



# International People's Project

**Newsletter**

Volume III Issue 1

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## **EDITORIAL**

**Welcome to the latest  
International People's Project  
Newsletter!**

It's been a very exciting year for IPP, as the programme continues to grow and develop...the taskforce reflects this development – we have sadly said goodbye to some members and the work and contribution they have made to the taskforce and the programme is much appreciated.

We have also welcomed some new members (including the lovely editors of this newsletter..) and you can rest assured that the new taskforce bonded at the AIM in Costa Rica, especially one night when a rather large amount of people ended up in the pool....

Since then the taskforce has been working hard as usual - planning future IPPs, evaluating past ones...we even have plans for a new website, so keep an eye out for it!

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Filled with articles about past IPPs and plans for future ones we hope you enjoy the diversity of this issue. Remember that we're always happy to receive questions, comments or articles for future newsletters. Don't hesitate to contact us!

Maisa Feghali and Becky Ruffell

## Living on the outskirts of society - IPP in Malmö

Long, dreary and heartbreakingly inefficient meetings have so far been one thing we've experienced in the preparations of our IPP. Working with a partner organisation sure is interesting! They may have different methods, experiences and aims than CISV but we have learnt during this process that there can still be mutual gain. Meeting the City Mission makes us feel efficient for one thing!

Our theme is "Living on the outskirts of society" and we chose to cooperate with the City Mission, an organisation which offers temporary housing, food, clothes, health care and counselling for people living on the absolute bottom of Malmö. Most of them are addicts, many are mentally ill and all of them have been treated unkind by fate. During the project we will work together with the City Mission in their Christmas celebration and spend a fair bit of time on the participant presentations. We will also have lecturers coming to see us and go out on excursions, aiming to get to know the topic better. It is our wish to present as many viewpoints as possible.

The staff is international -or whatever you wish to call it. We all live within a 100 km radius but in two countries, Denmark and Sweden. The staff preparations have focused mostly on teambuilding but now as the project draws nearer the focus is changing to practicals. Usually, at least in CISV Sweden, this is done the other way around -but it has been successful for us! What has been our focus as a staff ever since day one has been to never lose grip on the educational content. CISV is a peace-education organisation, not a charity organisation with the purpose to help the unfortunate. IPP is an activity which brings CISV into society rather than bringing society into CISV like most other activities and we should take every opportunity to learn from partner organisations and practical work. The utopian solution, we help out others and get experiences and knowledge we need in our peace education!

Petra Reveny -staffmember IPP Dec 2003- Jan 2004 in Malmö, Sweden

## VERDEN I NORGE (ViN) THE WORLD IN NORWAY

The theme of the IPP in Bergen year 2002 was Integration. In co-operation with the reception centre Vestlandsheimen, the temporary home of approximately 300 asylum seekers, the IPP-participants during two weeks arranged activities for and with kids and youths from the centre and the local community.

This IPP, which got the name "Verden i Bergen" (ViB 2002) (meaning the World in Bergen), has been followed up at two levels.

**Local Follow-up - Multicultural Circus**  
Starting with the expected part of the

follow-up, which was a continuation of the collaboration between the local CISV chapter in Bergen and our partner institution Vestlandsheimen, a project called "Multicultural Circus" was started. Approximately 20 kids have the last year come together once a week to learn various circus skills and play, but most of all to get to know each other.

The recipe for this kind of local work projects goes like this: First you need a group of inspired leaders, preferably including some young adults from the reception centre. Second, you choose an age group (should be fairly narrow) and invite kids corresponding to this from a reception centre and the surrounding area. *(Continued)*

Then you get together leaders and kids once a week to do something fun and constructive. It could be anything the leaders like to do and think they can inspire the kids to like; drama, arts, sports, fishing, etc. It is a motivating element for the group to have something to work towards. In our case we ended the semester with a circus show.

Our experience is that running these kinds of “everyday” local projects on a semester basis is very convenient. The structure and content of the project can then every semester be tailor-made by the present leader group, and changes according to the evaluation results can be done. Giving the project a defined start and ending and a fairly short duration also allows leaders to leave the project feeling they completed something, and new leaders can enter feeling that they are in it from the beginning.

Now we are in the second year of the multicultural circus and the demand is larger than ever. Of the original kids that participated in our IPP, few are left and most of the kids coming to the circus school now are either participants from this summer’s ViB or kids that participated in the circus project last year. A professional circus instructor has also joined us this year to help with the technical parts of the circus performances.

#### **National Follow-up - Verden i Norge (ViN)**

The first week of the IPP about 60 kids from 10 to 16 years participated at a daytime activity week at the reception centre. Among these kids about half was living at the centre and half were Norwegian kids living in the surrounding area. This week was experienced as a great success for kids, leaders, parents and employees at the centre. We thought the concept was too good to not be used again, and we decided to make a local work project out of it.

This new local work project, which has been given the name Verden i Norge (meaning the World in Norway) is to be realized three places in Norway already this summer (June/July), in Oslo, Alta and Bergen.

The leaders are basically recruited locally within and outside of CISV. An effort is made to gather a leader group with a variety in cultural background. The project lasts for 10 days. Starting off a Friday the staff and the leader group has the weekend to plan the forthcoming activity week. From Monday to Friday the kids come to participate at daytime, and in the afternoons the leaders evaluate and continue the planning. The staff and the leader group live together during the whole project, as in an IPP. The last weekend the leaders evaluate the whole project and celebrate themselves and the job they have done.

These are only the main features of our new local-work project. Each project will develop its own character and content due to the work of the staff and the local circumstances. The hope is that people don’t look at ViN as a big project. It has to be fun and no project is too big nor too small.

**Lars Kvamme - CISV Norway**

## IPP is the way to go

One of the criticisms on CISV is that CISV may be all about peace and friendships around the world, but that it is only for the privileged few in the world who afford it. Paradoxically, the poorer the country, the richer the children that participate, in comparison with the majority of the citizens in the country concerned. Another often heard critical remark is that it is beautiful to dream about peace and understanding in the safe and comfortable surroundings of a four weeks village, but that implementing that peace and understanding in every day life is a different story. The question is whether also in more difficult circumstances children or as grown-ups still know how to apply those ways of living together.

Both questions must not prevent CISV from what it is doing. With respect to the first remark: in many cases the wealthier children will also have more opportunities for schooling and influential jobs. Hopefully they will apply that what CISV has taught them also when they have influential positions in society. That leads to the answer on the second question: whether they will really do so, in daily life. It is hard to ascertain what the influence of CISV is, but hard to imagine that it would be negative. Every possible positive influence is already worth what CISV

is doing.

Nevertheless, the challenge for CISV is to have a better answer on these critical questions. After more than 50 years, CISV has a stable foundation. It is time to go on, to go beyond the walls of the villages and summercamps, to move into the larger world, to reach out. The International People's Project is the perfect tool. First of all, it gives CISVers the opportunity not only to talk the talk of solidarity and compassion, but also to walk the walk. The opportunity to implement what has been learnt in "theoretical" villages, summercamps and seminars, in the harder circumstances of the every day life in the field, be it handicapped institutions, orphanages, ghettos or poor villages in the countryside. At the same time, CISV can reach out and share its own rich experiences of the past fifty years with those who would not be able to join CISV in the current structures: the handicapped, the poor and the ones not in CISV circles. Participants can become true, in the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, international civil servants. IPP allows CISV to turn words into deeds and is therefore not only an enrichment of the programs offered but even a necessary development. IPP is the way to go.

**Sarah Nouwen - Netherlands**



MINI" IPP Task Force in lovely Costa Rica. Left to right, Annika, Dan, Fred, Becky, Nick & Maysa.

## Looking back: IPP Evaluation Workshop, Costa Rica, July 2003

November. It's getting very cold here, in Austria. It's already colder than it was from the 29<sup>th</sup> of July to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, somewhere on a mountain close to San José, Costa Rica. Rainy days, but we kept ourselves warm by working together a lot, evaluating, planning, visioning, working on simply everything containing IPP in any way.

The goal of the workshop was to have an overview of how IPP had developed since the last evaluation meeting in Austria 2000: Positive as well as negative, in order to be more orientated and have more of a direction of how IPP will develop in the future.

We listened to people who took part in past IPPs telling

us almost EVERYTHING about them. What went well, what could be improved, what we learned from those IPPs. It was great to hear first-hand experiences, and all those little details, what made all of these IPPs so special. Moreover, we had the chance to see the big picture: Which problems just occurred once, and which are the ones that need our attention, because they are always there.

Also, we had a very interesting presentation on other organisations that offer "workcamps":

As you might have guessed, there are many and IPP is not alone out there. But, it seems as if hardly any other organisation offers such an educational-oriented programme, neither exist any other workcamps that have participants *in delegations*. A good reason to keep pushing for more IPPs, we thought.

In working groups, we

developed new evaluation guidelines, participant training recommendations as well as more background information on the cooperation between Local Work and IPP. Finally we tried to unify everything developed so far into a Three-Year-Plan. Long-term goals and actions for IPP from now till 2005 – a powerful document!

Besides, we also did a miniworkshop on IPP for the juniors taking part at the ARM (American Regional Meeting), which took place at the same site as our workshop – and I think they enjoyed it...

Wow – all that in three days? Yes! To say it in one sentence- it was a great, productive, creative, workshop and not at least we had fun- a lot of fun.

**Babsi Enko (ILWC member, Austria)**



## IPPs Are For People That Wish To Learn.

One thing most CISVers have in common is that they are very ambitious. After taking part in several CISV activities, such as a village, a summer camp and a seminar camp, many people are ready to commit themselves to make the world a better place. Wow, isn't that great. But now the question arises: How? Luckily CISV has invented a new activity called IPP, and it seems as if these big ambitions can be put into practice right inside the organisation. Last year we offered an IPP working with immigrant children in Norway. There was also an IPP available to help improve a holocaust-memorial site in Germany. But then: some participants that took part in these IPPs were somewhat disappointed. They had to realise that it is incredibly hard to make a big change in a local community during the course of a three-week project. *(Continued on next page)*

In some IPPs participants even started calculating whether all the money they spent on their flights and accommodation would justify the work they did.

I believe that, in the CISV community, there is a common misunderstanding of what an IPP is. The main part of IPP is not "helping", it is "learning". CISV is an educational organisation, and IPP fits right in: IPP is a mainly educational experience. Participants learn how to work together with people from different cultures. They get a first-hand working experience of how other organisations tackle a certain issue. Also, IPPers learn how a problem is dealt with in different countries. And at the very end, an IPP should also contribute to the situation of a local community or the work done by a partner organisation. It's really the learning experience of the participants that is the focus of an IPP and not the work done during the project. In fact, isn't it obvious that the impact of an IPP goes far beyond the relatively small amount of work that is done during the project itself? CISV chapters have started Local Work programmes with their IPP's partner organisations that have lasted for years. Also partner organisations have changed the way they work after the IPPs took place. But most of all IPPs offer an exceptional learning experience for participants that may change their life forever.

To make my point a bit clearer: there are a lot of (volunteer) organisations out there that do a better job in humanitarian help than CISV could ever do. Even if it may sound strange, I strongly encourage people to leave CISV and become involved with other organisations instead. These organisations offer positions for people that wish to help. IPPs are for people that wish to learn.

Nick Trautmann - IPP taskforce coordinator  
20.10.2003

## IPP Great Britain Summer 2004

This summer CISV Great Britain will be holding their first International People's Project in the city of Hull. Hull, but particularly the Quadrant area which will be the heart of the project, has a number of social problems such as high figures of unemployment and poverty. The theme of the IPP is self-esteem, and it will be with that in mind that we will interact with the local teenagers. We believed this theme to be of great relevance and importance to young people such as those who live in the Quadrant. It also ties in with the national Local Work theme that Great Britain is using this year.

Within the Quadrant is a youth centre called Adventure Zone. This centre aims to give the young people in the area a place to meet, relax and play. The IPPers will be working in conjunction with this organization with the aim of completing three 'mini-projects'. *(Continued on page 9)*

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# Upcoming Projects

IPP-13-SWE-03

**Location:** Malmö, Sweden

**Dates:** 19.12.2003-4.1.2004

**Delegations of 4:** Sweden, Norway, Spain, Lebanon, Costa Rica, Japan, Brazil, Latvia

**Partner Organisation:** Stadsmissionen

**Topic:** Living on the Outskirts of Society

**Abstract:** The first phase of the project will involve the IPP participants learning about the problems faced by children and young families living in temporary accommodation. The participants will work together with the partner organisation to provide activities for children and youth. One major project will be organizing a Christmas celebration party for people that live in the outskirts of society in Sweden.

IPP-03-ITA-04

**Location:** Modena, Italy

**Dates:** 27.12.2004-12.01.2005

**Delegations of 3:** Austria, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Sweden

**Topic:** Marginalisation

**Partner Organisation:** Porta Aperta (Caritas)

**Abstract:** Porta Aperta (Open Door) provides many services to community including: emergency basic accommodation and meals to homeless people; social consultants for immigrants (legal advice); houses for young immigrants, single mothers in distress, lonely elderly people and people with psychological problems; distribution of clothes, furniture and toys to families in need. Each group of participants will work on different sub-projects, most of which will take place in the Porta Aperta house. Staff and delegates will also organize one or more special events to promote Porta Aperta and CISV in the community, as well as celebrate New Year's Eve in Porta Aperta.

Every evening delegates will help serve dinner and will eat with the people who use Porta Aperta, establishing the contact with them and providing much needed human interaction.

IPP-02-GBR-04

**Location:** Hull, Great Britain

**Dates:** 17.7.2004-8.8.2004

**Delegations of 3:** Costa Rica, Egypt, Great Britain, Norway, Portugal, Thailand, USA

**Topic:** Teenagers and Self-Esteem

**Partner Organisation:** Adventure Zone

**Abstract:** CISV will work with Adventure Zone in an area in Hull which has suffered economic and social decline and high unemployment. This has had a devastating effect on the community and there has been an increase in drug and alcohol abuse, crime, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. There is lack of opportunities and choices for young people. The IPPers will facilitate the teenagers in planning an event for their local community and work together with them to create a permanent physical reminder of the project, such as a garden or mural. Exposure of the teenagers to the different cultures of the IPPers will also help them appreciate the importance of diversity and open their eyes to the world beyond Hull. It is hoped that the project will help the teenagers to change the way they think about themselves and their community and encourage them to act as positive role models for younger children, thus helping to stop the cycle of lost opportunities. The educational part of the project will focus on topics such as: the role of teenagers in society, opportunities and aspirations, impact of self-esteem on health, risk taking, empowerment.

IPP-01-CAN-04

**Location:** Saskatoon, Canada

**Dates:** 2.7-19.7.2004

**Delegations of 3:** Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Italy

**Topic:** People with Disabilities & Society

**Partner Organisation:** Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Camp Easter Seal

**Website:** [www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca](http://www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca)

**Abstract:** Participants will be interacting with and assisting people with disabilities with a variety of life sustaining

and life enhancing programs. They will participate in the daily life at Camp Easter Seal, assisting staff with activities including swimming, boating, water-skiing, archery, horse-back riding, dancing, camping, etc. Participants will have the opportunity to influence and enhance the program in areas like sports and arts & crafts.

During the educational part of the project participants will focus on questions such as "what role do people with disabilities play in their own society?", "what stereotypes do we have about disabled people?", "what can society and individuals do to improve the quality of life of disabled people?"

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL IPP

The power of 'learning by doing' was brought home in a very real way this past summer at the IPP (International People's Project) our chapter hosted in Howell, Michigan. 18 people from Australia, Sweden, Iceland, Thailand, Great Britain, Canada, Philippines and the US gathered to learn about global poverty and to contribute a meaningful addition to the Global Village at the Howell Nature Center. Working with the staff at Howell was delightful. They were so encouraging of our ideas and creativity, and appreciative of the unending energy and enthusiasm we brought to the project.

Howell's Global Village, inspired by Heifer International, is sponsored by the Presbytery (Presbyterian Church) of Detroit. Here, they now have 8 houses, typical of those found in places of poverty throughout the world. Their goal is to have at least 10. People from many different groups; schools, churches, scouts, etc. go to Howell to learn what it is like to live in poverty. The experience is a very carefully scripted, hands-on learning opportunity.

The project included three components: education, service, and recreation. For the

educational component, we participated in an over-night (24 hour) simulation (like the one we did a year ago as a local work activity). The delegates were randomly divided into "family groups" and placed in the various houses. We had three groups because we were relatively few in number. Half of the people lived in the slum dwellings, because that is how half of the world's population lives. The others were divided between a house typical of a rural area in the Smokey Mountains of the US, and the other in a house typical of Nepal. Each group was given food and provisions typical of their living conditions, but no group was given enough to actually complete a meal. Therefore the groups had to interact, trading goods and services in order to survive. It was interesting to see the different concepts that emerged as we worked through our interactions. They included the difference between socialism and capitalism, feelings about charity, self-esteem, stereotyping and prejudice, and the like. To make matters a little more complicated, each group was given a baby (water balloons) to care for and keep alive during the experience. The slum dwellers had two. During the evening, their babies got sick (sprung leaks), and in spite of valiant efforts to save them with what little provisions they had, the babies died. *(Continued on next page)*



Children's International Summer Villages

Sleeping was another hardship, especially for those sleeping on a dirt floor (they did have sleeping bags). They were essentially exposed to the elements, and had to worry about nocturnal wild animals, insects, and the like. The others were only slightly better off, and no one really got a good night's sleep.

Another part of the educational component was the delegation presentations. Each delegation presented information about programs in their own countries that educate people about poverty. We also learned a lot about poverty itself in each country, including the stereotypes and prejudice that keep people impoverished.

The service project consisted of several different tasks. The main one was to add another house to the village. We built a house that is typical of the poor in Thailand. With only so many tools and tasks to work on the house at one time, those not occupied on the house worked in other areas. We cleared and planted a large garden and built a 10-foot fence around it to keep the deer out. We also started the construction of a non-grazing goat pen, and finished the mudding of the inside walls of the house from Africa. We learned a lot about construction and the difficulty

of working with primitive tools (we cheated with some electric tools – thanks to Brent Leon), and the materials that are natural in the environment. This even included learning how to mix the clay with straw and stones for the Africa house, and learning to make thatched roofs for the Africa and Thai houses.

The recreational part included dunks in the lake behind our lodge, walks on the nature trails with visits to the animal rehabilitation center, and a weekend at Kathleen and Ron Samul's house, which included shopping, lunch at the Detroit Yacht Club, one of Kathleen's famous city tours, a visit to Royal Oak for music and drinks, and a visit to Hell, Michigan for dinner and ice cream.

The best part of this experience was the wonderful chapter support from the many people who contributed their homes, transportation and meals (which were wonderful). We also benefited from being a small number, so we were able to bond as a group very easily. The e-mails are continuing and we are all making plans to get together again, soon.

**Kathy LaCombe - USA**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Firstly to hold a number of workshops surrounding the issue of self-esteem, secondly to hold some kind of community open day and finally to build a permanent reminder of the project. This may be a memorial garden or even an area of adventure playground equipment.

The road to the project began a few years ago when initial contact was made with organizations in Hull who we believed would be sympathetic to the aims of CISV and the possible hosting of an IPP. Once we had decided on the organization with whom we would be working an IPP committee was created for the project. This group of JB members then worked over several months in 2002/03 to try and make the project a reality. Demographical reports were put together about the Quadrant area and regular contact was made with Adventure Zone. Finally a draft proposal, including project outlines, a budget and other practical aspects, was put together. This was to be the basis of the whole project. It has been modified since, either through preference or necessity, but remains on similar lines to the original.

We are now at a stage when the project seems to be becoming a reality. We are lucky to have the assistance of a very experienced fund-raiser which takes care of one very time-consuming issue. A fledgling staff is in place and invitations have been sent out to the prospective participants. There is still a lot to do and almost certainly a lot of things that will go wrong, but we are confident that we will have a very worthwhile and enjoyable three weeks next summer.

**Staff IPP GB 2004**