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## Welcome!

Hello everyone and welcome to our newsletter! This issue contains a lot of articles with personal perspectives on CISV Summer Camps. Like using the new PDPEF form (read more about it as it's here to stay!), some interesting work on Summer Camps in an NA, the process around joining the committee from a CISVer interested in joining as a future ISU committee member and some amazing thoughts from a participant and a leader.

All of us on the committee hope that you enjoy the newsletter and share our passion for the Summer Camp programme. Our goal is to continuously improve the quality of this programme. We all strongly believe in this programme and genuinely believe summer camps have had a great impact on our lives and a lot of others.

### The ISU Committee (International Summer Camp)



ISU Committee in attendance at AIM 2008 in Italy last August (Left to right: Rick, Ruby, Frank, Ros, Pato, Mette, Max, Basma, Jorge, Nina and Abri)

## HOT NEWS!!

### Summer Camp bids Farewell to 13 year old camps

At the 2008 CISV Annual International Meeting (AIM) in Italy this past August, the International Board of CISV approved a motion changing the age range of Summer Camps from the current 13, 14 and 15 to 14 and 15 years only.

This change came after the International Summer Camp Committee (ISU) conducted a review of the programme and came to the conclusion that the goals of Summer Camp were not being reached as thoroughly in the 13 year old camps as they were in the 14-15 year old camps.

The committee was concerned that many 13 year olds were not yet at the point where they are able to plan and lead activities on their own. We were receiving many evaluations telling us that the 13 year old Summer Camps were run more like a Village which unfortunately did not meet the Summer Camp programme goals.

So, as a result of this decision, 2009 will be the last year where 13 year old summer camps will be hosted... yet fear not 13 year olds!!! CISV has not forgotten you. There are a lot of opportunities to participate in international CISV programmes like Interchange and Youth Meeting, which is now an official programme! In addition, there should be local chapter or national activities you can participate in.

The committee is excited about this change as we now can focus more on the 14-15 age groups. As a start, the Summer Camp Guide was recently updated (you can get a copy on the resources website) and the committee is working on more updates to the youth training document, so that when the delegates arrive to the camp they are truly ready to participate in the planning and running of the camp.

**The ISU Committee**

## Using the PDPEF From a staff perspective!

***This article has been written by a Summer Camp staff member on the use of the new CISV PDPEF (Programme Director's Planning and Evaluation Form). Read on and enjoy!***

The PDPEF, besides all the administrative evaluation fields, has its most important part which is educational evaluation. This area is supposed to help evaluate the progress of the educational development intend from each program. As being the staff responsible for compiling it all I have some insights about utility, practical and some other challenges we had to deal with.

First of all the PDPEF is an important form since it helps us have more clear all the goals of each program. Having it all there, on paper that should guide us throughout the camp (since we are talking about summer camp) is a major development. We can all strive towards the same goal and work on the weak points.

During the preparation weekend we had a session in which we introduced the form to some leaders and we reviewed it with those that had already seen it. At that point the agreement was that each one would update the big sheet on the leaders room with information and evidence collected along the days.

And we could look at it during our daily meetings.

Now that's where problems began. On the first week the sheet remained blank aside from a few exceptions. After a while it began to get more filled. But it was never entirely complete until the end of camp.

Some complaints we had were: *"we don't know how to collect evidence"* or *"we don't know what kind of evidence we should collect"* and *"we don't have time to do this"*. All of them were in a certain way true. As being a completely new tool, the educational evaluation hadn't yet been well worked on by national associations with their leaders which resulted in bad prepared leaders regarding this specific task. Also, the evidence that should be collected wasn't even completely clear for the staff team who was supposed to instruct the leaders and finally the time managed was a clear issue to several leaders.

About the big chart we had displayed on the leaders room, it was never entirely filled but we could think a bit about it. We only had 4 possibilities to choose from. One could either

mark achieved, incomplete, not achieved or even not mark anything.

But I think the way we chose to do this is clearly not the best way to do it. After all it incurs in a statement that once one of the evidence was collected then that skill was fully developed and the evaluation was done and no longer monitored.

But in an educational process we have advances and retreats. So what we should have done instead is make a scale that could measure each one's development. One Day, a delegate could be on the top of the world and the next day, GO back a few steps, and so on. Then we could evaluate at the end, so after all of this, did this person develop this specific item?

One other issue we had was finding the time to discuss it during leader's meetings. Since it was not fully understood by leaders, including its utility, it was never the first thing to be looked at. And often it was forgotten during meetings. It's true that the leaders meetings are spaces where there are already plenty of other subjects to deal with. Bringing something else was a challenge we were not up to.

Finally, I think that we had many problems to the filling out and use of the educational evaluation due to its freshness. Since it's so new to everyone we were all a bit lost. But it's a wonderful tool that should be worked on and understood, at least, by all leaders involved in a CISV program so we can finally measure and have some concrete information to help us to handle programs in the most educational-efficient way.



*Written by:*  
JOÃO DE MORAES  
CISV RIO DE JANEIRO ( BRAZIL)

*The PDPEF  
A vision of a leader  
"Long as a test –  
but interesting"*

*This article has been submitted by a Summer Camp leader on their experiences with the PDPEF.*

When my friends at CISV Israel and I first met this 5 word form, we knew that this was not going to be the form of our dreams. Not only that it was another 2 mile long form out of the 1000 we had to fill prior to our camps, but it was also a new and not so understandable one.

But what is it? It's just an evaluation form, but a very important one. In the year of 2008, CISV had made another big step to become an organization of professionals.

The PDPEF or "Program Director's Planning and Evaluation Form" is a way to evaluate the participants in the camp we take part in. I used it first in the Summer Camp where I was a leader in July, in Rio de Janeiro 2008 "DO (R) EVOLUTION".



We didn't like it at the beginning for it was a long, boring form, but the truth is that it is most important. With this form (that at the end of the camp is being sent to the IO) we can see who has changed the most, and how CISV did affect our delegates. We can analyze our work, the goals of the camp and the kids by filling up the PDPEF and reading it correctly.

Evaluation forms are used in various places that respect themselves and look up to be better all the time. From educational institutions to the military, from participants in delegations of the Jewish agency to high ranked officers in the army, all are being evaluated to make sure that they keep up the standard.

Other than being sent to the IO, it can also be sent to the local chapters of the kids and so, the

trustee and president of the chapters will be able to see how and where are the kids, meaning their growth, development and what areas they should be reinforced in. And so, if we have a kid that needs to be reinforced with planning abilities the right thing will be to send him to another summer camp.

PDPEF can actually help us – leaders and staff, to make the kids stronger and more ready to handle things in the future.

PDPEF is still a baby, learning his way in the world, but it is a very important step in the evolution of CISV as a world wide educational organization.

Use it a lot. It is a great instrument to use.

**SHALOM ALIÉCHEM!**

*Submitted by: Omri Markovitch, CISV Haifa*

*How do I join the  
ISU Committee?*

*This article has been submitted by a prospective member of the Summer Camp committee.*

As my national board wanted the Summer Camp programme to grow in our NA, we started to pay more attention to it. We created a Summer Camp committee because there was no one who did this specific task. We then considered that having the chair of this committee joining the ISU would be a great idea, so we could improve our summer camp knowledge and training quality.

First, I wrote an e-mail to the committee asking if I could join them, and the contact person from my region answered and said that in order to be a part of the committee they would have to meet me at AIM (Annual International Meeting) and there they would let me know all the procedures.

Once at AIM they explained the following: I was going to be assigned a 'buddy', a member of the committee from my region, who would be the person who would advise me and would tell me what tasks I could help with. They also asked me to help members of the committee at AIM with some duties and my buddy would let me know of any tasks to do during the year before the next AIM via e-mail and Skype, for the committee.

At this point, I have not spent a lot of time with them, but I can already say that they are all wonderful people greatly committed with this committee and very much in love with CISV.

*Aura Zavala  
CISV Mexico*

## *International and National Summer Camps in Brazil*

### **What is a National Summer Camp?**

- *The same structure as an International Summer Camp*
- *Delegations can be more prepared for international camps, including leaders*
- *More people can afford to participate, including those who cannot go to international camps.*

***This article provides insight into the National Summer Camp program in CISV Brazil.***

My name is Esperança, but in CISV people usually call me HOPE. I'm 25 and I'm a leader from Belo Horizonte in Brazil. In CISV I've never been a participant as a kid or even a youth; I was already an adult when I had the opportunity to join CISV. Recently I had a chance to experience something really peculiar: I took part in two different Summer Camps!

The first one was last July, in Ottawa, Canada, an International Summer Camp, where I was a leader. The second was last January, here in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, but this one was a National Summer Camp, where I was a staff member.

Before my first Summer Camp experience I went to a CISV Forum, here in Brazil, where I received International Training with some other leaders that were going to host or to travel with a delegation to other Summer Camps.



That was wonderful because I didn't know many things about a summer camp before and Susan and Nessa (our trainers) made everything clear and easy to us.

So, when I prepared my 13 year old delegates to go to Canada I felt comfortable and self-confident, and there, in the camp itself I was very proud of them and of what we prepared.

We lived with 8 other countries + staff and we had a lot of learning and, of course, also a lot of fun. We realized how different we can be but how this can be wonderful.



We came back to Brazil with "our luggage full of friends". As we all know, in a 13 years old Summer Camp the debriefings aren't that deep but we worked a lot in our theme (Roots) and with all the diversity of cultures that we had there, we had a really rich learning!

On the other hand, here in Brazil, I was a Staff Member... something different. My previous experience plus my training were essential to my success in this camp. I was feeling more self-confident and less worried if the youth would be able to plan and run the activities than I was feeling before.

In this Summer Camp we had 6 different Brazilian chapters with delegations with 14 years old youth, but some of these were bigger than some others, something possible, but not recommended, in a national structure. The debriefings were also rich and a little bit deeper than in a 13 years old camp; but the differences between youth that speak the same language and live in the same country with almost the same culture (we had to consider how big our country is and all its diversity) are really small. It doesn't mean that we learned less in a national camp: it means that we got to know each other better.

We live in one of the biggest countries in the world, with many different cultures and influences, with different words to say the same thing, with different realities, so we had a chance to know our country deeper. I think this is important, for example in the next international experience or program for the youth and we will be more prepared to represent our country, our nation. We will be more able to show our culture and our diversity to the others.

Kids, youth, adults... we are all the same around the world: stories to share, feelings, school or

college, games, activities, even with our special differences without what we wouldn't be interesting.



What I really think is that a national CISV experience prepares us for future International programs (training leaders or showing ways to kids and youth) and also makes possible the participation of families that don't have enough money to send their sons and daughters to another country or even don't trust it to the first CISV experience.

It was wonderful for me to be in these to Summer Camps that I need to thank my trainers and my "classmates" at the ISU training, because they shared knowledge, fun stories and made me feel that I was able to do it. Thank you also to all the leaders but especially all the staff involved in both camps, 'cause it was perfect to work together with you guys!

*Written by:*  
**ESPERANÇA PEIXOTO**  
*CISV BELO HORIZONTE (BRAZIL)*

### *Delegation perspectives... from CISV Mexico*

#### **GO GREEN SUMMER CAMP (Norway 2008)**

This summer we went to Norway for a Summer Camp. Right from the first day, it was an amazing experience. We started making friends since the first day, and we had a lot of fun with all of them. These were people from all over the world: USA, France, UK, Israel, Norway, Brazil, Philippines, Ecuador and México. We all changed a lot in the 3 weeks, and also learned to respect other cultures.

Our campsite was one of the biggest schools in Oslo: The Engebraten School. The theme of our camp was Go Green, and our motto was "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". We had 3 excursions, we went to the beach and to the Nobel Peace Prize

Museum (the beach didn't have sand, it had stones and shells), we also went to the theme park "Turenfryd" and shopping. We also had a mini excursión to the Norwegian Technologic Museum and to a lake. We laughed and made jokes all day like crazy people.

No one will forget these amazing 3 weeks, when we made friendships that will last forever.

The Mexican Delegation

*"Those 3 weeks changed my life"*

*- Fernanda Grageda (leader)*

*"The best experience of my life!"*

*- Arturo Rodarte*

*"I would give anything to be with them for 3 more weeks. Unbelievably fun!"*

*- Lucero Hidalgo*

*"It was wonderful! The best 3 weeks of my life."*

*- Isabel Cardenas*

#### **MAKE SOME NOISE CAMP (Londrina, Brazil)**

WE HAD THE TIME OF OUR LIVES!!!

The first thing we realized when we heard the name of our camp was "to make a lot of noise", was that we didn't understand the real meaning of our theme...

"Make Some Noise" was more than just making simple sounds but it meant making noise about the problems that our society is living right now, and also looking for a solution. The goal of the theme was to start to make noise, helping as much as we can, spreading this feeling to help.

And talking about the experience - at first we weren't too close as a delegation but as time passed our relationship grew up. Finally our training ended and we were ready to start our amazing journey.

Once in Brazil, we arrived at camp like strangers, like everybody else and didn't imagine that we were about to live the best 3 weeks of our life. We started meeting everybody and began to be friends.

Living with Brazil, Luxemburg, USA, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Norway and Italy for 21 days was amazing because we shared not only camp meeting and planning groups, we shared ourselves, our thoughts and our culture; that taught us to laugh as much as we can and live every day as it was the last one.

*The Mexican Delegation*  
*Juan Pablo, Brenda, Daniela, Elias and Itzel*

## A 15 yr old shares...

### My CISV Summer Camp Experience

The first time I realized how much my camp, Quantum Summer Leap, affected me was on my birthday/open day. I was asked to give a speech about our camp's theme. I sat down to write it and suddenly it hit me; the real meaning of our theme, of our camp, of CISV. I don't know if anyone else had understood it the way I had yet. But I finally understood what was truly happening at our camp and so I began to write....

It took me a while to find the words significant enough to make it as comprehensible as possible. At first I realized how unimaginably perfect and suitable our theme was for CISV. We were time



travelers, we could go anywhere and anyplace we wanted. We could learn and talk about anything and any matter that crossed our minds. We could understand not only the people around us but ourselves as well. And we could do all that through each other.

Just by spending three weeks with a few other teenagers our lives have been affected in ways we ourselves may never recognize. We have accomplished something much more momentous than scientists strive for, we have been to a place that people can only dream of, we have seen that which usually remains blind and out of reach to us; Peace. We have encountered three weeks of absolute peace. Peace touched each and every one of us; peace has become a part of each and every one of us. And through peace we have become a part of one another.



Today 36 young adults are back in their homes, their countries, their families. They are back to their usual life styles and traditions. Everything is the exactly same, except for one thing: Them. They have discovered who they are and who they

can be, they have seen a glimpse of what the world is seeking today. And these young adults have something to offer, somehow to help. They have knowledge, understanding, creativity, self-confidence, belief. But above all they have that which so many people have lost. They have hope.

So, I must say I am very proud of every one that was with me at this camp, proud and blessed to have been a part of this camp, but more importantly I am proud of myself and for that I have CISV Summer Camp to thank.

*Nadine El Nabli – 15 years  
Quantum Leap Summer Camp Mexico '08*

## Thoughts from a leader

### Rash Camp Norway

Opposite to what the name might suggest, it was one great summer camp. This being my first CISV program, I didn't really know what to expect or how people (be that the youth or the leaders/staff) would interact with each other.

One of the things that gave me the feeling that it would be great was the first night in camp with the delegates;



as I and 2 other leaders were on our way to the delegates, we found all of them sitting together listening to one who was playing the guitar and

singing. That automatically made ice-breakers and name games the next day a piece of cake. There was great communication between the youth and the leaders, in addition to the one amongst themselves..... it was impressive.

As for the staff / leaders (the adults if you will), there was nothing missing. Everyone was always ready to lend a helping hand and to support anyone who needed, well.....pretty much anything!! And while Norway has a reputation of having 300 rainy days a year, we only had 5; the rest were bright and sunny which made the excursions, the shopping day, the open day and the camp itself energetic and fun!

So if I were to describe the camp in one word, it was phenomenal and it's been my pleasure and privilege to be part of such a special experience.

*Ahmed Eissa  
Egyptian SU Delegation Leader  
Norway 2008*

## *"Dear Uncle Rowen"*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Back by popular demand. This section contains some questions about Summer Camps. We hope it helps everyone with their experiences this year!

**Dear Uncle Rowen,**

**Our chapter is planning a Summer Camp this December. We have some great staff members who have a lot of CISV knowledge but no Summer Camp experience. Where do we start learning about the Summer Camp program?**

**- Patricia the Planner**

*Dear PtP,*

*First of all, thanks for volunteering your time and planning for a CISV programme! The first place to check is the Summer Camp Guide! It's an amazing document that contains everything you wanted to know about Summer Camps! This one is new and improved just this year! But just remember, you should get appropriate training for the programme as well. This guide can be a reference for you to use. It's important that you attend official training from your National Leadership Trainer and if possible even attend an awesome ISU Workshop!*

*Yours in CISV...  
Uncle Rowen*

**Dear Uncle Rowen...**

**I am directing my first Summer Camp this summer and I am so excited! I have a lot of great ideas and an awesome staff. One of things we are worried about though is in case we have an issue with a youth. Our trainer has mentioned that "sending someone home" is a last resort and final option – but I am not sure how this works, or the first steps and the proper process. What should I do?  
– Director Dan**

*Dear D2...*

*That's great! Congratulations on your first Summer Camp director experience! It will be a life changing event for you – enjoy it because it will go by fast!*

*You have asked a good question. "Sending Someone Home" can be a stressful event, but fear not... there is a document called R15 which outlines the process around sending participants home.*

*Note that this decision is a last resort and final option when everything else you've tried at camp doesn't work. You are not alone with this major decision.*

*You should have your local Risk Manager involved along with your local chapter and finally... and don't forget to include the ISU (Intl Summer Camp Committee) to help assist you through the process*

*Yours in CISV,  
Uncle Rowen*

**Greetings Uncle Rowen!**

**I've had three great Village experiences in my CISV life and now I am attending my first Summer Camp as a leader! I think this will be wonderful. But one thing I know that is different is that the youth are supposed to be running activities. How can I help them prepare for this experience?**

**Laura Leader**

*Dear LL...*

*It's great that you are going to also experience the Summer Camp programme.*

*The best way to prepare your delegation is to have them attend Youth Training. The Summer Camp committee has a Youth Training Guide that can help you and your delegates get ready for an amazing experience. If you need some help, you can contact your National Summer Camp chair or the ISU at [summercamp.list@cisv.org](mailto:summercamp.list@cisv.org). Preparing before the camp will ensure you have an awesome experience.*

*Yours in CISV...  
Uncle Rowen*

**Hey Uncle Rowen,**

**It's me again, Patricia the Planner. I got your reply regarding the Summer Camp guide and that helps a lot! But I would like to know more about evaluations and this new thing called the PDPEF? What's that all about? Are these that important – isn't this a waste of time?  
- Patricia the Planner again**

*Dear PtP again,*

*Thanks for writing back – I always love repeat writers! Regarding evaluations... no question about it – these are IMPORTANT! It helps you assess how things are going and whether any changes can be made to the camp to make it better for all participants! It will also give you an idea of what's working well so you can build on it for the remainder of camp!*

*The PDPEF is a brand new form and process. It stands for the Programme Director's Planning and Evaluation Form – with an emphasis on PLANNING and EVALUATION. The PDPEF*

*replaces a lot of other forms that the director needs to submit and simplifies it into just one.*

*The PDPEF helps evaluate the EDUCATIONAL CONTENT of your camp and will help CISV as whole measure our progress towards our mission statement and the success of the Summer Camp programme. Note that this is a process that everyone needs to participate in, not just the leaders – so ensure that everyone, including the participants get involved. This should be an ongoing process throughout the camp.*

*Finally, don't forget to send all evaluations in after the camp to the Summer Camp Committee. The ISU loves receiving mail!*

*Yours in CISV...  
Uncle Rowen*

*Dear Uncle Rowen,  
I heard you like repeat writers, so it's me again – Laura Leader. If you remember, I've been a Village leader numerous times and I love preparing National Nights as it's a great way to share our culture but also a good way to prepare the delegation for the camp.*

*The Summer Camp staff has sent pre-camp 2 and they are asking us to prepare a Cultural Activity. I honestly think this is just like a National Night and I would like to prepare it the same way.*

*What do you think?*

*Laura Leader*

*Dear LL...  
Yes and No! Yes, you are correct! I do love receiving repeat mail. No, unfortunately you are incorrect; you should not prepare a National Night for the Summer Camp as your Cultural Activity. They are completely different! The Cultural Activity should be related to the theme and the specific instructions should be in the pre-camp 2. Your staff has prepared a lot of information in developing the theme, so don't ignore this. This is one of the best ways you can prepare your delegation by exploring the theme as you look into preparations for the Cultural Activity.*

*If you have any questions, just ask your staff!*

*So... get busy, get creative! It's actually refreshing not to have to do a National Dance and create a lot of booklets to hand out!*

*Yours in CISV,  
Uncle Rowen*

## ***CISV Annual Theme HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITY***

A reminder to all camps this year. CISV International is introducing the concept of an annual theme. We'd like to ensure that you run at least one activity from the Human Rights section of the new educational areas of focus during the 2009 programme year.

This is an exciting way to launch the concept of annual themes. It gives us all the same focus and motivation. It will also allow us to provide something tangible to report across all programmes. Another benefit is that this can be a good Public Relations tool to be connected to an international event or theme of the year by doing what we do best.

We look forward to receiving your human rights activities at the end of your programmes!

## ***Comments or suggestions... please contact us!***

The ISU is always open to suggestions to improve this newsletter and if you have any comments on the content in this issue or would like us to publish articles on specific topics you are interested in, please let us know!

If you have any Summer Camp questions, or if you are looking for any forms or if you need some hints and tips... do not hesitate to contact the ISU!

Email us at [summercamp.list@cisv.org](mailto:summercamp.list@cisv.org).

We hope all your preparations are going well for your Summer Camp experiences this year!