

# Worlds of experience



No. 22 (July 2010)

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Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

'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.'

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 22nd issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to the "Youth and Development".

The notion of development is broad, multifaceted and loaded with political and economic connotations, which vary depending on the discourse as well as the perspective that one uses. Development is also multidimensional and more process than result oriented. This is well illustrated by the insight gained by a British volunteer in India, who learned that "development" is not an impersonal process that happens automatically given the correct resources. Instead, it is very much a personal process that, more than anything, requires human time and energy as very often barriers are in people's own minds, which of course are often very resistant to change... 'Development' cannot be accomplished from the outside... (it demands)... deep relationships to be built, based on empathy and trust."

Volunteers' Voices presents other testimonials of international volunteers that have been working alongside local volunteers in projects addressing a variety of local development needs.

A Swiss volunteer in Honduras working in an educational project "learned about different need of rural and urban population"; also in Honduras an Italian EVS volunteer "learned about the challenges posed by poverty and lack of opportunities" and candidly discovered that "here human values take precedence over material things. People smile; they look in your eyes and are sincere". A Spanish volunteer in Mexico gained an insight into the reality of the Otomi indigenous communities, where the women "...save collectively to be able to enhance the development of the whole community and gender equality". A Polish volunteer in Bolivia emphasises the importance of culturally sensitive development strategies and notes that "at school they (the kids) don't learn many things related with their own culture" and warns against imposing the "European individualist style of life".

Last but not least, while a German volunteer in India learnt about the importance of language in enabling beneficial relations when volunteering in development projects, another German exchangee in Kenya realised "that education still is the best way to help people help themselves in the future".

News from Int'l Organisations feature, among others: the International Year of Youth - August 2010 - 2011 - Our Year, Our Voice, which also urges to focus the Youth Agenda on Intergenerational Issues; the new website for youth of The Youth Program of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) developed by youth for youth; 2010: International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures; and the new Website "The MDGS At 10 and Civil Society".

News from NGOs reports on: Mobilising Towards the World We Want-2015; the findings of a survey on the Impact of the Global Crisis on Civil Society Organisations; the photo and video contest "Capture Your Ride, Live the Change" launched by Y4PT (Youth For Public Transport); and the new open networking platform called CSO Net - the Civil Society Network.

ICYE Programme News, amongst others, feature: the re-opening of the ICYE programme in Australia; the launching of the ICYE Federation Staff Exchange Programme; new volunteering opportunities in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil; the long term training and networking project run by ICYE Germany to develop the Weltwaerts programme through dialogue and partnership; and the VOSESA / ICYE Baseline Survey on Impact Assessment of Long-Term Volunteering.

In hope that you'll enjoy the reading, 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 combating poverty & social exclusion" and will be published at the end of October 2010.

Please send your contributions to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org), before 30 September 2010.

Best regards!  
ICYE International Office

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

## VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

### ABC Honduras – Education and development

My name is Anne Wegmann, an ICYE Swiss volunteer at ABC Honduras is a non-profit organization, founded in 1999 in France, after the Hurricane Mitch. With the help of parents and sponsors, ABC Honduras built the primary school „Escuela Republica de Francia“, located in the river Cangrejal watershed, close to La Ceiba, on the north coast of Honduras. There are about 40 children benefiting from good education, school uniforms, backpacks, books, notebooks, and a daily warm meal.



At ABC Honduras, there's a lot of different work to do, my main project being the school, where I help the teacher with the youngest students, and give English classes to the older ones. Currently, there are 15 kids in our school in grades 1st through 6th. Another task is to make sure there's always enough food for all meals. Whenever there are special events, such as celebrations or excursions, I help with the organization.

Many of the students are already in High School, but continue to be part of the project. I had the chance to get to know the students' families and to identify possible risks for their continuation of school (illness of parents, domestic violence etc.) Furthermore, it's important to keep the sponsors updated about their godchildren's progress. These updates are sent via e-mails, but also via the ABC Honduras website. Depending on the volunteer's skills, further tasks will always vary.



In my case, as I am a Graphic Designer, I redesigned the ABC Honduras website ([www.abc-honduras.org](http://www.abc-honduras.org)) and helped translate it to German and Spanish. Also, I am giving Graphic Design classes in the office, and am working on graphics for publications of ABC Honduras. Therefore, my work place is not always up in the mountain, but also in the city of La Ceiba. I enjoy this change of rural area to city very much; my life here never gets boring! But it also means a lot of travelling, and a lot of switching in your mind, because these

two places, the mountain and the city, are like two different worlds for me.

The concerns of the people living in the rural area are quite different than the ones of people living in the city. It's nice to spend time talking with my neighbours in the mountain, since I'm living on my own, in a little house owned by ABC staff. It's interesting to enter this world so different from what I've known back in Switzerland, and it's a wonderful experience to share the everyday life with people here. Not to forget that the nature here is incredibly beautiful – it's a wonderful place to live!

But after all, it's only an hour away drive to the city, and the problems of the city, like crime, are also on its way into this region. Things seem to have changed a lot lately; drugs and weapons are also becoming a problem here. Still, the work with the kids, the amazing beauty of nature, and the friendship to all the warm and friendly people here make up a thousand times for this!

*Anne Wegmann  
Swiss Volunteer in Honduras*

### Joining efforts for sustainable development - Guaruma, Honduras

My name is Fabrizio Rosano, an EVS Italian volunteer working at Guaruma, a small non-profit organization in Las Mangas, Honduras. I feel extremely fortunate to be here and my time here has changed the way that I see the world and will be something that I never forget.

Guaruma's mission is to promote environmental awareness and conservation through educational programs in the Rio Cangrejal watershed on the Eastern edge of Pico Bonito National Park. The education program offers photography, English, computer and environmental education classes.



Guaruma also offers local ecotourism services by training students to give tours on the trails that surround their communities. The organization promotes and sustains its programs by selling calendars and postcards designed by students and featuring student photography.

El Pital is a community a few kilometers above of Las Mangas, where four years ago, Guaruma opened an office and began to offer educational services to the children of this community.

My work is different every day. Most days, I teach computer classes to students ages ten to twenty. I have seven classes that are divided by level of ability and each one named after a different animal. Thursdays, for example, are the most dynamic days since I have class in El Pital with the

Mariposas (Butterflies) and later have a meeting with the guides, and then finish the day off giving a class to the Jaguares.

Almost every weekend there is a different activity, such as the "Clean up Day", during which. Once a month, the two local communities keep a clean environment and develop a culture of respect towards nature.



During Easter week, we participated in an ecological and tourist activity here in the Cangrejal watershed. This year, there were about 13 000 tourists to whom we distributed plastic bags to avoid littering. Information about the attractions and structure of tourism present in the watershed was provided with the objective of strengthening touristic activities that leave the area adjacent to the river clean after a week of holidays.

From time to time, on weekends, we accompany students on tourist excursions or in activities such as "Earth Day" and "Earth Hour" where we participated and collaborated with various Guaruma volunteers. All of these activities are described in our Guaruma blog ([www.guaruma.org/blog](http://www.guaruma.org/blog)).

During free time, we always go with local children or volunteers to visit trails, creeks, waterfalls, and swimming holes. There is always a site or natural pool to enjoy. It is such a wonderful opportunity being here.



The children are great. I really enjoy spending time playing with them and you can find them everywhere. Here in the Cuenca villages more than 50% of the children are born from a teenage mother. I learn a lot from these children; they are always very polite, show great respect and, despite their young age, are already prepared to make sacrifices like a grown up. Once or twice a week I stay in El Pital to hang out with the people in the community and to chat with the other Guaruma-volunteers that live in El Pital.

I live in Las Mangas together with Chris (assistant-director and photography teacher), Erin (English teacher, who also helps out in the administration and other activities), and with Juan and Camilo, two boys from Las Mangas, who have been with Guaruma and worked with us for a long time. Even though they are still in school, they are involved in many projects in graphic design and the production of articles and bulletins.

One of main tasks is the coordination of the tourist visits and guides, arranging everything with our main office, the cabins/hostel of the village and our local guides. Once a week I run different activities and further training for the guides. At the same time, we also keep up with the maintenance of the trails by cleaning and arranging signs etc.

I also act a tutor for Maria and Marlyn, students from a tourism institute that won a scholarship to do their internships with Guaruma. I take them on the trails to show them what guides usually do, and help them to progress with their investigations. The theme "Cultural diversity, indigenous peoples, and social inclusion" of my EVS project seems to fit in perfectly with my experience here. In Guaruma there is a variety of cultures and the struggle for inclusion is strong. Living here sometimes makes me feel as if I have been thrown back to the time my parents were young in Italy. This experience has helped me to understand this new reality and to put life in a new perspective. It is incredible how happy people are, despite the poverty. Here human values take precedence over material things. People smile; they look in your eyes and are sincere.

I am not having any trouble integrating myself in the social life or adapting to the local culture. Every day I learn something new. Also, the climate, the sea, the energy of the people, and the chaos of the city streets are things I know well. They are all very similar to traditional Naples.

Something that is entirely new is the ongoing discovery of the natural environment. Every weekend we hike, swim, or climb to places of incredible beauty...the mountains, valley and rivers of Pico Bonito, and the sight of the Caribbean sea. Honduras is an awesome country and I hope I could explore and learn so much more of it.

*Fabrizio Rosano  
Italian Volunteer in Honduras*

**Fundación Tláloc  
Volunteering "con sentido"  
(with feeling/reason)**

My name is Maria del Carmen Ramos Muñoz, a Spanish EVS volunteer working at Fundación Tláloc, an environment and development association that offers projects for volunteers from México and all over the world to contribute to the sustainable development of Mexico.

Every day is different. On Mondays, and sometimes also on Tuesdays we do office work and hold meetings with other organisations and institutions like the university, for example with experts that advice us for the construction of the Centre. We also regularly meet with the other volunteers of the Fundación.



On Wednesdays, we meet with Somos Mundos, another civil organization and prepare the radio program, and look for news, guests, and live music. At night, we broadcast our live Radio Program "Con Sentido" (With Feeling/Sense). The program has an environmental theme, mainly, but we also include different cultural initiatives to enhance citizen participation. On Thursdays, we go to the indigenous Otomí Community of San Mateo Capulhuac and follow up on projects, like the construction of the "Buxas" bags, ecological agriculture, confection of ocoxal crafts, and the construction of the Holistic Centre. The Otomíes women of San Mateo Capulhuac make these bags during their free time and generate an extra income for their families, and for the rest of the community, they split the money from the sale of the bags. They save collectively to be able to enhance the development of the whole community and gender equality.

The bags are sold to earn profit for the Otomí community. We would like, with the help of these bags that people stop using plastic bags when going to the supermarket and contribute to a better environment.

Every week is different and that is what I like about volunteering, that there isn't a set routine. On Fridays, we give speeches on environmental education at schools and universities. A great part of my job is to look for resources, both human and economic to help the community. I would've enjoyed living in the Otomí community but I understand that the work I carry out in Toluca is important and possibly more useful for the community development than if I spent my entire time there.

What I like least about Mexico is the pollution and traffic. There are hardly any papers recycle bins in the streets.

I really enjoy the Mexican food and hospitality. They are all very open and it is possible to make friends wherever you go.



*Maria del Carmen Ramos Muñoz  
Spanish volunteer in Mexico*

### **Ahorita – now or never?**

My name is Aleksandra Kania, a Polish EVS volunteer with ICYE in the project Fundación Machaqa Amawata (New Wise People Foundation) in La Paz, Bolivia highlands.

Usually the week starts with bringing the kids from the neighbouring villages from the Altiplano (highlands) to our Foundation (every week from a different school). For three days we organize some educational activities for them, we share meals and play. Some other days we make workshops for youth from high schools. Normally we visit them in their villages or houses. Once a week I travel to two of the villages to give English classes to students. All the workers in my centre stay in the project during the week, so apart from working we spend a lot of time with each other, cooking, visiting places around or preparing activities for the next day.



I feel a big connection with this new environment although in a slightly different manner than I would have imagined. The project is located in the Aymara indigenous villages in the Bolivian Altiplano, and one of the main aims is to give an alternative education to the kids and youth. Why alternative? Because at school they don't learn many things related with their own culture, the educational system is based more on the Spanish and western standard. Bolivia is a multicultural country, each region has its culture, language and traditions, but education is still quite similar in all the places. So "intercultural" in the context of work in my Foundation has a meaning of giving them knowledge not only related with western culture (that sometimes is very far from their everyday life) but also with their own surroundings and traditions, for example workshops of natural medicine, organic production, animal's health, or learning their language Aymara.

I think that the work of the foundation helps to improve the life chances of the kids from village schools, which offer fewer opportunities than those for children and youth in the cities. We organize some workshops of the occupational counselling helping them to plan their future and focus on the opportunities that their community gives them.

I have to admit that in spite of many intercultural challenges, I feel really good in Bolivia, where only very few things make my life difficult here. For example, the Bolivian sense of time expressed very well by the word "ahorita", which literally means "right now" but in fact can mean in some time, two hours, tomorrow, maybe never. The only solution is patience and a good book for the time you would have to wait. I really enjoy living in the community that is very different from our European individualist style of life, I like the relaxed attitude of people and the fact that they enjoy and appreciate the simplicity of life, of the present moment.

*Aleksandra Kania  
Polish Volunteer in Bolivia*

### **"Sumana Samaste" - Empowering women as a means of development**

My name is Alison Andrew and I am an ICYE volunteer from the UK in India. I'm working at a project called SUMANA – an organisation for rural development that works in around 60 villages in the Mysore district of Karnataka, India.

What my stay here has taught me is that "development" is not an impersonal process that happens automatically given the correct resources. Instead, it is very much a personal process that, more than anything, requires human time and energy as very often barriers are in people's own minds, which of course are often very resistant to change. A recent example from my organisation is a campaign to stop open defecation, which spreads disease and pollutes the water supply. Already the local government will provide grants for families to build toilets and many have been built but this does not solve the problem - the newly built latrines have very often become wood stores while open defecation continues and women sometimes even talk of fearing violence for using the toilets which some people consider as dirty. The challenge does not come in building latrines but in building the environment in which they can be put to use, a far more difficult task.

I have learnt that this kind of "development" cannot be accomplished from the outside as I saw when a group of college students used our organisation as a base to run some programs on HIV/AIDS for the villagers that were far from successful. They were met with hostility and resistance as people resented and felt patronised by being lectured to by a group of young, well off, city youths. Instead, it requires for strong and deep relationships to be built, based on empathy and trust.



This is with what I am most impressed by from my organisation. Whichever village I go to everyone I talk to knows the phrase "Sumana Samaste", over a long period the organisation has worked unceasingly to build relationships with local people which, I believe, is the foundation of their work; it's what makes people really listen to what they have to say in a way that they would never listen to an outsider. The work of the organisation is very varied although it's largely centred around empowering women as a means to development, running women's groups where women can discuss their problems, running education sessions on health issues like child nutrition or sexually transmitted diseases and educating women about their and their family's rights.

My role in SUMANA, Sumana Vidya Kendra, is working in the school they run in a nearby village which aims to be a model school for an Indian

village, trying to give rural children a quality education which will allow them to compete with India's elite. At the school, I'm teaching English along with of Geography, Maths, General Knowledge and Art. It's the most challenging thing I've ever done but it's also a challenge that I am immensely enjoying. Recently, I've been working to build up a library in the school, fund raising from home in order to buy books. Everyday is different and exciting and I'm learning so much.

*Alison Andrew  
British Volunteer in India*

### **APSA – Promoting Social Action in India!**

My name is Eva Henkemeier, I am 20 years old and I am from Germany. Since in August 2009, I am volunteering with ICYE in India in a non-government organisation called APSA.



I have been working with APSA (association for promoting social action) in Bangalore (Karnataka). APSA is a human rights organisation and is working with a lot of different issues like children's rights, women's rights and urban poverty issues. APSA makes efforts to reach the underprivileged through integrated projects. APSA has a school called "Dream School". It supports the education of poor urban children by providing free education for ex-child labourers, street children, young victims of domestic violence, physical and sexual abused children, runaway children and school dropouts. Around 60% of the children who visit the school are staying in APSA's hostel called in "Nammame" (Residential home for children). The school provides non-formal education. After the children have grown sufficiently accustomed to the learning environment, they are encouraged to go back into mainstream education at a government or a private school. There are five classes in "Dream School": "National Child Labour Project" (NCLP) class (part of a project of the government of India), in which ex-child labourers between 10 and 14 years old benefit from informal education; "Chethana Class", a class for "crisis" children who have been rescued through Childline; "Migratory Class", a class for "migratory" children of the urban homeless living in the surrounding areas and even the students can be prepared for 7th standard and 10th standard exams through the State Examination Board or the National or Karnataka Open Schools.

APSA runs a 24-hour toll-free hotline for children in distress. It is a collaborating agency of the Childline India Foundation. Interventions range from rescue and protection from abuse to shelter, medical and legal help and repatriation.

Additionally APSA provides vocational training for youth in a training centre called 'Kaushalya'. With this training, youth in poverty have the opportunity to receive professional training in desktop publishing, tailoring, electronics, & screen-printing.



Through the 'Inchara' project, APSA encourages children and young people from disadvantaged circumstances to express themselves through music, theatre and art.

Furthermore, APSA works in over 100 slums in Bangalore and Hyderabad. APSA tries to secure basic amenities and to support persons with disabilities and mental illness. APSA also provides 'Self Help Groups' for women and 'Urban Homeless Projects'.

I am working in 'Dream School' and providing lessons for 'NCLP' and 'Chethana Class'. I am teaching English and Math. But I am also teaching games; songs and I do some drawing with the children to make the lessons suitable for children with this kind of background. At the beginning, it was quite difficult for me to teach the children because the children are of different age, cannot understand English and I could not speak the local language. In the lessons, I had a lot of trouble getting their attention and to make them follow my class. After some months, I learned how to handle all these problems. Now I am able to speak a few words of the local language so that the children can understand me and I found different ways to get the attention of the children and to make the class suitable for every child regardless of their age.

After all the work with these children, I learned to solve problems alone and how to adapt to things that are very new and different for me. Besides, I got to know about the different kind of problems of people in poverty and of course, I also learned a lot about the Indian culture and mentality. All of these experiences are making me more self-confident, autonomous and more open for different cultures, religions and mentalities.

*Eva Henkemeier  
German Volunteer in India*

### **A rural school in Kenya as development agent**

My name is Andreas Hellinger, a German volunteer working in the "Ugari Hill", a school in a rural village, without electricity and tap water in Western Kenya.

It's worth mentioning that a former volunteer called "Juliane", whom the school is named after, founded the secondary section of this school. Before then, there was no secondary school within a radius of more than 40 years. Some students used to walk up to 3 hours to school every morning and every evening.

The school itself has become an important step towards the development of this area. Most of the funds were collected by former volunteers, who fundraised through concerts and other activities when they were back in their own countries. The school grew faster than all the other schools in the region, accepts students also from other areas, and, most importantly, is creating jobs for the local people. The kids are able to get good quality education for affordable school fees.

For the last 10 months, I have been working with another volunteer, teaching German, which is a bit of a tradition at this school. It has been so since the school was founded, and it's aim is to give the students the opportunity to get an extra qualification, because German as a subject is rarely taught in Kenyan schools, despite the big number of German tourists and residents in Kenya.

To enable the continued teaching of German, the Ugari School has been working in cooperation with ICYE Kenya and each year a new German speaking volunteer is placed at the school to assist. I believe that by learning German the students – most of whom may not afford to go to universities and colleges after they have finished high school – may have an advantage for their future professional development.



Inevitably at the school, we are looked upon as role models. Because of the high drop out rate - due to teenage pregnancies (some by fellow students) - we talk to the students as their peers and advice them on the importance of education and other issues affecting them such as HIV and AIDS. Through my stay there and my interaction with the community, I am able to fully understand and accept their culture and way of doing things as well as sharing with them information about the German culture and language. In the hope that the presence of volunteers in schools widens the horizon of the students, I believe that education still is the best way to help people help themselves in the future.

*Andreas Ellinger, German volunteer in Kenya*

## News From International Organizations



### International Year of Youth - August 2010 - 2011 - *Our Year, Our Voice*

*"The International Year is about advancing the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society. We encourage all sectors of society to work in partnership with youth and youth organizations to better understand their needs and concerns and to recognize the contributions that they can make to society."*

The International Year of Youth can generate much needed attention for youth participation and youth development and can provide an impetus to partnerships among youth organizations around the world. The United Nations Programme on Youth hopes that you will join us in celebrating the Year.

Read more: <http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

Facebook (for the Year):  
[www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-International-Year-of-Youth/398805690289](http://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-International-Year-of-Youth/398805690289)  
(or search for United Nations International Year of Youth)

Twitter: [twitter.com/unyouthyear](http://twitter.com/unyouthyear)

### 23-28 of August 2010: World Youth Conference (Mexico City, Mexico)



For more information please visit:  
[www.youth2010.org](http://www.youth2010.org)



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

### Focusing the Youth Agenda: Intergenerational Issues

The International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding will begin on 12 August this year, and intergenerational issues form a central part in the theme of the Year. It is important to highlight that dialogue and mutual understanding should take place not only across cultures, but also across generations. Young people can benefit from the experiences and knowledge of older persons. Likewise, older persons have much to gain from the enthusiasm and innovative ideas of young people. To bridge the divide, greater interactions between generations for the sharing of knowledge and experience as well as reciprocal care and support are vital. To learn more about the goals and targets related to intergenerational issues please read the Report of the Secretary-General A/64/61 & E/2009/3 available at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/library.htm#reports>.



### UNAOC: New website for youth

The Youth Program of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) has launched a new website, developed by youth for youth. The website focuses on promoting action related to the work of the UNAOC, which seeks to counter the forces that can lead to polarization and extremism in societies around the world. The website includes the following features:

- Three databases called CONNECT, LEARN and ACT where youth can search & add information;
- A space for online discussions where youth can exchange ideas on topics of their choice;
- Wisdom of youth: Read what other young people have to say and share your own wisdom (and pictures).

For more information, please visit:  
[www.unaocyouth.org](http://www.unaocyouth.org)



### **2010: International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures**

#### *Already 350 activity proposals*

The year 2010 is celebrated as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (see [Resolutions](#)). The goal of the International Year consists in making the rapprochement of cultures the hallmark of all policy-making at local, national, regional and international levels, involving the greatest number of relevant stakeholders.

Entrusted with the mandate to contribute to build “the defenses of peace in the minds of men” thanks to international cooperation in the fields of its competence, namely through education, sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO is designated to play a leading role for the celebration of the Year within the United Nations system. In fact, over the years and indeed in the past decade, the Organization has gained special experience and has won recognition through its efforts to demonstrate the beneficial effects of cultural diversity highlighting the importance of borrowings, transfers and exchanges between cultures. (...)

<http://www.unesco.org/en/rapprochement-of-culture>



### **Youth Meeting Against Racism** *Barcelona, 10-13 September 2010*

UNESCO, in cooperation with the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, is promoting a meeting against racism for young people to be held in Barcelona on 10-13 September 2010 within the framework of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. This meeting is part of the work that UNESCO and ECCAR are carrying out to foster the participation of young people (Youth Voices Initiative). The meeting is supported by the Youth Catalan Agency (Catalan Government) and the Futbol Club Barcelona Foundation. The programme of activities has been developed by a group of young people at Unescocat and is based around three points: deepening knowledge about racism, identifying and discussing racist conduct and practice, and proposing actions for the struggle against racism.

For further information and to register to attend the meeting, please contact:  
Konstantinos Tararas ([k.tararas@unesco.org](mailto:k.tararas@unesco.org)),  
and/or Kornelia Güse ([k.guse@unesco.org](mailto:k.guse@unesco.org))



### **New Website “The MDGS At 10 and Civil Society”**

Only five years remain to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed upon by UN Member States in 2000. Despite some progress, collectively the world is falling short. As a consequence, improvements in the lives of the poorest are slow or absent and are now being further eroded by the onset of global crises. However, the MDGs are still achievable. UN Member States will therefore come together this September in New York during an ‘MDG summit’ to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.

With an aim of keeping interested civil society stakeholders informed on the latest developments related to the summit process, including the planned Hearings with civil society and the private sector in June, the UN Millennium Campaign and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) have launched a dedicated website: [www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010](http://www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010)

This website will report on all the latest developments related to the summit, give voice to perspectives from civil society and provide information on how to be engaged in the summit process.



### Mobilising Towards the World We Want

*Five Point Action Plan for the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit September 2010*

The unifying framework of "The World We Want" emerged during a MDG+10 strategy-sharing meeting held in South Africa on 15-16 February 2010. The meeting was convened by Amnesty International, CIVICUS, GCAP, Social Watch and UNMC Africa and it brought together representatives of various civil society networks. It has been chosen for mobilisations around the MDG process. This concept enables civil society to demand MDG Breakthrough Plans as the outcome of the September MDG Review meeting, while at the same time allows for the definition of broader transformative economic and social agenda that the world so urgently needs, now and in the post 2015 period. This is the final version of the five (5) Point Action Plan as we head into the last 3 months towards the MDG Review Summit. [Download \(PDF\)](#)

Read more about poverty and human rights on the [Everv Human Has Rihts website](#)

### Impact of the Global Crisis on Civil Society Organisations

640 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) widely distributed among the different regions in the world responded to a survey, most of them from Africa and Asia, from Europe, the US and from Latin America. The results of the survey are now available online at: <http://ngosocdev.wordpress.com/2010/01/28/174>

The evaluation of the responses to the survey shows that although some CSOs have seen increased funding, overall the survey finds a worsening financial situation for CSOs in the period 2008-2009. As main reasons, CSOs explained that owing to the world economic crisis, grants from existing sources decreased. Most of the reductions have occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, several CSOs in Latin America and in some European countries reported a cut back in their budgets and programmes. The prospects for 2010 are not better. The revenue decline comes at the same time as demand for services is increasing, requiring more, not less, funding.

Should you be interested in further information or would like to participate in our follow-up activities please send us a note in the comment box at the bottom of the same page (see link above).



### "Capture Your Ride, Live the Change"

The organization Y4PT (Youth For Public Transport) is organizing its 1st International Photo and Video Contest on Public Transport 2010, for the Youth aged between 13-31 years old, under the theme of "capture your ride, live the change". The event will take place from June-7-2010 till September-30-2010.

To consult the rules of the context and know how to submit your photos and videos, please follow the link: <http://www.captureyourride.youthforpt.org/captureyourride.html>

To participate please send your photo and your videos to: [captureyourride@youthforpt.org](mailto:captureyourride@youthforpt.org)  
For any additional information you may refer to the website of the Y4PT <http://www.youthforpt.org>



### IYF Seeks Dynamic Young People Leading Social Change

Sponsored by Nokia, the YouthActionNet® Global Fellowship Program recognizes young social innovators for their outstanding achievements. Past winners have undertaken a range of innovative projects, including: the development of low-cost technology to enable low-income farmers in Zimbabwe to increase their agricultural productivity; the training of disadvantaged women in Argentina to produce environmentally-friendly clothing; and linking youth in Palestine to jobs through a mobile phone-based service. Read more: <http://www.youthactionnet.org>



### **CSO NET - The Civil Society Network**

In order to facilitate the engagement and provide a suitable platform for civil society, UNDESA - the NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has launched a knowledge-based, open networking platform called CSO Net - the Civil Society Network, which aims to: share and promote best practices in the field of economic and social development; establish innovative and collaborative development solutions; facilitate partnerships among the users of the portal; and promote interactive discussions through online forums on issues of immediate relevance to the UN's agenda. This portal can be accessed at <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/csonet>

## **ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS**

### **ICYE "Down Under"**



We proudly announce that, after more than 20 years, the ICYE programme has been re-established in Australia. ICYE Australia is a registered non-profit organization, committed to quality volunteering opportunities both short and long term, with a National Office in Perth, Western Australia. ICYE AUS will be ready to start receiving volunteers in August 2010 in host placements dealing with human rights, environmental protection, animal welfare and education. ICYE Australia will also promote the outgoing programme, i.e. by creating ICYE Clubs in high schools.

### **New volunteering opportunities in Salvador de Bahia**



For more than 22 years ICYE Brazil / ABIC Exchange in Brazil has been promoting youth mobility and volunteering as a means to experience a complete social and cultural immersion and has so far Exchange in Brazil has received more than 1000 volunteers from around the world. As of 2010 ABIC has opened a new office in Salvador de Bahia and offers placements for long and short international volunteers in projects dealing with disadvantaged children, youth and their families, as well as projects promoting social and civil rights in local needy communities.

### **NEW - ICYE Federation Staff Exchange Programme**

Staff exchanges in the ICYE Federation have been practiced since the early 80's. It was self-initiated by the NCs needing support and/or a special expertise or by either a staff or an active co-worker that wanted to continue her/his professional ICYE experience in another National Committee. Building also on a series of 2-month staff exchanges carried out in the frame of the YiA Action 3.2. Project between EU and ASIAN countries in 2009, as of 2010 an ongoing ICYE Federation Staff Exchange programme has been launched as part of the ICYE Training and Programme Development Fund (TPDF).

Staff exchanges have proven to bring about:

- Enhanced bilateral cooperation between the NCs involved, enabling participants to get an insight into the different the socio-economic contexts in which the NC work, and a better understanding of the host NC's strengths, weaknesses and challenges
- Enhanced communication between NCs and sharing of good practice
- Hands-on support to a new NC or an NC facing a crisis due to poor finances, limited staff and/or lack of active co-workers

The first round of approved staff exchange projects is ready to start in July 2010, as follows:

- 12-month staff exchange from ICYE Mexico to support ICYE Brazil's newly established regional office in Salvador de Bahia
- 2-month reciprocal staff exchange between ICYE Austria and Ghana to firm up and develop cooperation between the two National Committees - July and August 2010 – Accra & Vienna
- 12-month staff exchange from ICYE Iceland to provide support in the ICYE Mexico's national office in Puebla, Mexico.

## Developing the Weltwaerts programme through dialogue and partnership

ICYE Germany / ICJA, with the financial support of the Ministry of Cooperation and development, will build on the results of the planning cum evaluation seminars held in 2009, by organising a series of training and networking activities that aim to consolidate and enhance the quality development of the Weltwaerts (WW) programme.

Between March 2010 and June 2011 the following training workshops have been or will be held:

- Accompanying and supporting the volunteers through an educational process – Mozambique, March 2010 – ICJA / ICYE Mozambique / AJUDE
- Enhancing cooperation, networks and partnership – Indonesia, May 2010 – ICJA / DEJAVATO
- Organisational development and staff trainings – Colombia, November 2010 – ICJA / ICYE Colombia

This process will culminate in a final General Conference, to be held in Berlin in March 2011, which will deliberate on and adopt programme development strategies stemming from the training workshops.



**Participants of the  
WW Training Workshop in Indonesia**



## VOSESA / ICYE Baseline Survey on Impact Assessment of Long-Term Volunteering

ICYE is supporting the efforts of VOSESA (Volunteer and Service Enquiry Southern Africa) to conduct a survey of volunteer sending organisations that send international volunteers to African countries. VOSESA is a South African-based non-governmental organisation committed to supporting volunteering and civic service in Africa through research and knowledge building.

The survey is part of a broader study that is funded by Trust Africa on the developmental impact of international volunteering on the volunteers and the host organisations and host communities in which they serve. The study includes a broader impact assessment through surveys with the entire cohort of ICYE outgoing volunteers (2010-2011) and of returned volunteers (2009-2010) from Weltwaerts and ICYE programmes in Africa, with a particular focus on southern Africa. ICYE Alumni will also participate in the survey. In cooperation with the Centre for Social Development at Washington University in St Louis, USA, VOSESA will analyse the data using measures to make the results comparable. During the study volunteers will be asked to rate a number of impact areas including motivations for volunteering, international contacts, open-mindedness, international understanding, intercultural relations, global identity, social skills, life plans, civic activism, community engagement, media attentiveness, financial contributions, and personal transformations.

VOSESA will also run a survey of fieldwork in Mozambique and will measure the impact of international volunteering impact on selected host organizations in Mozambique where ICYE

## ICYE STAFF NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents

- Belgium - Isabelle BOLLAERT (Ms)
- Ghana - Kojo Mensah ACQUAH (Mr)
- Nepal - Santoshi CHALISE (Ms)
- Switzerland - Barbara SCHMITT (Ms)