

# Worlds of experience



No. 6 (October 2004)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the sixth issue of "Worlds of Experience", focussing on "Youth and the Environment".

As the volunteers' contributions featuring in this issue illustrate, more and more young people worldwide show a genuine interest and involvement in environmental protection activities, such as conservation of protected areas, promotion of environmental friendly tourism, organic farming and wildlife management. Young people from different walks of life manifest their increasing environmental awareness by volunteering locally or globally, i.e. by promoting reforestation activities in Uganda, wildlife protection in Colombia, Costa Rica and Croatia, or working in an organic farm in Switzerland. As one of the volunteers puts it, to learn to appreciate and preserve the beauty of this planet: "Just feel, see, save, taste, share and most of all Enjoy!"

Volunteers' voices is followed by examples of how NGOs, such as ACI Costa Rica, as well as international organisations and the private sector (see Bayer AG supports UNEP Youth Programme) advocate and foster youth's involvement in environmental education and protection.

News from "Around The World" features articles, among others, on: how youth can contribute to the eradication of poverty; the World Bank's commitment to support youth work; the EU-Canada seminar on youth mobility and voluntarism; publication to promote youth participation in local development; world campaign on children HIV-AIDS; and the 3rd Youth Festival in Scotland – summer 2005.

Some of the ICYE programme news are: words of thanks for successful fundraising for a Colombian organisation working with children victims of sexual exploitation; the experience of a Macedonian volunteer working with migrants and refugees in Spain; and briefings on the latest ICYE multilateral project and an international seminar on Youth Participation held in Honduras.

While we wish you a good and interesting read, we would like to encourage readers to send us their contributions, in form of articles/pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", which will focus on „ *Youth and the Homeless*“, and will be published at the end of February 2005.

Contributions should be sent to [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org) before 31 January 2005.

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)

## “Youth and the Environment”

### VOLUNTEERS' VOICES

#### A REBIRTH OF TREES IN UGANDA

My name is Jude Katamba. I am an active volunteer at Uganda Volunteer for Peace /ICYE Uganda and am in charge of environmental projects within our organisation.

I would like to briefly describe the work of the Kikandwa Environmental Project in Western Uganda, one of our host placement for foreign volunteers.

The migration of people from rural to urban areas in Uganda is seen as one of the reasons the country is experiencing environment depredation through cutting tree's for charcoals to be used for cooking as few urban dwellers cannot afford to pay electricity power. Trees and plants are also use by herbal dealers, as people realise that is cheaper to use herbal medicine in comparison to the costs of medicines from doctors and government hospitals.

Now on days few persons hardly know how important it is to protect our environment, but thanks to some NGO's and Government Agencies environmental awareness about the impact of deforestation is growing. The Kikandwa Environmental Project in Western Uganda is one of the Projects spearheading this struggle. One of the main activity we carry out at this project is reforestation by planting trees for commercial/household use, and make them available to people at low cost price. We also sensitise the local Community on environment issues, we also invite students to visit our Nursery beds and demonstrate how we carry out our activities.

A National Agency ` Tree Seed Center ` has come with an offer of free seeds to 300 NGOs and 15,500 Schools to plant Mvule, Senna and calliandra, as the struggle continues there is need for Gernment to find an alternative to cheap electricity power and medicine.

Welcome to Kikadwa Environmental Association (KEA).

For more information please write to:  
<katambaj@yahoo.com>  
<uvpeace@yahoo.co.uk>

*Jude Katamba,  
ICYE Volunteer in Uganda*



#### SELVA DE MACARENA IN COLOMBIA

My name is Linna Maria Amaya and I am an ICYE Colombian long-term volunteer in Switzerland. I have completed my studies as a veterinarian and would like to continue with a Phd on environmental protection.

This is an article on the Macarena mountain range, a natural reserve in Colombia, in the south - eastern Meta department. The Macarena is an independent mountain range, and it's considered to be one of the most important wild life refugees in the world. The park has an extension of 629,280 hectares; it is more than 130 km long and 30 km wide. In this mountain range peculiarly you can find all the forms of life from cold forests to tropical rain forest.

Some of the most interesting places are Sewer Crystals, with characteristic seaweed of different colours, Sewer Canoes, Indian Sewer, Eagle jump, Cat jump, Quartz cascade and the Stone city. There are also archaeological sites with stone graffiti of indigenous cultures which once lived there.

The nature prevails through its magical colours, flora with tempering grounds and colds, apt for the birth of diverse species and high valued products, like cacao, palms, guayabos, carob trees, etc., abundant vegetation, rivers of crystalline and pure water. You may find thermal floors typical of the tropical rain forest.

You can find lots of different fauna like birds of beautiful plumage and melodic chant, like the Chucha Butter or Regal (the ornithological wealth and diversity being perhaps one of the most important ones in the world), marsupials,

bats, varied species of monkeys and primates, ant-eaters, the water dog, crocodiles, lizards and many wild life animals.

Its future is unfortunately uncertain as it will depend on the outcry of the true defenders of this imposing place. Its fauna and its flora are unique because of the confluence of the biodiversity represented by endemic vegetation and animal species of the Andes region, Amazonian and Orinoquo's one.

Among the current threats menacing the survival this impressive and unique natural reserve is the displacement of peasants families that settled in natural protected area such as La Macarena, as result of agrarian reforms and rising unemployment, and started intensive cultivation of the economically rentable narcotic plants such as marihuana, coke and poppies.

The repressive measures against the local rural population, and the indiscriminate destruction of narcotic plants cultivations (which destroys other ecologically and economically important plants/cultivations), are not the answer to this problem. Only the manual eradication of narcotic plants can ensure the survival and protection of local communities and the environment.

*Linna*

*Colombian volunteer in Switzerland 04-05*



### **THE COSTA RICAN NATIONAL ZOO "SIMÓN BOLIVAR"**

My journey to Costa Rica really started on a particularly dark and cold February morning. The reason why I choose Costa Rica over other places had a lot to do with the fact that it's completely different from my homeland. The humid air smells of spices and flowers and everywhere you look there is life. With its tropical climate and unique location, connecting Central and South America, Costa Rica's level of biodiversity is one of the greatest on the planet. 1150 m above sea level, in the wide and fertile Central Valley stands the capital, San Jose.

Taking the road north, just a few blocks away from the center, to my surprise I found yet another green treasure: The Simon Bolivar Zoo, my place of work. I hadn't exactly been optimistic about the place beforehand. To make a long story short, I absolutely loved it.

The Simon Bolivar Zoo is placed in a larger park of Simon Bolivar. A river runs through it and in a way it feels more like the forest than the city. It is not just an ordinary zoo; it's also a sanctuary for rescued animals. They don't go looking for animals to capture but give home to animals that have lived in bad conditions before. These are mostly animals that have been robbed, or lived with people who were keeping the animals illegally in their houses. Others used to belong to a circus or another zoo. Finally there are our orphans, animals whose mothers have been killed, leaving them all alone in the cruel jungle society.

My work at the zoo is diverse. I take part in preparing the food for the animals, help with feeding them and assist with other daily tasks. In the afternoon I take care of Chuvy, the two-toed sloth. He's a chubby two years old who thinks he's a human being, the prince of the zoo. His mother was killed when he was only a few weeks old and he was found in a trashcan somewhere in the city. In the afternoon he likes to climb trees, eat and misbehave; but mostly he likes to take naps. Chuvy's favorite food is boiled eggs. He sticks his tongue out and tries to fit the whole thing into his far too small mouth. He also likes to be hugged and falls asleep in my arms if held in the right way.

The days go by so fast here in Costa Rica. Always something new to see, to learn, taste or do. New friends can be made. Every morning, waking up with the warm sun shining in through my window, I feel happy to be exactly where I am, having my ICYE experience.

*Berglind Kristajánsdóttir*

*Icelandic volunteer in Costa Rica*



## MY SIX MONTHS IN KUTEREVO

My name is Katharina Dieckmann – I am from Germany and, from June till December 2003, I was an EVS volunteer in a small village in the Velebit mountains in Croatia. The village has 600 inhabitants. Kuterevo is located in a valley and directly in the beautiful nature and forest. This environment is the best for a bear sanctuary of bear orphans and that 's what this project is about.

I enjoyed from day to day more. One day, I worked together with my supervisor inside the fence of the "big bears". And Mrnjo Brundo came and wanted something from me. I said to him "rik"(go back) together with some strong movements. And it was fascinating for me, I said it few times to him and he went back.

My work was never boring; always there was something new. Especially during the summer time, when I guided the visitors to see the bears.

The whole time in Kuterevo was just wonderful. Everybody was from the first moment very friendly and they invited us for coffee, Rakija or sometimes we got breakfast or lunch. And also my work with the bears was super. Before I started this volunteer service, I was not sure how it works and so on. And I did not know that I will miss after six month the bears and that I will get so close to them. And now I am very happy about the fact that I could stay for half a year in this village, with such nice people and such great bears.

*Katharina Dieckmann  
German EVS Volunteer in Croatia*



## MY GREATEST DREAM

My name is Leila el Hadjam. I am a French volunteer and for so many years my greatest dream was go to Colombia, you know that country very far away from Europe, in South America, where everybody is afraid to go because of security reasons.

Guess what? I could make my dream true with ICYE and carried out my voluntary service in Colombia from August 2003 up to February 2004) in Colombia. I stayed with a very pleasant and hospitable family, and was supported in my discovery of Colombian society and way of life by the friendly and efficient ICYE team.

As I have always been interested in nature and its conservation I worked in the Fundacion Puiqui, an environmental NGO whose mission is to promote the protection of natural resources of the country. For the first two months I worked in the Foundation's office in Bogotá, and also in their office of Puiqui, located next to the UAESPNN – Special Administrative Unit of National Natural Parks. My main tasks were to file reports sent by the volunteer rangers upon return from their stay in one of the 42 national parks of Colombia, and set up a database containing detailed data from each volunteer's experience. I also created a new section of the Training Guide for Rangers in National Parks called " the 23 rules for a volunteer mission". I am very happy and "proud" that this has now been adopted on a national basis, and even published on the following web page: [www.parquesnacionales.gov.co](http://www.parquesnacionales.gov.co)

The remaining four months of my experience I spent working at one of the parks on the Atlantic coast, called "Corales del Rosario y San Bernardo". There I was in charge of monitoring daily activities in the area, sometimes on the sea with local civil servants and other days on the main island – Isla Grande – with ecological guides and other rangers. I compiled data on boat transiting at or stopping at Isla Grande to

activities for fishermen to prevent fishing small lobsters or seashells and some other sea species. I also worked on waste rationalisation and evacuation from the island, and on the big yearly event of “Carey turtles liberation”, which this year was linked to the national beauty contest of Miss Colombia, the aim being to involve all regional contestants to advocate for sea and natural protection. These are just a few impressions about my UNFORGETTABLE, WONDERFUL and MAGIC experience in Colombia – I feel I could write a book about it!!

Just feel, see, save, taste, share and most of all Enjoy! if you'll ever go to this special and so diverse country!

*Leila el Hadjam  
French Volunteer in Colombia*



### **WORKING IN A SWISS ORGANIC FARM**

Here I am again, Linna Amaya from Colombia. This article is about my first three months as a volunteer at Lanszenhäusern, an organic farm of 5.5 hectares in Bern's hinterland.

The agricultural production begins in February when in the greenhouse various types of flowers and herbs are planted; when Spring comes, approximately two months later these are replanted in the open-air orchard. Once the herbs have grown, at the end of summer good herbs leaves are harvested and dried for about two days. Flowers are cut around May–June. Once herbs and flowers have been dried, to complete the sterilization process they are then put for three days in a freezer (at –30 centigrade). Flowers and herbs are then packed either individually or by mixing 3 or 4 different types for the production of 13 different kinds of natural teas.

Fruits harvest begins in May. They are selected and then processed either manually (pears, cherries, prunes) or with machines to separate the seeds from the rest of the fruit. Processed fruits are kept in individual store rooms (to avoid possible contamination) and dried with a machine at a temperature of 45 centigrade, for about two days, and then frozen.

Seasonal workers, often visitors who like to combine work and stay in this beautiful natural environment, also carry out the work at the farm. The dawns in summer are breathtaking, with a magnificent view of the Alps mountain range. Work in summer is very intense, at times repetitive, and hot days make the work more tiring. One can however learn how to enjoy it by respecting and valuing the various work processes.

Besides growing potatoes, which are then sold at the market, the soil where wheat grows is fertilised using animal fertiliser - kept in septic well – as well as organic waste fertilisers.

It's admirable to see how in an organic farm all available natural resources are utilised as a means of environmental protection and organic food production. No chemical pesticides are used because of their negative impact on the environment and taste of the products.

This is a very different and useful learning experience, as behind each product there are distinct production processes, which at times are not well remunerated. It is important to change people's perception that peasants are not just regular people, but rather experts in the art of nurturing and exploiting nature.

*Linna Amaya  
Colombia Volunteer in Switzerland*

## MORE ON YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### ACI/ICYE COSTA RICA ECO - CAMPS

Asociacion Cultural de Intercambio - ACI Costa Rica/ ICYE Costa Rica, besides the long term voluntary service exchange, offers the so called ECO-CAMPS, a short-term voluntary service programme lasting one, two or three months. ACI receives volunteers from all over the world. Volunteers are sent through the following organizations: Volunteers for Peace from USA, Nepenthes from Denmark, Jeunesse et Reconstruction/ ICYE France, ICYE Switzerland and ICYE UK. These volunteers work in environmental projects dealing with environmental protection and conservation, such as the Giant Turtle Project. These host placements offer a wide range of different experiences: creating and maintaining trails in the rain forest; cultivating medicinal plants; teaching English to local people on how to guide tourists; patrolling the protected turtle beaches of Gandoca; as well as rehabilitating and releasing wildlife.

To facilitate the intercultural learning process which is an integral part of the volunteers' experiences in Costa Rica, ACI also offers Spanish language courses in selected schools around the country; in the beach resort of Jacó, for example, or in San José. The choice is yours!

For more information, please visit ACI's web site at: [www.aci-cr.org](http://www.aci-cr.org)



### 1ST EARTH FESTIVAL

*A week to celebrate together the Earth and human solidarity between nations.*

The WORLDWIDE EARTH FESTIVAL is a big festive event honouring the planet Earth, which will take place from 20 to 26 June 2005 and is promoted by the France based NGO Terralliance. The Festival will be a worldwide window to showcase all the initiatives in favour of Ecology, Peace and Solidarity between peoples.

It is also designed to take place simultaneously in as many countries as possible - possibly in every country in the world. It will permit all the peoples of the planet, with their diversity, to gather and celebrate a new relationship with the Earth. Each country will be the responsible for organizing its local events effectively and is welcome to sign up for "inter-countries" events.

If you are interested in taking part in this project, we recommend you to visit the multilingual website of Terralliance at <http://www.festivaldelaterre.org>. All the information on the event's draft program and on how to become involved is available on their web site.

### 4TH LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Date: 10 - 13 November, 2004  
Location: Cudinamarca, Colombia

A network of local, regional and national institutions is holding the conference, whose purpose is to empower youth towards active participation in sustainable development. The conference will include workshops, panels, and lectures on the environment, sustainable development, lifestyles, youth participation, and regional integration toward development.

For further information please visit the web page <http://www.grupotayrona.org>, contact by e-mail < [grupotayrona@grupotayrona.org](mailto:grupotayrona@grupotayrona.org) > or call +57-296-5815 / 296-5816.

### BAYER AG SUPPORTS UNEP YOUTH PROGRAMME

21 June – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) today announced a one million Euro per annum partnership with German-based chemicals and healthcare company Bayer AG to support its global long-term strategy to involve young people in environmental issues.

Under the agreement a steering committee will develop projects such as the Young Environmental Envoy Programme, the Eco-Innovate learning forum, a youth-orientated media award, World Environment day activities in Europe and Latin America, and support for sub-regional youth networks in Asia-Pacific. For more information please check South Asia Youth Environment Network website: [www.sayen.org](http://www.sayen.org).

About the partnership agreement you can look at: <http://www.unep.org>

**NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**UNESCO SPECIAL NEWSLETTER**

UNESCO has published the first issue of the special newsletter on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

The featured articles provide information on a range of different activities pertaining to a Culture of Peace, including efforts from civil society. Future issues will have a more specific focus on particular sub-topics or regions.

The newsletter is available at the following web site:

<http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/Newsletter/News01e.pdf>

For more information, please contact Aurore Salinas at: [a.salinas@unesco.org](mailto:a.salinas@unesco.org)

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY 2004 'YOUTH A NEW VOICE FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS!!'**

This year, on October 14, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed around the globe under the theme of 'Youth, A new voice for the Millennium Development Goals'. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the UN General Assembly designated this UN Day (resolution 47/196) to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development priority. At the Millennium Summit, world leaders committed themselves to cutting by half by the year 2015 the number of people living in extreme poverty - people whose income is less than one dollar a day. The rate of poverty reduction is currently less than one third of what is needed to achieve this goal.

More information on the activities organized at the international and at country level will be available on [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth) shortly.

On this site, you can also consult the documentation to several recently held international workshops addressing issues that affect youth

([www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/workshops/main.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/workshops/main.htm)).

Information on UNESCO's approach and pilot projects pertaining to the eradication of poverty can be found on [www.unesco.org/shs/antipoverty](http://www.unesco.org/shs/antipoverty)



The World Bank



**WORLD BANK COMMITS TO SUPPORT YOUTH AT GLOBAL CONFERENCE.**

*Sarajevo, September 7 2004 .*

More than 170 young representatives from 83 countries met with World Bank Group President James D. Wolfensohn and 40 senior officials in Sarajevo for the second Youth, Development and Peace (YDP) conference.

The conference was co-organized by the European Youth Forum (on behalf of the Regional Youth Platforms) and the World Organization of Scout Movement (on behalf of the Big Seven). The meeting summarized progress achieved over the past year since the first YDP conference in Paris and agreed on steps toward expanded engagement.

Youth representatives at the conference requested the World Bank to prioritize and invest more in youth by acting directly with youth organizations and not only through national governments.

For more information on the conference: [www.worldbank.org/ydp2004](http://www.worldbank.org/ydp2004)

For more information on the European Youth Forum: [www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)

For more information on the World Organization of Scout Movement: [www.scout.org/front/news.shtml](http://www.scout.org/front/news.shtml)

## EU-CANADA YOUTH SEMINAR

The European Commission will organize a EU-Canada Youth Seminar, in Brussels, 4-6 November 2004.

ICYE has been invited to attend this seminar, which will be attended by 60 participants, half of whom will be from Europe and the other half from Canada. The main objectives of the seminar are to discuss, exchange and share, among youth work practitioners and decision-makers, good practices on methodology as well as experiences and expertise on 'the role of mobility in promoting participation and inclusion of young people'. The aim is also to develop sustainable partnerships for enhanced cooperation among EU and Canadian participants. It is expected that participants will also act as multipliers to share gained experience and expertise with local and regional counterparts.

The following three main issues will be addressed within plenary as well as working group sessions:

- Citizenship and cultural diversity;
- Volunteering as an expression of civic contribution; and
- Recognition and promotion of non-formal learning

## TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS TO PROMOTE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The first publication 'Young People We Care! A Book of Ideas to Help Young People Supporting Each Other in their Communities' aims to encourage groups of young people to support either young children or their peers who are living in communities and households affected

by HIV/AIDS. The book contains a training guide on how to implement community activities promoting values and practices that will reduce stigma and discrimination against people infected by HIV and AIDS. The booklet was produced by the John Snow International Center for Sexual & Reproductive Health (UK) and can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.comminit.com/ma2004/sld-10220.html>

'*Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for Young People to Evaluate National Youth Policy*' is a toolkit for youth organizations and youth representatives through which they can evaluate national and community-level achievements - and gaps - in realizing the goals of the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Developed by the UN (Program for Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), the publication is available at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/#toolkit>

## IMAGE COMPETITION

A chance to be famous....  
A chance to publicize your work....  
An idea for a workshop with young people?

SALTO YOUTH stands for 'Support and Actions for Learning and Training Opportunities within the European YOUTH Programme'. SALTO Cultural Diversity is launching a competition for images entitled "Young people and identity". The winning images will be used in publications that will be sent all over Europe. What is an image? It could be a photo, or maybe a symbol, or a drawing - it could even be graffiti. Something that represents young people and their identity in the area of Europe.

Send your images (in high resolution, at least 300dpi) by 29 October, to: [diversity@salto-youth.net](mailto:diversity@salto-youth.net)

## NEWS FROM NGOS

### CALL-OUT FOR YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBALIZATION

GYAN France is searching for a wide-range of views, from articles questioning the legitimacy of global institutions to articles portraying globalization as a positive force for wealth creation and peace.

These are to be included in a publication titled "Debating Globalization: Youth Perspectives on the Global Economic and Social Order," which will be launched in 2005. Applicants must be 18-35 years old, and submissions should be no longer than 3,500 words. All submissions should

be sent to [publication@youthlink.org](mailto:publication@youthlink.org) before the deadline of December 15, 2004.

### GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY 2004

Global Youth Service Day was held April 16-18, 2004, with events organized in over 120 countries. This report highlights service projects carried out around the world during the three days celebration. The next Global Youth Service Day will be held April 15-17, 2005.

Please see [www.gysd.net](http://www.gysd.net) for more information. [http://www.gysd.net/doc/eng/GYSD04\\_FinalReport\\_v4o.pdf](http://www.gysd.net/doc/eng/GYSD04_FinalReport_v4o.pdf)



## WORLD CAMPAIGN ON CHILDREN HIV AND AIDS



The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a massive and rapidly mounting disaster for children. Almost 3 million children are infected with the HIV virus or living with AIDS. By 2010, the number of children orphaned by AIDS globally is expected to exceed 25 million.

The reaction of families and communities to the plight of these children has been compassionate and remarkably resilient. However, to date, few resources are reaching families and communities who are providing this front-line response, and little attention is given to orphans and vulnerable children in most national development agendas. Campaign Goal is to mobilise the people and political will to protect the rights and ensure the well being of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The objectives of the campaign differ slightly between the South and the North because of the different contexts found in these environments.

To find out more about activities and ways to get involved in the campaign, please visit and register at GMC at: [www.gmfc.org](http://www.gmfc.org)

## WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL BARCELONA 2004

The Festival continues! An intense week of debate, living together, protest, fun and, above all, teamwork, with the participation of more than 8000 young people from 130 countries from all over the world.

All this and much more made up the third edition of the World Youth Festival, the massive gathering of the world youth association movement, which ended on 14 August 2004 in Barcelona. Besides evaluating the long learning process involved in organizing the third edition, the Festival is an excellent starting point for taking on new projects, new approaches, and Strengthening the work of the association movement and cooperation networks.

Relive the Festival on the website: [www.worldyouthfestival.org](http://www.worldyouthfestival.org), which will remain operational in the coming months as the place where you can find out all you need to know about the third edition of the Festival.

## SWISS YOUTH ACT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Swiss youth associations have unveiled a new project aimed at giving young people a chance to serve the community. Details of the national project, which is expected to involve more than 10,000 youngsters, were revealed ahead of the United Nations International Youth Day on 27 September 2004.

The Swiss Council of Youth Associations said the 72-hour initiative would run from September 15 to 18, 2005, and would focus on small-scale projects to benefit communities across the country. Participants would be involved in a race to complete their projects by the deadline. Every group taking part in the project will be presented with an envelope containing details of the project they will have to complete within the three days. Neither money nor equipment will be made available. The idea is being copied from Germany and Austria where similar schemes have proved successful.

For more information please visit: <http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/Swissinfo.html?siteSect=105&sid=5137891>

## THIRD WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS SCOTLAND 2005

APPLICATION FORM IS NOW ONLINE!  
Apply for a place at Scotland 2005

Young People working for a sustainable world community. Scotland will host the 3rd World Youth Congress in Stirling from Saturday 30 July to Monday 8 August 2005.

Around 600 young people from 120 countries - including 100 from Scotland, are expected to attend the congress, based around the theme "Young People working for a sustainable world community". Anyone aged between 18 and 25 can apply and the event is free to attend!\*

The Congress will be a focused mixture of active participation in Action Projects and in Skills.

Workshops where the young people will learn and pass on new skills and practical development measures, as well as share experiences and make new friends!

\*Delegates must pay for their travel to Scotland.

For more information, please visit: [www.scotland2005.org](http://www.scotland2005.org)



**NEW ICYE - UNITED PLANET USA  
PARTNERSHIP FOR WORLDWIDE  
VOLUNTEERING**

The ICYE Federation and United Planet (UP), an international Boston-based non-profit organization dedicated to broadening mutual understanding, friendship, and peace among cultures, have recently formed a partnership to re-establish ICYE's program in the United States. Under this partnership, United Planet in Boston, USA will both send and receive enthusiastic and committed exchangees within the ICYE Federation as a partner starting in January 2005.

As featured on CNN, United Planet provides a diverse and creative range of community-based, online, and international programs to achieve global understanding. Initiated in 2000 United Planet has expanded its membership and volunteer base to over 100 countries in less than 4 years. The response to the quality and diversity of UP's programs has been very favourable both in the US and abroad!

**RUNNING FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

Well just over 2 weeks ago we did it - the Reborn team ran 21 kilometers in Bogota, Colombia and thanks to all your donations we got over 2200 pounds (in pesos an amazing 12 million). That day was a great success, and we all completed the running time varied between 1:50 (which I am proud to claim) and 2:30 hours. A Kenyan athlete won the event with a time of 1 hour and 4 minutes and approximately 40 thousand persons took part on that day. Thanks once again, and I will keep you posted of how your donations will be used. For more information, please contact Adrian at [adrianrenacer@yahoo.com]

*Adrian Beckett  
ICYE UK Volunteer to COL 2003-04*

**AUPA FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY!**

Hello to all the volunteers in the world. My name is Emilija from Macedonia. I'm doing my EVS in Bilbao, Bizkaina (North Spain) through ICYE.

The day I arrived here three months ago. It was very late and very loud! I was a little lost and confused. I was thinking what would I be in the next 9 months? I didn't understand a word, and the people were speaking very, very fast!

But, so far, things are great! After attending a school for foreigners, together with many other foreigners such as Chinese, African, South Americans etc, I was happy to be part of "Intercambio" – an International Exchange for children with problems (medical, social, economic). The first one was with children from Portugal and Spain; it was very difficult to understand in Portuguese when you even don't know a word in Spanish. But, the language wasn't a barrier for me, because, there were much more interesting things to learn and share with young people. We did a lot of excursions, we went with canoes, we were doing alpinism, we watched films about sports etc..

The second one was in Madrid, with children with dawn syndrome. We were around 30 persons from Spain, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, Norway, Italy. We stayed at "Granja Escuela" – a farm school, which is very typical for Spain. We did a lot of interesting games and sports, massage with clay, swimming in the pool, as well as one-day excursion at the river, we had international dinner and of course a lot of fun.

Beside this, my main project is in BBK Solidaria, a Foundation of the BBK( Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa), and GazteLanbidean. Most of the job consists of reception of people, immigrants as well citizens from the country, disabled, people who really need some kind of economic support, who are at the margin of the society. They usually need micro credits for their families, for debts incurred in their country of origin, and to improve their living conditions, etc. GazteLanbidean is the institution that provides the economic support for the creation of new enterprises. It is for young people who have new and original ideas for work, but they don't have enough money to realize them. All this is possible, of course if the project is economically valuable, productive, rentable, etc...

*Emilija Bumbaroska  
Macedonian EVS volunteer in Spain*

## **FUN IN COSTA RICA DURING INTERCULTURAL ORIENTATION AUGUST 2004**



***Volunteers in Costa Rica having fun in a raft  
boat called "Confusion"***

## **TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR YOUTH IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

This process initiated in January 2004 in Brussels, aimed at creating closer links between the regional partners of the large scale projects that have been supported by the YOUTH Programme in and with South East Europe and the SALTO SEE Resource Centre, and to initiate a more strategic approach for the further implementation of the YOUTH programme in and with the region.

A Valorisation and Strategy Building Seminar for the YOUTH Programme in South East Europe took place in Sarajevo, from 12 to 16 May 2004 in which the Balkan Youth Forum (Care International and European Youth Forum), youth NET (Interkulturelles Zentrum), Between the Lines of South East Europe (Community Arts) and the YOUTH Information Project (ICYE) and the respective SEE partners as well as a number of governmental representatives from most SEE countries were involved.

The follow-up meeting, organized by SALTO SEE RESOURCE CENTER SLOVENIA, will take place in Kumbor, Montenegro from 21st – 24th October. The main aim of this meeting is to look into the results of the 4 national meetings organized until now and to assess and compare the outcomes detecting the needs and priorities of youth work within the respective national contexts. This should lead to a strategic work plan for future EU – SEE YOUTH Programme activities.

## **EU - CIS MULTILATERAL EVS PROJECT**

***Long-term volunteering project in EU and CIS  
countries – Sept. 2004 through 26 May 2005***

The objective of this multilateral EVS project, supported by the European Commission YOUTH Programme and coordinated by the ICYE International Office, is to enhance the participation of CIS countries, namely Armenia, Russian Federation and Ukraine, in long term voluntary service projects and further articulate the experience acquired by the ICYE partners.

After a pre-departure orientation held in Berlin, Germany, young volunteers from the above CIS countries and from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, and the UK, have started working in quite different local hosting projects dealing with disadvantaged youth and children, ranging from orphanages, disabled care centers to schools and youth centers, offering a rich sample of civil society initiatives where volunteerism will bring an added value to the development of local communities.

The project also aims at enhancing direct bilateral cooperation between sending and hosting organizations.



***CIS and EU volunteers at the pre-departure  
orientation in Berlin***

## **"YOUTH IN ACTION" EURO-LATIN AMERICAN**

***Seminar on Youth Leadership and active  
Citizenship Sambo Creek, Honduras.  
26 June through 2 July, 2004***

This training seminar, supported by the European Commission and organised by the ICYE International Office, was held in the Caribbean coast of Honduras, and brought together youth workers/leaders and policy makers of local authorities from distinct European and Latin American countries, to discuss policy and practice related to youth participation.

They reflected upon the way in which young people want to take part in decision-making and how youth participation can lead to more democratic decision-making processes and positive changes for society as a whole. Information and experiences about the situation of youth participation in the various countries increased their knowledge on ways to enhance youth leadership and active citizenship, including youth mobility and non-formal learning experiences.

The European Commission's White Paper on Youth and the resources provided by the Youth programme were presented and discussed as ways to encourage young people's active citizenship. Particular emphasis was placed on how to enhance youth participation of those who do not have access to associative life and non-formal learning experiences.

As exposure to youth reality in Honduras, a project visit was paid to Las Mangas; a youth led self-sustainable environmental awareness project and a reception by the Major of La Ceiba.

For more information, please contact the ICYE IO at: [icye@icye.org](mailto:icye@icye.org)



## ICYE JAPAN'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION PARTY

ICYE Japan held its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary party on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Approximately thirty ICYE returnees in the Tokyo area attended it - their exchange years dating back as far as 1963-64!

Thirty more participants included a few former exchangees to Japan, several returnees' children and grandchildren, this year's 14 out-going exchangees, the board members of ICYE Japan, and several other guests.

It was a small but fruitful event, and many of the returnees were happy too see one another again after so many years. A few people offered to volunteer at ICYE Japan's future events/programs, and even received a couple of offers from returnees to host in-coming exchangees.



## ICYE FEDERATION STAFF NEWS

### New ICYE National Correspondents:

- Costa Rica: Roberto NAVARRO (Mr)
- India: S. Santosh KUMAR (Mr)
- Taiwan: Chen HSIU (Ms)
- Austria: Christoph MERTL (Mr)

## ICYE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**10 to 16 November 2004:** EU-SEE Training Course 1 - On Youth Partnership Building and Project Management in Podgorica, Serbia and Montenegro, for Youth NGO's from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro and NGO's from 5 EU and Pre-accession countries – supported by the EC YOUTH Programme

**15 -19 November 2004:** ICYE Asia-Pacific Regional Training Seminar, Jomtien, Thailand

**27- 28 November 2004:** ICYE Board of Managers Meeting – Berlin, Germany

**29 November – 5 December 2004:** ICYE Federation Trainers Pool Meeting, Berlin

**9 to 15 December 2004:** EU-SEE Training Course 2 - On Youth Partnership Building and Project Management in Vukovar, Croatia for BiH, for Youth NGOs from Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and NGO's from 7 EU and Pre-accession countries - -- supported by the EC YOUTH Programme

**9 –25 February 2005:** EU-CIS Training Course On Youth Programme: Partnership Building and Project Management in Minsk, Belarus (submitted to the EC YOUTH Programme)

**15 February 2005:** EVS Multilateral Project on Youth Volunteering and Social Inclusion in EU and CIS Countries

**15 February 2005:** EVS Multilateral Project on Youth Volunteering and Social Inclusion in EU and SEE Countries