year for me. But I also know that it is not over. I will for sure come back to Kalkeri as soon as possible to be able to live this life again that consists of music, of children and of so much love.

Marie Malchow,  
German volunteer in India.



## News From International Organizations

### Measuring Youth Development: The Way Forward

How do we assess the socioeconomic development and inclusion of youth? How can we work together to ensure efficient assessment of these elements?



These were the questions on the February side-event "Measuring Youth Development: The Way Forward", co-hosted by the United Nations Programme on Youth (UNPY) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), during the Commission for Social Development at the United Nations.

The event presented current international-level approaches to gauging the social situation of youth, and discussed the way forward in the further development and implementation of evaluation tools and approaches. Eventually, it was agreed that youth needs to be recognised as a heterogeneous population with differences among cohorts within and across nations. More youth involvement is key in, both determining valid and relevant indicators, and in collecting and assessing the data. This is especially relevant in collecting qualitative data. Who better than youth to guide us on the thoughts, attitudes and circumstances which shape their decisions and frame their living situations?

For more information on the event and its outcomes, please contact the United Nations Programme on Youth at [youth@un.org](mailto:youth@un.org) or visit <http://www.un.org/youth>.



Youth and the United Nations  
[www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)

### 12 August: International Youth Day 2009

The theme for International Youth Day 2009 is Sustainability: Our Challenge, Our Future. Sustainability encapsulates three facets of life: the environment, society and the economy, and sustainable development can only occur where three intersect in symbiotic fashion.

Therefore, in order to embrace the challenge of sustainability in its fullness, we must all adopt a global sense of social responsibility.

The United Nations Programme on Youth is encouraging youth organisations around the world to host community barter fairs for International Youth Day. Remember, with bartering there is no money involved, only pure exchange of goods and services. How will YOU celebrate International Youth Day 2009? Are you ready to take on the challenge?

For more information visit:  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unvin/iyouthday.htm>

### 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering



Brussels, 3 June - The European Commission has decided today to propose that 2011 be designated as the European Year of Volunteering, after the European Parliament has been consulted, by the beginning of next year. In the European Union, millions of citizens are volunteering. People of all ages make a positive contribution to their community by investing some of their free time in civil society organisations, in youth clubs, in hospitals, in schools, in sport clubs, etc. For the Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation and strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. (...)

Volunteering has a great, but so far under-exploited, potential for the social and economic development of Europe. Dedicating 2011 to the topic of volunteering will help Member States, regional and local communities and civil society achieve the following objectives: Work towards an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU; Empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering; Reward and recognize volunteering activities; Raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering. (...). The Commission proposes to allocate a budget of 6 million Euros for the European Year and an additional amount of 2 million Euros for the preparatory actions starting in 2010. The Council and the European Parliament are expected to endorse this proposal by the beginning of next year.

For more information, please visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news820\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news820_en.htm)



### **UNESCO - Best practices in youth policies and programmes**

A UN inter-agency, inter-organization project around "Best practices" aims to recognize, share and publish successful practices in youth policies and programmes in eight themes, namely: education; employment; sexual and reproductive health; prevention of youth violence; poverty reduction; voluntary work; youth participation and leadership and; integral youth development.

The project will be implemented in three stages that includes: (1) A regional call for proposals in order to identify and select good practices (March-April 2009); (2) A Regional Meeting in order to give recognition to and analyze practices and trends; and to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among relevant actors (September 2009), and (3) The publication of a book and a technical guide on the eight themes.

More information: Berenice Alcalde,  
[b.alcalde@unesco.org](mailto:b.alcalde@unesco.org).

### **African Union Declares Decade on Youth Development in Africa**

The Assembly of Heads of State and government of the African Union have declared the years 2009-2019 as the decade of youth development in Africa. The decade was declared during the last Executive Council held in January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia within the context of the outcomes and prospects related to the Year of African Youth 2008 and to facilitate the implementation of the African Youth Charter after its ratification. The decade is an opportunity to advance the agenda of youth development in all member states across the African Union, to ensure effective and more ambitious investment in youth development programmes and increased support to the development and implementation of national youth policies and programmes. Priority issues to be addressed within the 10-year plan of action include: education, employment, safe spaces for recreation and leisure, participation in policy-making processes at national, regional and continental levels, and health issues.

For more information, please contact Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima of the African Union Commission at: [dabesaki@gmail.com](mailto:dabesaki@gmail.com)

### **7 - 18 December 2009: United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15)**



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force on 21 March 1994. The Convention sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle climate change and recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The Convention enjoys near universal membership, with 192 countries having ratified. A number of nations had approved the Kyoto Protocol, as an addition to the treaty with more powerful (and legally binding) measures. The Protocol's first commitment period ends in 2012. A strong multilateral framework needs to be in place by 2009 to ensure that there is no gap between the end of the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period in 2012 and the entry into force of a future regime. COP15 (Conference of Parties) in Copenhagen is a vital step in this process.

For more information, visit: <http://www.cop15.dk/>

## News From NGOs



### Alliance of Civilizations: Youth-produced video festival on migration and diversity

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration invite youth from around the world to participate in the PLURAL + Video Festival on the themes of migration, diversity, and identity. Between now and 30 September 2009, youth between the ages of 9 and 25 are invited to submit short videos on their thoughts, experiences, opinions, and questions on migration-related themes and on the challenges of ensuring respect and understanding among various communities.

An international jury which includes youth representatives and critically acclaimed filmmakers will announce the winners in New York on 18 December 2009, coinciding with International Migrants Day. The winning videos will receive international exposure and will be widely disseminated through broadcast, satellite, internet, film festivals and DVD. All details about the PLURAL + Video Festival, including the application form and rules and regulations, can be found at [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org).

If you have video equipment or expertise and are interested in supporting local youth to take part in PLURAL +, please contact [plural@unaoc.org](mailto:plural@unaoc.org).



### African youth to climb Kilimanjaro joining UN campaign for climate change

On 28 February 2009, a group of 31 climbers, assisted by 15 guides, 2 cooks and 45 porters, made their way through the gates of Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania - on route to the highest point of Africa and the largest freestanding mountain in the world. Brought together by Kilimanjaro Initiative (KI), a youth empowerment NGO, the climbers aimed to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro to highlight the importance of creating a sustainable environment, under the United Nations banner 'UNite to Combat Climate Change.'

The team included young people from disadvantaged communities in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania, UN staff and representatives from the private sector. The annual ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro to the "rooftop of Africa" is at the centre of the KI activities. Conquering the mountain provides a ready metaphor for overcoming life's challenges and was the genesis of the initiative itself. This year, the climb focused on the importance of a sustainable environment. Nineteen climbers reached the rim of the sleeping volcano, enduring extremely difficult conditions. While glaciers still graced the summit, far less ice is visible than in previous years. The next Kilimanjaro Initiative climb is scheduled to step off on 27 February 2010 and will highlight how sport can be an innovative and cost-effective tool in efforts to reach development and peace objectives. KI recently gained NGO status and has opened offices in Nairobi, Kenya. This has allowed them to extend their outreach activities beyond the annual hike. For more information on KI, please visit: <http://www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org/>.



Unite for Climate is a growing global online community of young people and organizations working together on youth-powered solutions to climate change. It is designed to facilitate collaboration, coordination and resource sharing. The site features youth media and voices, information on climate change and its adverse effects on the MDGs, and a clearinghouse of campaigns that users can easily browse and join.

Unite for Climate wants to showcase the initial work done by the youth community. We are keen to gather YOUR feedback ahead of the official launch at the TUNZA International Youth Conference in Daejeon, South Korea, on August 20th. The social network and website will see many additional upgrades between now and then. Become part of a space that fosters collaboration and social networking between young people and youth groups; join Unite for Climate. For more information, see <http://www.uniteforclimate.org/> or email [info@uniteforclimate.org](mailto:info@uniteforclimate.org).



### BONN NGO DECLARATION

ICYE Brazil and ICYE Honduras attended the International NGO-Conference "Global Learning, Weltwärts and beyond" leading up to the UN 2009 Conference on Education for Sustainable Development on 29 March 2009 in Bonn, Germany. The Conference was organised by the association of German non-governmental organisations (VENRO) and was attended by 175 participants representing 121 non-governmental organisations from 51 countries.

The participants took stock of worldwide educational programmes and discussed strategic steps to make Global Learning the driving force for change towards a sustainable future. The Conference underlines the potential of Education for Sustainable Development and the possibilities of voluntary development programmes, such as the German programme "Weltwärts", as means for cross-cultural understanding and Global Learning. The representatives of civil society urge governments to set positive examples of good governance in view of growing challenges by a worldwide economic crisis, by climate change, social injustice, and a lack of democratic participation.

The full declaration can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.venro.org/fileadmin/redaktion/dokumente/nro-congress/bonn\\_ngo\\_declaration\\_eng.pdf](http://www.venro.org/fileadmin/redaktion/dokumente/nro-congress/bonn_ngo_declaration_eng.pdf)



### The Barefoot Guide to working with organisations and social change

This is a practical, do-it-yourself guide for leaders and facilitators wanting to help organisations to function and to develop in more healthy, human and effective ways as they strive to make their contributions to a more humane society.

It has been developed by the Barefoot Collective. The guide, with its supporting website, includes tried and tested concepts, approaches, stories and activities.

Its purpose is to help stimulate and enrich the practice of anyone supporting organisations and social movements in their challenges of working, learning, growing and changing to meet the needs of our complex world.

Although it is aimed at leaders and facilitators of civil society organisations, we hope it will be useful to anyone interested in fostering healthy human organisation in any sphere of life.

For details, please go to:  
<http://www.barefootquide.org/>

### A Billion Hungry People: Governments and aid agencies must rise to the challenge

The Oxfam International Briefing Paper - January 2009 - argues that "governments and aid agencies must...take urgent and sustained practical action to meet the food needs of people living in extreme poverty".

Furthermore, they must guarantee people's right to food and to social protection and create the right policies. The paper also puts forth more specific recommendations for governments in developing countries, for donors and international organizations and for international NGOs.

For more details, please visit:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict\\_disasters/downloads/bp127\\_billion\\_hungry.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/downloads/bp127_billion_hungry.pdf)



## ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

### Celebrating 60 years of ICJA / ICYE Germany



In 1949 John Eberly established an exchange program for young Germans to spend a year in the United States. Today, there are still young Germans going to the United States with the same organisation, as well as to more than 40 other countries all over the world.

Equally, around 40 young volunteers from all continents come to Germany every year. To look back at a 60-year-long tradition in cultural youth exchange was reason behind the birthday party that took place in Weimar, a historical city in the centre of Germany, from May 29 to June 1. During the preparations for this event it became obvious that quite many people – from all periods of ICJA's history – were interested in joining the celebration. We felt proud, as well as challenged, that over 150 people were going to attend it.

The first guests arrived on Friday, the day of the weekend that was dedicated to the past 60 years. After the official weekend opening, by ICJA's Chairperson Birgit Schaffitzel, people were invited to either get to know each other or inform old friends on what had happened since they have last seen each other. The official program for Friday also contained a slideshow, presenting 60 years of history in pictures and a discussion on the history and developments.

On Saturday morning, the guests were invited to participate in one of four workshops, each of them focusing on a different aspect of ICJA's activities, such as development cooperation, voluntary work, communications and PR, and ethics of consumption.

The ceremonial act was held on Saturday evening. ICJA was very proud to welcome representatives from its partners in India and Togo, Robinson Doss from ICDE and Horace Hogbenu from Campagne des Hommes. The formal act consisted of speeches by Axel Kendelbacher, former chairperson of ICJA, who depicted his own experiences with the organisation, by Salvatore Romagna, secretary general of the ICYE Federation, presenting his view on ICJA and its role within the ICYE Federation. Hartwig Euler, executive director of AKLHÜ, one of ICJA's umbrella organisations, offered a very interesting outlook on the future of international voluntary service. The act was concluded by a series of acknowledgements to people who contributed to the development of ICJA in different ways. This was followed by a party, in which the participants continued their informal conversations, danced and enjoyed an intense feeling of togetherness.

After a long Saturday night, Sunday offered some time for relaxation. Some of the guests went on a walk after breakfast, while others joined a city tour in Weimar. At lunchtime the different groups met again in a park. During the afternoon, participants discussed how they would like ICJA to develop in the coming years and how ICJA will be able to play a vital role in the lives of young German and international volunteers.

*Marc Schneider  
ICJA Freiwilligenaustausch weltweit  
Communications assistant*

These celebrations will be followed by a Festive Act to mark the 60th Anniversary of the ICYE Federation at its General Assembly, which will take place in Tauranga, New Zealand from 22 thru 28 November 2009.



**ICYE Euro- African Training Seminar on EVS Capacity and Partnership Building Gomoa Fetteh, Ghana**

In cooperation with ICYE Ghana, the ICYE International Office organised a training course, 10 – 15 March 2008, within the project "Youth Action for Civil Society - Building capacities and partnerships for youth volunteering programmes between European, African, Asia/Pacific, Caribbean and Latin American Countries", funded by the European Commission Youth in Action Programme.

This project aims at enhancing the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of youth volunteering as well as the development of sustainable partnership between youth organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The training course, brought together 7 experienced youth workers from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, UK and 12 youth workers from Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, representing one ICYE coordinating host organisation and one non-ICYE EVS host organisation per country.

The programme which focused on a variety of aspects to be considered when planning and implementing the exchange of EVS volunteers and included inputs from experts, discussion groups as well as workshops on i.e. how to foster (reciprocal) voluntary service exchange and intercultural learning; how to manage EVS projects; and how to reach out to youth with fewer opportunities. It also included visits to two EVS host placements of the organisation "Handy Vangelism" located in the outskirts of Accra.

This seminar is followed by a 7-month action plan, which is currently being implemented. Follow-up actions aim at sustaining exchange of good practice and training at national level in 6 African countries, through twinning/pairing organisations, coaching, in-country job shadowing, refreshment training sessions, joint on-arrival/mid-term and final evaluations, etc.

For more information about this training and its final report, please email: [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org)

## EVS Evaluation Seminars

Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2009, three evaluation meetings took place in Berlin, respectively of the EVS EU-Africa, Asia and Latin America volunteer exchanges, supported by the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme of the European Community. Around 40 of the 49 young volunteers from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, after 9 months abroad, gathered in Berlin for a three day Final Evaluation Meeting to share and reflect on their experiences around the three project themes:

Youth and Children rights (EU-Africa)



Youth and the Environment (EU-Asia)



Youth United Against Violence (EU-Latin America)



Three publications documenting the experiences of the volunteers in the different countries and evaluating the benefits of EVS (intercultural learning and non-formal education) will be soon uploaded on the ICYE Federation's web site ([www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org))

## Promoting Young Women's Active Citizenship

EVS project in EU, African, Asian and Latin American Countries

Final Evaluation Meeting, Berlin, May 22-25, 09

The objective of this 3-month EVS project was to enhance capacity-building, transfer of know-how, and exchange of experience and good practice between European, African, Asian and Latin American organisations active in developing and running women empowerment programmes. It consisted of a total of 17 volunteer placements in different EU countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Germany, UK, Spain) as well as in Africa (Ghana, South Africa) Asia (India, Vietnam, Philippines) and Latin America (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras).

A three-day final evaluation meeting was carried out in Berlin, Germany from 22-25 May, for the 17 EVS volunteers who had worked for three months with organizations run by and for women. This joint meeting enabled the group of volunteers to meet and share experiences, to engage in thematic discussions with an expert on gender concepts as well as to make suggestions to the organizers on how future projects in this field should/could look like.

The project's outcomes will be documented and published with a view to further promoting the concept of youth volunteering in women empowerment programmes.



'This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.'

## Challenge New Zealand Yearbook

**'It is not about hoping the weather will be fine,  
but about learning to dance on the rain'**

Taken from the 08-09 ICYE New Zealand Newsletter



One more successful exchange year is coming to an end and 28 volunteers in New Zealand prepare to say good-bye. They come from all over the world, from countries as diverse as Germany, Costa Rica, Taiwan and Brazil. All of them left their countries with different goals and expectations, with the natural fear of the unknown, a feeling that permeated their first few days but disappeared as they became more accustomed to their new home.

Everything from caring for children with physical or mental disabilities, for those coming from difficult social backgrounds, attending the elderly, or volunteering in a wildlife park, the volunteers worked in various types of projects. Challenges were everywhere to be found, of course, but they describe them as a growing experience, 'an experience for life'.

The complete booklet will be published in a downloadable format soon in the ICYE New Zealand Website.

<http://www.icyenz.org>



### "Step by StePs"

A training seminar for sending organisations of the ICYE short-term programme "STePs" took place nearby Olbia, in Sardinia, Italy, from 8 thru 12 June 2009.

The seminar was attended by ICYE STePs responsible from Belgium, Iceland, Italy, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Morocco as host organisation.

The main aim was to exchange experience of good practice around the promotion of the programme, the preparation of volunteers, as well as to discuss the ways in which the programme could be further developed and its quality improved.

At the end of the activity new guidelines and standard programme management tools were produced.

## ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents

- Denmark – Uffe Engsig (Mr)

## ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>July 09:</b>	EU-Latin American Training and Partnership Building Seminar on the active role of women in society - Quito, Ecuador
<b>24 Oct. 09</b>	ICYE Austria's 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, Vienna
<b>22-28 Nov. 09</b>	XXVI ICYE Federation General Assembly and 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Tauranga, New Zealand