

# Worlds of experience



No. 17 (November 2008)

## INDEX

### EDITORIAL

#### VOLUNTEERS VOICES on "Youth Against Violence"

##### More On "Youth Against Violence:

- Violence Against Children And Youth Campaign
- UNHABITAT – New Publication On Youth In Conflict With The Law
- UNICEF – New Publication Aims To Stop Violence Against Children And Young People
- Forgotten Diaries – Giving A Voice To People Living in Conflict Zones
- Council of Europe publication on "Eradicating violence against children "

##### News From International Organizations

- Youth and the work of the United Nations
- Join the Online Volunteering Service
- 5. December: International Volunteer Day
- Cultures on the Street

##### News From NGOs

- Give a Laptop. Get a Laptop. Change the World.
- Intercultural Dialogue: From Practice to Policy and Back.
- Volunteering & Social Activism Promote Human Development and Social Change
- TAKINGITGLOBAL: Make it Happen
- Stand Up Against Poverty. Global Call to Action Against Poverty.

##### ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

- Pan-American Capacity Building Seminar
- Latin American Weltwärts Training
- ICYE Italy / AFSAI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- ICYE Capacity and Partnership Building Project.
- EVS Project Documentation
- EVS Volunteers' Training
- "Youth + Awareness"

##### ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

##### ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 17th issue of "Worlds of Experience", focussed on the theme "Youth Against Violence".

Children and youth are often victims of structural and domestic violence, and, in situations of social and economic deprivation, youth can also be perpetrators of violence. "Violence against children and youth is a global crisis that calls for global action" states the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children. The ICYE Federation, following a seminar held in Guatemala in 2007 on prevention of youth violence, in which the phenomenon of the "Maras" (youth gangs ) was debated - with the support of the EU EVS programme, facilitated the insertion of 13 young volunteers between Europe and Latin America in projects dealing with children and youth victims of violence.

The first impressions of some international volunteers engaged in educational work with kids at risk show how these children "seem not to have any value...and ..fight for everything", "...are unable to accept any authority" but with the right support and understanding "...learn to express themselves ...about their rights ... and about ...the advantages of running your life in a non-violent way..".

Hopeful is the insight of one volunteer into these children/youth's lives, whose "destinies were everything but easy and still, (yet) they are filled with hope and love at the same time".

Volunteers voices is followed by the UNOY Peacebuilders Violence Against Children And Youth Campaign, and four new publications on youth in conflict with the law and violence prevention, as well as on the plight of children and young people growing up in forgotten conflict zones.

News from "Int'l Organisations" reports on a new publication on "Youth and the work of the United Nations", the UNV Online Volunteering Service programme, the International Volunteer Day and the contest "Cultures on the Street". News From NGOs range from the innovative project "One Laptop per Child", the Rainbow Paper on intercultural dialogue, to the toolkit by the Stand Up Against Poverty campaign.

ICYE programme news feature, among others: the Pan-American Capacity Building Seminar on programme development and diversification, the Latin American training on the new German volunteer programme "Weltwärts", new EVS projects' documentations, and recent EVS volunteers' training/evaluation seminars.

In the hope that you'll enjoy the reading, we would like to encourage readers to send us their articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated too "Youth and Children's Rights", and will be published at the end of February 2009. Please send your contributions to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org) , before 31 January 2009 .

Warmest wishes!  
ICYE International Office

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

## “Youth Against Violence”

### VOLUNTEERS VOICES



*Lucia and the kids at Casa Alianza*

**From Lucia Klara Pajer's blog. Lucia is a Austrian/Hungarian EVS volunteer in Casa Alianza, a street children project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.**

*Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September*

(..)Today was more challenging. I worked on the Street. We say, trabajo en la Calle. 2 Educators, Alvin and Evelyn, and me went to the street to look for street children under 18 that might be willing to come with us to Casa Alianza where they can receive food, medical care, education and other kids that have been through the same like them, but believe that there is more than drugs and stealing on the street. One of the street groups that we have found were in a part of town called Atomica in Comayaguila. Approximately 20 children were sleeping on the street but instead of blankets they used old paper boxes, dogs with flees sleeping next to them and the entire corner smelling like urine and trash. When we arrived some of the kids were about to wake up. So we talked to them about other options. But most of them were begging us for money to buy more drugs. Of course we didn't give it to them. But while we were talking I was shocked about the way they looked at me. This time I didn't feel threatened ... that's not it.. it was how they looked.... their eyes were glazed, hopeless, gigantic pupils and further more most of them had bruises on their faces and arms from previous fights. Almost all of the kids weighted under 45 kg. – most of them are probably HIV infected. They were basically really nice to us because we didn't want to do any harm but help – we play with them on the street and organise activities to lure them into Casa Alianza. (..)

(..) sometimes I even forget that these kids used to live on the streets...they are still capable of laughing even though the parents abandoned them... it makes me happy to be able to help these kids to make it through the day.(..)

*Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September*

So, finally I started to work in my fixed job. I give English and computer courses to the little kiddos and play with them and talk to them about their problems. They are so grateful. Seriously, and once they can pronounce a phrase correctly, they look me into the eyes, so gratefully and happy that I could without hesitation start to cry. One very moving moment was when a guy, his name is Orly, 16, told me his story. His mother died of AIDS when he was 6 and his father was a drug junkie and drug dealer and was killed in Mexico when he was 9. No mother, no brother, no father. None with 8. Then he got caught by the INFA, they are responsible for kids under 12, and there he got abused, hit and he even showed me his scars. Incredible. And today when I walked into the Residence, he came running to me, hugged me and said: “Lucia, eres mi educadora preferida de Casa Alianza” meaning .. “Lucia you are my favourite educator from Casa Alianza” so cute... seriously... all of them have their own destinies... and their destinies were everything but easy and still, they are filled with hope and love at the same time.

The blog is highly recommendable and can be found at:

[www.lucigoeshonduras.blogspot.com](http://www.lucigoeshonduras.blogspot.com)

#### **“Ne Mestri Ir Ne Tikti”**

My name is Jorge Alberto Reyes, I am a Mexican EVS/ICYE volunteer working at the Children Home “Atzalynas”, in Kaunas, Lithuania, which was established in 1947. The residents are: homeless children, children from disadvantaged or convict families, aged from 3 to 20. The main goal of the Children Care Home is to provide the children with love, family environment, a good life, and help to grow up as honest and diligent children and to prepare them for independent life.

I started working in mid-September and from the very beginning the children have been very nice with me, but I was shocked at the way they related to each other in a quite

aggressive way. They fight for every thing, seem not to have any value, don't ask for thing but punch each other, but was also surprised to see that in front of the teachers they act like normal children. The most important word I have learned "NE MESTI IR NE TIKTI" which means "Don't fight and Don't punch!" Some times I say "NE KASTI AS" and it means "Don't bite me" .

I work with a girl and a boy, 3 and 8 years olds, while the majority of the kids are mainly aged 10 and 11. In the morning they attend to school, an after lunch, the younger ones take a nap while the older kids do their home works. My work starts at 1:30 pm helping the boys with homework. At 4 pm, when also the little ones get up, we have a little tea or coffee break and then we start playing games together, play music, paint and, depending on the weather play basketball and/or go skating. Since a week I have started giving them salsa lessons !!

Although sometimes I feel a little bit out of place and "useless" – mainly because of the language barrier – I am confident that with time I'll be able to interact much more with them and help them to feel better. After all I know that it's all about giving myself and learn Lithuanian.

I'm very happy in this project and I know that every thing will become easier and better every day.....



*Jorge Alberto Reyes  
EVS Mexican volunteer in Lithuania.*

## Promoting Human Dignity in Montevideo, Uruguay

We are Giulia and Martin, two EVS volunteers, respectively from Italy/UK and Denmark volunteering in Montevideo (Uruguay) with a local NGO called CEPRODIH (Centro de Promoción por la Dignidad Humana). It was funded in 1998 with the aim to provide care and assistance to some the most excluded sectors of the population: older people in need of assistance, unemployed women, kids and teenagers with their respective mothers who suffered from domestic abuse, kids out of school because of poor family resources. CEPRODIH runs different projects such as two centres for victims of domestic violence, a centre offering training for unemployed women, and a home for the elderly.

Unfortunately Uruguay has a high level of violence against women, and "El Puerto" is one of CEPRODIH's centre where women can receive support and help, and where we are volunteering.

It is a home for women with their kids (aged 1 to 17) victims of domestic violence – these women are quite vulnerable and have severe difficulties in trusting people.

Currently El Puerto hosts 19 women and 40 among kids and teenagers and it is a shelter for people escaping a violent situation in their original homes, supported by 14 staff. The project aims at giving these families a safe place to start reconstructing their lives. There are many aspects to be taken into account and developed during the year the families spend in *El Puerto*. The women learn about their rights and how to improve the relation between mother and child, work mainly on becoming independent both economically and emotionally from a violent husband/partner and on the relationship mother/kid. The kids, most of whom don't accept any authority, acquire basic hygienic and behavioural habits (which in most of cases are missing), and are supported in following the formal educational path provided by public schools, which they attend near the centre in the weekdays, while the mothers and grandmothers are working .

It's our third week as volunteers at *El Puerto*. Our tasks are yet to be fully defined but we are basically supporting the actual team in a range of activities directed to kids and teenagers, such as; painting, playing with the children, making trips to either a zoological garden, the beach or the botanic garden, etc.. In the first weekend of October we assisted the staff in a camp near the beach which aimed at helping the children to become more independent and social.

We are also planning to organise, once fully integrated, some workshops on our own (probably arts and crafts, English and Italian lessons, etc.) to enhance different skills, i.e. ability to concentrate, to share and co-operate with others, in general, and with the other kids are the centre, as well as hopefully continue to build a stronger relationship between us and the kids and the kids themselves.

We are widening our horizons and every day are learning a lot from our voluntary service experience. We really like our project and admire a lot the team that works in *El Puerto* and their dedication to the project, especially considering the economical restrictions and the vast amount of work to do.



*By Giulia Cogoi and Martin Rytter Handberg, Italian and Danish EVS volunteers in Uruguay*

### Preventing Violence

My name is Agata, I am from Poland and I am an EVS volunteer working in Mexico at the "Ayuda y Solidaridad con las Niñas de la Calle, I.A.P" (Help and Solidarity for Homeless Girls, I.A.P.) - a project providing assistance to homeless girls or those at risk of becoming homeless.

All the girls that participate in the project have been exposed to physical, sexual or psychological violence, which is the main criteria for joining the project. Violence can also be considered the main reason for their escape from homes into the streets. Unfortunately once they start living in the street, the process of experiencing violence continues. Joining groups which are providing you with "protection", means that the girls have to be loyal and take part in crimes committed by the group, or worst, become victims of sexual abuse. Homeless girls are victims of violence as well as actors of criminal acts. The main objective of our

activities is help the girls to break this vicious circle and process of suffering or of perpetrating violence at home and later on, in the street.

ASNC, I.A.P. starts to act, trying to satisfy, at least to some extent, the girls` demand for affection and understanding as well as, supporting them in their holistic development so that they are able to integrate into society. To achieve this, the institution provides them with various kinds of services: psychological sessions, medical care, educational support and workshops (arts, human rights), all of which are contributing to and enriching their knowledge and in addition reconstructing their self-respect and self-confidence.

In the project all kinds of violence are prohibited. The girls learn to obey the rules and to be responsible for their actions. My role as volunteer is to collaborate with the staff of the Ayuda y Solidaridad in every activity and situation that demands support, and also to create my own activities to complement and possibly enrich the organization's work. The girls learn to express themselves through the art, receive information about their rights and simply get support when it comes to homework. The staff is always open-minded and highly committed to constantly improving the girls' lives.

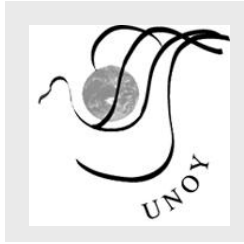
By indicating the advantages in running your life in a non-violent way, Ayuda y Solidaridad con las Niñas de la Calle, indirectly deals with the phenomenon of violence and tries to reach the goal of violence prevention.



*Agata Zagorska - Polish EVS-volunteer in Mexico*

## MORE ON „YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENCE”

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



### Violence Against Children and Youth Campaign

Violence against children and youth is a global crisis that calls for global action. The Advocacy Team of UNOY - United Network of Young Peacebuilders has been working with PLAN Netherlands on the issue of violence against children and youth in the build up towards and during the launch of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children.

UNOY Peacebuilders is actively advocating and campaigning for the implementation of the recommendations of the study by government and other relevant institutions at the local, national and regional level. To this end, UNOY Peacebuilders has prepared an online petition to:

1. Prioritize raising awareness to break the silence around the problem of community violence
2. Strengthen the legal system to prohibit and prevent all actions of community violence
3. Ensure quality and accessible social services to provide assistance in cases of violence
4. Empower children and youth by encouraging them to establish programs on violence prevention

To read more and sign the petition, please visit:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/unoy-vacy>

To learn more about the "United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children" please visit:

<http://www.violencestudy.org/r25>

### UNHABITAT

#### - New Publication on youth in conflict with the law.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) released a new publication entitled "Environment and Urbanization: Developing citizenship among urban youth in conflict with the law". This paper summarizes the outcome of an international conference on addressing the issue of urban youth in conflict with the law in Africa. It discusses the most effective responses to youth crime and violence, which centre on prevention and inclusion rather than exclusion, punishment and incarceration. It also highlights the key role for local governments in developing effective local responses that draw in and support all key local actors, such as parents, schools, police and businesses. More information: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/getPage.asp?>



### UNICEF -

#### New Publication Aims To Stop Violence Against Children And Young People

Our Right to Be Protected from Violence: Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Children and Young People" is a new publication by UNICEF for youth leaders, peer educators, teachers and others who work with groups of young people aged 12-18 in community centres, youth groups, schools and in other settings. The Violence Study presents guidelines for talking with young people about violence and ideas for working with groups, planning workshops, and taking action. The purpose of the Violence Study is to help Governments, communities, and organizations working with children find solutions to stop violence, prevent it from continuing, and help children who have been harmed by violence. More information: [http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our\\_Right\\_to\\_be\\_Protected\\_from\\_Violence-2.pdf](http://www.violencestudy.org/IMG/pdf/Our_Right_to_be_Protected_from_Violence-2.pdf)



### Forgotten Diaries - Giving a voice to Young People Living In Conflict Zones

Forgotten Diaries, a highly acclaimed new project aims to shed light on and raise global awareness of the lives of children and young people growing up in forgotten conflict zones: wars that have lasted for years but that have long lost the interest of the world's media. The project uses a website, blogging facilities and training programmes that allows the global community to engage in discussions with youth from 10 conflict zones in 3 continents and follow their stories over time as they report on the challenges, issues and opportunities in their lives. Forgotten Diaries will also provide training and mentoring on reporting and project management to the participants who include students, activists, and youth workers, empowering them to develop community building projects and make a sustainable difference. More information: [www.forgottendiaries.org](http://www.forgottendiaries.org) .

### Council of Europe new publication: "Eradicating violence against children "

In spite of a high level of social awareness in Europe, millions of its children are still subjected to violence. Children's rights are violated on a daily basis in all European countries. Corporal punishment, sexual abuse, the exploitation of children and other similar violations are only now emerging into the public eye. While some progress has been made, it is far too slow and timid. Elaborately organised networks in human trafficking, online child pornography and sexual violence behind what should be the safe doors of the home still prevent Europe from fully guaranteeing children's human rights. The Council of Europe promotes and secures children's human rights through developing standards and policies, monitoring countries' compliance with norms, and launching awareness-raising actions. This book references the Council of Europe's work in this field and provides insights into the processes that have led to its many conventions, recommendations, decisions, programmes, reports and publications. Read more and order the book at: [http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit\\_aliasid=2324](http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAG EID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2324)

## News From International Organizations



### Youth And the Work Of the United Nations

The UN Programme on Youth coordinated an inter-agency effort that shows how the United Nations system as a whole, supports youth development through a diverse range of programmes and activities in all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. This effort resulted in the new publication "Growing Together: Youth and the Work of the United Nations", which was launched on 12 August 2008, International Youth Day. The publication takes stock of UN system activities related to youth, and also provides a chance to assess how effectively the United Nations system is responding to the youth development challenge. It is intended as a source of information to assist stakeholders and to ensure that the United Nations truly delivers as one in the area of youth. For more information or to download a copy of the publication, please visit <http://www.un.org/youth>



[onlinevolunteering.org](http://onlinevolunteering.org)

### Join the Online Volunteering Service

Join the Online Volunteering (OV) service if you want to apply for an online volunteering assignment or if you want to submit an assignment on behalf of your organisation. The Online Volunteering Team of the Year Award presents an opportunity for both, online volunteers and organisations, to bring their online volunteering experiences and good practices to the attention of a global audience. For more information, click here. <http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/index.html>



**5. December:**

**International Volunteer Day**

IVD offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions - at local, national and international levels - to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, rallies, parades, community volunteering projects, environmental awareness, free medical care and advocacy campaigns have all featured prominently on IVD. You may also upload videos on IVD 2008 You Tube group. More information: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day.html>



**"Cultures On My Street"**

Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, announced on 25 September the winners in the "Cultures on my street" photo competition, launched last March and organised by the European Commission as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. More than 2,000 entries were received in response to the invitation to portray the theme of intercultural dialogue.

The competition, invited everyone with a camera and a sense of curiosity to submit their own vision of cultures meeting and mixing in their neighbourhood. All the winners received professional photographic equipment and travel grants to European capitals, with a total value of €15,000.

The first prize went to Joseph Smith from Malta, for his image "Village cobbler". A jumble of shoes, tools, religious ornaments and Elvis posters provides the crowded setting for a tradesman and the locals who often meet in his workshop. Read more: [www.street-cultures.eu](http://www.street-cultures.eu).

**News From NGOs**



**GIVE A LAPTOP. GET A LAPTOP. CHANGE THE WORLD**

The mission of the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) movement is to ensure that all school-aged children in the developing world are able to engage effectively with their own personal laptop, networked to the world, so that they, their families and their communities can openly learn and learn about learning. The OLPC Association focuses on designing, manufacturing, and distributing laptops to children in lesser developed countries, initially concentrating on those governments that have made commitments for the funding and program support required to ensure that all of their children own and can effectively use a laptop. Initial focus is on the launch of the One Laptop per Child program. In the future, the OLPC Foundation will focus on the grassroots, "bottom-up" aspects of the OLPC mission. For more information, please visit: <http://www.laptop.org>



### Intercultural Dialogue: From Practice to Policy and Back.

The Rainbow Paper is the result of several consultation exercises in the course of 2007 and 2008. It is a collection of and compromise between hundreds of view points. We hope you find your contributions reflected. The paper sets out five steps to making interculturalism our new human norm and proposes five sets of recommendations: Educating, building capacity by organisations, monitoring for sustained policies, mobilising across boundaries and resourcing of Intercultural Dialogue. The recommendations are addressed to civil society organisations and public authorities at all levels in Europe, using the European Union as the point of access. Civil society organisations are invited to sign up at: [www.rainbowpaper.labforculture.org](http://www.rainbowpaper.labforculture.org)



### Volunteering & Social Activism Promote Human Development and Social Change

On the United Nations Day and World Development Information Day (24 October), CIVICUS, the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme launched a joint publication, "Volunteering and Social Activism: Pathways for participation in human development".

The paper is based on a study undertaken by the three organisations in 2007-2008. The background study finds that both volunteering and social activism are important strategies for fostering people's participation in social change and human development. For more information [click here](#).

The publication is also available in Spanish, French and Russian.



### TAKINGITGLOBAL: Make it Happen

Do you have an idea to change the world? Looking to develop your project management skills and network with other youth leaders?

Make It Happen is an online course offered by TakingITGlobal that provides an innovative and collaborative approach to helping young people (ages 16-30) build their capacities as agents of change.

From October 2008 to January 2009, participants will learn to develop, implement, and evaluate successful social and environmental projects. For more information and to apply, please visit: <http://www.tigblog.org/group/makeithappen>.



### Stand Up Against Poverty Global call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Anti-poverty campaigners on Wednesday announced that more than 116 million people - nearly two percent of the world population - mobilised at events in 131 countries, from October 17-19 as part of the global "Stand Up and Take Action" against poverty campaign.

The mobilisation, which was confirmed by Guinness World Records as breaking the world record for the largest mass mobilisation on a single issue, sends a clear message to world leaders that citizens will not stay seated while promises to end poverty remain unfulfilled.

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT.....JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST POVERTY AND FOR THE MDGS!**

Organise your own event It's not too late to host an event. Take a look at the event tool kit at:

<http://www.standagainstopoverty.org/en/event-toolkit>



## ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS



### Pan-American Capacity Building Seminar

From 12 thru 17 October 2008, 18 representatives from ICYE member and partner organisations in the Americas, namely from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay and the USA, participated in a regional capacity building cum planning seminar, which was held in La Ceiba, Honduras. The seminar, through an exchange of good practice and peer-to-peer training and planning, resulted in a wide range of proposals to enhance programme diversification and inter-American exchanges. The main elements of the adopted one-year regional development plan include, among others, Latin American Bi-Country hosting programmes, Short-Term exchanges, EVS future projects, and South-South exchanges between Latin America, Africa and Asia. The seminar also offered the participants an opportunity to hold talks with the invited representative of Canada World Youth (with which many LA ICYE organisations cooperate) and with the ICYE Federation Board of Managers, who also partly attended the seminar.



### Latin American "Weltwärts" Training

Following the before mentioned seminar, a training and planning seminar on the new German volunteer exchange programme "Weltwärts" took place in La Ceiba, organised by ICYE Germany/ICJA and ICYE Honduras. With the active participation of ICYE partners and host projects involved in "Weltwärts", the programme consisted of a one-day presentation by voluntary service placements and a representative of the German Embassy in Honduras, project visits, exchange of good practice for the preparation and support of volunteers and hosts, role games and training sessions, as well as joint programme planning for the 2009-10 programme year.

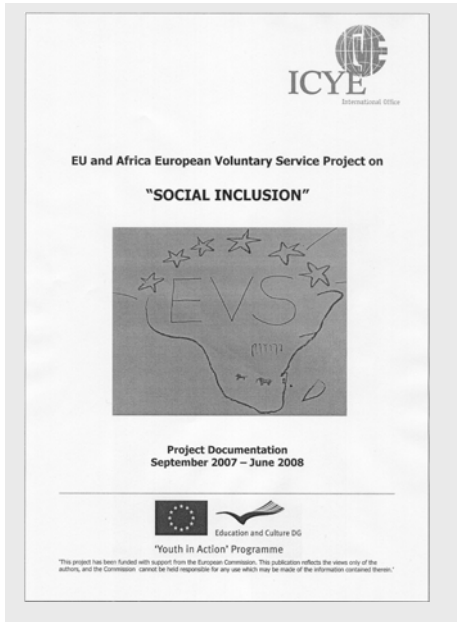


### ICYE Italy/AFSAI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On 18 October 2008, ICYE Italy/AFSAI celebrated at the Ecumenical Centre in Velletri (near Rome) its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. About 100 former and current AFSAI co-workers, staff, Board members, host families and volunteers celebrated together presenting their past and current experiences, photos, playing games, and after a succulent dinner, dancing at the sound of the "Acustinauti". All participants left uplifted by this unique, and hopefully repeatable, opportunity to reunite with old and new friends – until the next 50 years – long live AFSAI!!

### ICYE Capacity and Partnership Building Project

With the support of the Youth in Action programme of the European Community, the ICYE Federation will implement a series of training and seminars in the frame of the "Capacity and Partnership Building between Youth Organisations in Europe, Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin America/ & Caribbean". The project consists of distinct objectives and strategies to enhance the training and transfer of know-how around long-term EVS and other exchange programmes. The main activities will be: an Euro-African training seminar in Africa on EVS programme management followed by a 7-month action plan to pair organisations thru in-country job shadowing, on-the-job training and joint EVS activities; 2-month reciprocal job shadowing to enhance partnership building and the capacity of Asia and Pacific youth organisations to plan, implement, report and document long-term EVS projects between Europe and the Asia/Pacific regions; and a Training and Partnership Building Seminar in Latin America on the active role of women in society and the promotion of EVS exchanges between participating organisations.



## EVS Projects Documentation

From August 2007 thru June 2008, 46 young volunteers from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe participated in three distinct EVS multilateral long-term projects. Each project was focused on a specific theme: EU-Latin America on "Participation of Young People", EU-Africa on "Social Inclusion", and EU-Asia on "Youth and Intercultural Dialogue". All projects have been documented to chart the intercultural journey of all volunteers through their voluntary service period and their experiences of living and working in a different culture and country.

The EVS projects comprised an initial training on intercultural learning addressing the themes of identity, culture and cultural diversity, the cultural adaptation process, prejudices, communication, conflicts and their resolution, as well as discussion groups on the concept of

volunteerism. These documents examine the extent to which the above-mentioned goals have been achieved through personal texts and narrations by the volunteers regarding first impressions, host family/living situation, voluntary service project, cultural encounters, cultural adaptation process, and things to take home!!

We believe that these documents make interesting and inspiring reading and are useful preparation material for international long-term volunteering programmes. The documents can be requested at the ICYE International Office ([icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org)), and will be soon uploaded in the ICYE web site [www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org).

## EVS Volunteers' Trainings

With the support of the Youth In Action Programme of the European Community, 49 young volunteers from Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean participated in joint pre-departure trainings organised in September 2008 by the ICYE International Office prior to their 9-month EVS voluntary service projects.

The projects revolve around the themes of "Youth and Children's Rights" (EU-Africa), "Youth and the Environment" (EU-Asia) and "Youth United Against Violence" (EU-Latin America). Since August 2008, the young volunteers have been engaged in diverse local voluntary service projects, ranging from children's homes, street children projects, youth clubs, to ecological and community development and social work projects.



## "Youth + Awareness"

On 22-25 August 2008, a three-day final evaluation seminar took place in Berlin, Germany, for 16 EU EVS volunteers who worked for three months in Africa and Asia fostering positive youth action in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The volunteers work was highly appreciated by the host communities and provided an added value to their work. Volunteers were mostly active in prevention measures, organizing sensitization workshops at schools at youth centres etc. Some of them worked in bigger existing structures and accompanied the local staff in their doings, others developed a project by themselves and carried it out with the support of the ICYE host organisation and local partners.



## ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents

- Denmark – Mads Peder Jespersen (Mr)
- Iceland – Sabine Leskopf (Ms)

## ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 25-28 November 08:** Final Evaluation Meeting of EVS EU-EECA Multilateral Project “Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity”, Berlin, Germany
- 25-28 February 09 :** Pre-departure Training of 3-month EU-Africa, Asia and Latin America short term EVS Multilateral Project on “Young Women Active Citizenship” - Berlin, Germany – to be confirmed
- February 09:** African Training on “Weltwärts” , Lagos, Nigeria – to be confirmed
- March 09:** EU-African Training Course on “EVS Programme Management”, Accra, Ghana
- July 09:** EU-Latin American Training and Partnership Building Seminar on the active role of women in society