

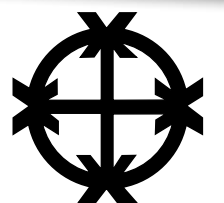


W Z I L

APRIL
2010



INTERCONTINENTAL PARTNERSHIPS



fimcap

Welcome to the LINK edition about FIMCAP partnerships!

The intercontinental partnerships are one of the current FIMCAP activities on the intercontinental level. In this edition we will present some experiences with ongoing intercontinental partnerships between two FIMCAP organisations. You will also find some advice, tips and tricks on how to start a partnership.

Jungwacht Blauring Switzerland (Jubla) had a partnership with Nacayul Namibia for 20 years. After the end of this partnership, Jubla started a new cooperation with Chiro Philippines in 2006. I went to Namibia once in the scope of a partnership visit of Jubla Switzerland to Nacayul Namibia. I spent four unforgettable weeks there; I stayed with Nacayul members and their families in very different places of the country. Our group, ten Jubla members, got to know a lot by experiencing our hosts' daily lives. We did the daily shopping on the market together with our host families; we visited schools and accompanied some adults to their work. Visiting the local groups in parishes was an important part of the visit. The exchange is the best place to learn and to teach one another games, dances or songs.

Visiting a foreign country in the scope of a partnership is a unique experience. You will never get another opportunity of being so close to members of your partner organisation. I remember I had to get used to the fact that I was always the one who had transport problems and was late; once because the neighbour was at his farm and he was the only one in the village who had a car and could bring me back to town; another time the car that was driving me back broke down in the middle of nowhere... and so on. A friend of mine got 3 living chickens as a present from a host family. Since it was impossible to bring them to Europe, they did not survive our next barbecue...

It is easier to understand another culture if you can discuss your impressions with a compatriot living in the partner country. In our current partnership we always try to organize an encounter with Philippinas living and working in Switzerland.

It is important that a partnership does not only consist of visiting each other. A partnership should bring two organisations closer together, so that they really get to know each other more deeply, their principles, their working methods, their main contents with the aim to enrich their own organisation's culture.

commitment of people taking care of the project to stay alive. A partnership needs an objective, a vision, and courage. And it can happen that a partnership needs to be ended because of different attitudes or ideas, as this was the case with the partnership between Jubla and Nacayul Namibia. Of course there will always be risks and dangers in a project like this. But, no risk, no new opportunities!

The existence of a partnership may not depend only on finances. Lack of funding limits the possibility of visiting each other, but a partnership should not simply be defined by visiting each other. In the middle part of this LINK you find a suggestion how to enrich and benefit from a partnership: it is an extract of a DVD that Jubla has produced for their local groups. The DVD offers a variety of prepared activities about Chiro and the Philippines. Therefore the local groups with their kids can benefit from the partnership even if they cannot travel to the Philippines.

FIMCAP would like to encourage all member organisations to start a partnership with another FIMCAP member organisation. The FIMCAP structure can support partnerships since the FIMCAP activities and meetings make meeting members from your partner organisation (e.g. at the World Camp or the General Assembly). The upcoming General Assembly in August is the perfect place to meet up. Use the G.A. as a chance to start a partnership – all the organisations will be there! Please discuss this opportunity in your organisation now and come to the G.A. prepared. You should already have an idea what aims you want to reach with a partnership.

To make a start and your preparations easy, I especially recommend reading Emilie Deblock's article about how to start a partnership. The former FIMCAP Secretary General give useful advice from her vast partnership experience. A partnership is intercultural learning as its best. Go for it!

Pascal Vonlanthen, LINK Editor



A partnership not only has opportunities, but also risks and demands. A partnership needs the

FIMCAP Activities

FIMCAP Intercontinental Bureau Meeting	KJG	Munich, Germany	8–11/04/2010
Eurocourse	Ateitis	Lithuania	9–14/04/2010
FIMCAP Europe Bureau Meeting	KJG	Munich, Germany	15/08/2010 (Arrivals on 14th)
FIMCAP General Assembly	KJG	Munich, Germany	15–22/08/2010
Eurocamp	ZAK	Malta	July/August 2010
FIMCAP Europe Bureau Meeting	FDf	Denmark	October 2010

Member organisations' activities

TinglTangl	KJSOE	Austria	July 2010
Kaderschouw	Jong Nederland	Netherlands	September 2010
Julsoe Camp	FDf	Denmark	July 2011

LINK: Next editions

(Send articles and photos to link@fimcap.org. Maximum length: 3500 characters)

Edition	Topic	Deadline for articles	Send out
03/2010	Climate change	10 May	End of June
04/2010		10 September	End of October

FIMCAP: DO YOU KNOW... THE PRESIDIUM?

In this section we will highlight one of FIMCAP's bodies in every edition of LINK so you can understand better how FIMCAP works. If you still have questions or you want to know more, please go to the website www.fimcap.org.

The presidium is composed of the president, the chaplain and the secretary general of FIMCAP. The presidium chairs the Intercontinental Bureau Meetings which take place twice a year. They usually meet also in between the ICBs to discuss and decide about

day-to-day FIMCAP business. These three people build the permanent management body that manages the current issues. They represent FIMCAP in other organisations where FIMCAP is member.

The Presidium is responsible for preparing and chairing the General Assembly that takes place every three years. There the president, the chaplain and the Secretary General are elected for a period of three years.



InterContinental

3

LINK
APRIL 2010

Forum of Catholic NGOs 12-14 February 2010 in Rome

Last February I attended the Forum of Catholic NGOs in Rome. It was the 2nd meeting of its kind, the first having been held in 2007. FIMCAP's president Holger represented us then; this time there were 180 participants from 90 organisations, all working in different areas: migration, human rights, education, environment, etc. But all organisations share the same Catholic identity as backbone of their work.

On the 1st day of the meeting it was snowing in Rome, the first snow they had had there in more than 24 years. Of course this was seen as a sign of the meeting's unique character. And indeed, it was a unique opportunity to be together in the huge diversity of our working themes. The goal of the meeting was to create a framework for communication and cooperation between the Catholic NGOs. The first steps to this closer network were set in 2007, now it was the time to set out some clear objectives for this cooperation.

Direct input for the Forum was found in the encyclical letter Caritas in Veritate, written by Benedict XVI in 2009. This social encyclical letter discussed the problems of global development and contains detailed reflection on economic and social issues such as hunger, migration, environment and many more. The encyclical calls for changes, global action and cooperation.

The encyclical leads to the question of what we can do. The answer that the forum wants to give is more cooperation, giving exchange room creating the dynamics for cooperation. As catholic inspired NGOs we have to enter the arena where political decisions are made and play our role. The focus of the Forum was therefore on advocacy and lobbying on the international level, more specifically on the level of the UN bodies.

A second question that arose was about the need for a Catholic network. As organisations we are already involved in so many networks, so why would we need a new one? Again, the answer to this question can be found in Caritas in Veritate. In his encyclical, the Pope makes clear that the church does not offer specific technical solutions but rather moral principles as cornerstones of such solutions. Both love (caritas) and truth (veritate) are essential elements of an effective response to the current issues the world is facing; only in truth can charity flourish. The role of Catholic NGOs is therefore to participate in the international debates and bring their perspective into the discussions. Communication and exchange is not only important among each other, but also between organisations and the Church.

8 themes of cooperation were identified, based on a survey done among the NGOs. FIMCAP participated in the working groups on human rights and education. Youth was not a specific topic of the Forum which is a pity, since it is our working domain and a topic on which we have a lot of experience to share. But the Forum provided

a good structure to connect with other international youth organisations, like Mijarc (Catholic Agricultural and Rural youth), JECI (International Young Catholic Students), Pax Romana-Miec (International Movement of Catholic Students) and CIJOC-ICYCW (Young Christian Workers). In the sidelines of the meeting we got to know each other and shared ideas of meeting and working more together.

We hope to meet them again at the Youth Forum of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in March, where FIMCAP will be represented by Martin from Xaveri South Africa and Jamika from Pubuduwa Sri Lanka. You will find more about that Youth Forum in the next edition of LINK!

Evy Hoeben, FIMCAP Secretary General





Partnership between Kiro Congo and Chirojeugd Vlaanderen

In 2007, after great partnerships with Chiro Southern Africa, Chiro Philippines, Jupach Chili and Ateitis Lithuania, Chirojeugd Vlaanderen started a new one with Kiro Congo. They called it UMOJA, Swahili for «unity».

The U also symbolizes a bridge between the two organisations. Umoja is a partnership with music just as in the saying «Les gens ne peuvent pas chanter s'ils ne s'accordent pas» (people can't sing if there is no unity). Chirojeugd Vlaanderen's national theme 2008 was 'chi-ro-la-la-la', a theme about music, so there was an interface from the start. In Kiro Congo they know something about it! In the theme song there was even a verse in Swahili.

We wanted to learn from each other, exchange methods, and get to know each other. It's nice to see that there is «chiro» around the world. We also wanted to break the clichés about Congo and the other way round. We wanted to create unity between the two organisations with mutual understanding for each other's culture and way of life. We also find it important that each level of the organization knows about it. We are convinced that a partnership can be an enrichment for our organisations. So we planned three exchange trips, two from Belgium to Congo and one from Congo to Belgium.

In 2008 12 Chiro leaders spent three weeks with Kiro Congo. It was an amazing experience. We learned in a pleasant manner about Kiro Congo and hope they also learned something about Chirojeugd Vlaanderen. We saw that there were a lot of parallels: the symbols, some songs, the uniform, the

flags, the sections, the structures. But we also saw some differences. Kiro Congo is incorporated into the social context, they sing and dance a lot and are very competitive! But these differences that make it so much more interesting. We came back with a backpack full of impressions, new ideas, experiences and new friends.

Normally 12 Kiro leaders would have come to visit Chirojeugd Vlaanderen in the summer of 2009, but unfortunately they couldn't make it because of visa problems. The whole team (in Congo and in Belgium) was very disappointed certainly because of the great experience the year before. We wanted to give them the same experience. Now we are more than ever motivated to make 2010, the last year of the partnership, unforgettable. This summer we'll go back. Six Chiro leaders will give together with Kiro leaders some courses during the National Camp. I'm sure it will be interesting and a real exchange. We also plan to make an end product, so we have something for after the partnership.

A partnership asks a lot of time and work. It's important to start in time and to think about a lot in advance, to make agreements and to talk to each other, to communicate. But it's worth it! We can say that Kiro Congo and Chirojeugd Vlaanderen grew closer to each other.

Liese Vandenheede, Chirojeugd Vlaanderen



A partnership between rice and chocolate, black and white, Asia and Europe – Jungwacht Blauring Switzerland and Chiro Philippines



In addition, we try to collect money through events where the Jubla groups organise games or markets.

On Easter 2009 a group of four Swiss spent three weeks in the Philippines – I was one of them. During this short time we were able to see the Philippines from North to South. We had the luxury of an individual guide called Marie, she is the main leader of Chiro Philippines and she accompanied us for the entire journey. It was a great advantage to have a local guide because we were able to see «behind» the backdrop of a country.



helpful to improve our work with young people. In exchange six Chiros will visit Switzerland in March/April 2010.

One product of our partnership work is a DVD that we distribute to the Swiss leaders to make our partnership more known in Switzerland. The DVD contains songs, games, dances, recipes, a quiz, pictures, handicraft works, information about the partnership and much more.

More information: www.partnerschaft.jubla.ch; partnerschaft@jubla.ch

Jeannette Sieber, Jubla Switzerland



We started in Manila, and then went further north to Bayombong where we stayed with a host family; afterwards we went on to Banaue to see the rice terraces and to Bontoc with a traditional parade. In the second week we visited Infanta where the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund had built new houses for the victims of the floods, then we stayed at a Chiro group of the South island Mindanao where we did a lot of Chiro activities. Finally, we relaxed two days on Camiguin, a little paradise island. Through this visit I learnt a lot of new games, songs and dishes. I met many interesting and funny people and I realised that these exchanges are extremely

The partnership between the two youth organisations Jungwacht Blauring (Jubla) Switzerland and Chiro Philippines started in 2006. Our aim is to provide a better insight into other cultures, to establish the understanding and to exchange ideas for our work as youth leaders. Every year a group of leaders has the opportunity to visit the partner country.

In Switzerland there are about ten members in the partnership committee. Our job is to organise the visits of the CHIRO leaders to Switzerland, to collect money from sponsors and events and to publish and promote our partnership within the Jubla world. We are supported by the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund which is an organisation of the church. Their main objective in the scope of our cooperation is to support the coastal region Infanta which is often flooded, and help is urgently needed. In



How to start a partnership

As an organisation we have a lot of contacts within our network on the local and national levels. In FIMCAP we try to bring organisations together so that they and their young members can also enjoy international contacts.

The contacts during General Assemblies, World Camps or other exchange activities are called 'partner contacts'. These are intense contacts for a short period of time (sometimes during several days, sometimes a few weeks) with international partners. It sometimes happens that partners feel that they want to deepen their contacts and decide to start a partnership.

There is no recipe for a successful partnership. All depends on the people involved in the partnership, and on a good, trustful communication with each other. This article will try to give you a start for a partnership and giving you some thinking material before you take off.

What is typical for a partnership?

- ▶ In a partnership two or more organisations choose to exchange and work together for **a longer period of time**. This time is necessary to get to know each other, each other's culture and organisation.
- ▶ A partnership can be **formal or informal**. Formal partnerships are usually discussed thoroughly and involve (written) agreements. Informal partnerships are mostly spontaneously formed, based on earlier contacts.
- ▶ A partnership has **a certain objective**. It is good to define this objective as detailed as possible to make sure that both organisations have the same idea of what should be achieved.
- ▶ Even though exchange visits don't necessarily have to be the core of every partnership, partners **meet in person** to plan the partnership and the follow-up.

A possible step-by-step plan

There is no step-by-step plan for partnerships. Most of the time, it depends on the interest of the organisations if they want a partnership or not. But here is a possible scenario.

1. The first step as an organisation could be to inform other organisations about your interest in becoming a partner. This is possible via the International Secretary (info@fimcap.org) or via the members of the Intercontinental Bureau. It should be clear in the information to the Secretariat in what kind of a partnership you are interested in, which activities the organisation has in mind and what the expectations are. It is also important to add information on the decision-making process in your organisation. You can call it a partnership plan.
2. Partnerships can't start without getting to know each other. It can of course be expensive to organise international meetings, but there are two ways to deal with this situation: find funds to finance the meetings or use the FIMCAP meetings, for example the General Assembly, Bureau Meetings, FIMCAP activities... Expectations from both sides must be checked during such a meeting. A common strategy for the whole period of the partnership should be worked out.
3. All discussions should be taken back to each organisation's board. Depending on the organisation you may need some time to discuss the conditions of the partnership. If both parties agree, the partnership can start.

Make sure that...

- ▶ the partners know each other. Contacts should not only depend on the personal friendships of some people, but integrated and supported by preferably the whole organisations, but certainly the national level in a whole.
- ▶ the expectations of both partners are clear. Before you start a 'formal' partnership it is good idea to make the intentions of both partners clear. Take the time and



give your partner the time to discuss the expectations in the organisation before starting.

- ▶ the partners have an equal share in the partnerships. This appears to be easy, but it isn't.
- ▶ you set a timing and a follow-up meeting with your partner to see how things are going.
- ▶ you share a common language. There is no use in starting a partnership with an organisation where only few people share a common language.
- ▶ you determine a moment in the partnership after which you plan an exit evaluation.

Some ideas

- ▶ Some organisations have a partnership contract. This contract contains the agreements on the partnership and is signed by both partners. The contract also determines what kind of activities the partnership has, how the partners stay in touch, what to do if there are problems etc.
- ▶ It is always interesting to have a partnership committee that follows the partnership from close by. Volunteers in the organisation who are familiar with the country or interested in international activities can take up the daily work in the partnership.
- ▶ It is equally important to have the right people around the table if you come to decide on a partnership. A volunteer of a partnership committee usually can't decide on an organisation's financial commitment, for example.
- ▶ Good and continuous contact with each other is a key to a successful partnership. It is important that the partner organisations can trust one another.

CYO Ghana celebrating its 60th anniversary



- ▶ Have an official opening moment for the partnership with, for example, an opening speech, an official signing of the partnership document (if there is one), and the necessary photos.
- ▶ Talk about your partnership. Not only with your partner, but within your organisations, on all levels. It may take a while before your members know that your organisation is in a partnership. Make sure that the partnership is not only something of some persons, but is supported by a large number of your organisation's members.
- ▶ When the partnership comes to an end, make sure that there is also an official ending. Maybe you can make a common follow-up product like a booklet with experiences, a game, etc.

Emilie Deblock, Chiro Flanders

In August 2009 CYO Ghana celebrated its 60th anniversary with the theme «Ghana CYO @ 60 – achievements, challenges and the way forward». This anniversary was celebrated with two major programmes.

First there was the 47th National Management Council Meeting, attended by over 70 delegates representing the National and Diocesan Officers. The reports on 2008/09 were discussed and plans and programmes for 2009/10 were put forward. The meeting ended with the elections of new national executive board members.

The meeting was followed by a national Jamboree attended by over 2'000 crusaders of all sections (age groups) from most dioceses in Ghana. The Jamboree lasted one week and included celebrations, sports and games, talks and cultural displays. Both programmes were very successful and gave CYO Ghana and its members lots of energy for the upcoming future.

Victor Quaye-Folie, CYO Ghana





LENA

MABUHAY PILIPINAS!

MABUHAY PILIPINAS!

Special thanks to Nadja Künzle and Fastenopfer (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund)

Jungwacht Blauring Switzerland wanted to bring the partnership with Chiro Philippines closer to their local groups. For the most members it is not possible to join a visiting group to the partner country. Especially the children and local leaders should benefit more from this intercontinental cooperation without travelling. One aim was to offer the groups already prepared activities. The Jubla partnership committee collected games, dances, recipes, a slide show, a quiz about the Philippines, doing handicrafts and more. The DVD was produced in cooperation with the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund.

Here you will find some extracts of the DVD.



Wallet

In the Philippines many products are made of waste material. Some recycling products are even exported to and sold in Europe. Simple versions of these fashionable bags can be made by you. One sews several drinks cartons in any form together. But here you can see how you can make a wallet out of a drink carton without sewing.

MATERIALS

- 1 litre drink carton
- Scissors
- Cutter
- Stapler
- Snap fastener or adhesive splicing tape

INSTRUCTION

1. Cut the bottom of the empty carton (1)
2. Wash the carton
3. Fold the two sides in the middle inwards (2)
4. Fold the bottom part of the carton upwards. The folded part should be a bit larger than a credit card. (3)
5. Cut away all layers from the upper part except the outer layer. (4)
6. Round the outer layer (the wallet's cover) to your liking. (5)
7. Fasten the inner part of the wallet in the middle with a stapler.
8. Fix the snap fastener or adhesive splicing tape. (6)
9. And now the wallet is ready to be used! (7)





Banana Que

Recipe for 10 Banana-Spits

Banana Que is a Philippine snack that is sold everywhere. The Banana Ques are not grilled as in a Barbecue, but fried in oil. A variety of this snack is Kamote Que that is made with sweet potatoes instead of bananas.

INGREDIENTS

- 5 bananas
- 0.5 litre of oil
- 100g brown unrefined sugar
- 10 wooden spits

PREPARATION

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add 50g of sugar and melt it.
2. Halve the bananas and fry them for about 3 minutes until they turn a little brown. Plantains need to be fried a bit longer.
3. Take the bananas out of the oil, drip off, turn them in the remaining sugar.
4. Fry them again quickly in the hot oil.
5. Take the bananas out of the oil and put them on the spit.

Tip: The bananas are at their best if still warm

You can get some more examples of this DVD on the partnership-website of Jubla in German: <http://partnerschaft.jubla.ch/Gruppenstunde.html>



Pascal Vonlanthen, LINK Editor

Rezepte
Banana Que
Rezept für 10 Bananenspießchen

Banana Que ist ein philippinischer Snack, den man überall an Strassen- und Marktständen kaufen kann. Obwohl sich das «Que» von Barbecue, also Grill ableitet, werden die Bananen nicht grilliert, sondern im Öl gebraten. Wie Grillspieße werden sie aber an Holzstäbchen gegessen. Eine Variante dieses Snacks ist Kamote Que, wofür man anstelle der Bananen Süßkartoffeln verwendet.

Zutaten

- 5 Bananen In den Philippinen werden Süß Bananen verwendet. Als Alternative sind ebenfalls Kochbananen oder noch nicht sehr reife Dessertbananen (die bei uns übliche Sorte) zu empfehlen.
- ½ Liter Öl In den größeren Supermärkten gibt es Fräseöl, das speziell gezeichnet ist.
- 100 g brauner Rohrzucker
- 10 Holzspieße

Zubereitung

- Öl in einer grossen Bratpfanne oder in einem Wok erhitzen. 50g Zucker dazugeben und darin schmelzen.
- Bananen halbieren und während ungefähr 3 Minuten im Öl frittersen, bis sie leicht braun werden. (Kochbananen müssen etwas länger frittiert werden.)
- Bananen aus dem Öl nehmen, abtropfen lassen und mit dem übrigen Zucker gleichmässig bestreuen.
- Nochmals kurz im heissen Öl frittieren.
- Bananenstücke aus dem Öl nehmen und die Länge nach auf die Holzstäbchen aufspießen.

Tipp: Noch warm schmeckt Banana Que am besten!

FASTENOPFER
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There are several organizations in Latin America that work towards the same goals. For them, children and youngsters play a key role in the society since they will live in the world we are slowly degrading.

Inside FIMCAP, we can find **JUPACH (Juventud Parroquial Chilena) in Chili**, **KIRO in Haiti** and **NIPPAC (Niños Perseverantes Paraguayos Católicos) in Paraguay**.

The goals of these organizations are:

- ▶ To ensure that all children and youngsters have the chance of **developing themselves as adults**.
- ▶ To help them growing up, give them the opportunity to be **responsible for others**.
- ▶ To walk along the way with them toward becoming adult, responsible and committed Christians. For that we try to live the Gospel to work for **Human Freedom and the construction of a better world**.
- ▶ To give an **alternative** to the individualism in the society, the cults of eroticism, money, consumerism and violence.
- ▶ To give the children and youngsters an **appropriate environment where they can live** while expressing their worries and interests. A family-like community where all the members are happy.
- ▶ To walk with and for Christ together with the youngsters who are discovering in our organization a good way to make a better society, a society based on **Solidarity and Social Justice**.

To apply our goals we WANT to implement a specific methodology, developed in the organizations where its leaders will be in charge of transmitting our values and goals to the children and youngsters between 6 and 17 years old.

FAMILIAR COMMUNITY METHOD: Creation of small groups called FAMILIES where every child or youngster is guided by a young adult (leader) and he/she feels accepted, valued and committed to the group. The coexistence and relation between the families forms the community of the organization.

INTUITIVE METHOD: All of us communicate with the others, not only through our ideas and words but also through body-language, feelings and lives. With this intuitive model, we want to be sensible to each unique life, to develop sensitivity and mutual understanding.

ACTIVE METHOD: We try that all of us have an important role in the society. We do that in such a way that we can give a holistic education based on spontaneity and voluntary work. By cooperating in education we get closer to a better society. Among all the activities, we like to highlight the GAMES which are a natural part of children's lives.



EuroClass – International Experiences for Life: Life in current EuroClass

This is a message from the EuroClass students who are currently following the EuroClass course at Silkeborg Højskole (Folk High School) in Denmark. The EuroClass is a course that is open for everyone in Europe, although it's mainly intended for young youth leaders working in organisations within FIMCAP or the European Fellowship. The course's purpose is to educate us in teamwork, project management and leadership skills. Also this course allows us to extend and improve our international network and personal development.

The course runs either from August to December or from January to June, however it's also possible to follow both courses and stay for a whole year. At this moment there are 17 people from 11 different countries in the autumn semester, and more than half of them have decided to follow the spring semester as well.

In the general classes we often start with some theory about, for example, conflict management and teamwork and after that put it into practice. So apart from classes we also do some exercises to see how the theory works in true life. After this we evaluate what happened or have a small discussion about certain events.

The past two months we have also started working on larger projects. It was an-

nounced that we would go on a study trip to Sweden and Finland, where we would meet different youth organisations and schools. We were divided into three smaller groups to organise activities for the youth organisations we were visiting. This is where we really had to put our theoretical knowledge into practice and sometimes we struggled with the teamwork, but in the end we all agreed on a nice program and had a lot of fun doing it.

A trip like this is scheduled every semester, but of course each trip is different, depending on where you go. But that is not all! In the spring semester there is also one month of voluntary stay. This means that for one month you go to a youth organisation in Europe and help them with their projects. There you have the chance to go a bit deeper into organising projects and working over a longer period in a team.

The school provides a frame for various activities

On a normal school week outside these trips about 10 hours are allocated to EuroClass, but we can also choose other classes from a wide choice. Everyone at this school chooses at least three workshops and a common core subject. Both include classes like sports, art, outdoor life, music, social studies etc. An example of workshop could be Kayak and



Climbing and for common core you could follow Sociology.

The teachers in this school aren't the kind you would normally meet at university; they are on our level and teach us in a very informal way. Next to this none of the classes include grades or exams, so there's little pressure while we get to learn what we want to learn.

Besides all our classes a big part of our time here at Silkeborg Højskole revolves around the social life. The 100 students all live inside the school building with rooms for two people and nearly all the facilities are in-house. So outside the classes we meet each other a lot during spare time activities. The students organise different activities for each other like watching movies, playing sports or if you want a calm evening you can go to the living room. That makes our students a very close group and the Højskole is a place of laughter and fun.

More information: www.euroclass.org

The EuroClass Students at Silkeborg Højskole





FDF has started a new mission project in Zambia

Since March 2009 a campaign group in FDF has worked to prepare a new mission project in FDF. It is called «ZAMBIA – everybody has the right to food».

Everybody needs access to food to live a good life. Still, many people go to bed hungry every night. In Zambia the lack of food is a major problem. This means that a big part of the population is undernourished. The main theme of FDF's mission project is therefore the right to food.

The lack of food is closely related to many other development challenges in Zambia. FDF has chosen four themes related to food security for the new project. These are:

- ◆ **Development of farming methods:** For a lot of families, farming is the most important source of food.
- ◆ **Orphaned children:** The orphans often live with relatives but are not fully accepted in the new family and therefore not allowed to eat with the family.
- ◆ **HIV/Aids:** The medicine only works with the right diet.
- ◆ **Access to water:** Without water it is difficult to farm as well as cook meals.

The project is made in cooperation with Silkeborg Folk High School and Dan Church Aid. Dan Church Aid has provided contacts to their partners in Zambia working with food security. These partners will receive the money



From Vision to Reality Kick-Off for Advisors' Pool

What has happened? After the first baby steps for a FIMCAP trainers' pool in 2006 and 2007, the Euroconference decided in 2008 that it was time for a pool of people who are in charge of the quality of educational activities and could be a think tank for education. It was called the «Advisors' Pool», not trainers, since the host organisations usually take care of the contents and methods of FIMCAP educational activities.

What can the Advisors' Pool do? We defined the main points for the evaluation of FIMCAP educational activities, the networking and sharing of knowledge on education, supporting the Presidium, working groups and organisations if needed, and the provision of new ideas, new methods, and so on. We are aiming at a constant organisational learning in FIMCAP and its improvement.

Sounds boring? On the contrary, the Advisors' Pool shall and will be the place for creativity and crazy ideas. With a lot of brain to storm we will tackle - hopefully soon with people from all European organisations - the needs and the objectives of education in FIMCAP.

Why are we telling you this? Because you might be a trainer, an educator, a leader or just someone who is familiar with and passionate about good education. Chiro, Ateitis, FDF, KJG and FOI have already found people for the pool. We hope you will support us too!

...to be continued soon...

Lea Sedlmayr, KJG



collected in FDF during the campaign. Silkeborg Folk High School will send a group of students to visit the partners in Zambia. Here they will learn about different food security projects so that they can tell about their experiences to local FDF groups when they come back to Denmark.

The information campaign in FDF

The campaign in FDF started at the beginning of 2010 and wants to inform children and young people about the challenges for people in Zambia and encourage FDF members to collect money for the partners in Zambia.



The campaign will run for two years. During this period, children, young people and leaders in FDF will learn about Zambia through activities in the local groups, through the project website, www.FDF.dk/zambia, through national and regional gatherings such as the National Camp in 2011, young leader training courses, the 2010 FDF general assembly and so on.

Our international friends in FIMCAP and European Fellowship will get a chance to learn about the ZAMBIA campaign at the National Camp 2011. At the camp there will be a big tent on the main square with information and activities from Zambia. You can also buy a piece of cake to support the project in the tent. We look forward to see you in the ZAMBIA tent at the National Camp 2011.

More information: www.FDF.dk/zambia;
sara_fyhn@fdf.dk

Sara Fyhn, project coordinator

GREETINGS FROM OUTER SPACE

To spread the word of Chiro's 75th anniversary all around Belgium, all the leaders and local groups were asked to organize a birthday stunt. The last stunt was probably the most stunning one. This very original contribution came from Chiro Wilduraantjes Wilderen. Belgium's ISS astronaut Frank De Winne had a green Chiro anniversary tie in his luggage from his son and Chiro leader Tom. The result is a clip with the whole crew saying 'if you ask me? Chiro!' in their mother tongue. Thank you Frank, Tom and



everybody from NASA! To watch the clip, go to <http://vimeo.com/6318461>

Dobrá Novina – Good News Action



Christmas carol singing activity, connected with financial collection for development projects in Africa

The Good News Action is a campaign organised by the Slovak organisation eRko – HKSD. It takes place every winter during Christmas time: leaders with groups of children offer families of a Christian community of the local parish a program. They do it usually on or around Christmas, e.g. the 25th or 26th of December.

Before the activity, the children receive a blessing from their diocesan bishop during Mass at the beginning of December. The bishop blesses the chalk. Leaders of the groups use it to write the signs «C + M + B» on the door of the house. It means «Christus Mansionem Benedicat»: May Christ bless this house.

The programme that every group prepares is rehearsed regularly around one month before taking action. Children not only rehearse but also go through various topics related to help, volunteering and challenging situations in Africa. Three groups are chosen to visit the president of Slovakia.

In May there's a children's pilgrimage organized at two places in Slovakia. It is the children's reward for their work and provides a meeting for around 5000 children who took part in collection.

Dobrá Novina not only collects money but also enables thousands of volunteers to be active. This activity promotes the building of Christian communities in the parish, too. There are also various seminars and preparation meetings for the local people responsible for Dobrá Novina in their parishes. Last year, the seminars were supported with the visit of a young boy from Kenya who talked

12

LINK
 APRIL 2010

POPE BENEDICT'S SOON TO VISIT MALTA



being held during February and April. The theme the Church has chosen is: «Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? (Mk 10, 17-31)»

All events must somehow discuss and reflect on this theme. There are ŽAK groups organising special youth meetings, using visual aids or hands-on activities to make them more effective and creative. For instance, ŽAK Birżebbugia are currently preparing a Treasure Hunt, ŽAK Ħal Tarxien and ŽAK Paola have joined forces, since their two villages are close to each other, and are currently preparing a concert for young people; ŽAK Mosta have prepared four consecutive weekly meetings that include personal experiences and talks on the topic. Most ŽAK groups have also prepared a mass to celebrate during the event.



ŽAK has a replica of the cross Pope John Paul II gave the young people during the World Youth Days 1984. This cross, together with an icon of Our Lady, is being passed from one village to the next, where the young people of that particular village organise special activities related to the Pope's visit to Malta.

The Pope will also have an encounter with young people at the Valletta Waterfront. This gathering will bring together all Maltese youth who wish to meet the Pope. ŽAK has also been appointed to help in the preparation for this event and for crowd-control on that day. More information: www.zakmalta.org

Sarah J. Caruana, ZAK Malta

about his living conditions and chances to have a good life.

This year the action celebrated its 15th anniversary. The celebration was filmed and broadcasted in the Slovak catholic TV channel TV Lux.

The action 2009 mobilised about 25'000 volunteers and more than € 863'000 were collected which is the largest sum that was collected so far.

More: www.dobranovina.sk

Matej Králik, eRko



Malta will be blessed with a visit by Pope Benedict XVI on 17-18 April 2010. For this reason, ŽAK has been commissioned by the Maltese Church to organise the preparation dedicated especially to young people.

Eight different ŽAK groups have committed themselves to organise an event, and have been working hard preparing an activity for and with the youth in their area/region. Since every group is preparing their own activity, there is a wide variety of activities



13

LINK
APRIL 2010

FoI General Assembly – January 2010 in Rome

On January 16th we celebrated an important moment in the life of FoI: the General Assembly elected the new national board, made up of nine members, representatives of various FoI members from all over Italy, next to the two fixed members from the Italian Episcopal Conference (namely, the Directors of the sections respectively of Youth, Leisure Time and Sport).



We must not forget that this was FoI's third General Assembly, as the Forum was only founded in 2001. During the first eight years the Forum has grown, in terms of members and projects. Several new local or regional coordinating committees were born in different parts of Italy and became members of the Forum, enriching the lively picture made up of various and colourful ways of experiencing the educational proposal called Oratorio.

The outgoing national board and their President, Fr. Massimiliano Sabbadini, played a crucial role in promoting the public recognition of the social role of oratorio in Italy,

together with the initiation of experimental projects on the national level: the «OraTV» project (focusing on teenagers, media and communication); the «Strengthening Families Programme» project (developing support measures for family in the prevention of drug abuses) and – last but not least – «Fointernational», our international Commission, devoted to the development of intercultural projects and to the cooperation with FIMCAP.

Grateful thoughts go to the people who have invested time, strengths and energies to the life of FoI until now. Our best wishes to Fr. Marco Mori, the new president and his team: may they continue working hard, multiplying the educational proposals and representing the Christian values animating the educational commitment of thousands of people at the grass root level in our almost 6000 oratori... and may we soon meet the new National Board in one of the up-coming FIMCAP events!

Carla Acerbi, Fointernational Italy

FIMCAP would like to thank Massimiliano Sabbadini and the outgoing national board for their cooperation and commitment for international youth work within FIMCAP and for the support of their international commission.

Pascal Vonlanthen, LINK Editor



Lautstark! 2010 – loud and clear



After a very successful event in 2007 **Lautstark!**, KJG's children and youth summit, is going into its second round in September 2010. We expect 160 children and youths from 8 to 15 from all over Germany to participate in the activity from September

23 to 26 in Karlsruhe in southwest Germany. It's a cooperation of KJG on the national level and KJG in the diocese Freiburg where children and their participation has been a main topic since 2006.

Many politicians of the state and national levels are invited to answer the participants' questions and to discuss them. The topics for discussion will be chosen by the participants themselves. They will work in small groups on these topics and develop questions and demands to discuss with the politicians but also within their local groups and on other levels within KJG. They will also have the opportunity to train political

practices of debating and decision-making in order to be able to present their requests confidently to the politicians later in the plenary.



December 2009: CHIRO Flanders at Jubla's Ranfttreffen

From Antwerp to Lucerne. Distance: 705 km. Time schedule: leave at 8 p.m., arrive as soon as possible. Weather forecast: snow, snow and snow.

You must be out of your mind to even consider taking off for a trip like that. But in Belgium, you will find seven people who were crazy enough to do it. Josfien, Hanne, Evy, Tine, Niki, Eva and Maarten (oh yes, he was very happy, stuck in a minivan with six girls!) dressed in the warmest outfit they could find, bought lots of food and drink, found someone to borrow snow chains from, pushed everything into the BUB (the red Chiro minivan, famous in Antwerp and surroundings) and took off for a whole night driving to Switzerland.

We arrived in one piece in Switzerland, after an exhausting but very nice drive. Dark and cosy in the back, ideal to sleep an hour or two, loud and happy in the front, making sure the driver stayed awake. We ate enough for a whole week, telling each other that we could use some extra fat to survive the biting cold. Yeah, sure... Candy, cookies, chips, chocolate, orange juice, coca-cola,... it sure kept us busy during the long ride!

We were welcomed by Janine, very, very early in the morning, and slept in her living

room for a few hours. She woke us with breakfast and afterwards we left for the last hour of driving. Destination: Lucerne. We walked around the city, bought some souvenirs (moms who collect thimbles should not be forgotten!), went inside for a hot chocolate, worrying about the freezing cold and the snow and feeling sorry we didn't bring those ski trousers after all. When the evening fell we had a meal with the Ranfttreffen crew, and then the adventure could finally start!

Walking through a dark and ice cold winter wonderland is something special. Even though it was minus ten degrees Celsius, we weren't so cold, since the walking kept us warm. There were many workshops to do on the road, from making key chains over dancing to henna tattooing. When we arrived at the destination point, the hardest but most special thing was yet to come: the mass. I've been to many traditional masses in Belgium and I've sung and danced in Congolese masses, but none of them can compare to the one on Ranfttreffen. A thousand people, in the middle of the night and freezing cold

But not only politics are on the agenda, also having fun, playing games, making contacts and friends and experiencing the nationwide KJG community. «KJG doesn't make politics for children but within KJG, children



make politics», Alex Schmitz, KJG's national leader, explains the view of KJG. Participation has a very long tradition within KJG. Through Lautstark! KJG wants to show how participation works also on a higher level and how children can enter into a direct dialogue with politicians.

More information: www.lautstark2010.de

Annette Wahle, KJG Germany
(Photos © KJG / Nina Grützmacher)



temperatures, everyone holding a candle in their hands and sitting on the snow in front of a little church, nothing but snowy mountains around them. It's something everyone should do once in their life if they have the chance. I could try to keep writing about it, but words can never say it all. Just close your eyes and try to imagine what I just told you. That image will be quite close to reality.

Tired, but very happy, we went to bed that night. The next morning we were welcomed by the most friendly couple, and after a healthy breakfast, we pushed everything



back into the BUB again (poor thing, 1500 km on two days, I'm sure the car was mad at us after that), and we left for Belgium. Sleeping, talking, hanging, singing, eating, drinking, and laughing. We went through the whole thing again, and we liked it! When we arrived in Antwerp, we even felt a little sad getting out of the BUB. It had been our home for more than 20 hours, I don't think anyone else has lived in it that long! Hurray for us, a big thank you to everyone who made this possible, and see you guys next year!

Hanne Geuens, Chirojeugd Vlaanderen

A personal prayer to start

Actually I do not believe in anything and I doubt everything, even You. But sometimes, when I think that You live truly, at that moment, I think that you are love and alone and, within the same despair, You look for me, as I look for you.

By Gerard Reve

A personal question

Did you experience to be called for, to end up right where you wanted and needed to be?

A story

Once upon a time, During the times of the kings

Do you know the kings of the old books? The leaders who play a part in the ancient stories of the people of Israel? One of them, Saul, became king because the people wanted a king; they wanted someone to rule them. But, the time came when Saul was tired, even bitter. Before, they rejoiced in his kingdom, now he's blamed for everything.

To clear and brighten his mind, a courtier suggested bringing in a ceter player, to lighten up the king's mood. Saul's prayer was like the one above and it was David who sang and played music. It was in David's nature to be cheerful and to comfort his king.



A common prayer

There are people who sing not because they want to but because a voices rises from inside And then there are people who believe not out of fear and not expecting a reward but because they cannot do otherwise.

Abel Herzberg

A question to discuss with others

What does your inner voice tell you to do? What is your vocation? How do you shape it?

Els Van Doren, National Chaplain Chirojeugd Vlaanderen
Geert Dedecker, former National Chaplain KAJ

