

# Worlds of experience



No. 2 ( May 2003 )

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Dear Friends,

First of all we would like to thank the volunteers and all those who have contributed to this second issue of the ICYE Federation's electronic Newsletter "Worlds of Experiences", dedicated to the theme HIV/AIDS and YOUTH

"Volunteers Voices" features insightful contributions received by ICYE volunteers working in organisations providing HIV/AIDS preventative and secondary care – most of the volunteers being participants of the "ICYE-Eastlinks pilot project on HIV-AIDS Prevention", supported by the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.

Equally encouraging are the reports of activities carried out by ICYE India and ICYE UK aiming at promoting the involvement of volunteers in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. A brief summary of UNAIDS activities closes this section.

You will also find useful references to the variety of initiatives being carried out in the frame of the International Year of Fresh Water, as well as to an exciting new "Campaign for Peace and International Understanding" launched by UNESCO and the International Youth Hostel Federation, and a World Bank on-line consultation on children and youth.

A review of activities carried out by like-minded NGOs is followed by an update of new ICYE programmes and projects' reports.

Besides sending it via e-mail, as word.doc and PDF format, "Worlds of Experience" can also be found in the ICYE Federation's web site: [www.icye.org](http://www.icye.org)

While we look forward to receiving comments on how to improve the content and layout of the ICYE Newsletter, please note that the next issue will be published on 30 September 2003 and will be dedicated to "Disability and Youth". Please send your contributions to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org) by the 31st of August 2003.

With warm regards

ICYE International Office

## VOLUNTEERS VOICES

### **Lyudmila Shulga Ukrainian Volunteer in Berlin Germany wrote: The Secret of the Orange Café**

"I come from Ukraine, Mariupol the city on the Sea of Azov. In November 2002 I started my eight-month volunteer service for ZiK GmbH, Orangerie in Berlin organised by ICYE and Alternative-V, Ukrainian NGO and supported by the EVS programme,

ZiK-Orangerie is a café for HIV positive people. Its motto is "From Positive to Positive". All co-workers, with two or three exceptions, are HIV positive. They are of different age, mostly about 35-... and at first sight they seem to be "normal". After some observations comes the feeling that all of them are only wearing the mask of "normality". The truth is so that people working in this project came out from the bottom of the life. They experienced drugs (some of them are drug-users even now), prisons, unemployment, life in the street then diseases and hospitals. Constant instability and diseases made them physically and mentally damaged. Each one of them (excluding the main staff) is under control of a social worker, who help to organise their working day, to pay bills, to do shopping or, even, to write letters. Slowly, step-by-step, the social worker creates for him/her a new world. The main goal of the Orangerie is to support HIV positive people in everyday life, to bring in it some stability and clarity. Work in the "Orangerie" shows the way out of isolation and gives the opportunity to be useful again.

The work with injured people is simple, but demands lots of inner power. Long-time communication and constant polite struggle with such kind of people made me more careful and stronger. I've learned to work with and to listen to people from the other world (I don't like the term "mentally damaged people"). I've learned to be patient; I've learned to be soft or hard with them, depending on the situation. Once and forever I gave up the idea of saving them or brining them up. They do not need this. What they need is support, though to accept this fact is also not so easy for them.

Except the work, I had to cope with many other things. First, it was my language barrier. The time I came to Berlin, I could hardly say a word in German. As a consequence, it was difficult to build up good contact with clients of my host project and to integrate into the team. Besides, I could take over only few tasks where not much language was demanded, of course these were not the most interesting tasks. The situation changed a couple of months later, thanks to my ability to learn languages quickly.....

.....At the moment, I am still volunteering for ZiK-Orangerie. I am proud to work in one of the most difficult projects. Within the time I spent here, I was never sorry for the choice I have made. Doing voluntary service is an extremely exciting activity

that demands courage and flexibility. Of course it has its own negative sides, like missing home, friends, other from your life-style, etc. But the positive sides of it from my point of view, are much more important and exciting. I did not even suspect that this experience could influence my life so much. Due to the voluntary service I realised what my future job would be.

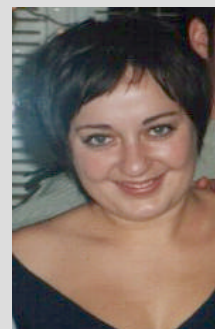
If your choice is to go the way of voluntary service, you should not forget that this path, as any other, has its own difficulties. The question is what you can make out of it"

### **Marina Braga, Ukrainian volunteer in London, UK wrote: First Impressions**

"I am volunteering for Crusaid, the national fundraiser for HIV/AIDS. I am extremely lucky as I work with very nice and helpful people who are very patient and do not get tired of answering lots of my questions and explaining concepts, often more than once. I have been involved in several tasks from collections for World AIDS day, working on the database, assisting in the charity shop while learning about the AIDS situation here in the UK.

I am now given the opportunity to work on reception and try out my English on those who call our office. Poor people! They hear my Odessa accent (it's the city where I was born) that does not want to disappear when I speak English.....

..... One memory I will treasure and take home with me and is of the day I attended the Candlelight Ceremony before World AIDS Day that was led to remember those who died of AIDS. Thousands of lighted candles were burning in the hands of people who came to the Millennium Bridge that day. The priest gave a speech and a minute of silence was held. Looking on the lights above the Thames I thought about those millions of lives touched by the epidemic, some known and unknown faces flashed in my mind and I almost cried. I don't want to believe that somebody may remain indifferent to the global HIV/AIDS problem that has changed lives not only of those who live with HIV and AIDS but also of their friends and relatives."



**Olga Alemaeva, Russian volunteer in England wrote:  
"My first impressions"**

"What is a volunteer? This is a person who thinks and cares not just about himself, but also about other people and community where he lives.

I think there are many problems all over the world that couldn't be resolved without volunteers. One of these problems is HIV/AIDS, which concern all the countries in the world today. However, we'll only be able to beat this disease when everybody does everything within his or her capabilities to help.

Generally, the idea of gathering together young people from different countries, linked by a common issue (in this case HIV/AIDS), helps them to gain a better understanding of the various aspects of this problem by looking at it from another and / or diverse points of view. In other words, the young people put themselves in the shoes of people from other countries – this is the goal of the International Cultural Youth Exchange – ICYE.

What about my experience as a volunteer in the UK? Previously I worked as a volunteer in Russia and thanks to this, I am taking part in this project. This is my first experience of international exchange and also my first trip abroad. Such projects help us to share our own ideas and thoughts and take on new views and opinions. ....

.....When all the ICYE volunteers gathered together at the Latin American House in London for the Christmas Party in December 2002, I thought to myself: "Life is wonderful!" It was terrific that all these people from all corners of the globe, speaking in different languages, were linked by one common ideal – voluntary work to help other people, improve self-development and bring about cross-cultural exchange.

I would like to thank all the people who organised this project and made the International Cultural Youth Exchange possible for us!"



**Pauline Huet, French volunteers in India wrote:**

"I'm working as a volunteer for "FREEDOM FOUNDATION" an NGO specialised in the care of HIV + people in Bangalore.

This centre has got 50 beds for in-patients and also an orphanage for the children orphan from AIDS.

I basically work with the nurses who taught me the basis of nursing, special medication, dressing and hygiene etc. But, I learnt how to behave with the patients, to show them comprehension, love and care without pity or fear of their disease.

I also raised the funds by creation of handicraft with the children.

We say, every body is equal in front of the disease but if AIDS touches any class of the population, there are more victims in the low class population. Moreover, middle and high class will be able to pay for ART medicines and to stay at home.

In India AIDS is a "taboo" disease and a lot of infected people are thrown out of their families, jobs and even from villages. A lot of misconceptions exist. For example to have a relation with the virgin will cure an infected person or to drink a lime juice after the relation will prevent the virus or the dead body of an HIV + person shouldn't be buried to avoid contaminate the soil. Most of the people I take care of are from low class victims of these prejudices.

Most of the patients don't speak English and I don't speak any Indian languages. But we can understand each other through body language, eye movements. These are some very beautiful movements.

They are often very surprised to find a " White " working for them, because they think that a very odd idea, me " from such a rich country, to come to work in such a horrible place. "

It's difficult to explain to them that they are the rich people I want to learn from!!"

**Jennifer Holly, British volunteer in Tallinn, Estonia wrote:  
WHAT EXACTLY IS 'ESTONIAN'?**

"Aaaah, the delight of once again immersing oneself in a new society. The adventure of making new acquaintances, stumbling across little gems and little horrors, attempting to order hot chocolate and find yourself eating a bowl of chicken soup!! This time it's served with traditional Estonian black bread...

..... Our employers, i.e. Aidsi Entsekeskus, have been introducing us gradually to the project. We have visited two needle exchange centres, been to a day long seminar for teenagers about HIV and drugs, talked with ex-drug users and current drug users, and discussed at length between ourselves everything possible to do with HIV, AIDS, drugs, the

blatant and more subtle differences between how the West and the East tackle these subjects, and what we will be able to contribute.....

.....First impressions of Tallinn are, overall, positive. As a tourist you would be bewitched by the quaint beauty of the old town, charmed by the multilingual nature of all Estonians, stuffed with delicious food and delectable Hõõgvein (hot, spiced wine). As a permanent resident (especially with experience of Russia), I am flabbergasted by the overwhelming, lingering Russian presence and absolutely intrigued by the ensuing ineffable, inscrutable culture - what exactly is 'Estonian'?"

**Kathryn Hill, British volunteer in Odessa Ukraine wrote:**  
**"PRETTY WOMAN"**

"I don't think there is any need to ask if you have seen the film 'Pretty Woman'. Of course 'Pretty Woman' was a modern Fairy Tale, an enchanting fiction. But how many of us had our understanding of prostitution influenced by the images in this film? Do you remember Julia Roberts' first attempt to work as a prostitute, when she mistakenly takes up her position on a seasoned prostitute's 'patch'? For many of us this scene and the images of streetwise women in mini skirts and micro tops parading for business somehow seemed a believable reality.

However this is not the real face of prostitution as I found out for myself when I participated in the Harm Reduction HIV/AIDS Outreach project for the female sex worker population here in Odessa, Ukraine. Alongside Mariya, a sociologist from the organisation 'Faith, Hope, Love,' I went one freezing January evening to the city's port. Armed with condoms, leaflets advising about safe sex and the organisations' monthly magazine for female sex workers and drug users, our task was to talk with the women and distribute our materials. The female sex workers were an unremarkable group of approximately twenty women located opposite the port entrance and outside a small shop. They were of mixed age, the majority of them were obviously in their early twenties and they were dressed for the weather - in trousers and winter coats. I was surprised because they did not match my idea of a prostitute; they looked like 'normal' people. Mariya informed me that a significant number of them were new, and that many of them were University students from Odessa region or other parts of Ukraine. I had become so de-sensitised to the term "female sex worker" that when I actually met them it was a shock to recognise that they were not merely women who sold sex but women with other priorities in their lives. They were happy, laughing and joking and trying to speak English. I could not understand why they chose to do this work.

The sex workers recognised Mariya and were happy to talk with her. This is because the organisation conducts Outreach at the same location regularly on Tuesday and Friday evenings. It quickly became clear to me that this Outreach

work was very important to the female sex workers. The condoms were eagerly received, as were our leaflets. The magazine was also very popular and I was pleasantly surprised that there was so much demand for it; having spent many long, dull hours in the office folding and stapling the pages it was rewarding to see that this work was appreciated.

We stayed for no more than half an hour because there were not a great number of women working there that evening. The previous Tuesday evening Mariya and her colleague had counted approximately thirty-five women, and in the summer months there can be as many as eighty. As for clients I did not notice many, although at one point I saw a stream of female sex workers heading towards a newly parked car. I am informed that the large number of sex workers in one location is good for the client. If he wishes he can ask the women to turn around so that he can see their profiles, or if he likes he can ask them to show him their legs or rear. He has plenty of choice.

The statistics tell us why this Outreach work is so important. There is an HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine - 1% of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS (compare this with Britain's 0.1%). In Odessa, a city of approximately 1 million, 13, 000 people are known to have HIV/AIDS but the World Health Organisation recommends that the reality is nearer eight or ten times this number. Female sex workers are one of the highest risk groups for HIV/AIDS and without the work of 'Faith, Hope, Love' in both Harm Reduction and in collecting data about the female sex worker profession in Odessa many more such women are likely to become infected and spread the disease. As I went home to bed that evening I thought of the women I had just met. What were they doing now? Maybe others had also gone to bed - but in what circumstances, and what would the consequences be? Some, I knew, had just gone to a nearby cafe for a hot drink. It had been a very cold night."

**Hjordis Valdimarsdottir, Icelandic volunteer in Kenya wrote:**

"This woman is incredible. She is so thin, it's like she has not eaten for months. Her hair is coming off and she has got rashes all over her body. She sits there and tells me her story. She tested HIV positive ten years ago and a photo proves that she had been a very handsome woman at that time. The past year she has grown worse and looks like she has not long time left. She sounds very peaceful and has made peace with life and says she is still fighting her battle for her young daughter (also HIV positive) who stands quiet by her side. This experience touches me a lot. The woman lives in a slum in Nairobi, Kenya where I was visiting families with HIV positive children, with my project where I have been a volunteer the past 3 months.

I was shocked to hear about Aids in Kenya when I came here. You learn about Aids in school and you know a lot about it but what you don't realise is how many people are actually affected by it. In a country

where it is said that 700 people die each day from Aids and .... orphans and abandoned children...

I have now been working for a few months at a children's home for HIV positive abandoned and orphan children. The home provides holistic care for 86 children. When I came here I was prepared for the worst, dealing with seeing the children being very sick and die but to my surprise that was not the case in this home. I have seen some of the children very sick when they arrive but after some weeks of medical care and good nutrition they usually improve a lot. By interacting with these children I have really found out they are just the same as any other children in the world. Some people come here and are afraid to approach them but that is just because of lack of knowledge.

In this home, I work as a teacher in their school program and in other areas such as in the cottages where the children live. They all live in families, about ten children and one house-/mum or uncle. This gives the children the chance (sometimes for the first time) to use the words "my home" or "my family" and gives them a lot of social and spiritual support. The last two to three years the death rate of the children at the home has gone from twelve children a year to two to three children each year. That is mainly because of new and improved medicines and generous people who help providing these drugs, which are too expensive.

When influx and referrals for admission in the home became beyond the homes capacity an outreach program was started. Now it provides around 500 children and their families with high quality home based care and counselling.

It was in one of the visits to these families that I met this incredible woman who with the power of her will is struggling for her life. With the help of good people she is able to feed her child and her self. I know that if we just take a little time to help the ones who are sick and need help we all can make a change for the better for these people.

Even though a lot has been done in Africa fighting this terrible disease it is clear that there is still a lot of work to be done and years until this disaster is over. I have seen what is possible."



## MORE ON HIV / AIDS AND VOLUNTARY WORK

**Catherine Hine, Committee member of ICYE UK , wrote:**

ICYE UK may be traditionally more celebrated for its projects in Latin America and Africa, but of late, we have been adjusting to Ukrainian Varenikhi , Estonian slang and ermmm, Russian salsa?

At the start of November, Michael Isaac (Ukraine 2001) and I said goodbye to healthy livers and introduced London to a new contingent of European Voluntary Service Volunteers. Marina and Natasha from Ukraine, Olga from Samara, Russia and Teimur from Estonia arrived in the UK, as the first participants in a project focused on HIV issues.

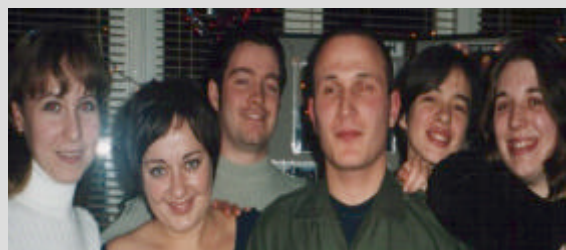
Olga and Teimur volunteer for Freshwinds in Birmingham - which seeks to improve the quality of life for people with life-threatening illnesses; Marina and Natasha are working at the offices (and charity shop) of the UK's fundraiser for HIV and AIDS, Crusaid. It is hoped that these experiences will develop skills that the volunteers will use in their organizations when they return home.

Jennifer Holly and Kathryn Hill from the UK are spending a year in projects in Estonia and Ukraine respectively, and you will read more about Jennifer's experiences elsewhere in this issue.

When project organisers gathered in Kiev last summer, it became evident that the HIV/ AIDS situation in many countries of Eastern Europe, is fast approaching crisis point.

The brainchild of Ricci Koehler, a former ICYE Germany volunteer in Russia, this project is the culmination of over 12 months of intensive negotiations and painstaking preparations. The idea was originally conceived in Budapest in 2001 during discussions about improving the quality of the East-West European Voluntary Service and had followed on from an Eastlinks conference in Tallinn on HIV and AIDS, earlier in the year. Ricci must take credit for immense amounts of hard work in making this project possible.

Feedback in the last month and a recent party (!) suggest that the volunteers' experience in the UK is proving very rewarding for all concerned. With Dan Oakley's appointment as European Co-ordinator, we have a stalwart and experienced promoter of this and similar projects.



## ICYE INDIA'S AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM (A.A.P)

AAP is a project of ICYE & VS India that has been working on HIV / AIDS for many years through different media of art, theatre, music, exhibition, personal counselling and other activities.

ICYE & VS India has initiated a long term program in the field of HIV / AIDS, education, service and training at different level in different languages in the rural areas in Bangalore and Hosur.

During a visit to Narcotics Anonymous, participants were stunned to learn that the number of people living with HIV in Kiev alone is equal to the figure for the whole of the UK.

Although European and World Bank resources are currently being ploughed into all the countries involved in this programme, this EVS project involves young people in the future of their own countries and develops skills for sustaining these projects.

### Aims and Objectives

- Family life
- Women's health
- Child problems / Youth problems / The girl child problem
- HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs
- To promote and conduct meetings, seminars and workshops on HIV / AIDS
- To start counselling centres in the schools, colleges and institutions
- ICYE & VS India network with government, voluntary, national and international organizations.

### Target Area

ICYE & VS India has initiated a program in the village Shoolagiri, with 12,000 inhabitants and which is 70 K.M away from Bangalore city.

### Statistics on HIV / AIDS in India:

- 3.9 million people are already infected by HIV / AIDS in India.
- 16000 people are getting an HIV infection every day.
- Worst affected are the people in the age group of 20 - 45 year.

AAP together with the International Service Agency (INSA) organised a 3-day workshop, building on the skill building workshop on HIV / AIDS Intervention program was held from 24th to 26th March 2003, Bangalore. Sessions were centred around HIV / AIDS, STD's, Gender, Sex & Sexuality, Sexual abuse, Prevailing beliefs & attitudes, the spread & prevention of HIV / AIDS & STD's, Indoor games of group Co-ordination, how this issue can be communicated to the local community, how to give counselling for HIV infected person.

In addition, on 6th April 2003 at Shoolagiri a "WORLD HEALTH DAY " on AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Panel speakers dwelled on the global scenario and impressed upon the audience the urgency to tackle this deadly disease on a war footing.

Special emphasis was placed on education for teenagers and among women. Other local doctors and leaders also spoke about General Health, Hygiene, Child care and especially for the environment in community.

At the end of the day participants pleaded that it would be good to adopt more villages, schools and colleges as target areas and young people for the above mentioned program to try to stop spreading HIV Infection to the community.



### AIDS web

The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) complements other Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns designed to reach youth. The same technology resources links also HIV/AIDS educators and activists around the world who use Internet, e-mail and CD-ROMs as a part of a HIV/AIDS education and prevention project.

World Links and the World Bank's AIDS Campaign Team for Africa ([ACTAfrica](#)) designed the initial online collaborative project on HIV/AIDS prevention and care used by secondary schools in Africa.

The project offers on-line tools including a moderated list-serve, a section on social actions, a learning centre and news.

For more information visit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/worldlinks/aidsweb>

### UNAIDS

The global mission of UNAIDS as the main advocate for world-wide action against HIV/AIDS is to lead, strengthen and support an expanded response to the epidemic.

The goal of UNAIDS is, to prevent the spread of HIV; to provide care and support for those infected

and affected by the disease, to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS; and to alleviate the socio-economic and human impact of the epidemic.

UNAIDS is guided by a Programme Coordinating Board with representatives of 22 governments from all geographic regions, the eight UNAIDS Cosponsors, and five representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

At country level, UNAIDS Country Programme Advisers provide practical support to the Cosponsors (who work together in the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS) and assist government and civil society groups in implementing strategic action plans to tackle the epidemic.

Both internationally and within countries, UNAIDS advocates an expanded response to the epidemic. It encourages the use of best practices, even when these are sensitive or controversial. Most importantly, the Secretariat works to build commitment and support among governments, donors and private companies, and to bring on board a wide range of other partners, including religious organizations, non-governmental organizations, people whose lives are affected or threatened by the epidemic.

If you visit [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) you can also get information on topics like "HIV and gender", "HIV and human Rights", "Young people and HIV/AIDS" and the "13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS & STIs in Africa" (21 – 26 Sept.- Nairobi, Kenya)

## AROUND THE WORLD

### NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

#### International Year of Fresh Water 2003

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater and it encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection.

The International Year of Fresh Water Provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. The year will be used as a platform for promoting existing activities and spearheading new initiatives in water resources at the international, regional and national levels, and should have an impact far beyond the year 2003.

So, Jump in! Get your feet wet! Make a splash!  
For more about this project visit:  
[www.wateryear2003.org](http://www.wateryear2003.org)



#### World Bank – Consultation by the Children And Youth Unit

The World Bank is one of the world's largest sources of development assistance. Its primary focus is on helping the poorest people and the poorest countries. This site provides an overview of how the Bank uses its financial resources, its highly trained staff, and its extensive knowledge base to help developing countries onto paths of stable, sustainable, and equitable growth.

Within the Human Development Network of the World Bank, the Children and Youth Unit (in co-operation with other organizations with knowledge and expertise in children and youth) is linked to a lifecycle and social risk management approach to human development. This means moving beyond survival goals to issues of basic education, health, social capital and a general flourishing condition for development.

To consolidate and strengthen the focus of the World Bank's work on children and youth, they are appealing to young people in diverse countries and conditions to share their views on the issues addressed in the Strategy via moderated online discussions. This process will help them to focus their priorities in a way that would best serve the needs of young people and therefore render future consultations and interventions more relevant.

If you are aged 15-30, or work with them, you can join this on-line discussion by visiting:  
<http://info.worldbank.org/etools/youth2003/signup.htm>.

### European Union YOUTH Programme Third-Country Evaluation Workshop

The Third-Country Evaluation Workshop organised by the European Commission and held in Brussels on 26-27 February 2003 confirmed the overall validity of third country co-operation and gave proof of a real demand among organisations and young people. It produced a number of interesting ideas and proposals concerning the geographic reach of the Programme, the instruments and criteria, financial and administrative issues, the structures and visibility.

In an initial response, Mr. Mairesse, Head of the Youth Unit at Directorate General Education and Culture, confirmed that YOUTH third country co-operation was not being questioned and would without doubt continue in the new programme. The focus on neighbouring countries was likely to be maintained. While recalling that it will not be possible to make it a world-wide programme, the proposals put forward by this workshop concerning opening up to other regions under certain conditions, such as thematic approaches, would be further examined. Mr. Mairesse gave a message of opening to proposals for more flexibility, while recalling the dilemma between transparency and flexibility and the restraints of the current legal basis. He confirmed that some of the suggestions for adjusting the Programme and making it more flexible might be taken on board for reorienting the

Programme in its second half as long as they would not affect the legal basis. Other recommendations would be considered for drafting of a proposal for the new generation of programmes.

### "Campaign for Peace and International Understanding".

UNESCO and the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) are joining forces to promote Peace and International Understanding. Following the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, the youth hostelling movement –(now encompassing some sixty organisations world-wide, involving 3.2 million members and 35 million overnight stays in youth hostels each year)- and UNESCO will develop joint events, programmes and initiatives under the banner " Campaign for Peace and International Understanding"

UNESCO's Youth Section is excited by the opportunities this partnership will offer to young people all over the world and is looking forward to working closely with the IYHF over the next 3 years and beyond.

To visit IYHF just go to: [www.HIhostels.com](http://www.HIhostels.com)

### NEWS FROM NGOs

#### The Communication Initiative

The Communication Initiative is a Partnership of development organisations seeking to support advances in the effectiveness and scale of communication interventions for positive international development.

The "Adolescents" section , where you can find material relevant to young people, communication and development updates you on programme activities, awards, training, evaluation and research results, networks, books, planning ideas and other materials. For more about this page visit:

[www.comminit.com/adolescents](http://www.comminit.com/adolescents)

#### Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Youth Award

The Global Knowledge Partnership has published a call for submissions from youth led projects from all over the world for the GKP Youth Award which recognises outstanding contributions for community development.

The deadline for contributions is the 31 August 2003.

For more information please visit:

[www.globalknowledge.org](http://www.globalknowledge.org)

#### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (Prague, July 2003)

The International Youth Leadership Conference is designed to give the next generation of world leaders a forum to showcase their leadership skills.

The International Youth Leadership Conference will be held in Prague, Czech Republic from 20- 25 July and 27 July - 1 August 2003. 160 students from around the world are expected to discuss the following theme: "A cross-cultural exchange of young ideas on the future of the world".

For more information visit:

[www.czechleadership.com](http://www.czechleadership.com)

#### YouthActionNet

Youth action net seeks to connect, inspire and nurture present and future young leaders.

Our aim is to provide a virtual space where young people can share lessons, stories, information and advice on how to lead effective change. It is a space



where youth can get up to date information, resources and tools to strengthen their work.

YouthActionNet is part of the global MakeaConnection programme. This organisation promotes positive youth development and works together with the International Youth foundation (IYF), one of the world's largest public foundations working to improve the conditions and prospects for young people.

To find more about this project and the organisations visit:

[www.youthactionnet.org](http://www.youthactionnet.org)  
[www.makeaconnection.org](http://www.makeaconnection.org)  
[www.iyfn.net](http://www.iyfn.net)

#### United Network of Young Peace Builders

This organisation believes in the necessity of developing a Global Network and a Culture of Peace. Therefore they are launching a campaign to raise awareness on the role of youth in peace-building and conflict prevention with the support of the UN Declaration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and non-violence for the Children of the World.

They also intend to co-ordinate a youth participation project in the UN conference on the

role of civil society in conflict prevention that will take place in New York in 2005.

If you want more information about this, please send an e-mail to: [unoy@unoy.org](mailto:unoy@unoy.org)

#### World Youth Congress

We would like to draw your attention to the World Youth Congress, which will be held in Casablanca, Morocco from 16- 28 August 2003 and where up to 1000 young people from all over the world will gather. The main topics of this congress will be tolerance, solidarity and the role of youth in sustainable development.

For more information, we invite you to visit: [www.maroc2003.org](http://www.maroc2003.org).

#### 2003 International Essay Contest for Young People

The International Essay Contest for Young People is organised by the Goi Peace Foundation on the following theme: "My vision for the future" – what are your hopes and dreams for your future and the future of the world?

Young people around the world are invited to submit their creative ideas on this theme by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

For further information please visit: [www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs](http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs)

## ICYE PROGRAMME NEWS

#### Youth Cultural Centre – AJUDE MOZAMBIQUE

For AJUDE/ICYE Mozambique one of their biggest challenges is the creation of a Youth Cultural Centre in one of the suburbs of Maputo. This centre will provide a social and cultural venue with a library and a resource centre. Also it will provide a venue for workshops to be held.

These workshops will be held in collaboration with other specialised organizations in areas such as HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention of tropical diseases, human rights, conflict resolution and peace keeping.

This centre will also provide professional training for the youth of the area offering them training in computing, accountancy, lobbying, advocacy and in youth leadership. It will also provide an area for them to use computers and the internet, fax and phones.

Any kind of support or interest is more than welcome, just contact : [www.ajude.org](http://www.ajude.org)



### ICYE – EASTLINKS Long – term volunteering project in EU and SEE Countries II

As the previous one, this project results from the efforts made by ICYE and Eastlinks to foster long-term voluntary service exchanges between EU and South Eastern European (SEE) countries.

It gives young people the possibility to acquire experiences and knowledge about voluntary service and civil society in general by living and working in EU and SEE countries - including also Macedonia and Montenegro. It is expected that it contribute to building one European identity at grassroots level.

Young volunteers from South East Europe will engage in a number of quite different local hosting projects, ranging from environmental protection organisations and disabled care institutions to projects working with refugees and homeless people. At the same time young EU volunteers will have the chance to volunteer in Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian and Yugoslavian non-governmental organisations in conflict resolution, new media, environmental issues and youth work, offering a rich sample of civil society where volunteerism will definitely bring an added value to respective local communities.

This project is implemented with the support of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.

### EASTLINKS 6 – FINAL EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP MEETING

After completing their 6 months voluntary service, a group of 19 volunteers from all over Europe came together in Berlin for a three-day final evaluation organised by the co-ordinating ICYE International Office.

Through different activities and methods, the volunteers expressed their positive and negative feelings with regards to this experience – all of them mentioning however that it was a unique opportunity which will definitely have an impact on their future. After an emotional farewell all 19 headed back home with lots of hopes and lots of experience...

This project was carried out with the support of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.



### ICYE – Eastlinks Information Project in SEE Countries

National Focal Points and Local Antennas are the main actors for the implementation of the ICYE EASTLINKS SOUTH EAST EUROPE YOUTH INFORMATION PROJECT supported by the Youth Programme of the European Commission and presently organised in co-operation with EURODESK ITALY, SEEYN and SEE YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER.

The project's mission is to support reconciliation, foster intercultural understanding and contribute to the construction of civil society in South East Europe by enhancing information-sharing on voluntary service and youth mobility opportunities for the young people of the region.

Intra- and extra regional networking is one of the most important objectives of the project aiming at empowering youth NGOs to enhance their proactive involvement in youth mobility and voluntary service activities across Europe. In preparation - , planning and training meetings which have taken place in Croatia, Slovenia and BiH. The youth leaders from the region have established interaction between their organisations and with international partners in carrying out the following activities:

- a survey was carried out among around 100 youth NGOs from the region to assess their needs with regards to information and support
- produce and disseminate information material on the YOUTH Programme in different languages
- establish a low-threshold support structure to foster participation of young people and youth NGOs in YOUTH and other programmes available for them
- A major communication and dissemination tool of the INFO project is a regional web portal which provides links to both the National Focal Points where information will be available in their respective language as well as to the International partners and networks. This web portal can be accessed either centrally at [www.seeyouth.info](http://www.seeyouth.info) or from a link on the web site of each partner organisation

At present the geographical scope of information and support activities covers Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and FYR of Macedonia with a total of 6 National Focal points and 11 Local Antenna. A refreshment and assessment meeting for the respective representatives is programmed to be held in Struga, Macedonia at the end of September.

This project will be carried out with the support of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.

### SEE Visit to European Institutions

The project is part of a long-term approach in developing a framework of cooperation between EU-based networks and youth mobility and voluntary service NGOs in South East Europe.

The study visit will bring together 10 representatives from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria and Montenegro and 5 representatives from youth associations in Belgium, France and Germany. The aim is to enhance EU – SEE cooperation, providing NGOs from South Eastern Europe with first hand information on the work and policies of different governmental and non-governmental actors in European youth work.

This will be done through visits to and meetings with representatives from: the European Commission, representatives of the European Parliament, the European Youth Forum, AVSO, and international youth organizations running programs with South East Europe or planning to start these programs.

This project will be carried out with the support of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.

### Euro-Latin American Training Course for youth workers on financial planning and management of YOUTH projects

This training course organised in Berlin, Germany, by the International Office of the ICYE Federation with the support of the European Commission, has been - in spite of the apparent “dry” theme - quite successful and inspirational.

From 23 to 28 March 2003, 20 youth workers from 17 countries engaged in lively debates about issues of financial accountability and transparency, and closely interacted in distinct training sessions aiming at transferring skills related to planning, monitoring and meeting reporting requirements of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.



To sum up the training's positive outcomes, one of the participants said: “I never thought that talking about how to administer a grant and be accountable for it could be so unifying and fun”

## ICYE FEDERATION NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents:

- ICYE New Zealand **Daniela Lapenna**
- ACI – ICYE Costa Rica **Arthur Schroeder**

### European Association

The European Association of ICYE recently held their General Assembly. The new Executive Committee consists of Sanne Houlind, new Chair Person (former board member of ICYE Denmark), Thorarinn Ivarsson from AUS – ICYE Iceland as treasurer and as new member Melanie Jacobs from GRENZENLOS – ICYE Austria

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the European Association of ICYE moved its office to Denmark, c/o Dansk ICYE.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ICYE Federation General Assembly 17-24 Nov. 2003 Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
- SEE Information Project February 2003 to January 2004
- SEE Youth Workers visit to EU Institutions 13-19 September 2003
- ICYE – Eastlinks South Eastern Europe II June to December 2003