

Worlds of experience



No. 4 (February 2004)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fourth issue of "Worlds of Experience" on "The Elderly and Youth"!

In spite of the key role older people play in society, and a worldwide aging population, the importance of working with older people is often ignored by public organisations and NGOs alike.

Conversely, the articles by ICYE volunteers and organisations such as Help Age International (HAI) and AGE show how crucial it is to enhance an intergenerational approach to education and to recognise older people as a social, cultural as well as economic resource for the development of local communities.

The insights of young volunteers into the daily lives of older people and their interaction with them are yet another demonstration of how beneficial it is for young and older people to "combine enthusiasm, skills and experience to make a difference" as Catherine Hines, a former ICYE/EVS volunteer working at HAI, tells us.

After the refreshing contributions from ICYE volunteers - coming to grips with "cultural shock" with common sense and humour and making the most out of their volunteering abroad - Around The World refers to a wide range of exciting initiatives promoted by International Organisations and NGOs to raise awareness of young people on peace making, bridging the digital divide, HIV/AIDS, active citizenship and globalisation.

This section also highlights, among others, a number of upcoming regional and worldwide events such as the 3rd World Youth Festival and the Latin American conference on youth as social capital, and the international networks Global Youth Action Network and the Hospitality Club.

In the hope that you will enjoy reading it, please note that the next Issue of "Worlds of Experience" will focus on "Human Rights, Refugees and Youth" and will be published on 30th June 2004.

If you would like to contribute, please send any news, pictures, links or other information resources related to volunteering and the theme to icye@icye.org by the 31st of May 2004.

"Worlds of Experience" can also be found in the ICYE Federation's web site: www.icye.org

With best regards

ICYE International Office

“THE ELDERLY AND YOUTH”

VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

“THEY CAN BE AS STUBBORN AS CHILDREN”

Ciao! My name is Sanna Nerola, and I'm a 23-year old girl from Finland. At present I live in Italy, in a town called Luserna San Giovanni. It is about 50 km from Torino, with about 8000 inhabitants.

I'm working as a volunteer in “Rifugio Re Carlo Alberto”, a home for the elderly. The first month I worked in the residential sector, but now I work in the daily centre for people with Alzheimer.

I arrived in September 2003 and I am going to be here until the end of August 2004. I like very much working and living in Luserna. Berit is another volunteer here in “Rifugio”. She comes from Germany.

Before I came here I didn't have any experience in working with elderly, only with children. This has been a very versatile experience. In many ways working with old people is just like working with children. You have to help them to eat, to get dressed and to go to the toilet. They can also be as stubborn as children!

The elderly can tell you many great stories about the old times.. at least for me those stories are very interesting! However, many of the patients here have a bad memory so during my time here, I have been listening to the same stories over and over again!

Although I am so much younger than them, I have a very strong connection with some of them. We can spend hours together just sitting and holding hands. I have very big respect for the elderly, they have seen so much during their lives. Nowadays we have a much better education, but still they are very wise, they have learned most things by practice.

For me the hardest thing here, especially as a young person, has been seeing death and sickness around me everyday.

In Centro Diurno (the day centre) we do many things during the week: we have physical- and musical therapy, cooking, painting and drawing, reading and trips, for example, to the market. I have a great tutor, who helps me if I have some problems.



Luckily I haven't had any big problems. Naturally at the beginning, the language was a bit difficult, but everyday I learn something new. Every week I go to a school in Pinerolo, it is a bigger town near Luserna san Giovanni.

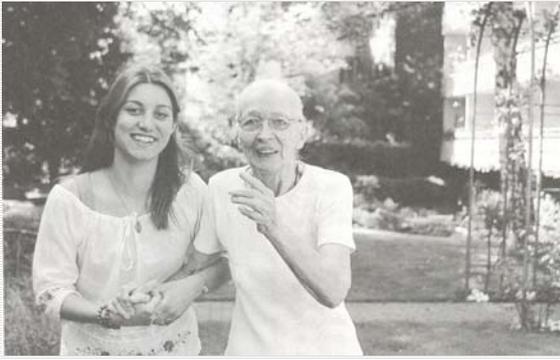
*Sanna Nerola
Finnish volunteer in Italy*



“VACATIONS AWAY FROM THE BEACH”

(Article published in the Diakonie Magazine, Summer 2003)

AnaClara Cardoso da Silva is 20 years old, from Porto Alegre, Brazil, studies law and a few months before the interview she did not speak a word of German. She had been working in the Household and Care section at the Home for the Eldery in Golzheim. She was an ICYE exchangee in 2002-2003 and was interviewed by Christoph Wand.



Why does a Brazilian law student end up working in a Home for the Eldery in Düsseldorf, Germany? Is this a requirement for your studies?

No, but German language is very important for my career. I am here in Germany through the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE). I wanted to do a practical course and not only study German.

How do you feel here, in a foreign country, far away from home? You came here without speaking German.

It was difficult at the beginning. I didn't know even what "Butter" and "Brot" meant. In the meantime it improved considerably. But it is not easy to get to know German people. When the people in Brazil wait in a bus stop they can tell you their whole life in 10 minutes! I didn't get to know my neighbour here in Germany even after 1 month.

What are the good things and bad things about your work?

I was always shocked by the way the people here throw away all the food that was placed in the table that has not been eaten, while people are starving in other countries. I could not believe it at the beginning!

But I enjoy my work. Sometimes it was difficult because the old people have their own peculiarities, which have to be taken into account.

Everything must have its own place, they are not flexible any more. But most of them are very kind. Most of the time they do not say a word, but sometimes they hold my hand, and that is enough for me. That makes me very happy.

Can one build up a personal relationship with the people who live here in only 6 months?

Yes. It is possible. One lady was especially kind to me. She comes from East Germany and feels really well here but feels also as a foreigner. She always asked me if I was home sick.

And are you homesick?

Just a little bit. I miss my boyfriend, my family, the beach and life without complications that we have in Brazil. But I want to come back to Germany and do a postgraduate course, and of course I will come back to Golzheim. But one of the old people living here told me: "Then probably I won't be here any more". I will miss all of them.

OF HUGS, CULTURAL SHOCK AND SMILING IN SWEDISH



My name is Kayoko Negi. I am from Japan and I volunteer in Sweden. My experience began on the 16th of August. When I arrived at Arland airport, many people welcomed me with a hug. I was very surprised, because we don't have that custom in Japan. As soon as I arrived to Sweden, I got a cultural shock!! And my heart beats strongly as I start to think about my year in Sweden.

I work at an old people's home which is called "Edsby Slott". It is located in Upplands-vasby, near Stockholm. There are 27 people, and here they are called "guests". I help them to eat, take a shower and going to the toilet, etc.

I have kept in mind that I talk as much as possible with every guest every day. But I can't speak Swedish and they can't speak Japanese, nor English. It's difficult to communicate without the language. However language is not the only means of communication. We have many other ways. For example, gesture, body touch, smiling and so on...

We have coffee and recreation time for the guests at 2 o'clock. It's my favourite time. Because while I serve the coffee, I can communicate with them closely. As we play Swedish songs, one guest who is usually silent hums the songs, another guest who can't walk dances with us. It's amazing. Then one guest is talking with me. He tried to teach me Swedish!

We have often hard times, because we can't communicate well because of the language. But I think that I can gain a lot of experience. I know everything has both good and bad points.

Of course I also understand the importance of language. When I help the guests to do something, I must tell them exactly what I'm going to do now. At the beginning of my work, one guest didn't go out of her room easily as I couldn't tell her "Let's eat lunch." "Let's take a shower" in Swedish properly. I tried to tell by gesture, but she couldn't understand it. I felt the importance of language. Nowadays I can go with her to the dining room hand in hand.

Finally, I tell you about my cultural shock again. One day, I took a train to Stockholm to visit my friend. When I looked at the station's clock from the train, it showed an hour later. I wondered. But the clock on next station was also an hour later. I kept wondering....and the I remembered that the time changed from summer to winter on that day. We don't have summer time in Japan. Well I arrived an hour early, but my friend was waiting for me already! Yes, she is Japanese too, so she also forgot it. We could thank this for being able to see each other an hour longer !!

I have about 6 months more here in Sweden. I will try something new as much as I can. Of course, I'll study more Swedish. I want to talk with the guests above all. Well, what cultural shock will come to me next time? I'm looking forward to experiencing it!

Kayoko Negi
(Japanese volunteer in Sweden)

**"I THINK THEY ALSO LIKE ME - I
HOPE...."**



My name is So-hyun. I'm from South Korea. I'm in Rodemark of Germany now.

I'm working in 'Alten und Pflegeheim'. It's my project. Do you want to know more about my project? O.K. I'll introduce to you it from now. And I'll tell you my German life.

First of all, My work is to help elderly people, who live at 'Haus Morija' , a house for the elderly. They are really old. Most of them are over 80 years old. So they have to receive help from young people like me. I think this 'Haus Morija' has a very good system.

It's very helpful to for the elderly. But I have to say it's not easy. Seriously. Because all of Germany is strange to me. You know? For example language, food, culture and so on. Besides my project is also new for me. Of course, I had helped elderly people in Korea. But it's very different here Germany. So I missed my family, friends, and all Korea for a while. The beginning is difficult. Nothing is easy.

However my project is interesting more and more now. Really. Fortunately I work with nice people. I have been very lucky. When I have a question, they help me. They are really kind to me. Really. I think they also like me. I hope it.....

I have also travelled in Germany and many other countries. It's really fantastic. I've met many people. I've seen many cities. I've experienced many things. Not all the time positive, sometimes I was not happy. But these moments are also important for me. Seriously. I have to say, once again - the experience in Germany is not perfect.

However I think it's not interesting to be perfect.

It's important to try everything. When I try, I have a nice time. I think it depends on one-self to be happy or not. So I'll enjoy to try more new things 'til I go back to Korea.

So-Hyun Suk
South Korean exchangee in Germany

MORE ON WORKING WITH OLDER PEOPLE

ARTICLE FROM CATHERINE HINE FROM HELP AGE INTERNATIONAL

Estonia 1999-2000: I was an ICYE/EVS exchangee working in a home for orphans and abandoned children in the majority-Russian area of Northern Estonia. These children and young people are exposed to peer pressures that most of us face, but often without the essential counterbalance that grandparents can provide. They experience many additional hardships - few speak the Estonian national language, there is still widespread discrimination, and opportunities to fulfill their abilities are few and far between.

It struck me that where grandparents lived locally, it was evident that their role was often critical to ensuring these young people took advantage of opportunities that arose. Grandparents who initiated loving relationships with grandchildren worked miracles in offsetting instinctive negative attitudes that children had already developed about human nature.



I feel grateful that EVS allowed me to witness this, just one of many important roles that older people play in their communities.

Now, working with HelpAge International (HAI), all-too-often I encounter older people whose significance in society is ignored. Older people are portrayed as a burden to families and are invisible in decisions by governments and sadly, often by NGOs. This is despite the fact that research shows older people are active members of their communities - particularly key to educating and caring for younger generations, providing domestic and even financial support to their families. Failing to recognize older people as a key resource is particularly misguided as we experience a dramatic shift towards an older global population.



As part of a project to tackle age discrimination in 9 countries of South East Europe, I visited a rural part of Bulgaria on International Day of Older People last year. Having signed up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002, the Bulgarian Minister for Social Affairs used this celebratory occasion to announce government proposals to assist families with the cost of funeral services! As the Chair of the local Pensioners' Association said, 'we don't want to think about dying but to have a good life whilst we are living it!'

Even in decisions that directly focus on older people's needs and rights, older people's perspectives are sidelined.

In decision-making on transport and health policy, older people are rarely recognized as significant consumers.

HelpAge International sees these patterns all over the world and campaigns to ensure older people themselves are placed at the centre of projects that affect them- defining key problems, designing programmes and ensuring ideas are put into practise. In 2002 HelpAge International organised for 60 older people from all over the world to attend the UN Second World Assembly on Ageing and define to 160 governments represented, the key issues which they themselves consider important.

I am delighted to see ICYE placing older people on the agenda. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise in our exchanges and projects how younger and older people can combine enthusiasm, skills and experience to make a difference.

**HelpAge
International**
Leading global action on ageing

*Catherine Hine
(Former ICYE/EVS Volunteer
in Estonia who is working
at Help Age international)*

EUROPEAN OLDER PEOPLE'S PLATFORM



AGE, the European Older People's Platform, aims to voice and promote the interests of older people in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. Everyone in the European Union is increasingly affected by decisions taken by its institutions: the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice. Decisions affect the daily lives of all its inhabitants - including older people. ENEA programme: "Age and Mobility", a European pilot project will explore the potential added value of a future exchange programme for the 50+ similar to Erasmus Today, the Erasmus programme is probably the best known of all European Commission's programmes.

What would be the added value in a similar exchange programme targeting older people in Europe?

This is one of the questions AGE and its 5 national coordinators (Service Europe Ainé, Ancescao, BAGSO, NPOE, Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament) want to address in their "Age and Mobility" project funded by the European Commission's ENEA programme (DG Employment and Social Affairs). The project will test the feasibility and usefulness of older people's exchanges, will identify barriers and will collect feedback on the long term sustainability of such a mobility programme for older citizens based on 5 short term visits between Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands, and three exchange language courses in Italy, Germany and Belgium. Around 240 older persons will travel to another country and several hundreds of volunteers of all ages will contribute to the project in all five participating countries

For more information go to:
www.age-platform.org
info@age-platform.org

International Conference "Age and Connectivity": Harnessing the Generations

On February 11, 2004, at the UN Headquarters the conference "Society for All Ages" was held to build bridges and develop projects, services and products that support the needs of people of all ages. Each month the world's older population increases by 1.2 million! The quantity of life change has become a quality of life challenge. As part of a series of Interlinked Congresses addressing the "Age of Longevity" held in cities around the globe, this conference is being held during the Commission for Social Development.



Please check UN Website for Conference up-date and registration form:

www.un.org/events/agingcf.htm
or icccworld@earthlink.net

OTHER VOLUNTEERS' EXPERIENCES

"OF HURT KNEES, MOUNTAINS, TRAIN RIDES, AN OLD WOMAN AND CHOCOLATE"

On the 28th of December 2003 at the Ski camp I fell down and tore my cross band in my knee including my side band. I really didn't know how bad it could get. It was only after when the doctor told me so.

Well I really wasn't too sure if this accident was for my good or bad, all I knew was that it wasn't here to stay. Knowing me that I'm always a stressed Tussy, always rushing everything I also wanted this to disappear as soon as it appeared. However I think that god had other plans for me. He purposely gave me this time off to look at myself, my life, the people whom I have come across here in this lovely land filled with the lovely mountains and chocolates and cheese and bread as well as to show me the ones who care and the others who really don't. It was really wonderful to know that even for this short period of 5 months here in Switzerland that I had friends from Zurich, Bern, Thun, Zug, Geneva coming all the way to see me. One really strange incident that comes to my mind is when I was travelling by train once to Zurich and I had this really old woman sitting opposite to me.

When I sat there I thought to myself, she seems to be quite distant and aloof and to herself....BETTER DONT TALK. However after some minutes she gave me a smile and I smiled back .Before I knew it she was speaking to me in "Swiss German" and I was speaking to her in "High German". I didn't understand honestly one word that she spoke in Swiss German, but I was giving my hopeless views and suggestions too in high German which made her laugh. I was munching on this small weggli that I bought for the journey, when I remembered that I had a chocolate in my bag.

Suddenly I removed this chocolate and gave it to her. She was so completely touched and happy, that before she left from the train she gave me a 10 frank note and told me in "High German" to go and buy more chocolates to eat. Believe me to my astonishment that's when I realised that I made her happy just by being kind to her and giving her time. I was happy, enlightened and surprised. The entire journey after that you know was just "JOY". And if you can reach out to people and touch them in some special way....it always helps and at the end of it you feel good too and it "ALWAYS COMES BACK TO YOU".

The Feeling Of Feeling Good.

*Romaine Fernandes
(Indian exchangee in Switzerland 2003-2004)*

WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN NEW ZEALAND



I have been working in a children's health camp in Gisborne now for a couple of months. Gisborne is a small and isolated little town, but beautiful and is situated at the east coast of New Zealand's north island. I am living here in the health camp's parents block, where I have my own room.

At the beginning of each month, we go to pick up a new group of children from Eastland's nearby cities and towns. Each group has about an average of 20 children, who stay at the camp for one month. Children are here mostly because of behavioural problems, but also poor hygiene or concentration problems are the main reasons for their stay. Sometimes their conditions for living are very poor or hostile at home. So coming to the camp is a good opportunity to have some time off from their everyday life.

My work here includes mainly supervising children and playing with them. In the health camp's school, I have started to teach cartoon drawing with computer to children. Making simple animations is next in the program.

Working with children can really be a fun experience and can also be very rewarding. Especially when they learn something because of your work. But there are times when working in the health camp is quiet stressful. Some children can be really hard to keep in control. Every day there are situations where children refuse to obey the rules or directions. Often they are irritating and bullying each other, then fighting and finally somebody escapes from the camp. In the worst situation, staff members have to call the police to calm down rioting children, or to find a runaway child. But luckily this doesn't happen often.

The first group of children I worked with had many difficult cases. Some of them were sent back home. A couple of children from the second group were also sent back home, because they were dangerous to other children. One of the most important things in this work, is to keep children safe.

I think these camps are really necessary. Unfortunately it's just impossible to help all of the children. One month is not enough for changing their behaviour, teaching them to take more care of themselves or teaching them to have more sense of responsibility, etc.

All we can do here is to let them know that there are people who care. And hopefully they remember at least something of the lessons they learn here. All told, this has been a great experience for me. Working here is an interesting way of getting familiar with local culture and people.



*Heikki Härkönen
(Finnish Exchangee in New Zealand)*

ADRIAN BECKETT (UK EXCHANGEE IN COLOMBIA)

The home to cocaine production, the highest kidnapping rate and some of the most beautiful girls in the world. All of which of course are true, but anyone who has been to Colombia will tell you a lot more of the country than this.

First of all, the people. When I arrived just over two months I was amazed at the kindness and friendliness of the Colombians. My family treated me like their own son, and for the first couple of days I accompanied the family to film the "Al aire puro Festival Internacional" (An open air international festival of short plays and musicals). It was a great start to what promised to be an amazing year, and I felt part of the family.

Secondly, the Food. There is some great food – exotic fruits, fruit juices, and much more. If you are a big fan of steak or grilled chicken, you'll be right at home here.

The Guerilla warfare. I often get asked by Colombians " what did your family say when you told them you were going to Colombia?". In all honesty my family did not seem that bothered, maybe they have had just about enough of me kicking around the house wondering what to do after university.

On a more serious note, I'd been fortunate enough to travel before and realised that the world wasn't as it seemed sitting on my sofa back in the UK. Bogotá is perfectly safe, just like any big city really and as long as you take into the consideration the advice of the locals you will be fine. Colombia is changing a lot and Bogotá is safer than it has ever been. With Uribe in power, there is a renewed sense of hope.

Salsa is world renowned here, and within the first week I was doing an "intercambio" exchanging English classes for salsa lessons. So most weekends I can be found trying out my new dancing shoes and drinking the local alcoholic beverage "Mojito" rum with mint and lime.



*Adrian at the Thai Lunch organized to raise funds for the *Fundación Renacer* in Bogotá.*

I work for a Non Governmental Organisation that works with young children who have been victims of sexual exploitation called Fundación Renacer. My boss, Estella a very inspirational and beautiful person, started the organisation fourteen years ago when she came across a young girl crying hysterically in the street.

The girl who was only 11 years old told Estella that she sold herself to a man for 5000 pesos (2 dollars) and that the man had given her a false note. This prompted Estella to do more. I, with the help of my ICYE friends, organized on the 8th of November a Thai dinner in Bogotá, and collected almost 1 million pesos (400 USD) for the Fundación Renacer. I am very lucky that Estella is supportive of my work. My advice to anyone thinking of going abroad is the more effort you put into your project and initiative you use, the more you will get out of your experience.

*Adrian Beckett
Uk exchangee in Colombia*

All donations would be particularly welcome, to help the children from the Fundación Renacer in Bogotá.

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

PEACE IT TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

This global campaign has a local emphasis, carried out by enthusiastic youth/youth organisations who believe that a Culture of Peace is not only necessary but possible. The action-based campaign encourages the sharing of knowledge, skills and experiences to promote personal commitment and active non-violence as an effective approach in building a Culture of Peace. It empowers them to work on a local and community level (family, schools, churches, clubs), and/or partner with organisations, the media, governments, UN agencies to develop actions in the context of the 2001-2010 UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. For more information, please visit the site [United Nations of Youth](#) or contact [Celina Del Felice](#).

Digi-Arts - UNESCO Empowering young people through digital creation



Digi-Arts is part of the UNESCO Knowledge Portal, which aims at promoting arts and music using information and communication technology and fostering the culture of ICT and creative artistic practices. Digi-Arts brings digital technology to young people to bridge the many barriers that separate them from the world; creating cultural content based on diversity for ICT communication. Digi-Arts presents a new e-learning method for digital arts as well as four web-based programmes designed for young people from different cultures, in and out of schools, inviting them to reflect and exchange views on global/social issue such as HIV/AIDS, Water, Urbanization, History of Africa, through a collaborative experience of creating art works with digital sound, images and other multimedia materials. For more information please visit [DigiArts Portal](#) and [Young Digital Creators](#).

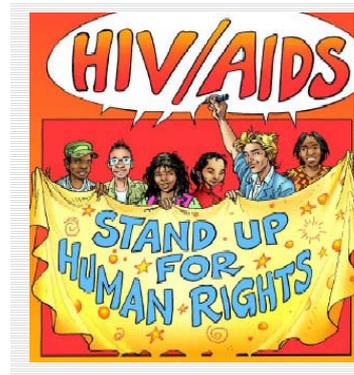
UNESCO AND DAIMLERCHRYSLER LAUNCH MONDIALOGO

Shaping the future by encouraging intercultural dialogue and exchange

UNESCO and DaimlerChrysler have launched a new partnership programme known as Mondialogo to promote intercultural dialogue and exchange, respect and tolerance. In short, it aims to help different cultures to live together by encouraging young people to interact with their peers from other parts of the world. It will do this via an interactive website, a school contest and an engineering award. For more details, go to: www.mondialogo.org. For more information on UNESCO's actions towards Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, go to: www.unesco.org/dialogue

NEW CARTOON FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO RAISE AWARENESS AND MOBILIZE ACTION TO TACKLE HIV/AIDS

Three UN agencies have launched a colourful, interactive cartoon booklet called "HIV/AIDS Stand Up for Human Rights". The cartoon is part of a global campaign to tackle HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination and other human rights violations. The cartoon, launched by the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNAIDS and WHO, is designed to empower young people to promote human rights in relation to HIV/AIDS, to raise awareness of the key linkages between HIV/AIDS and human rights, to demystify the disease and to combat the myths and taboos associated with HIV and AIDS. The comic can be viewed at: www.unhchr.ch/pdf/cartoon.pdf



UN YOUTH FLASH

UN Youth Flash is a free service of the UN Programme on Youth, of the Division for Social Policy and Development, within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. If you have news that you want to share via the UN Youth Flash, please send an email. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the news service, send an email to youth@un.org to the above link with 'subscribe' or 'unsubscribe' in the

EUROMED MAGAZINE

The first issue of the Magazine is ready. It can be viewed on or download from the web site www.euromedp.org in Arabic, English and French. Please visit the FORUM, is a place to share your views, particularly about the Platform, the Euro-Med Youth Programme, and any other topic / activity of interest to you. For more information please write to Giovanni Buttigieg at giovanni@euromedp.org.

SALTO-NEWSLETTER on good practice in training on Language Learning

For more information please visit the SALTO-YOUTH stands for 'Support and Actions for Learning and Training Opportunities within the European YOUTH Programme'. The Newsletter can be downloaded from the site : www.SALTO-YOUTH.net If you want to share any information or documents, or need specific Resources concerning youth work in Europe, please contact SALTO-YOUTH France at salto@injep.fr

SOUTH EAST EUROPE (SEE) COORDINATION MEETING

On January 23rd 2004, the European Commission (EC) organised a coordination meeting to establish a better contact among the project coordinators and to encourage a more efficient use of the resources resulting from the different YOUTH projects. Synergies and joint strategies were developed aiming at further promoting and stimulating the implementation of the YOUTH programme in South East Europe. The participating organizations were the SEE Resource Centre, YouthNET, Balkan Youth Project, Community Arts, and the ICYE International Office.

One of the main outcome of this meeting was a plan of action to develop strategies and activities enhancing cooperation around the EC's YOUTH programme with SEE youth organizations.

The activities include: a strategy building seminar (May 2004) a series of 7 national meetings bringing together actors on national and local level

(September 2004); a regional follow-up meeting bringing together representatives of the national meetings, the Resource Centre and coordinators of the current large scale projects to take stock and discuss the feasibility of the different proposals emerging from national meetings (October 2004).

"EUROPE, YOUTH AND GLOBALISATION"

On 5 - 9 May 2004, the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport in co-operation with the North-South Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, will hold a large-scale youth event in Strasbourg, France, on the theme "Europe, Youth and Globalisation". This event will welcome more than 400 young people to Strasbourg to engage in a critical dialogue with policy makers, academic experts, representatives of international institutions, international non-governmental youth organisations and each other on how young people live, perceive and imagine the globalised world.

For detailed information, please consult :

http://www.coe.int/T/E/cultural_cooperation/Youth/1_News

YOUNG ACTIVE CITIZENS AWARD (COUNCIL OF EUROPE)

For the third year running, the Council of Europe organises the "Young active citizens" Award, promoting active participation of young people in society.

Any concrete and sustainable measure, action or project in support for young people's active participation on local and/or regional level in the prevention and fight against violence in every day life is welcome to apply!

Your help in communicating this Award is extremely important. Look for the application and guidelines at www.coe.int/youth or send an E-mail to:

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SOCIAL CAPITAL IN ACTION: YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND VOLUNTEERISM
LIMA, PERÚ, MARCH 25 AND 26, 2004**

The mobilization of social capital in Latin America and the Caribbean is critical to development and to the creation of efficient and well-managed social policies that involve civil society participation. The principal dimensions of social capital include socially responsible private enterprise, entrepreneurship, and volunteer service. The Inter-American Development Bank organises a two-day program of activities which will bring together young leaders, government, civil society, and private and academic sector leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean to share experiences on the impact of social capital—specifically the leading role of young entrepreneurs and volunteerism—on the region's socio-economic development. For more information please visit www.iadb.org/etica/ingles/index-i.cfm

3RD WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: A FESTIVAL UNIQUE TO OUR WORLD!



From August 8 to 14, 2004, Barcelona will host the 3rd World Youth Festival with the participation of 10,000 young people from around the world.

The World Youth Festival is the only event completely designed by and for youth organizations from all over the world. A committed, assertive, innovative, critical and constructive space that is founded on democracy, laicity, plurality, equality and respect.

The Festival is a unique opportunity for regional youth platforms and organizations from all over the world to share ideas and projects, to debate about work and proposals on issues that concern and affect us.

With two outstanding precedents, Portugal in 1998 and Panama in 2001, the third Festival aims to take a step forward in cooperation among youth organizations from around the world and bring together in Barcelona 10,000 young people from all the continents. All this, within the framework of Forum Barcelona 2004.

For more information please visit:
www.barcelona2004.org

YOUTH RESOURCES ONLINE GUIDE

The International Council on National Youth Policy and UNESCO InfoYouth offers a Guide of profiles, links, and contacts of organizations worldwide which provide resources for youth policies. The Guide also provides a manual of guidelines and a select bibliography for research on resources for youth policies. Please visit the Guide at: www.youth-resources.net

HOSPITALITY CLUB

The Hospitality Club is a worldwide network of friendly people. There are currently about 8300 members in 136 countries who meet to help each other with information, food or accommodations. Their goal is to make this way of travelling a mainstream activity. Learn more on their web site: www.hospitalityclub.org.

EUROFESTATION 2004

Eurofestation is a three-day conference and exchange forum on volunteering taking place on 7 thru 9 November 2004 in Maastricht, the Netherlands. This event, which will take place during the presidency of the Netherlands of the European Union, will bring together representatives of governments, voluntary organizations, the private sector, research organizations, politicians, national federations and support organizations to debate the challenges of the voluntary sector in the European Union, the role of local, regional and national government in supporting voluntary activities, social corporate responsibility

For more information please visit:
www.eurofestation.com

"GYAN" GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION NETWORK



The Global Youth ACTION Network is a growing collaboration among youth organizations in almost 200 countries, providing resources and recognition for positive youth action and facilitating intergenerational partnership in global decision-making.

With active partnerships and growing alliances in over 180 countries, the Network is continuing to establish strong national focal points.

The Global Youth Action Network, TakingITGlobal and YouthNOISE have been working to build a community of discussion and action around Chat the Planet, a groundbreaking new television series produced by NextNext Entertainment (New York, USA) and RapidBlue (Cape Town, South Africa).

The show, which airs on Worldlink TV each week and on the internet, connects young people from different countries to talk about issues affecting their lives, and was launched with Bridge to Baghdad, a special between Iraqi students and New York youth.

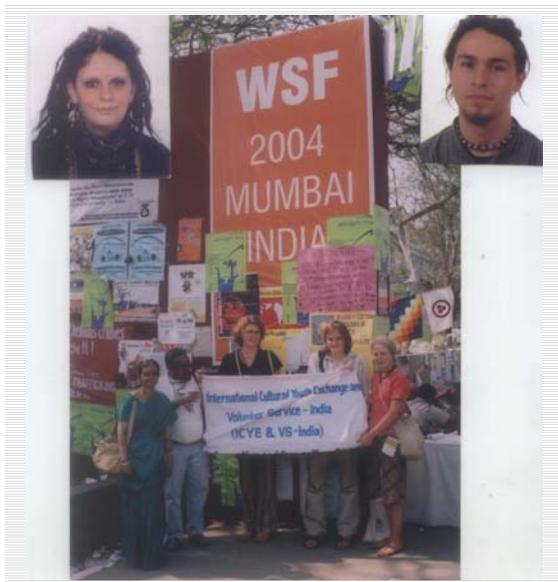


For more information go to:
www.chattheplanet.org,
www.globalyouthactionnetwork.org

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM: A "GLOBAL MELA"

16-21 January 2004 in MUMBAI, INDIA

The World Social Forum is not an organization, not a united front platform, but "...an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and inter-linking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a society centered on the human person". (From the WSF Charter of Principles).



The ICYE volunteers Susan Stadelmann and Denise Zumkehr (from Switzerland), Pia Hellweg and Mirija Wechsler (from Germany) and Pieter Baets (from Belgium), together with Mr Anand Manoraj, Rev. Manohar Chandra Prasad.D and his wife Mrs. Clera Prasad, respectively President and Board members of ICYE India, participated in the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India. Over 100,000 delegates from almost 130 countries attended. It ended with a massive rally on the 21st of January 2004.

For more information, please visit:

www.wsfindia.org

ASSOCIATION DES ETATS GENERAUX DES ETUDIANTS DE L'EUROPE (AEGEE) WORLD YOUTH SUMMIT ON GLOBALISATION



The **Final Strategy Paper on Globalisation** springs from a multicultural youth dialogue based on consent and consensus involving the active participation of over thirty-five student organizations covering the five continents. Departing from a finely tuned definition of globalisation as a '*dynamic multi-dimensional and interconnected process that generates intertwined links affecting all aspects of contemporary life*', youth delegates advocated the importance of adopting free and fair trade thus ensuring that developing countries have an equal bargaining power in international trade. Politically, globalisation has permitted the augmentation of political power and activity which transcends the nation states' borders. In light of this reality, apprehension is shown towards the current status of International Organisations and the recommendation falls within enhanced accountability so as to nurture to maximize the legitimacy of political systems enabling nation states to develop in-line with their indigenous political culture. Gabriel Shokoya, from ICYE Nigeria participated actively in the Summit.



ONE CLICK FOR LIFE IBIZA 2004 (ifaseC s.l.)

First Photography Exhibit of European Volunteers:

They are a group of young and not so young people, from various backgrounds and variegated experience, who have formed a company whose object is to seek new ways of communication that can favor the realization of innovative projects dealing with social, environmental and cultural issues, with particular attention to the world of young people.

This event is planned as a **travelling exhibition** which will begin in **Ibiza**. The event theme is "Solidarity with man and the environment in Europe and the Mediterranean".

The exposition is directed to volunteers under 30 years of age, and there is no registration fee. The exhibition period will be between September 13 and 19, 2004. The deadline for the admission of photographs is March 30th, 2004.

THE CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN VOLUNTARY ACTION

The Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action is organising two summer schools for young activists in July and August of 2004.

The first will take place in South Wales (United Kingdom) from 10 to 17 July, and is open to young people up to 25 years, from youth organisations. The summer school, the theme of which is "Young People change the World!", will bring together 300 young people from around 40 countries to discuss issues, share ideas, enhance their practical skills, develop collaborations and make long lasting contacts. Contact Lisa Belfon on summerschool@civa.org.uk for more details, or go to www.younginfluencers.com

The second will take place in Nairobi (Kenya), from 22 to 28 August, and is open to young people aged 18 to 25 and youth leaders aged up to 35. This summer school is being organised by young people from the National Youth Organisation of Kenya with the support of the Government of Kenya. It has the same aims as the UK camp (see above) but there will also be the opportunity to stay on for a further 3 weeks to work on a youth project (at own cost). To find out more, contact Solomon Ligaga by email at summercampkenya@yahoo.com. or go to www.younginfluencers.com

PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH FORUM ON "AIDS: A MATTER OF EDUCATION",

Dakar, Senegal, 22-26 March 2004.

This event is being organised by an alliance of the seven largest youth movements working in Africa at both regional and continental level: the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Award Association and the International Youth Foundation, which together reach some 20 million young Africans and another 200 million through families and peers, in all fifty-one African countries. Further background information on the aims and objectives of these organisations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa are attached here. For more information please contact astm@world.scout.org

XV INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

In preparation for the **XV International AIDS Conference** (www.aids2004.org) to be held in Bangkok from 11 to 16 July, a youth e-platform has been established to facilitate the effective and maximal participation of young people across the world both in the preparatory processes and at the main conference. With some 6,000 youth aged between 15 and 24 infected with HIV each day, young people are key stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Often however, youth are not given the opportunity to participate at decision-making levels, despite their great desire to participate. Interested persons can subscribe by going to : www.yahogroups.com/group/aids2004youth

ICYE KENYA AND THE TOI PRIMARY SPECIAL UNIT

Toi Primary is a Nairobi city council school situated at the edge of Kibera , one of largest slums in the world. The special unit is one of the classes in the school. It caters for 20 mentally challenged boys and girls.

In February 2003 ICYE Kenya received a grant from the UENSCO participation Programme to enable the Toi Primary Special Unit to buy equipment and set up a vocational training programme for its children/youth. The youth are being trained in tailoring, cookery and woodwork. The unit is producing items for sale, such as sugar dishes, trays, lamp stands, bedcovers cushion covers and school uniforms. This income generating activity will sustain the Unit as the students continue to improve in their skills. The grant also provided for a computer, which will help in teaching the children basic computer skills, language, and mathematics. Thanks to this grant the teachers and children's morale has been highly boosted, and they are ready to go fully into income generating activities for the older, more able children. We wish them all the best!!

LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING IN SEE AND EU COUNTRIES



Following the successful implementation of a number of multilateral projects organised by ICYE and Eastlinks between European Union and South East European countries, in order to document the volunteers' a special page called "Examples of good experience" has been created on the site www.seeyouth.info . This website was created as a tool for the ICYE Eastlinks SEE YOUTH information project to promote the YOUTH programme in the SEE region. Have a look!

