

Worlds of experience



No. 23 (October 2010)

INDEX

EDITORIAL

VOLUNTEERS VOICES on
"Youth combating poverty and social exclusion".

MORE on „Youth combating poverty and social exclusion“

- UNRISD Report 2010: Combating Poverty and Inequality
- NGO Committee for Social Development: "good practices for social integration/inclusion"
- Keeping the Promise: Tackling Poverty Together
- 2010 Human Development Report
- ILO: Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Qualitative Impact of the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme - 2010 Survey
- EYV 2011 FLOW
- International Year of Youth
- IYV+10 News
- Options for a YOUTH Programme after 2013
- European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps - EVHAC

NEWS FROM NGOS

- Forgotten Diaries - Empowering Youth in Conflict Zones
- Website YouthEngage.com
- Green Youth Service (GYS) Resource Center
- Youth Civic Participation in Action in 2010

ICYE NEWS

- "So what do YOU think a Volunteer is ?...."
- "Let's meet the street. A new vision to prevent youth violence"
- 4th Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe Conference



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 23rd issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to "Youth combating poverty and social exclusion".

After four decades of development strategies and plans, despite progress in a few countries, inequalities, within and among countries, continue to be striking and deeply rooted. Striving to fulfil the 1st MDG "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" is without doubt a complex and difficult task - see the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/summary/poverty/> adopted to measure levels of poverty in the 2010 Human Development Report published by UNDP. Yet, as quoted in the EFA Monitoring Report, "Governments are on the brink of breaking their Millennium Development Goal promise to give all the world's children a decent quality basic education by 2015...171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills – that is equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty". In modern society, poverty is often the root cause of social exclusion, lack of education and of social mobility.

Volunteers' Voices presents the insights into and understanding by young international volunteers of the predicaments and challenges faced by marginalised and poor children and families in the countries where they serve. Here are some examples: an Austrian EVS volunteer in Colombia working with an NGO experienced how providing housing to poor families helped "the organization to gain the trust of families and can convince them to participate in other projects, like education programs for the adults as well as for the children". An Icelandic volunteer working with an NGO supporting homeless in South Africa realised that to stop the downward spiral of poverty "the community needs to step in and lend a hand, to help those people help themselves".

A Hungarian volunteer in Honduras witnessed that to combat poverty it's necessary to "provide care to the children, pay attention to the families, to the studies, to the living conditions, to health, and to all the individual needs or desires of each kid." Conversely, a Colombian volunteer in Hungary is engaged with an NGO that runs activities to enhance "the social integration of groups affected by social exclusion such as unemployed young people, the rural population, and the Roma."

News from Int'l Organisations feature, among others: the results of the Qualitative Impact of the EU YOUTH IN ACTION Programme; the news update of the run up to the EYV 2011 and the IYV+10; the consultation process on the options for a new EU YOUTH Programme after 2013; and the plans for the creation of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps - EVHAC.

News from NGOs reports on: Forgotten Diaries - Empowering Youth in Conflict Zones; the new interactive website YouthEngage; the Green Youth Service (GYS) Resource Centre; and the publication "Youth Civic Participation in Action in 2010".

ICYE Programme News feature: the report on the Intercultural Learning Workshop for 33 young international organized by the Volunteer Centre/ICYE South Africa; the project "Let's meet the street. A new vision to prevent youth violence" coordinate by AFSAI/ICYE Italy; and a report on the 4th Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe Conference, an official side event of the ASEM 8 Summit.

Wishing you an informative 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 Empowerment" and will be published at the end of February 2011. Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before 31 January 2011.

Warm regards!
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org

VOLUNTEERS´ VOICES



My work at “Un Techo Para Mi País / A roof for my country”

My name is Michael Franc, an Austrian EVS volunteer working at “Un techo para mi país” an organization working in cooperation with and receiving volunteers from ICYE Colombia in Bogotá, Colombia. The organization aims to improve the quality of life for poor marginalized families, through housing construction.

After two weeks of working at the office, I started participating in the construction of houses in a poor neighborhood called „El Recuerdo“ (the Memory). Here live those who are forgotten by the

Colombian government and by the Colombian society in general. Most of the people here have only lived in their “barrio” for one or two years. They come from other parts of the country, fleeing from violence or seeking a better life and wealth in the big city. Their trip usually ends at the outer parts of Bogotá.

Through dusty tracks we found our way to the family with which we had to work. Martha the mother and her four children are present, the husband is at work. The ground where we will build is very uneven and we measure the area to see where we will put the first post. The new house will be directly in front of the family’s current housing - a shack of wood and rusty metal sheets too low to stand up straight. We start digging the first hole for the post. The two boys, 10 and 8 while being shy at first are proud that they can help. The girl of 6 is taking care of her baby sister. Yoyo explains to them what we are doing and tells them about Archimedes and Pythagoras. Two neighbor boys, around 12 and 14 help us now. They will get a similar house once this one is finished. We have lunch and then start to work on the floor. I’m very glad the digging part is over my arms hurt already from the work.

Three pre-fabricated wooden boards - together 6,10 meters in length and 3 in width - will be the floor of the house. A house of 18 square meters. I knew the number but didn't have a real idea how big that would be. Now I see it's a little smaller than my bedroom in Vienna.

Soon it will be the home for a family of six. After the floor is done we start to assemble the walls. This work while still not easy is nothing compared to the digging and we are pretty quick. As the sun goes down at about six we have finished the house apart from the roof and the door. As it gets darker lights are turned on in the city, here in the barrio it takes a little longer since electricity is expensive.



As we leave I look back at the house once more. It’s not perfect, the wooden walls are very thin and a little wind will definitely find it’s way through some cracks. Electricity is still not reliable and they still have to bring water with a bucket. But they don’t have to buckle down in their own home anymore now they can stand up straight. And most important: with the house the organization has gained the trust of the family and can convince them to participate in other projects, like education programs for the adults as well as for the children. And thus maybe the children will find the way into the city and society.

*Michael Franc
Austrian EVS Volunteer in Colombia*

How could a young Colombian woman work on social inclusion and poverty reduction in Hungary?

My name is Catalina Marín Moreno, a Colombian EVS volunteer working for the Artemisszió Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting intercultural education and working on poverty reduction and social inclusion. Being Latin American in Eastern Europe is a very exciting experience. Every time I see the Danube River it is like the first time and I have fallen in love with it, especially at night. I am trying to learn as much as I can and giving to my organization my happiness, motivation and experience. The language is complicated for me, but it sounds so lovely. I

hope to learn Hungarian in the next few months (audacious!!!).



The activities in Artemisszio are aimed at encouraging the social integration of groups affected by social exclusion such as unemployed young people, the rural population, the Roma. In line with these aims, the Foundation has been using various means of approaching and involving in its activities the representatives of these groups as well as the organizations in contact with them.

Within this work I participate in the following activities: organizing programs for Hungarian and foreign young people such as intercultural evenings, club evenings and/or workshops on topics of my interest; organizing a film club on global issues; participating in public events and fairs where the Foundation is present with a stand. I am particularly excited about being involved in monitoring European policies and programs and participating in global education projects about poverty reduction, the inequities of the trade of agricultural products, North-South relations, etc. in collaboration with Hungarian NGOs such as the HAND platform (Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid of which Artemisszió Foundation is a member).

However, this experience has not been only about volunteer work but getting to know Hungarian culture. I appreciate how creative Hungarian people are; the good smell and taste of their food and drinks; the strong sense of family they have and the intense dialogue I can have with them about international politics and relations. Hungary is certainly different from Colombia, but having the chance to observe and trying to understand people makes you think about how diverse and complex humanity is. Starting to recognize every culture is different could help to make of this a better world.

That is why, being a young person working on combating poverty and social exclusion is my choice and a great opportunity for this time of my life! I am glad the EVS program has given me this opportunity and would like to thank the

organizations and all people who make this experience possible!

Catalina Morin Moreno
Colombian EVS volunteer in Hungary

Getting the homeless to a home

My name is Katrin Arnadottir, an Icelandic EVS volunteer working at The Haven night shelter, a public welfare organization intended for homeless people in Cape Town, South Africa.



Poverty and homelessness is not an uncommon problem here in South Africa, or in the world for that matter. I have traveled and volunteered all over the world, South America, Africa, India and South East Asia, and I must say that I have often felt overwhelmed by how much of it there is, and I have wondered what the community in each place might be doing to change that.

When seeing a homeless person, people sometimes make the mistake to think that this person should get his or her life together, get cleaned up, sobered up, get a job and stand on his/her own two feet. But the problem is that sometimes they simply can't. The fact is that there is a point in the downward path of certain people where they can no longer do anything to change their situation without help from others. That's where the community needs to step in and lend a hand, to help those people help themselves.

The Haven night shelter does just that. It does this by providing temporary shelter, physical care, social welfare and family re-unification services to homeless people across the Western Cape. Last year alone The Haven assisted nearly 500 people, both in the shelter and on the streets. The organization has 14 shelters, all equally dedicated to getting the homeless to a home. The shelter where I work is in an area called Wynberg and it serves as a temporary home to 35 men and 10 women. I am an extension of the staff and I do anything from paperwork to group sessions with the shelter's residents. Some days I spend talking to the residents, listening to their stories and getting to know them while other days I spend

in line at the hospital or on the phone trying to get a hold of someone's papers. The shelter's residents come from all walks of life and I feel lucky to have the chance to get to know them and to be a part of the organization, which is helping them to get back on their feet. After all, no one should have to live on the street. Only by getting involved and working together can we help those that must and have as for now no other option.

*Katrin Arnadottir
Icelandic Volunteer in South Africa*

Asociación Compartir – sharing and caring for the children in Honduras!

My name is Martón Szabo, a Hungarian EVS volunteer working with "Asociación COMPARTIR con los Niños y Niñas de Honduras", an organization established to help children in social risk in Honduras. I have been here one month now and I work with children from one of the poorest districts of the capital, and I will be with them eight more months. The association has various ongoing activities such as: providing care to the children, paying attention to the families, to the studies, to the living conditions, to health, and to all the individual needs or desires of each kid. Because these children live in big families and small houses in streets of crime and poverty, they really need a good place to hang out, to play, to receive attention and help in any kind of problem they may have.



I am there playing a lot with them, helping them with their homework, explaining about Europe and about my home country Hungary, playing football, trying to learn the thousands of (for me very strange) names, and little by little becoming friends with them. I am mostly with two groups; one of little children and one of teenagers. When I am with the younger ones, it is big fun, but very chaotic as well, they are everywhere at the same time, running and jumping all around, and of course, asking me all kind of things. We play many games with the aim to learn and have fun at the same time. The older ones have more specific projects.

We are working on making a movie, all planned, written and organized by them. They are really enthusiastic about the project so we are trying to give all the possible help they need to realize it. I am starting to give them English classes too, because the classes in school have a very low level. We organize one-day trips to some nearby places for both groups, to be able to escape for a while from the district and the city, to be near the nature a bit, to forget everything and just play.

At this district, violence is everywhere; guns, drugs and theft are part of everyday life. They say, "aquí la vida no vale nada", "here life has no value", because in these streets there is no big reason needed to get shot. These children, who are going to sleep with their families in self-constructed wooden houses, often with the sound of shootings from the streets, need it more than anybody, to have this safe, nice and clean place, to have fun and to receive attention and care during the day.

So there is always a lot of work to do to make it better, and COMPARTIR never stops to push forward these projects, and I am glad to be part of it as an EVS volunteer.

*Márton Szabó
Hungarian Volunteer in Honduras*

Alternatives and opportunities for women, youth and children

My name is Jolanda Filter, a Swiss ICYE volunteer working at "Alternativas y Oportunidades", an organization helping children and families in Honduras, who work at the market places, increasing their opportunities to improve their environment.

The market workers are people who come from the most deprived social backgrounds, who have little income and very few opportunities. The project has three different focuses; women, youth and children.

With the women we help to organize meetings, which focus on issues like HIV/AIDS, violence, education and health. Women can attend these meetings to exchange their experiences and ideas about such issues, with the hope that we can give advice and help to any individuals with problems or that need assistance.

With the younger generation we give talks about similar issues and besides this we give them the possibility to learn something about nature, relationship, respect for friends, families and their surroundings. We always try to create a relaxed atmosphere to make these events appealing. For example, a new issue can be introduced through a quiz, or

individuals are asked to prepare something about a selected topic, so that they can present it to their other companions. We also like to sing and play games, to maintain a welcoming atmosphere to the younger generation and to encourage as much participation as possible. Within this group we have a team that focuses on working with teenagers to help them plan their future. The teams' aim is to try and open up teenagers from deprived backgrounds to the possibility of going to college and maybe even university, so that they can have the opportunity of making a better life for themselves and their families.

Finally, with the younger children, aged between 3 and 6 years old, we focus on having fun, singing, playing and painting with them.

A typical day at the project involves each day going to a different market, where we meet one group in the morning and one in the afternoon. On Fridays we focus on preparation for the next week, we discuss the subject and prepare all the material we need.

Since I've been working at the project, I have had some very good experiences. The staff is very kind and helpful; on the first day I got my own T-shirt with the logo of the project, so I very quickly felt like a member of the team.



I work with youth and children, who are very nice. During my first few days at the project I found it a little difficult because I don't speak fluent Spanish. They were all very curious about the new person and wanted to explain and show me everything; the young kids seemed to find it especially disappointing when I didn't understand them. I found it quite tricky to explain to them the situation.

But, in general, the communication can be quite funny and the kids are the best teachers I have! Every day I learn something new and with a little bit of patience I have had some very interesting talks with the children about their family life. For example, one boy (13 years old) told me that he is the oldest of 5 brothers and sisters, whose parents work in the markets and are only 30 years old. Another girl (7 years old) brought in her little sister to a meeting, who is about 10 months old, because her mother had no time for her.

I sometimes feel sad to see how the children live, but when I see their smiling faces when we sing and dance with them, I feel satisfied that I can do something good for them.

During this exchange experience the best thing for me is to learn about this different culture and to see how happy the kids are, despite how little they have.

Jolanda Filter

Swiss ICYE Exchangee in Honduras

Volunteering at CESMAR - Working for the children, with the children

My name is Linda Wiehr, a German ICYE volunteer working in Brazil. It's been about three weeks now that I had my very first day at CESMAR, Centro Social Marista, a wonderful social project in Mário Quintana, here in Porto Alegre. CESMAR is an education network working for and with young people.



The everyday bus ride feels like crossing over from one world to another. Halfway, as the bus gets off the main road, you dive into a different world. You dive in and suddenly face a completely different part of this city. Like a shabby second face. But going there every morning couldn't feel any better and it feels like it's the most right thing to be doing. And then, after quite a short time I get to CESMAR. I remember my first impression. I was speechless by the projects size and diversity. Many hundred children and young adults at the age of 5-18 years come here daily. The project is aimed to be a balance at the second half of the day after hours in school. But it is as well at the same time a distraction aimed at keeping the children off the streets. It's a too complex project and the course it offers are too numerous to name them all. Classes for computer science, informatics, dance, theater, art and music can be found, all well structured and organized.

But what I believe counts even more in making this place as wonderful as it is, are the people

you find at CESMAR who manage to provide a beautiful place for children giving them a break from problems they might have to face at home. They give affection and commendation, pay attention and listen with patience. They are there for the children and open up their hearts. And then there are the children, taking your hand and hugging you tight from the very first second. They greet you all the time, ask questions and wonder about the Germans with the blond hair and blue eyes. A woman asked me at the bus stop about the place I live at. She wanted to know about the other volunteers as well. It took me a while to understand. The people in the street know us. We are the ones who work for their children, with their children. There is this one day I'm expecting with great excitement. The day that I will be a needed friend for the children and a welcomed help for the educators, who daily accomplish so much. From the very first minute I felt so very warmly welcomed that I have no other choice than giving back all I have to give. And suddenly so far from home a feeling creeps in, the feeling of wanting to become a part of this wonderful and extraordinary family.

*Linda Wiehr
German Volunteer in Brazil*

A typical day at Ashna Child Rehabilitation Centre

My name is Alex de la Fuente, a Spanish EVS volunteer in Nepal working in an orphanage called Ashna Child Rehabilitation Centre. In total the orphanage hosts 16 children aged between 5 and 15 years of which 5 are girls. The youngsters go to school from Sunday to Friday, which means that the party here is on Saturdays! My main role at the project for the coming 9 months is to be a person who cares for the children. I feel like an older brother who takes care of them, makes sure they go to school and do their homework and wash themselves.



My typical day at the orphanage can look like this: Taking a shower at 6 am, at 5 am if I want to do yoga. Then help the children with the

homework and assignments for the school, and to be with them until 8 am when the breakfast is served. For breakfast we eat Dhal Baat, which is a typical and unique rice and vegetable dish from the area. Afterwards the children prepare themselves for school and I accompany them there. They start classes at 10 am and this is when my free time starts. I'm free until 4 pm, when they come back from school. During my spare time I enjoy having a cup of coffee, read, use Internet (located 30 minutes walking from my house) or eat something that is not Dhal Baat. The children have half an hour of playtime after school, during the weekends two hours and after that they do their homework, although I often entertain them with my games and jokes. Until now the boys have been playing football during their playtime, but I have tried to make two little things to vary a bit. One idea was to try to get the boys to make their own juggling balls with rice and balloons. But as soon as they had made the first one, they threw it against the wall, played football with it and the juggling ball broke in pieces... Right now everything related to my experience is very well.

*Alex de la Fuente
Spanish Volunteer in Nepal*

More on „Youth combating poverty and social exclusion“



[UNRISD Flagship Report 2010: Combating Poverty and Inequality](#)

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) has launched its Flagship Report 2010 Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics on 3 September 2010. The report argues that many current approaches to reducing poverty and inequality fail to consider key institutional, policy and political dimensions that may be both causes of poverty and inequality, and obstacles to their reduction.

More information is available online here: [http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BD6AB/\(htmlEvents\)/90DF168624C41E22C1257736004F70D1?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BD6AB/(htmlEvents)/90DF168624C41E22C1257736004F70D1?OpenDocument)



[NGO Committee for Social Development: survey on "good practices for social integration/inclusion"](#)

The NGO Committee for Social Development, with the support of the NGLS, recently launched a survey on "Good Practices for Social Integration/Inclusion." The aim of the survey is to contribute to the work of the United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSocD) in 2011 and 2012, as well as to the reports prepared by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in advance of CSocD sessions. It contributes to a better understanding of civil society's understanding of as well as the level of implementation of the "Resolution on Social Integration," adopted by the Commission during its 48th session.

More information is available online:

<http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article2845>



["Keeping the Promise: A toolkit for young people to assess national policies for youth in Ghana" \(TPT\)](#)

TACKLING POVERTY TOGETHER - The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction

In June 2005, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) initiated a project called "Tackling Poverty Together: The Role of Young People in Poverty Reduction Strategies". The primary motivation for the project was the recognition that although large numbers of young people are adversely affected by poverty, youth are seldom identified as a target group requiring specific support, interventions, and budget outlays in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

This toolkit is prepared by the Tackling Poverty Together (TPT) Ghana Team and is targeted for young people, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, at local and national level for assessing national progress in reaching youth development priorities contained in the World Programme of Action on Youth. As a member of the United Nations, Ghana joined other nations to commit themselves to undertake actions in the 15 priority areas of WPAY to improve the lives of youth. The toolkit can be used as a resource for improving the work and initiating local and national level actions of youth organizations in Ghana and around the world.

For more information on the Tackling Poverty Together, please see:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/TPT.htm>



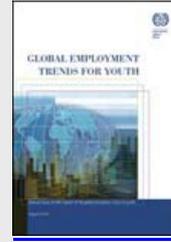
Launch of the 2010 Human Development Report

UNDP's 20th anniversary Human Development Report –“**The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development**” – will be launched on November 4th at the United Nations by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

The 2010 HDR's lead author, Jeni Klugman, will present its main findings, including its revealing review of global development data and trends of recent decades, and the introduction of new human development indices. Among those new indices is the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), created by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative and released publicly in July, and the Report's original Human Development Index (HDI) adjusted to reflect gender disparities and other inequalities.

As part of the 20th anniversary commemoration, the Human Development Report Office will republish all previous HDRs in searchable PDF and e-book formats for free downloading. The HDR website will also be re-launched with extensive, interactive new data resources covering most countries in the world. As an additional feature, the Human Development Report is now on Facebook, please join us there!

As part of the ongoing series of materials marking the 20th anniversary of the Human Development Report, we would like to share with you and your colleagues a free public online course entitled, the Human Development Journey. The course highlights the fundamentals of the human development approach and explains how it is applied to development work. It is available online and can be downloaded for offline use in classrooms and workshops. We encourage you to share this course with all your development partners. For more information please visit:
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/>



ILO: Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010

In 2009, 81 million young people were unemployed, the highest number ever recorded. From 2007 to 2009 the youth unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percent, which represents 7.8 million young people becoming unemployed globally. These alarming figures were presented on 12 August 2010, the day that not only the International Year of Youth was launched, but also the International Labor Organization's report "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010". The report is the first such to be written during a global economic crisis and it highlights the difficult situation many young people are facing today.

On the positive side, the consultation showed that young people are more determined than ever to find new and innovative ways of creating new employment opportunities and finding possibilities to build relevant experience. With the increase of social online communication tools, the possibilities to share experiences, create online capacity building platforms, entrepreneurship courses, career counselling and networking opportunities has provided new forums for young people to develop their skills and to connect with possible future employers.

More information is available online here:
<http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article2799>





Qualitative Impact of the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme - Report of the 2010 Survey

Every year the EU Youth in Action programme supports over 7 000 projects allowing more than 130 000 young people and youth workers to make valuable experiences in the field of non formal education and youth. At the beginning of 2010, the Commission launched a survey aimed at assessing the qualitative outcomes of Youth in Action projects on their participants and promoters.

This survey - carried out among 4 550 young people, youth workers and youth organisations shows that the Youth in Action programme is well on track in fostering active citizenship and promoting the acquisition of skills leading to personal, social and professional development. Some of the main results of the survey – showing what the distinct stakeholders considered they had achieved - are:

Among the young participants:

- 95% learned to communicate better with people who speak another language;
- 86% learned better how to achieve something in the interest of their community or society;
- 92% say that the projects made them more receptive to multiculturalism in Europe;
- 66% believe that their job chances have increased thanks to the project experience.

Among the youth workers:

- 95% will now give more attention to including an international dimension in their work;
- 88% gained skills and knowledge that they could not gain through projects in the home country

Among the youth organisations:

- 92% felt that that participating in a project supported by Youth in Action increased their project management skills;
- 94% felt that it increased their appreciation of cultural diversity.

The complete main results of the survey are online:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm



EYV 2011 FLOW

The EYV 2011 Alliance newsletter – in his 3rd issue – provides a regular update on the run up to the EYV 2011, with news, profiles of the members, a "city focus" and announcements. If there is anything that you would like to be included in future editions of EYV Flow please contact the EYV 2011 Alliance secretariat. To receive the EYV Flow please subscribe on the EYV 2011 Alliance Web Portal:

www.eyv2011.eu .

Each Member State has designated a National Coordinating Body (NCB) that is responsible for the planning, coordination and organisation of events and activities in its territory during the European Year. The National Coordinating bodies will also coordinate with Community level activities and the overall planning of the Year. The official list of the NCB contact details is available online http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/annexes-citizenship/doc1069_en.htm



"Youth should be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national and global levels." *United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

On 12 August the International Year of Youth began and, thanks to emails and posts on the dedicated Facebook page, we have learned that the launch of the Year was a huge success with events taking place throughout the world. UN Agencies, both at the country and global level, Inter-Governmental Organizations, National Governments, National Youth Councils as well as civil society organizations organized activities to launch the Year.

At the United Nations Headquarters in New York, a global launch was organized by the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. The launch event included both inspiring speeches as well as performances from talented young people. About 500 people attended the event, which was held in the General Assembly Hall. The Secretary-General

of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, spoke about how the economic crisis has affected many young people, but that young people possess talents and creativity which will enable new and innovative solutions to today's problems, and stated: *"I urge young people everywhere to look beyond the borders of your own country. Engage with the world, and be a global citizen. Exchange visits and communication across cultures are all building blocks of world peace and mutual understanding."*

In addition to the global launch event at UNHQ, events were organized by a range of stakeholders around the world to celebrate the beginning of the International Year of Youth. Apart from focusing on the theme of the Year, dialogue and mutual understanding, the events highlighted issues such as youth and climate change, peaceful elections, disarmament, HIV/AIDS, hunger, ICT, sports, youth empowerment and much more. On the website of the International Year you can find, inter alia, Fact Sheets on various issues such as Youth Employment, Youth in Africa, Youth and Climate Change, Youth Participation, Youth as a Smart Investment, Youth and Volunteerism and others.

Fact Sheet: Youth Fostering Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

Embodying the core message of the 2010 International Year of Youth, the crucial role of youth in advancing intercultural understanding is increasingly recognized within the global development agenda. The International Year of Youth offers a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the need to partner with youth to foster dialogue and transform it into global understanding. Throughout the Year, the UN System will promote this message in a comprehensive manner:

1. As a rights' issue, linked to the acceptance of the youth's right to participation.
2. By recognizing the capacity of youth to foster intercultural understanding through their own efforts.
3. As a theme that cuts across a number of sectors, affecting not only youth development, but positively impacting society at all levels.

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



IYV+10 News

2001 was proclaimed as the International Year of Volunteers or 'IYV' to enhance the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service (United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/52/17 of 1997). Thanks to volunteers and their supporters, 123 national committees were set-up by end 2001, and measures were taken to enhance volunteerism around the world.

Follow-up reports led the General Assembly to call for the marking of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) in 2011 (A/Res/63/153). The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) program has been designated as the focal point for IYV+10. The www.worldvolunteerweb.org is the space where you can find news, background information and useful tools for IYV+10.

On World Volunteer Web you can find a PowerPoint presentation and IYV+10 Brochure. They provide background information about the original IYV and IYV+10, outline objectives of the year and feature tools and opportunities. Let us know what you are planning for IYV+10 and we will feature your stories in the coming IYV+10 News Updates.

IYV+10 survey: Following preparations for marking IYV+10, UNV prepared a survey in order to gain a global overview on existing National IYV+10 Committees and other coordinating structures on a national level. The overall picture portrayed by the survey shows a wide array of organizations covering 18 geographical regions, including more than a hundred organizations from 54 countries.

Find more information online on the World Volunteer Web:
www.worldvolunteerweb.org



Options for a YOUTH Programme after 2013

Andreas Schwab, on behalf of the ICYE Federation attended, as longstanding EVS /YiA stakeholder and practitioner, together with other 160 participants, the European Stakeholders' Forum on EU cooperation in education and training, youth and international cooperation in higher education, held in Brussels on 28-29 October 2010. With a view to shaping the next generation of EU programmes in the field of education and training, youth and international cooperation in higher education, which shall replace, as of 2014, the current programmes, Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus, the Commission entered into a consultation process that entails three parallel public online consultations, one for each programme, which are running until 30 November 2010.

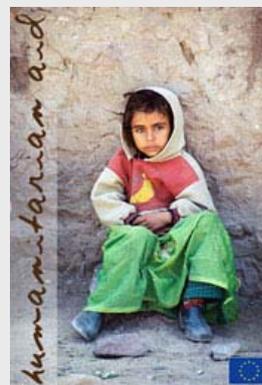
Embedded in this consultation was this year's Stakeholders' Forum co-organized by the EUCIS-LLL (the European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning) and (for the first time also) the European Youth Forum, which was attended by several EC representatives from different programme strands. The main questions raised were: How will future programs contribute to the agenda of the EU 2020 strategy and how should they look like? Will there be an autonomous YOUTH program after 2013? Will it be expanded and strengthened or will it be an addition to the Lifelong Learning program? Will Youth in Action, LLP and higher education programs merge under the envisaged initiative "Youth on the Move"?

In terms of concrete priorities, stakeholders from the Youth field expressed that the future Youth Program should:

- be an inclusive, ambitious, well communicated autonomous non formal learning programme, which is easy accessible for young people at large
- work towards recognition of informal, non-formal and formal education across all sectors of society
- promote active citizenship (and not just employability of young people) but with clear links to the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy
- foster inclusion of beneficiaries in a global setting (non-fortress Europe)
- simplify application and reporting procedures as well as reduce bureaucracy in general
- be highly visible

All actors stressed the importance for all stakeholders to participate in the consultation process by spreading the word within their organisations and networks to ensure that the online consultation is widely used to provide feedback and express views and ideas on how to best develop the future European youth programme. The consultation is open until 30th November 2010 under:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm



European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps - EVHAC

Andreas Schwab, represented the ICYE Federation at the Conference, held in Brussels, on 30th September, 2010, in which the plans for the creation of the EVHAC were presented by The Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis response Kristalina Georgieva, from DG ECHO. The plans are still in their initial phase and foresee extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders and actors in humanitarian aid until spring 2011. A pilot phase for the year 2011 and the adoption of a legislative proposal in 2012 should follow. The initiative is based on the consideration that the

increase of volunteers also in the field of actors in crisis theatre make a well coordinated and demand-driven system necessary. The Lisbon treaty has reflected this development and gives the EC the opportunity to take action and to “establish a framework for joint contributions from young Europeans to the humanitarian aid operations of the Union.” Following this presentation, two panels including speakers from a wide range of organizations such as AVSO, VSO, IFCRC, TH, VOICE and UNV dealt with challenges and opportunities of EVHAC, including volunteer profiles, local volunteers vs. international volunteers, possible functions and tasks and recruiting, standards and management of EVHAC.

external aid and the increasing number of This exercise showed that even though there are a number of guiding principles of EVHAC (i.e. respect of humanitarian principles, security aspects are of paramount importance, volunteers acting in solidarity but also added value for hosting projects), EVHAC is in a very initial development phase. The process is an open one and organizations are invited to follow the further development of EVHAC as a “learning organization”, something that ICYE certainly will do. For more information visit: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/georgieva/themes/dont-shoot_en.htm

News from NGOs



Forgotten Diaries Empowering Youth in Conflict Zones

Forgotten Diaries - Empowering Youth as Agents of Grass Roots Peace Building and Community Development in Conflict Zones
Forgotten Diaries (FD) is a project working with the objective that youth, if empowered, can be effective agents in developing an attitude of peace and non-violence in communities otherwise torn by war and conflict. FD recently sponsored 9 youth led projects in forgotten conflict zones aimed at teaching peace to youth who have grown up seeing only conflict. The aim of the Forgotten Diaries project is to raise awareness of forgotten conflict zones and to empower young people within these conflict zones to bring about positive community development and build a culture of peace. Currently, 50 young people from conflict zones participate as citizen journalists; blogging about life in conflict zones and helping raise awareness of issues on the ground. For more information please visit: <http://www.forgottendiaries.org/>



WWFS: Launched the interactive website YouthEngage.com

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) campaign and the World Day for Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children and Youth, the WWSF launched YouthEngage.com. YouthEngage.com is an interactive website based on the challenge: how can young people better prevent abuse and violence against children and youth?

With tools and suggestions on how to get involved, develop competences and become prevention actors, YouthEngage.com serves the emergence of a culture of prevention. The creativity of young people can shape societies in ways that respond to their need for security and socialization.

For more information, please visit: www.youthengage.com



Green Youth Service (GYS) Resource Center

Due to global warming and other environmental effects, the importance of environmental sustainability is now more apparent than ever before. In order to support this, ICP is currently researching information about existing scalable models that employ youth service as a strategy to reduce the effects of global climate change, either directly or indirectly through educational activities. The GYS Resource Center is a compilation of information and resources that can be used to help schools, organizations, community groups, and government agencies develop or revise effective Green Youth Service programs. Find it here. <http://www.icicp.org/ht/d/sp/i/8957/pid/8957>

Youth Civic Participation in Action in 2010

ICP released a new publication on the last day of the conference, providing brief snapshots of youth civic participation programs and policies in 101 countries across six continents.



Based on research conducted and information received from previous participants of the IANYS 8th Global Conference and other ICP projects, *Youth Civic Participation in Action: Meeting Community and Youth Development Needs*, highlights the growing momentum for youth civic participation worldwide as more countries develop programs to provide opportunities for young people to build skills for success while also addressing critical community needs. Each snapshot provides a brief glimpse into the status of youth civic participation in the countries included. This dynamic publication is available online at <http://icicp2.org/ycpworldwide2010/>, in both a full version and on an interactive website, and will be periodically updated with news and other information provided by our partners.

ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS



“So what do YOU think a Volunteer is ?....”

On 27th August, the Volunteer Centre in Cape Town, ICYE member in South Africa hosted a, Intercultural Learning Workshop (ICL) Workshop for 33 young volunteers from Mozambique, Germany, Iceland, USA and Austria. These young people, participating in Canada World Youth, EVS, Weltwaerts and ICYE programmes, came to South Africa to volunteer at various work placements for periods ranging from 3 to 12 months. We attempted to answer some of the questions that youth from 6 countries asked about

volunteering. A few months ago South Africans welcomed the world to our beautiful country. and millions followed the FIFA World Cup and witnessed the passion, generosity and multi cultural diversity of South Africa. In August we were also preparing 40 South African youth for exchange programmes with Mozambique and Canada.

Portia from South Africa – when asked about defining a volunteer responded - “Being a volunteer means that you are doing work without being paid, because you want to help. Also being a volunteer means you work with different people of other races or religions.”

Teles Cosa from Mozambique said: “You don’t wait for any financial return. You just want to contribute in the community; you are not waiting for any one else”.

The Workshop provided these young people with an opportunity to participate in non formal learning activities which challenged them to overcome cultural differences – to recognize stereotypes and to remember that whilst we all look different, speak differently and have different hopes and dreams – there is so much more that unites young people today – like sharing favorite music, having fun together and of course making new friends.

Some feedback from participants:

“It was great because we find people from different parts, but all of us have the same objectives”

“We are all in the community to learn, so it was great to meet different volunteers from other cultures”.

“I meet other people from different cultures and different races but we all click immediately”

“To face the challenges - many people was from Europe and other parts but we understood each other, no matter who speaks English or speak what, because the common sense and the common goal unite each other. No matter where you from. We were one.”

Our staff has recognized the importance of these noisy, energetic, chaotic gatherings to become a regular part of our workshop calendar. In the words of one of the participants:

“To make that kind of programs more accessible for local people, not only volunteers.”

This closing comment has challenged the Volunteer Centre to upscale our role in nation building and to recognize that inter cultural learning should not only be confined to volunteer activities, but should be encouraged throughout our richly diverse country.

Deline van Boom

Director – Volunteer Centre



"Let's meet the street. A new vision to prevent youth violence"

This project, funded by the European Commission under the Youth in Action Program Action 3.2, has the objective to exchange good practices on intercultural education as a useful tool for the prevention of youth violence.

The project born in collaboration with several no-profit associations involved in no-formal education and street leaving kids education in Italy, Belgium, Spain, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, Honduras and Peru.

The association involved are: AFSAI – Italy, The Knot - Belgium, AFAIJ - Spain, ICYE Kenya, ICYE Ghana, Volunteer Centre – South Africa, A Roda - Brasil, Casa Asti - Honduras and Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos de Peru – Peru.

A steering committee with a representative from each country met in January for a preparation meeting in Rome. In April a training course was held in Nairobi (Kenya) on the study and application of methods of intercultural learning and no-formal education in working with young victims of violence.

The course gave participants the opportunity to compete in such a multicultural experience and experiment with techniques of non-formal education. Between May and October, participants have organized four different workshops per Country using the methods learned during the course.

In October the Steering committee went to Lima (Peru) to attend a Final Evaluation meeting. All experiences will be collected in a CD-ROM that will contribute to the dissemination of results. For more information please contact AFSAI at info@afsai.it



**4th Connecting Civil Societies of
Asia and Europe Conference:
Changing Challenges, New Ideas
Brussels, 2.-3.10.2010**

Andreas Schwab of the ICYE International Office attended the CCS4 conference, an official side event of the ASEM 8 Summit bringing together 150 Civil Society representatives from Europe and Asia in 7 workshops, aimed to facilitate dialogue between ASEM partners and civil society and to deliver a focused report to ASEM leaders, outlining the main concerns of civil society that could contribute to the ASEM agenda in the next two years and beyond.

Andreas participated in the workshop on "Creating skills and competences for living and working in the ASEM area" co-organised by the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) and the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong

Learning (ASEM LLL Hub). It brought together researchers and representatives of the ASEM Life-long Learning HUB (Education and Research Hub) as well as representatives from voluntary service organisations such as the Alliance of Voluntary Service Organisations in Europe, SCI, NVDA, IAVE and ICYE.

Research on impact of voluntary service was defined as one of the areas in which cooperation could be beneficial for both sectors. ICYE's current research project in cooperation with VOSESA found interest as a concrete example on how researchers / academic sector and voluntary service practitioners should and could work together in the common benefit. A SWOT analysis of "bridging formal and non-formal education" was also carried out. A concrete outcome of the workshop were 3 recommendations to ASEM leaders to support skills and competence creation in ASEM countries, the third one being the most relevant one for the voluntary service sector:

"...strengthening of civil society and lifelong learning that encompasses formal, non-formal and informal learning and recognition of prior learning and voluntary activities..."

For more information please visit:

<http://www.asef.org/>