Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 10th issue of the ICYE Federation’s Newsletter, dedicated to the theme “Youth and Health”.

Following the positive accounts of the experiences of ICYE volunteers working in health projects, most of the testimonials of ICYE volunteers (coincidentally all from German young people) refer to peer health education, sensitisation campaigns and support provided to staff and professionals (who volunteer) within HIV-AIDS prevention and care projects in Nigeria, Russia, and Uganda. It is encouraging to note that for all volunteers, besides learning about the benefits of preventative health care services, another crucial motivating factor, is to know that their being involved brings an added value to the work of their host projects.

That (foreign) volunteers can make a difference in the fight against AIDS, in particular, and the provision of health services in general, is further illustrated by: the reports from ICYE Morocco on volunteers supporting hospitalised children in Rabat; ICYE Uganda’s volunteers’ research of the state of HIV/AIDS infection; and the recently created web site Health Care Volunteers.


ICYE news (proudly) begins with the nomination of Sacha Ilorenti, an ICYE and human rights activist, as new Bolivian Ambassador in the USA, and reports on the recently held training seminars on “The youth leader as Coach, Facilitator and Mediator” and the EU - LA Seminar on youth participation, active citizenship and local governance, respectively held in Finland and Brazil. This section end with a brief account of the XXIV ICYE General Assembly and the celebration of the International Volunteer Day in Samara, Russia.

Wishing you an enjoyable reading, please note that the next issue of “Worlds of Experience”, to be published at the end of June 2006, will focus on “Young Volunteers working with Minority Groups and Migrants”. Please email your contributions, in form of articles/pictures, to icye@icye.org before 31 May 2006.

Best regards!
ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of “Worlds of Experience” can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org
“Best Practice of International Volunteering”

VOLUNTEERS’ VOICES

“THEY TREAT US LIKE THEIR GRANDDAUGHTERS”

We are two volunteers, Giorgia from Italy and Neele from Germany, who, before we came here, didn’t know anything about Iceland. It was like a black point on the globe. Also we didn’t really understand why such a rich country needs help by volunteers. We have been working now for 4 months in Hveragerdi, a half hour drive from Reykjavik, called the greenhouse town because it is full of greenhouses heated with the many hot-water sources of this district. We work at the Health Clinic, HNFLÍ. We like the atmosphere because the relationships between patients and the staff are very personal. The employees (about 120) are trying to offer their best.

The main clients of the HNFLÍ Health Clinic are those, who suffer from back problems, rheumatism, arthritis and stress. It also offers rehabilitation to those who are recovering from heart problems or cancer treatments and also it offers non smoking courses since January this year.

Programmes of therapeutic massage, acupuncture, mud-and herbal baths and physiotherapy are also offered (like hiking, water gymnastics, back and neck exercises). The clinic’s kitchen prepares healthy food. The vegetables are mostly grown in the own greenhouses. For example tomatoes, celery, cabbage and carrots.

Our tasks in the health clinic are quite various: prepare mud- and herbal baths, paint the greenhouses, help people to get to their treatments: the latter is the hardest but also nicest work, because you are in contact with the clients. We also help to pack vegetables, prepare tea in the tea house, plant trees and help out in the kitchen.

We are trying to be-friend with the clients, who are usually older people and they treat us like we were their granddaughters! It’s very pleasant to have all these grandfathers and mothers around us. And so we know now why we came to Iceland- the clients need some people to talk to, share their opinions and experiences of foreign countries. You can learn and open your mind in a friendship between old and young people. In the end it’s a very nice project and we like to be here.

Neele Ferley and Giorgia Guarino
Volunteers from Germany and Italy to Iceland

“PEER EDUCATION AGAINST HIV-AIDS”

My name is Nicolas Bergas, I am from Germany and I am volunteering at the Population Services International (PSI) in Samara, Russia. PSI is an international non-governmental organization that has been implementing health programs for the last 30 years in 70 countries. In Russia PSI has been active since 1995 under the Fund name "Centre for Social Information and Development". The main activity is HIV/AIDS prevention. There are 6 PSI offices in Russia.

Since November 2001 PSI is active in Samara, because here the HIV/AIDS infection is very high (4th place in Russia), especially among youth. The office in Samara, there are 10 staff and they have helped me with my work since the beginning. There are also 20 student volunteers.

The aim of this project is to contribute to the reduction of HIV transmission in the Samara region by educating the adolescents about HIV transmission and prevention. In order to achieve this goal PSI runs training about HIV prevention in Schools and Universities. Although my knowledge of Russian is not very good, it is still possible for me to contribute with new ideas and activities.
PSI activities are also focused on development of a volunteer movement to support peer-to-peer education promoting discussions among young people about sexual health, HIV, STIs and condom use.

My main tasks are to provide support in peer education activities, distribution of informative and educational materials, and organization of campaigns among the most vulnerable people groups (i.e. drug users).

All people at PSI are very interested in foreign languages. I am very glad to help them in this. I spend a lot of my time reading special literature about HIV and its prevention. And if you are not shy you can organize your own training at school. And children will be very interested in what you say because you are from another country.

Nicolas Bergas
EVS Volunteer from Germany to Russia

"THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT!"

My name is Hans Christian from Germany, and I am volunteering at the Healthcare Centre St.Francis in Uganda. On my second day there I was told, I could go with the "drummer group" to visit a small rural village. The purpose of this visit would be HIV/AIDS-education, HIV-testing, and counselling. I instantly decided to go with them as I was especially attracted by reaching a place in such a comparatively remote place.

After a adventurous bus trip, amidst beautiful rural landscapes, we reached our destination, a small village located directly on the Lake Victoria’s shores. The first children of the village run to welcome the bus and screamed happily "Muzungu muzungu" White Man, How are you?"

At the village the drummer group prepared for their performance and after having set up a megaphone information on HIV/Aids was passed to the villagers. Afterwards the local people who wanted were tested for HIV and counselled in case of need. This took most of the afternoon. I could get to know many of the social workers and members of St. Francis and some locals.

For example I started talking with Eddie (I have changed the name) and he told me that he is father of four children. His wife died because of AIDS and he is HIV-positive. I though "Oh"but held back the impulse to step back. I asked him how he was coping and he told me that it was very difficult in the beginning, but that the people of St.Francis had helped him a lot.

In Uganda there are quite a few AIDS-Orphans and approximately 8% of the Ugandan population are HIV-positive. But still many people, especially people in the villages, just don't think about the problem. "This is why this work is important! " a member of the drummer group told me. On that day 200 people were tested - a big success. Twenty of them (10%) were positive.

The sun sinks slowly in Lake Victoria and the last fishers with their small boats return to the village. The drummer group gives a last performance and finally boards the bus. The mood is excellent.

Hans Christian Stuwe,
German volunteer in Uganda.

"EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON HIV-AIDS IN NIGERIA"

My name is André, I am from Germany and I am doing my alternative civil service with ICYE In Nigeria. After the orientation camp I started working at Families Alive International (FAI), a Nigerian NGO that, among other things, runs a health education campaign focusing on HIV/AIDS, with the support of the US financed “President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief”.

Families and communities are reached through TV features – using drama as sensitisation tool - and Radio Programs – such as the “Get it right” weekly program, and directly through campaigners.

A sensitization campaign, which started in August under the motto “Once is enough”, covers 5 communities located between Lagos
MORE ON YOUTH AND HEALTH

“RESEARCH: HIV IN UGANDA”

According to the research carried out by Uganda Volunteers for Peace on the Aids victims in Uganda, it has been discovered that there is an increasing growth rate of Aids in the older and married men who tend to be unfaithful. Research shows that the use of new preventive methods has been effective in Uganda. These include antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), and the use of nevirapine tablets given to expectant mothers to hamper the transmission of the virus – which is compulsory in all hospitals. Of course the sue of condoms and the exhortation to be faithful to one partner has also helped Uganda to shift from position 1 to 8 of the countries most hit by this disease. What seem to have made a difference have been: the increased government’s effort in training and sensitising the masses about the dangers of HIV-AIDS and the cooperation local and international organisations that give free therapy to the victims and provide free guidance and counselling services to youth above 13. We assume that by 2015, the rate of infection will have dropped to around 10%.

Research has been carried out in Kampala, Masaka, Jinja, Rakai and Mukono Districts.

Compiled by Semakula Diana, Field Researcher of HIV / AIDS in UVP/ICYE-Uganda Office (Mobile unit)

“TAKING CARE OF CHILDREN IN THE HOSPITAL, WHAT A NICE JOB!!”

As a result of a partnership that CSM – ICYE Morocco has with the Paediatric hospital in Rabat, a project has been implemented for the last two years. Several volunteers from Switzerland, France, Spain and Germany have participated in this project. It’s main aim is to support Children in health difficulties during their residence in the paediatric hospital and try to create a good environment for them during this period.

The volunteers help the children to take their medicines, and to adapt to hospital conditions and life. They contribute to the reception and orientation of the children’s families, they also help and support the children with their school activities (there is a school in the hospital).

One of the most interesting and nicest activities achieved by the volunteers during their work, is the presentation of a theatre show. This activity has been prepared for months with the support of CSM and some

and Badagry, on the Nigerian-Benin border. This area, as other border areas, has been chosen due to its high infection rate – resulting from intense road traffic and prostitution, which increasingly also involves children – and the fact that it is not well covered by information campaigns. At the onset, the local population participated in a series of surveys, which showed that very few knew about the risk of HIV-AIDS infection and thus confirmed the necessity of sensitizing adults and children alike.

The core activities of the campaign are: so called ‘Information Class’, the Forum and finally the blood tests – which are quite time consuming, were taken with the support of volunteers of the General Hospital Badagry. In Magbon, the largest community, a special unit provided support with regard to how adequate nutrition can influence and slow the development of the illness.

The number of positive blood test results was lower than expected, seemingly because the campaign unfortunately did not reach to the population most at risk. In spite of this, the evaluation of the campaign has shown that the information activities have brought about positive results, so that FAI will be able, with the continued support of the PEPFAR program to work in another 30 communities (10 each year). My tasks are to provide support to the outreach teams of professional volunteers visiting the local villages, and also to the administration staff when I am not in the field.

André Sischer,
German volunteer in Nigeria
other volunteers. It's title is “Why I’m here?”; in this activity all the children express their illness in a creative way, using music, expressions and movements. This presentation has been followed by around 200 persons who are very surprised with the effort and integration of the children. The children and all the volunteers are happy and grateful for their contributions and motivations.

CSM - ICYE Morocco

HEALTH CARE VOLUNTEER

HealthCare Volunteer was started January 1, 2006 by an American dental and medical student, who realized the need for a FREE non-profit portal that connects health professionals to volunteering opportunities globally. This site is backed by leading physicians and executives and aims to allow physicians, dentists and all other health care professionals to provide volunteer health care anywhere in the world. Services Launched Recently: HealthCare Cal - Global Volunteering Calendar & HealthCare Forum - Forums to connect with volunteers and organizations.

For more information please visit the page www.healthcarevolunteer.com and search for opportunities or post a volunteering opportunity or email: health@healthcarevolunteer.com

WORLD BANK DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2007 IS ON YOUTH

The World Development Report 2007 will be entitled “Development and the Next Generation.” This report, both as a published document, and as a process for discussion about a specific development area, draws wide attention on a global scale. The 2007 report, scheduled to be launched in September 2006 will focus on five crucial transitions to adulthood: progressing through school, entering the labor market, staying healthy, forming families and becoming citizens.

The report will focus on crucial capabilities and transitions in a young person’s life: learning for life and work, staying healthy, working, forming families, and exercising citizenship. For each, there are opportunities and risks; for all, policies and institutions matter.

A wide range of consultations has been put in place to create a dialogue between the researchers, young people and experts from youth-serving organizations.


FELLOWSHIP - SPECIAL YOUTH PROGRAMME – 2006

UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) is currently receiving applications for its Special Youth Program for 2006. This program seeks to recruit young people aged 20-24 from developing countries with some program experience in development issues to join UNFPA for a 9-month remunerated fellowship.

The Special Youth Programme fellowship is divided into two sections: an initial 6-month fellowship in UNFPA Headquarters, New York, followed -upon satisfactory performance- by a continued fellowship of up to 3 months in the UNFPA Country Office in the country that the fellow comes from.

This programme is designed to give youth from developing countries opportunities at appropriate levels of the organization to engage in policy development and programming; to help build the capacity of
young people; and to sensitise both the young people and UNFPA staff on partnering to address adolescent and youth issues.

For detailed information on the criteria for selection, the application submission please read carefully the message hereafter and consult the websites:
http://www.unfpa.org/about/employment/syp-fellowship-2006.htm (full description)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2007
UNESCO YOUTH FORUM:
your ideas and suggestions!

Drawing on the recommendations of the Youth Forum of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO, the Section for Youth is currently exploring opportunities and avenues of cooperation for the organisation of regional Youth Forums in 2006.

Therefore, we would like to seize this opportunity to invite you to share with us your experience, ideas and suggestions for the upcoming preparations of the 2007 UNESCO Youth Forum!
For more information, comments and contributions, please visit:

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY:
TACKLING POVERTY TOGETHER

International Youth Day is annually celebrated on 12 August to acknowledge the positive role of young people in society and to highlight youth development challenges. The theme for International Youth Day 2006 is "Tackling Poverty Together". With this theme the United Nations refers to goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals: to halve the number of people in extreme poverty, and to the importance of involving young people in achieving this goal. The theme also coincides with the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, which ends in 2006. In due time, the website of the Program on Youth will list various events taking place that day.
To add your event, send an email to youth@un.org.
More info on:

by providing appropriate technologies to youth organisations.

Another important initiative for UNESCO is INFOYOUTH, a worldwide information network of government authorities, relevant agencies and youth organizations on youth-related issues. The establishment of various information structures all over the world is a high priority, reflecting a key concern to secure better conditions with which young people can access information.

By collecting information concerning different youth activities and projects and providing training, these info-structures meet the constantly increasing needs of young people and youth NGOs for an increased access to information for education and development. INFOYOUTH also supports the global preventive effort against HIV/AIDS

For more info:

YOUTH AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

UNESCO, through its Communication and Information Sector, is actively assisting young people to produce information themselves by supporting youth media, by facilitating the creation of media education and of youth information and communication networks, and
NEWS FROM NGO’S

LEADING UP TO UN-HABITAT’S THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN & YOUTH FOR A

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Urban Forum & Youth Forum will be organized to showcase best practices and projects on youth-led development. Youth-Leaders from around the world will come together to share good examples of youth-led projects and programs and to build networks.

For more info, contact: The World Urban Forum & Youth: worldurbanforum2006@canada.com and http://www.eya.ca/wuf or contact UN-HABITAT: ngounit@unhabitat.org and http://www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006

CIVIL SOCIETY OBSERVER

The Issue 1, Jan-Feb 2006 of the Civil Society Observer - a bi-monthly Service for the UN and Civil Society – has been published. The Observer is a useful tool that provides a widespread, extensive and timely coverage of NGO and Civil Society work, activities and efforts, UN-Civil Society relations, and research and debates on the role of NGOs and Civil Society around the world. This issue contains a special section on the World Social Forum.

For more information, please contact Claudia Castro Valle at: claudiacastro@isat2.com

ESSAY CONTEST

GOI PEACE FOUNDATION

The Peace Foundation is inviting young people from around the world again this year to enter the Essay Contest. This year's theme is "Learning to live together: promoting tolerance and diversity in globalize societies."

First prize winners will receive a cash award and a trip to Japan. The deadline for entry is June 30, 2006. You can find the complete guidelines at http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/programs-17.htm

To read winning essays from last year's contest, go to http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/programs-14-00.htm

CENTRAL AMERICAN COALITION FOR THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH VIOLENCE (CCA)

Over the past years violence of young people grouped in gangs has considerably increased in countries of Central America. Many organisations have started to centre their efforts to prevent violence, but their actions are somewhat dispersed and cannot impact the situation as they wish.

The Central American Coalition for the Prevention of Youth Violence (CCA) has been created as interdisciplinary initiative to promote the prevention of youth violence, address the current crisis youth faces in these countries, and attempts to strengthen the national initiatives that conform it. The CCA was founded in February 2005 as result of the conference “Voces del Campo”, in which six Honduran organisations got together.

For more information, please contact Claudia Castro Valle at: claudiacastro@isat2.com
ICYE BOLIVIA’S RETURNEE NOMINATED AMBASSADOR TO THE USA

We are pleased to announce that Sacha Llorenty Soliz, former ICYE exchangee to the USA 1991/92, and former Board member of ICYE Bolivia and the ICYE Latin American Region, has been nominated by the new Bolivian President Evo Morales as Bolivian Ambassador to the USA. Sacha Llorenti was also the long-standing President of the Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly.

We wish Sacha all the best for the new exciting challenges ahead!

“I...IT WAS WORTH THE EXPERIENCE!”

I am Eva Hagel, a volunteer from Germany and for nearly two months now I have worked and lived together with people with intellectual disabilities at Mount Tabor Trust, in Auckland, New Zealand. We have core members who have only light intellectual limitations, people with down syndrome, autistic people and deaf people. Some of our core members are quite independent, which means that they live without support people in flats and get help only with shopping, making appointments or new purchases. Others need help in many daily matters like taking a shower or getting changed.

It is the first time for me to work with disabled people, so there were some things I had to get used to. At the beginning it was confusing for me that as I did not always know whether someone was disabled or not, as there are core members whose disability cannot be seen at first sight. With time I found out that it does not matter if somebody is disabled or not. I was amazed how "normal" all these disabled people were. They have the same interests like all of us, like for example going to the movies, going out for a coffee or beer, watching TV and just socializing in general. Suddenly I realized that I had always thought of disabled people as something different, which is pretty sad, because they are not. Even if that would be the only thing I learned here in Mount Tabor it think that it was worth the experience!

THE YOUTH PROGRAMME NEWS

LEARNING IN THE YOUTH PROGRAMME: The youth leader as Coach, Facilitator and Mediator.

The training was organized by the ICYE European Association and took place from the 28th of January until the 4th of February 2006 in Janakkala, Finland. The aim of the training was to improve the quality of the European Commission’s YOUTH Program activities by improving coaching and facilitation competences of youth workers in ICYE.

There were 24 participants from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The training was focused on the following themes:

- sharing and gaining awareness of different approaches to learning, leadership and guidance, and benefits and limitation of each,
- gaining skills in coaching and facilitating and learning to apply these skills to people with different background,
learning to use among the others appreciation and storytelling as tools for stimulating and sharing knowledge,
• to develop new ideas for the day to day work and building a stronger partnership between the represented organizations, and
• setting up a pool of trainers.

The participants had the opportunity to share challenges and difficulties of youth work and were able to test different techniques to improve communication skills, practice the coaching tools of conflict mediation with their real-life cases, and how to deal with themes in a group (group dynamics).

At the end of the training, the participants were able to apply the themes that they’ve learnt during the first days to a concrete case in project groups. The training was dynamic and interesting and had an active contribution of the participants.

Beatriz Terreros
Volunteer at the ICYE International Office

Nearly 300 people took part in the work of the Forum. Among them: volunteers taking part in the activities of non-profit organizations, municipal and state structures, representatives of executive and legislature bodies, mass-media and business. Vladimir Putko, the minister of Education and Science of the Samara Region greeted the participants. An exhibition of voluntary projects and programs was organized.

The Forum ended with a concert. As a result of this Forum “Swallows” started co-operation with the Youth Union of Samara, the Department of Social Security and other governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Samara Region.

Swallows
ICYE Russia

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY IN SAMARA, RUSSIA.

On the 5th of December, on the International Volunteer Day, Swallows-ICYE-Russia took part in the IV Forum of volunteers of the Samara Region which was held in the Center of Youth Socialization.

The main aims of the Forum were: attraction of people’s attention to the development of voluntary movement; public recognition of voluntary work and solemn rewarding of organizers of voluntary movement in Samara and the most active volunteers; experience exchange.

YOUTH IN ACTION
EU - LA Seminar on youth participation, active citizenship and local governance Porto Alegre, Brazil

The seminar was organized by the ICYE International Office in cooperation with ABIC Brazil with the support of the YOUTH Programme of the European Community. It took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil from the 4th to 10th of February and brought together 25 youth leaders from 7 European and 6 Latin American countries: Austria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Bolivia, Brazil Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay.

The main aim of this seminar was to foster youth mobility and volunteering as a means to enhance positive youth action with emphasis on youth work models, which empower young people through their active participation in local development.
The participants were youth worker/youth leader and local authority policy makers from European and Latin American countries, to discuss policy and practice related to youth participation with particular emphasis on Latin American Local Governance models and the EU White Paper on Youth.

Through interviews and visits to public youth-serving agencies and local youth NGO’s, participants were able to gain insight into youth work practice and the situation of young people in Porto Alegre. A reception was held with the Mayor of Porto Alegre, Jose Fogaça. The Mayor thanked the participants for their visit and informed them about the recent creation of the Secretariat of Youth, which supports initiatives and programs directed to youth and carried out in partnership between the municipal agencies and local youth NGO’s. In the following meeting with the Municipal Secretary of Youth Mauro Zacher underlined the importance of the work of organisations such as ICYE and ABIC for the benefit of local youth and offered his cooperation for any future undertakings. He mentioned the plan to hold a global youth gathering in Porto Alegre, following the spirit of the World Social Forum, for which he warmly invited the ICYE Federation.

CVIP MEETING IN AFRICA

A planning cum training seminar will be held on 23-26 April 2006, in Kampala, Uganda. This activity aims to review and adopt a number of Volunteering Programme Modules and supplementary activities (i.e. Culture & Language, Rural Home Stays, and Leisure/Travel options), with a view to developing the ICYE Cultural and Volunteering Immersion Programme (CVIP) in most African countries. The seminar, which will be attended also by representatives of ICYE European Committees, will also offer exposure opportunities to UVP/ICYE Uganda, its structure, programmes, as well as to strengthen cooperation amongst the participating organisations.

ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

New ICYE National Correspondents
- United Kingdom: Jennie SMITH (Ms)
- Mozambique: Horacio Ernesto CHANGA (Mr)
- India: Kiran RAO (Ms)
- Brazil: Joana DEPPE (Ms)

ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 20-23 March 2006: EU-LA Multilateral EVS Project “YOUTH in Action Final Evaluation Meeting”. Berlin, Germany
- 23-26 April 2006: CVIP African Meeting, Kampala, Uganda

XXIV ICYE General Assembly

From 21 to 26 November 2005, the 24th ICYE General Assembly (GA), hosted by Jerunesse et reconstruction/ICYE France, took place in Parc d’Olhain, Houdain in the North of France. 65 participants, including National Committees (NCs) delegates and observers, following the presentation of the key note speaker … of SALTO Germany debated issues linked to the recognition of youth mobility and voluntary service programmes. Thru a series of workshops and plenary sessions delegates deliberated on new policies regarding ICYE Programme Quality Minimum Standards, key strategic areas of growth, and the adoption of a new financial/membership fees model. Last but not least, the GA offered its member NCs a unique opportunity to forge new partnerships with invited representatives from FEVI/Ecuador, EstYes/Estonia, Youth 4 Future /Poland, Asermun/Spain, and United Planet/U.S.A. The 25th ICYE General Assembly will be hosted by ICYE Taiwan and will take place in November 2007, in Taipei, Taiwan.