

# Worlds of experience



No. 26 (October 2011)

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### EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> issue of "Worlds of Experience" devoted to theme "Gender Equality"! The year 2011 celebrates the centenary of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Women's Day in 1911. It is also the European Year of Volunteering and the UN International year of Volunteers +10. These intersecting occasions make it an ideal time to thematise gender equality in the international voluntary service (IVS) in our endeavour toward social justice and equality.

IVS projects have long been actively involved in empowering young women from different countries and backgrounds, offering them opportunities to participate in the life and work of local and international communities, discover and share experiences and expertise, work in teams, play leadership roles and gain recognition for their work. With this goal in mind, in 2009 ICYE organised an EVS project in EU, African, Asian and Latin American countries, and the Euro-Latin America training seminar on the theme "Youth Action for Civil Society - Promoting Young Women's Active Citizenship". Differing perceptions of gender roles in the diverse cultural contexts can lead to conflicts between volunteers and hosting communities. The potential for change lies in the development of a sustainable dialogue between volunteers, organisations and local communities by locating gender equality within the sphere of intercultural learning and social justice.

In "Volunteers' Voices" five young volunteers tell us about their work in local urban and rural projects addressing gender/women's empowerment. A Swedish volunteer reflects on gender roles in Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, Kenya; a German volunteer describes the situation of women in Colombia and the activities of two organisations involved in the promotion of women's rights. An Estonian volunteer narrates her experience working with female minors in Turin, Italy, and tells us how volunteers can contribute to gender equality. A Dutch volunteer in Moldova describes her involvement in a project that tries to help victims (mostly young women) of human trafficking. Last but not least, two young German volunteers highlight the caste-based oppression of the so-called Arunthathiyar community in Tamil Nadu, India. Their remark, "Bills alone cannot change people's minds," is a reminder that a lot still needs to be done to bring gender equality in any society.

These reflections are complimented, among others, with news on: the "Innovating for Every Woman, Every Child" initiatives that address existing gaps in women's and children's health: the Liberian, Yemeni women activists sharing the Nobel Peace Prize; and a Toolkit on Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa.

News from International Organisations feature: the United Nations World Youth Report 2010 on "Youth and Climate Change"; the "Young Volunteers Stand Up: Second Youth Convention on Volunteering" organised by the European Youth Forum; and the UN Volunteers Annual Report 2010 "Inspiring Youth". News from NGOs report, among others, on: the CEV symposium "Volunteering and Active Citizenship - Two Sides of the Same Coin?"; the recent meeting of the EYV 2011 Alliance; the Manual 'Culture of Peace in Young People's View'; and the toolkit "Peace Bag for EuroMed Youth".

ICYE Programme News include: the PeaceWorks / ICYE Sweden "Sprid. - Spread and Share" Anti-Racism Project; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of AUS-ICYE Iceland; the recent 7th UNESCO Youth Forum; and the forthcoming ICYE Federation's XXVII General Assembly in Costa Rica.

Wishing you an interesting reading, we would like to encourage readers to send us articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will be dedicated to "Volunteers & challenges/opportunities of globalization for rural and urban development", and will be published at the end of February 2012. Please send your contributions to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org), before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

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

## “Gender Equality”

### VOLUNTEERS’ VOICES

#### Unsettling gender equations in Kibera

My name is Erik, and I came to Kenya to try to help the Institute for Development and Welfare Services, IDEWES, in their struggle to help poor and vulnerable people in Kibera, a slum in Nairobi. Kibera is the second largest slum area in sub-Saharan Africa. IDEWES manages different projects to improve the standard of living and empower the people of Kibera. The organisation targets mainly orphans and vulnerable children, women and people living with HIV/AIDS. Women in Kibera do a lot more of the household work than men. The men seem to have a tendency to wait to be served by their wives, mothers or sisters. Furthermore I still haven't seen a man carrying a child, while a lot of women carry them on their backs. Everything is so different from home, which makes it hard to compare the countries. I do things in very different ways than back home. In Sweden it is a lot more common that the woman and man share the household work and also work together to raise the children. When talking to women in Kibera, I realised that they don't complain about their situation, they just accept the inequality. In IDEWES, there are more female workers than male, and the boss is female. She started the organisation as a clinic but now we are mostly counselling and encouraging our members and others in Kibera. But even in the office it is the women who do the cleaning and cooking. I am not allowed to help them and to me it is very strange to just sit and watch the women work.



During my first month at the organisation, we set up the guidelines for a micro lending project which will give small loans to women to help them boost their businesses. Kibera's main roads are bordered by small businesses, mostly run by women. The men seem to work elsewhere, because they are not often present during the day. During this time I have also had the opportunity to walk around in Kibera and to get to know the business-women, who struggle everyday to get enough money to feed and send their children to school. Unfortunately, not everyone is given that opportunity, especially not for secondary school. I learn from them everyday, and I hope that during my remaining time here I will be able to help them out. My knowledge about the women's situation makes me understand how important these small businesses are. When they work in their businesses they get to see more and learn more than just doing the housework. That is

important in order to strengthen them and make society more equal.



Erik Lek  
A happy Swedish volunteer in Kenya.

#### It is all about self-confidence, self-perception and trust

For the past twenty five years now *Mujer y Sociedad* (Women and Society), an investigative feminist group of professors from the *Universidad Nacional de Colombia* (Bogotá), and various friends have been working in the field of gender studies and against the discrimination of women. Officially founded in 1985 by the psychologist Florence Thomas and four friends, this group has developed a range of activities and organizations. One such example is *Cafe con Mujeres* (Café with Women), a well-known forum established in 2005 for women of all ages, professions and ethnicities, who are interested in discussing political, cultural and social issues from a feminist point of view.

In the year 2001 another of the group's initiatives, the *Escuela de estudios de género* (School of gender studies), was officially recognised by the *Universidad Nacional*, a place where students can continue their advanced studies until the final exams or begin a doctorate in a gender relevant area.

ICYE Colombia has been partnering with *Mujer y Sociedad* for many years now and has allocated two European female volunteers to support its work, one of them was part of the EVS-programme "Promoting young women's active citizenship in EU, African, Asian and Latin American countries" developed by the ICYE International Office and supported by the European Commission in the year 2009.

An agenda to promote women's rights in the politics of the district, the *Plan de Igualdad de Oportunidades para la Equidad de Géneros (PIOEG)* (Plan of equal opportunities for gender equality), was developed in 2003 by the district government of Bogotá along with a team led by Juanita Barreto Gama, a social worker and professor of the *Universidad Nacional*, who joined the group *Mujer y Sociedad* in 1986. The guidelines seek to guarantee

the women of Bogotá their rights to social and political participation, health services, education, decent living circumstances and a non-violent peaceful life free from sexism. It wasn't until 2010 however that they became legally binding. Based on the PIOEG, another achievement can be noted in 2005: in this year the first *casa de la igualdad de oportunidades* (CIO) (House of Equal Opportunities) for women was founded in the historical centre of *La Candelaria*. Since then the number of such houses has vastly increased, and 16 houses now operate in and around the capital of Colombia. As the project's third volunteer from Germany, I work on Thursdays with *Mujer y Sociedad* and in the *CIO of Teusaquillo*, which share the same aim: to promote women's rights.



Florence Thomas and Juanita Barreto I. at *Café con Mujeres*.  
Photo by: Mónica Sánchez Bernal

### Casa de igualdad Teusaquillo

I wanted to find out more about the work of the *casa de igualdad Teusaquillo*, and to analyse why there exists such a great need for forums for Colombian women. The *CIO*, founded in 2008, tries to inform participants about their rights in accordance with the PIOEG through different activities. The "principal reason for women to assist is violence," says Libia Lurduy, employee of the *CIO Teusaquillo*. Referring to the *PIOEG* - 'our bible' - she tells me that in 2004 women in the district of Bogotá represented nearly 75% of the victims of family violence, physical and sexual assaults including the mistreatment of children. Unfortunately, statistics of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the violation of women's rights in the whole of Colombia go back to the year 2000, when 60 to 70% of Colombian women suffered from physical, psychological or sexual violence (including a high dark figure of systematic violence against them in the armed conflict of the country).

Most of the women frequenting the activities of the *CIO Teusaquillo* are middle class and over 40 years old, although the target group at risk is aged between 16-30 years. Libia Lurduy explains this by pointing out that "the older women have already reflected about their situation, the younger ones often feel too ashamed to visit the house".

It is my first day at the *CIO* and she proposes that I take part in a workshop called 'biodanza', an international dance practice, which leads one to become aware of one's body language, to get in touch with one's emotions and get to know the group. So, I step into a room of about ten women who are dancing to Colombian vallenato and folklore

music. Maria Luisa Díaz, a *CIO* volunteer, gives instructions like "dance with a partner," "in a group of four," "alone," and everybody moves their bodies to the rhythm. Then she instructs you to "close your eyes and dance alone, your partner pays attention to you". Stumbling around trying not to bump into other dancers I realize how difficult it is to trust a totally unknown person or group and that this activity is all about self-confidence, self-perception, trust and body awareness. If this exercise is difficult for me, how tough must it be for most of these women? But it seems to work: "it is a way to clear my head," says a participant. Another one states, "it is a space for myself".

This workshop enables women to reflect on themselves. The *CIO* offers other workshops as well: on labour law, health rights and against sexism. How important it is to offer these women a space to develop self-confidence, self-perception and autonomy is reflected in the growing number of participants. "In the beginning only about 100 women frequently came to the *CIO Teusaquillo*," Libia tells me. "Now there are more than 600!" Hopefully the mayor, who will be elected on the 30th of October 2011, will support the public policy for women and gender equality in the district. Otherwise it will be harder for Bogotá's women to exercise their rights.



Lucia Zoth dancing  
Bio Danza

Lucia Zoth  
Political scientist and German ICYE-volunteer in Bogotá

### Working with young girls in Italy

I am a young volunteer from a small country, Estonia. I decided to come to Italy because I wanted to learn more about its culture and people, and I chose this particular project because I wanted to work with young girls. I thought I could really help them and give them some new ideas. I work in an organisation called *Cooperativa Sociale Frassati* in Turin, in the north of Italy. It is a residential structure for minors between 12 to 18 years who have experienced social and familial disadvantages. We help them with their school work, in finding a job and in integrating in society. The main idea is to help them become independent people who overcome their disadvantages and difficulties in life.

There are two apartments where the youngsters live and they are supervised by educators 7 days a week 24 hours a day. My tasks are helping them with their homework, taking them to sport and culture activities, organising fun activities and introducing them to my country, traditions and culture.

There are two apartments where the youngsters live and they are supervised by educators 7 days

a week 24 hours a day. My tasks are helping them with their homework, taking them to sport and culture activities, organising fun activities and introducing them to my country, traditions and culture.

As I can't speak Italian yet and they speak very little English, we find other ways to communicate. For example, one of the girls in the community loves to paint and she is very good at it. So every week we paint pictures together and I have found it very enjoyable and fun and a good way to communicate without words. Also the entire community has dinner together; it is a great time to talk about different topics like school, social life and the things that happened that day. They also help me a lot in learning Italian, teach me how to pronounce words correctly and quiz me at the dinner table. They get excited and happy when I learn new words.



I believe that this organisation does a really good job with the children, giving them support, guidance and preparing them well for life. Also the community has a relaxed and loving atmosphere which is really important. They take into account every child's individual needs and try to provide support based on those needs.

I strongly believe that it is important to address gender equality in the field of international voluntary service. I find that most of the volunteers at least from my county are female, so I think we should develop ideas on making voluntary service more appealing to men so that there would be more of a gender balance among volunteers. Some people are also of the opinion that volunteering is mostly for women, and I think we should try to break that prejudice in society. I think that the older generation is still stuck with the idea that there are jobs for women and jobs for men. However, I think that traditional gender roles are not so prevalent in the younger generations and people are starting to want a society where men and women have a more equal position. Furthermore, I think men are now more open to the idea of staying home with children while women work and have a career. I think that volunteers can help a lot by talking to young people because they are very open to discussing the issues that we need to solve to achieve gender equality. I believe we have come a long way but we still have a lot to figure out.

*Hanna Laius  
Estonian volunteer in Italy*

### **Tackling human trafficking in Moldova**

I am Franka Brouwer, an EVS-volunteer from The Netherlands. I work in a project called CAP - Centre for Assistance and Protection. In my project we try to help victims or possible victims from human trafficking of all ages, but

mostly woman between 15 and 30 years. They stay in the centre for around one month during which several people help them as social assistants and medical assistants.

The people work hard here to try to find a new place to live or improve the living area of the beneficiaries. They also get psychological help and therapy if needed. My work here is quite simple, I try to make sure that the beneficiaries are around people again, make a small programme so that they are busy during the day. When the beneficiaries arrive, they are quite scared of everybody around them and stay in their rooms most of the time. During this one month, there are many changes. I have only worked here now for a few weeks and can already see a big difference. After a few days, they come and play games with me, make handicrafts, or simply have a small chat. As I do not speak the language this might seem as a problem, but as the days pass we understand each other more and more.

What I find very interesting about my project is seeing how these women live here. In Holland the standards between man and woman very different; the women find jobs and work hard before they even think of getting married. They are equal, and if anyone says the contrary to a Dutch woman, s/he would be asking for a fight for saying so. From what I have seen so far, especially in the countryside in Moldova, it's totally the other way around. In my project we try to show the beneficiaries how they could live differently, try to teach them about how to be independent and live independently, and that a man cannot do whatever he wants with you.



*Franka Brouwer  
EVS volunteer from The Netherlands in Moldova*

### **"Bills alone cannot change people's minds"**

#### **Addressing caste-based marginalisation in rural India**

We are Martin von Knebel and Julian Mader, two German ICYE volunteers working in the Rights Education and Development (READ) Centre in northwestern Tamil Nadu, India. In this mostly rural-based project, we take care of the so-called Arunthathiyar (the lowest Dalits, 6.5 million in Tamil Nadu) who have been exploited for centuries as a result of caste discrimination. We therefore try to ensure education for all Arunthathiyar children, especially the girls.

There are seven women organisers working in the Sakkiyar Woman Society Federation (SWSF) founded in 2008 to support the female Arunthathiyar. The goals of SWSF are to improve social awareness, economic development and political empowerment. The organisers, like Mrs.

S. Pattammal (women's coordinator), who belongs to the Arunthathiyar community as well, discuss the situation of women with the women of 81 villages in the Erode District. They help them in their routine activities and give them self-confidence through the community. Furthermore, they organise regular meetings and trainings in the different villages. The READ also provides very low rate credit to the rural people so that they can make further investments such as cattle or just food. Without any savings, they managed to create their own community banking system to be economically independency and sustainable for the first time in their marginalised lives. SWSF has also created a fund for girls so that they can benefit from higher education, e.g. go to college.

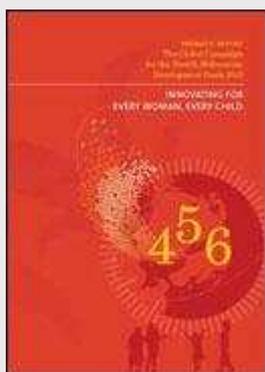


The Indian constitution guarantees equal treatment and equal rights to all Indians. But bills alone cannot change people's minds, which is why Arunthathiyars are still facing caste-based discrimination, huge unemployment, limited work prospects like manual scavenging, field work and waste cleaning. Mrs. S. Pattammal points out, "Human dignity is needed. There is no equality, men dominate women". In our first month here we just talked to a lot of people to understand their culture and their way of life. We visited some villages and slowly learned all these things narrated above. We have come to recognise the power of this community and especially the commitment of the women to ensure their human rights. This is very mentionable and remarkable.

*Martin von Knebel and Julian Mader  
German volunteers in India*

## More on "Gender Equality"

### Innovating for Every Woman, Every Child



Innovating for Every Woman, Every Child is the first thematic report in a series from the Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals that provides examples of practical and inspirational actions and initiatives that try to address existing gaps in women's and children's health; and to "empower and inspire tomorrow's innovators." The report has been produced in co-operation with the [Innovation Working Group](#), created by the United Nations Secretary-General in April 2010 to support the [Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health](#) launched in September 2010.

### Liberian, Yemeni women activists share peace prize



Three women who have campaigned for rights and an end to violence in Liberia and Yemen, including Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, have won the Nobel peace prize.

In recent weeks, we have lost the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (Wangari Maathai), and we have gained in her place two more African women as Nobel Peace Laureates: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee, as well as Tawakkul Karman from nearby Yemen. The awarding of the prize in 2004 to Wangari Maathai was a landmark event for the culture of peace. Although the Nobel Committee does not use the phrase "culture of peace" in their recent announcement, we may consider that the prizes to these women mark a new direction of the Nobel Prize, not so much for the ending of particular wars (the old concept of peace) but for the deep transition from the culture of war to a culture of peace. For these and other articles, including many concerning the activities on the International Day of Peace [Read more](#)

### Saying ,no' to gender based violence UNV Annual Report 2010 (pag.35)



**"There are times when a woman deserves to be slapped." 45% disagree**  
**"A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together." 70% disagree**  
**"The man decides when and how to have sex." 35% disagree**  
**"I have slapped a girlfriend or another young woman either 'once or twice' or 'more than twice' in the three months prior to the survey." 7% said yes**

(Source: Survey conducted by the International Centre for Research and Women on behalf of CARE International in 2009. The survey polled 1,200 young men aged 15-18 from four different high schools in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.)

In a recent campaign in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, youth took the lead in giving prominence to the issue of combating gender-based violence. Working with UN Women and local organizations, UNV mobilized young volunteers to advocate against gender-based violence in a 'Say No to Violence' bus campaign. "Focusing on educating young people is crucial in order to instil zero tolerance of violence against women and girls," says UNV Programme Officer Elizabeth Siebenmann (Canada). "Youth were active as crucial participants in this campaign, and even young people from small towns spoke out on gender issues." [Read more](#)

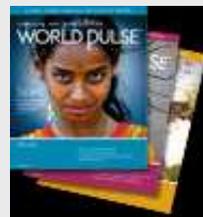
### UNESCO and Procter & Gamble launch partnership to promote education for young girls and young women



September 9 - UNESCO and the multinational consumer product company Procter & Gamble's Always brand have launched a partnership to promote literacy for young girls and young women. The announcement coincides with International Literacy Day, 8 September. Overcoming the gender gap is one of UNESCO's major priorities. In a world that still numbers 793 million illiterate adults, women account for two thirds of those who cannot read and write. And girls account for 53 % of the 67 million primary-age school children around the world who are not receiving the education to which they have a right.  
[Read more](#)

### Select the next wave of global women citizen journalists who will shape our world

World Pulse invites volunteers to take part in its third annual Voices of Our Future programme. The programme aims at selecting 30 emerging grassroots women leaders from around the globe for the online new media, citizen journalism and empowerment training course. [Read more](#)



### 'Yes we must!' Not 'Yes we can!' Sifiso Dube Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Officer, CIVICUS



Last week I attended the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance meeting and the re-launch of the 50/50 campaign in Harare, Zimbabwe. Hosted by Genderlinks and the Women in Politics Support Unit (WIPSU), the meetings were held to learn how countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region have been taking the gender agenda forward, to share the gender barometer and to learn about the 50/50 campaign for gender parity in government. [Read more](#)

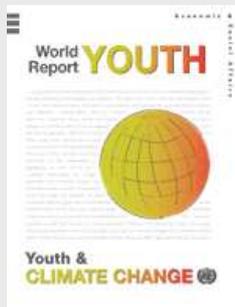
### A Toolkit on the Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa



"Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa" is a toolkit guide published by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) with the support of UNESCO. The book provides guidance for women's organizations in Africa on how to organise around freedom of information. [Read more and download](#)

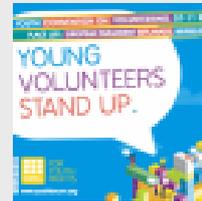
## News From International Organisations

### United Nations World Youth Report 2010 Youth and Climate Change



The World Youth Report focus on youth and climate change, and is intended to highlight the important role young people play in addressing climate change, and to offer suggestions on how young people might be more effectively integrated as individuals and collective agents of change within the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Report is designated to assist youth and youth organizations in educating themselves and to become more actively involved in combating the threat of climate change. It is also meant to affirm the status of young people as key stakeholders in the fight against climate change. The publication comes at a time when efforts to address climate change are receiving unparalleled attention on the international arena, offering youth a unique opportunity for their voice to be heard in the debate. [Read more](#) Click here to read and download the Complete [United Nations World Youth Report](#).

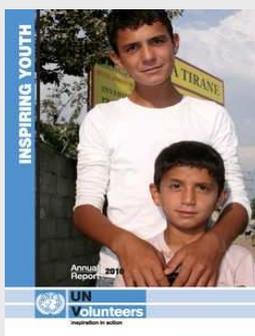
### Young Volunteers Stand Up: Second Youth Convention on Volunteering:



From 8th to 11th September 2011, Brussels became the European Capital of Volunteering - more than 1500 volunteers filled the European Parliament Esplanade in Brussels to take part in the second Youth Convention on Volunteering, which showcased the contribution to society and the volunteering sector by youth organisations from all over Europe. During four days, more than 100 different activities, free concerts, workshops, and debates were set up to raise awareness about the importance of the contribution of volunteers involved in participatory youth organisations.

One of the highlights was the Stakeholder Conference "The Rights of the Volunteer" that took place on 7th and 8th September. There, volunteer organisations, researchers, young volunteers and decision-makers worked together to develop a Declaration on the Right of the Volunteer, recognising the need for a European Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers and the value of a rights-based approach. Afterwards, the Charter was presented during the plenary session on 9th September and warmly welcomed by Mrs Isabelle Durant, Vice-President of the European Parliament. [Read more](#).

### Focus: "Inspiring Youth" the focus of UN Volunteers Annual Report 2010



Often a large part of the population, youth represent a valuable resource to respond to peace and development challenges within their communities. Youth volunteerism is a strategy for engaging young men and women in activities that improve their participation and positively harness their energy and vigour to contribute to the realization of national and global development goals. The UNV Annual Report 2010, "Inspiring Youth", is filled with motivational stories that demonstrate the powerful force of youth volunteerism. It presents examples of how youth from every corner of the globe are engaging in voluntary action as a way of building skills and contributing to their communities. [Read more](#)

### 64th Annual UNDPI-NGO Conference Sustainable societies and volunteerism



More than 1,400 people – grassroots representatives from over 70 countries – gathered in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 5 September for the United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Annual Conference. The conference revolved around the theme of "Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens." The participants, representing 460 different NGOs, shared best practices, displayed their efforts in an exhibition hall, and forged documents that will be integrated into next year's Rio+20, the UN Conference on Environment and Development. [Read](#)

### "Volunteering and Active Citizenship - Two Sides of the Same Coin?"

A CEV symposium in Berlin, Germany, October 20-21, 2011



This two-day symposium, organised by [CEV \(The European Volunteer Centre\)](#) and its member [Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement \(BBE\)](#) - within the framework of the EYV 2011 flagship Project "Active Citizens for better Communities" - funded by the European Commission, brought together around 150 participants from various corners of Europe. The opening panel set the tone, tackling head-on the main question of the symposium: Are volunteering and active citizenship two sides of the same coin? Panellists Jutta Koenig-Georgiades (European Commission), Eugen Baldas (Caritas, Germany), Prof. John Annette (Richmond University, UK) and Filippo Addarii (Euclid Network) began by elucidating what they understand by "volunteering" and "active citizenship". Active citizenship, as it was explained, is 'collective solidarity' - people working together to bring about societal change. Similarly, "Volunteering is young people wanting to affect transformational change in their communities." Along these lines it was further stated that volunteering as a means of active citizenship becomes a political issue and was also argued that the time that people devote to volunteering should be taken as co-funding in any project, thereby challenging the notion that volunteering is a non-economic activity. In a thought-provoking manner it was noted that governments in certain countries provide far too much funding which is detrimental to volunteering programmes, while the role of the state should merely facilitate partnership building among the various players in the field. Conversely, from the plenary it was argued that in some European countries reality on the ground is rather different and volunteer engaging organisations need support and resources to promote their work. Indeed, this passionate response brought out the fact that there is no single model that can be applied across board to all European countries.

Introducing an international element to the discussion, the EC panellist argued that governments need to put into place regulations that enable volunteers from beyond Europe to volunteer on the continent, emphasizing the multitude of visa and other problems faced by volunteers from beyond the borders of Europe. During the final Q&A round, it was also underlined that volunteering can reinforce prejudices about "poor" communities, and volunteers sometimes develop a paternalist attitude and thus the linking of development aid discourses with international voluntary service can become a quite problematic one. Moreover, this reflect the importance of preparing volunteers adequately prior to their service abroad.

The afternoon session comprised theme-based project visits in and around the city of Berlin; discussion groups on various volunteer-related themes ensued on day two of the symposium, which came to a close with speeches by representatives of local, regional and European-level bodies and authorities. The amicable yet provocative ideas proffered by the opening panel served well to maintain a high level of energy and enthusiasm and brought fresh ideas to the table during the two-day event.

*Rubaica Jaliwala, ICYE International Office.*

### EYV 2011 Alliance September meetings

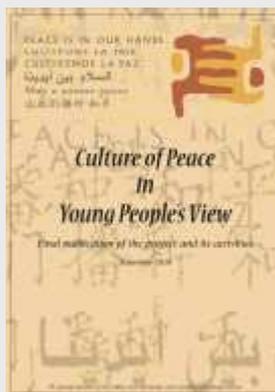


The 36 participants representing 26 EYV 2011 Alliance member organisations met at the European Economic and Social Committee Brussels in September. Participants discussed the second draft of the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E) and came up with key recommendations and questions to put forward to be considered by the EYV 2011 Alliance Working Groups. The future of the EYV 2011 Alliance was also discussed as were the arrangements for the European Citizens' Prize Award ceremony that was scheduled for the following day. [Read the full report.](#)



The EYV 2011 Alliance Working Groups had a fourth meeting in September 2011. The 6 working groups established by the EYV 2011 Alliance involve more than 100 experts, many of them volunteers themselves. The European Policy Agenda on Volunteering is scheduled to be approved at the EYV 2011 Alliance SG meeting on 17 November 2011 and will be presented to policy makers at the EC EYV 2011 closing conference in Warsaw on 1st December 2011. [Read the full report.](#)

## Manual 'Culture of Peace in Young People's View'



The International Centre for the Promotion of Education and Development (CEIPES) together with other 5 organizations, has developed a manual about culture of peace: "Culture of Peace in Young People's View". This manual is the result of the activities implemented during the 'Culture of Peace in Young People's View' project and is mainly targeted at organisations working in the field of peace education youth workers and youth trainers.

This manual, with also a DVD, provides not only theoretical knowledge's about Culture of peace and Youth participation, but also gives practical information as workshop templates and summary of activities implemented by the partner organisations in Armenia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Netherlands and Serbia. [Read more](#)

## Stories of Peace Challenge



Too often publications focus on stories of violence and conflict, overshadowing stories of peace which underpin grassroots community action. This was an opportunity for individuals and organisations to explain their work around peace building and spread the word through the Stories of Peace Challenge. This contest, which took place in July and August 2011, aimed to bring stories of peace initiatives to the fore, and to publicise experiences from around the world. The best 25 stories have won a publication of their story in a book "People Building Peace 2.0" and receive 10 hardcopies of the book. The stories will also be published and highlighted on the homepage and the campaign page of the Peace Portal. The book will be presented at the official launch event of the Peace Portal in December this year. [Read more](#)

## Peace Bag for EuroMed Youth



To commemorate the Peace Day on 21 September, the [Catalunya Voluntaria Foundation](#) has launched [Peace Bag for EuroMed Youth](#), training and educational resource on mainstreaming Peace Education and Intercultural Dialogue in youth work. This toolkit reflects the work of hundreds of young people dedicated towards building peaceful societies. 18 youth organisations from 14 Euro-Mediterranean countries came together for 18 months to work on this flagship project for mainstreaming peace education and intercultural dialogue in youth work, specifically in the Euromed context. [Read more](#)

## ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

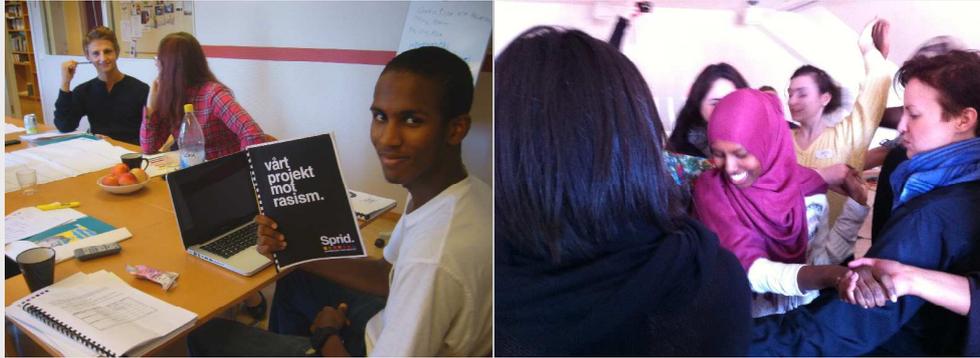
### HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY AUS-ICYE Iceland!

On the 1st of October, Alþjóðleg ungmennaskipti / AUS - ICYE Iceland celebrated its 50th birthday with a big bash at the city hall in Reykjavik. An Icelandic band kept the guests busy moving to the tune of their music. Current and former volunteers set up booths displaying different cultures from their own country and countries where they had previously volunteered. The 50th anniversary celebrations continued over a week, comprising a photo exhibition, a conference on foreign languages, a volunteer day with the Red Cross, and the launch on a book on volunteering that narrates the stories of 16 former volunteers going back decades in time. One of these stories is that of Iceland's Finance Minister Stengrímur J. Sigfússon, who volunteered in New Zealand in 1974!

Happy 50th, AUS! We wish you sustained growth and much success for the coming 50 years!



## "Sprid. - Spread and Share" PeaceWorks / ICYE Sweden Anti-Racism Project



*"I am against racism. I wish to make a change, but I'm not quite sure where to start. We all have ideas of how to make the world a better place. The question is merely how and which tools should I use? And this is how the idea to the project «Sprid.» was born, writes Leo Askeland of PeaceWorks/ICYE Sweden."*

In 2011 PeaceWorks/ICYE Sweden has been running the Sweden's biggest cooperation against racism. Together with 26 other organisations we believe that where there is a will, there is a way. The «Sprid.» collaboration consists of the members of non-profit youth organisations and youth groups aged 14 to 25, who joined forces locally and independently to plan and carry out their own outreach activities against racism and xenophobia across Sweden. The concept is simple, young people teach and guide other young people who have never met before, how to plan and carry out anti-racist projects. Since the «Sprid.» project is about young people acting out publicly against racism, their work was profoundly affected by the tragedy at Utøya in our neighbour country Norway, where hundreds of voluntarily engaged young people were victims of right-wing extremism. This made the work of the participants of «Sprid.» against racism ever more important in modern day society, as they are working towards the vision of an open and democratic world free from prejudices.

## How Youth Drive Change – 7<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum - 2011



Sigrid Ducloy, an active co-worker of ICYE France represented the ICYE Federation at the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum, held from 17 to 20 October 2011 in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. This biennial event gathered 245 young delegates from the 193 Members States: the majority of them were less than 24 years old and more than the half of the participants were women. Many observers and speakers were also invited, among them; members of the civil society, United Nations representatives, intergovernmental organizations members, academics and members of the private sector.

After the election of the five delegate's representatives on Monday, Irina Bokova –the UNESCO General Director – and Davidson Hepburn- the President of the UNESCO General Conference- officially opened the forum.

Many workshops were offered to the delegates: exhibitions, networking space, café-discussions, conference-debates... The aim of this forum was to enable young people to make their voice heard, to show that they are ready for action and involved in many activities and projects. They succeeded through their presence and the many debates on various subjects such as social innovation, democracy promotion, youth employment and participation, conflict resolution and sustainable development.

The result of this forum was the recommendations' report. The one made two years ago (during the 6th Youth Forum) was updated and amended with the rules of the intergovernmental process by the young delegates. It was difficult for them to find an agreement on time, but finally they presented the document to the General Director at the closing of the forum. This report will be presented to the national government representatives at the next 36th UNESCO General Conference. [Read more](#)

Sigrid Ducloy, ICYE France

## ICYE General Assembly 2011



The XXVII General Assembly of the ICYE Federation will be held from 7 thru 12 November 2011 in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. 70 participants, representing 38 different member and partner countries, will discuss and deliberate on policies and programme development strategies relating to quality and impact assessment, training, documentation and research, bi-country and Over 30s programmes, as well as theme focused activities. Many thanks to ACI/ICYE Costa Rica for playing host and the excellent GA preparation!

### ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

#### New ICYE National Correspondents

- **New Programme Officer at  
ICYE International Office, Berlin** **Rubaica Jaliwala (Ms)**