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www.10yearsIYF.org
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Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dr. Eva Matt has been an active and committed representative of Consumers International to the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family since the early nineties and a member of the Board for the last 10 years, as well as the highly respected Executive Editor of our quarterly bulletin, 'Families International', since joining the Board.

We regret to announce that, for personal reasons, Dr. Matt will be resigning from all her functions in our Committee. We will miss one of our most cooperative, clear and far sighted representatives, who was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of working with her. We wish Dr. Matt and her family only the very best and would like to express the deep felt appreciation and gratitude of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family to one of its most distinguished representatives.

Dr. Matt has constantly encouraged Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family to submit a profile of their organisation for publication in our quarterly bulletin. We are able to announce that a profile of one of our founding members will be featured in this double issue, which is edited by Dr. Matt. The Deputy Chairperson will become the Executive Editor of Families International with the next issue, No. 69, in 2009.

Peter Crowley
(Deputy Chairperson)

Michael Schwarz
(Chairperson)

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News from the United Nations

**Commission for Social Development
47th Session, 4 to 13 February 2009, New York
Priority Theme: "Social Integration"**

Social Integration is the priority theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle, taking into account the relationship with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all.

The **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** stresses that policies and strategies to achieve full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to promote gender equality and foster **social integration** for social groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples.

ECOSOC recognizes its decision, in resolution 2006/18, in which it decided to discuss each of the core themes of the World Summit for Social Development — poverty eradication, full employment and **social integration** — under the two-year review and policy cycle.

ECOSOC reaffirms that **social integration** policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, and increase the participation and integration of social groups.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: preliminary assessment" and of the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002": It encourages Governments to continue their efforts to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and to provide **social integration**.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty -sixth session¹;
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary -General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary -General on the implementation of the draft resolution entitled "Priority employment and decent work for all"

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 6 (E/2008/26).

- (a) Priority theme: social integration;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary - General

- (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
- (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
 - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond;
 - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
 - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary - General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of the Secretary - General on the strategic implementation framework for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Note by the Secretary - General on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

- (c) Emerging issues.

4. Programme questions and other matters:

- (a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007;
- (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011;
- (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary - General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 2010-2011

- 5. Provisional agenda for the forty -eighth session of the Commission.
- 6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty -seventh session.

Recent and forthcoming events

10-13 JUNE 2008

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations 55th International Conference - Sustaining Successful Marriages and Relationships: Dream or Reality?

Helsinki, Finland

The research findings and practice developments of leading specialists were presented at this conference

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Conference website - http://www.iccfr.org/en/conferences/our_next_conference.php;

To register: <https://eventsi.congreszon.fi/ei/getdemo.ei?id=538&s=1NG0YCKKT>

12. – 14. JUNE 2008



FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.familyscience.eu>

26 – 31 JULY 2008

XXI. IFHE WORLD CONGRESS

Congress 2008 – 100th Anniversary

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) did celebrate its 100th anniversary when it met in Lucerne, Switzerland, July 26-31, 2008, for the XXI. IFHE World Congress

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ifhe2008.org

16 – 19 AUGUST 2008

19th World Conference of Social Work

Bahia Convention Center / Salvador - Bahia – Brazil

FURTHER INFORMATION on the conference, papers or other organizational details:

PLEASE CONTACT

INTERLINK Consultoria & Eventos

Phone No.: +5571 3336-5644

Fax No.: +5571 3336-5633

secretariat@socialwork2008.com

4 – 7 SEPTEMBER 2008

IFA'S 9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING

Palais des Congrès de Montréal



Conference Themes

The Montréal aging and design conference programme is focused on three major themes - health, participation and security - and is underpinned by three major documents: the *United Nations Principles for Older Persons*, the *UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* and the *World Health Organization's Active Ageing Policy Framework*.

Three themes will be explored during the four-day Conference in Montréal: **Health, Participation and Security**. The important inclusion for this conference is that of **Design**, with the programme examining the impact and relationship of design against these three themes. Design is a major component that must be given greater relevance towards improving the quality of life of our older citizens. We must think about designing and creating environments that will positively affect an aging population.

Finally, the fourth component of the conference programme will be focused on the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**, providing participants the venue to examine achievements since the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid in 2002, and to look at future opportunities to maintain focus on the needs of older people.

The IFA's 9th Global Conference on Ageing will feature symposiums, workshops, posters and paper presentations addressing four main tracks:

[Track A:](#) Health, and the Impact of Design on Health

[Track B:](#) Participation, and the Impact of Design on Participation

[Track C:](#) Security, and the Impact of Design on Security

[Track D:](#) Madrid +5

TRACK A

Health, and the Impact of Design on Health

The social aspects of health and health care constitute the focus of this track including living arrangements, self-care and care giving vital to the well-being of older people and seniors. Such elements of health and well-being include health care systems and health promotion and prevention strategies, access to health care services and, broadly, whatever programmes, services, systems, and factors enable older persons to experience healthy ageing.

The art of shaping the physical setting and systems for life in cities, towns and villages —involving the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces, landscapes, and transportation systems.

Sub-Themes

- Health promotion and well being throughout life
- Universal and equal access to health care services
- Older persons and HIV/AIDS
- Training of care providers and professionals
- Mental health needs of older persons
- Older persons and disabilities



TRACK B

Participation and the Impact of Design on Participation

For all too many older persons, old age means being marginalized, increased isolation and losses — of status and meaningful roles; participation, in a word, is an answer increasingly important to one's social health and psychological well-being. We welcome presentations of programmes that work to re-engage older people into their families and communities and of promising strategies for creating positive images of age

and removing barriers to full participation in the community. The position of 'ageing in place' communities, retirement villages, institutional care arrangements, and shelters following natural disasters will be addressed.

A community that is designed to enhance social connectedness also encourages persons of all ages to having 'a role', 'an identity' and 'a position' in the community. Through this track, we are also interested in learning about designs of housing, shelter and environments that connect older persons to their community, encourage intergenerational ties, and create the opportunity for older people to have a productive place in the community.

Sub-Themes

- Recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons.
- Participation of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels
- Rural development, migration and urbanization
- Access to knowledge, education and training
- Intergenerational solidarity
- Images of ageing

TRACK C

Security and the Impact of Design on Security

Social, financial and physical security helps to ensure the protection, safety and dignity of older people and seniors. Presentations that focus on solutions and examples of effective personal and societal responses to the lack of security will inform the global discussion about ways and means to alleviate suffering and enhance the dignity of older people.

In this conference on aging and design, we'll discuss how income security provides the means by which older people may continue to retain their dignity and contribution to their families and communities. Health security is achieved when older people know that as illness strikes and debilitating conditions develop, they may receive the necessary attention and support. Freedom from abuse and neglect are human rights denied to millions of older people in all parts of the globe. Having secure health insurance and financial stability is also important.

Life for older people should function as well as possible. They should be able to change life styles with desired (and varying) degrees of dependence and independence. This track will also explore designs that enable people to live with choice and quality of life —the design possibilities that help us maintain the most important human connections in our community.

Sub-Themes

- Financial protection
- Income security, social protection/social security
- Poverty prevention
- Housing and living environment
- Neglect, abuse and violence
- Emergency Preparedness

TRACK D

Madrid +5

2007 marked the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), a year for assessing progress in implementing the Plan's recommendations in its three priority directions: older people and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The United Nations' plans for monitoring this progress are based on a qualitative "bottom-up" approach in which all stakeholders—including governments, civil society organisations and older people themselves—were encouraged to participate. We welcome presentations on the progress to date since 159 countries signed this historic document.

Join us at the 2008 Montréal aging and design Conference this year, and explore how by designing environments for health, participation and security we can make a difference to the aging population.

CONTACT: info@vdm-adm.ca
www.ageingdesignmontreal.ca

OCTOBER, 17TH 2008

Brussels

Job Mobilities in Europe Relevance, Consequences, and New Challenges

9:30-13:00 in the European Parliament, Brussels

Due to the widely believed positive effects of job-related mobility, such as the fostering of innovations, economic growth and European cohesion, great efforts have been undertaken to enhance mobility. One of the prominent examples is the “European Year of Workers’ Mobility 2006.”

Nevertheless the mobility of the European workforce has been repeatedly evaluated as relatively low. A recent study on job-related spatial mobility of all types - and not only on workforce migration - comes to striking results: almost half of the employees in Europe are mobile for job reasons or have been mobile during their professional life. Workers are sedentary but still highly mobile because they adopt different strategies to meet mobility demands. Europeans seldom migrate, but they commute daily or weekly over long distances, live in long-distance relationships for job reasons, fulfil foreign assignments or undertake frequent business trips in Europe or worldwide.

Based on representative data collected in six European countries the papers presented during the conference analyse the current mobility flows and the explanation of the corresponding consequences for society, economy, demographic development, gender equality, and quality of life in Europe. The findings of the study identify new challenges for the economy and suggest a change of political strategies directed to job mobility.

Programme

9:30 – 10:00

Welcome and Opening

Sepp Kusstatscher
Member of the European Parliament

Johannes Klumpers
Head of Unit, L.4 Scientific Culture and Gender Questions
DG Research
European Commission

10:00 – 11:00

Sedentary or Mobile? The Mobility of the European Workforce

Prof. Dr. Norbert F. Schneider
Project Coordinator
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Commented by Benjamin Holst
Confederation of Danish Employers
Member of Social Affairs Committee of BUSINESSEUROPE
and by Germana Di Domenico
Policy officer, Unit D.3 Employment Services and Mobility
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
European Commission

Diskussion

- 11:00 – 11:45** **Rising Mobility, Increasing Inequality?
Economic and Social Consequences of Mobility**
Prof. Dr. Anna Giza-Poleszczuk
University of Warsaw
- Commented by Dr. Maria Jepsen
Head of Department Research
European Trade Union Institute (ETUI – REHS)
- Diskussion
- 11:45 - 12:00** **Break**
- 12:00 – 12:45** **Mobile, Single, Stressed?
The Effects of Mobility on Family Life and Individual Well-Being**
Prof. Dr. Gerardo Meil
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- Commented by Dr. Krzysztof Iszkowski
Socio-economic Analyst, Unit E.1 Social and Demographic Analysis
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
European Commission
- Diskussion
- 12:45 - 13:00** **Final Discussion and Closing Remarks**
Sepp Kusstatscher
Member of the European Parliament
- 13:30 - 14:00** **Press Conference**

A national workshop based on the Belgian results will be held at the same place from 2 to 4 p.m. [More information here.](#)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DOWNLOADS

For registration please use the **registration form** (see download below) and send it by fax: **0049 6131 39-25569**. Or send the required information by e-mail to silvia.ruppenthal@uni-mainz.de.

To guarantee entrance into the building of the European Parliament it is necessary that you include your **address** and **birth date**. Please also make sure that you bring a valid **passport** to the conference.

Please register until 6th October 2008.

The conference languages are English, German, and French. Simultaneous translations will be provided.

Venue:

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
Room ASP 1G2
B-1047 Brussels

CONTACT DETAILS:

Silvia Ruppenthal
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Institute of Sociology
D-55099 Mainz
Phone: 0049 6131 39-20320
Fax: 0049 6131 39-25569

30 OCTOBER 2008

CRFR Annual Conference - Understanding Families and Relationships over Time

Edinburgh, Scotland

This one-day conference provides an opportunity to consider research that takes a qualitative, longitudinal approach to researching families and relationships.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Conference website -
<http://www.crfr.ac.uk/events/natconference.htm>

5 – 8 NOVEMBER 2008

70TH NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR

The Theme: **"Lenses on Family"**

The lenses through which we view family affect what is seen and unseen, as well as how our research findings are understood. The theme of this year's conference encompasses how families are defined, which family processes are presumed to be adaptive, and how our research findings are interpreted in the public arena.

CONTACT: Conference Office at toll free 888-781-9331, ext. 15

13 & 14TH NOVEMBER 2008

Parent Child 2008 - Getting it right for families?

The Family and Parenting Institute's international conference

What every family and parenting practitioner, researcher and policy maker needs to know about family wellbeing and the dynamics of family relationships

Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ

Parent Child 2008 - Getting it right for families? - will be our fifth biennial international conference. Previous Parent Child conferences have covered *Early Years, Adolescence, Family Futures*, and [Happy Families?](#)

Parent Child 2008 will showcase a range of research, policy and practice issues relevant to improving family relationships and wellbeing and will be a 'must attend' event for anyone working in this sector.

This major conference will feature world-renowned plenary presenters, will debate the key current issues for family policy and practice and will bring together practitioners, academics, researchers, policy makers and the media. It will showcase the latest practical ideas to help practitioners tackle their everyday work to support families, whether in:

- schools
- children's centres
- health services
- adult/child social services
- housing
- youth justice
- commissioners at PCT or local authority level
- participation offices/local staff charged with the job of listening to customers.

The wellbeing of the family is one of the key current family policy issues

The Family and Parenting Institute is the leading centre of expertise on families and parenting in the UK. Families, in all their diversity, form the basis of our society and the foundation for the future. Our mission is to support them in bringing up children.

CONTACT: www.familyandparenting.org

17TH NOVEMBER 2008

VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Vienna International Centre of the United Nations in Vienna,
Conference Room VII 10:00 – 16:30

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

10.00-12.30

“CONTRIBUTIONS of FAMILIES & FAMILY-ORIENTED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS to SOCIETY”
“Family Tasks in Transition”

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Roswith Roth
Department of Natural Science
University of Graz
Institute of Psychology

“Contributions of Family-Oriented Civil Society Organisations to the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations”

Dipl.-Psych. Peter Crowley
Deputy Chairperson
Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
14.30-16.30

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGISTER by Friday November 9th 2008 at the latest with our office at:
famcom.vienna@utanet.at

1. – 4. DECEMBER 2008



World Family Summit +4
Cairo, Egypt - December 1 to 4, 2008

The World Family Organization has the honor to announce the World Family Summit +4!

Encompassing the main theme of the 2009 High Level Segment of ECOSOC and its Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum, and in the spirit of the World Family Summit +3, held in Poland, the main theme of the World Family Summit +4 is: **Lives in the Balance - A Global Mobilization to the Achievement of the MDGs 4 and 5: Ensuring the Rights to survival, to protection and to development.**

The discussions will approach different aspects involving maternal and child health care based on a family and community health systems, the legal aspects of social protection needed to ensure the survival and the economical aspects to guarantee the sustainable development of families and communities.

The Warsaw Declaration is a powerful document which reflects the willingness of the World Family Summits participants along these last five years to mobilize a Global Partnership to ensure that Governments, NGOs, Academia, Parliamentarians, Media, Business Community, Civil Society and Families will respond to the different commitments made with concrete actions. The task is complex and difficult, but not impossible.

At the World Family Summit +4 we will be looking for a very strong response towards the commitments done on the World Family Summit +3 and in the Warsaw Declaration, involving First Ladies, Former First Ladies at National and Local Level, international personalities, multilateral and bilateral partners in favor of maternal, newborn and child care under a broad concept including health care, social protection and economic development.

The World Family Summit +4 will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on December 1 to 4, 2008, and organized in partnership with the United Nations ECOSOC Office for Support and Coordination, United Nations NGO Section, Ministry of Social Solidarity of Egypt, National Council for Childhood & Motherhood of Egypt, League of Arab States and the Egyptian Business Women Association.

JANUARY 2009

CALL FOR PAPERS International Conference on “Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice” Cairo, Egypt, January 2009

Realizing the importance of sharing and enhancing developmental knowledge and enhancing developmental cooperation between the developing countries, the Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) has taken the initiative to hold a first ever international conference on the role and challenges of, and solutions for Think Tanks in developing countries on 19 and 20 January 2009 (see www.thinktanking.idsc.gov.eg for more information).

In close collaboration with the Think Tank conference, IDSC, the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund in Egypt (UNICEF) are organizing an international conference on “*Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice*” under the umbrella of the Egypt National Observatory for Child Rights. The conference serves as a platform for innovative thinking on social policy and child rights. It will bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners as well as university students to exchange experiences and discuss proposals for inclusive and child-sensitive public social and economic policies which aim to reduce child poverty and are based on scientific evidence.

The conference is the first in a planned series of bi-annual conferences on *Child Rights, Social Justice and Equity* that aims to contribute to the attainment of child rights through 1) sharing of ideas, research findings and good practices; 2) strengthening the collaboration between researchers, practitioners and policy makers working on children’s issues and 3) encouraging innovative research in “under-researched” areas.

Background

Many countries have been unable to set their economic agenda to eliminate poverty at the rate foreseen by the MDGs and which is required to achieve the rights of the child. In addition, inequalities have persisted or even increased in part because poverty reduction strategies and development plans have struggled to be pro-poor and to help disadvantaged populations including women and families raising children. Moreover, even though children often constitute around 40% of the total population, their rights and special needs are often placed below other priorities, leading to lost opportunities in terms of both human and economic development.

It is therefore important to produce, discuss and apply evidence that will help influence economic and social policies in order to affect resource allocations and put children as high priority in national legislation, policies and programs.

Call for Papers

The conference organizers welcome proposals for presentations from academics, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. *University students and recent graduates are particularly encouraged to respond to the call for papers.* The presentations at the conference can be any of the following formats:

- 1) Individual paper presentations of applied research or documented experiences;
- 2) Poster presentations on research findings or successful experiences; and
- 3) Feedback sessions for ongoing research projects by university students and PhD candidates.

Papers and presentations submitted should focus either on Egypt specifically or should discuss relevant applied research and experiences reporting on policy proposals that could possibly be transposed to the Egyptian context. They should 1) have a solid methodological approach, be it quantitative or qualitative; 2) have a strong evidence base and 3) discuss implications for inclusive public policies that advance children's rights and reduce their vulnerability to the multidimensional notion of poverty.

Focus on disparities between boys and girls, and/or between other groups or geographical regions within a country, is highly encouraged.

Poster presentations display the essential information of a research paper or documented successful experience on one sheet of paper. Its presentation uses the same logical sequence of the sections/components of the originally printed paper or report.

Feedback sessions give university students and PhD candidates a chance to receive constructive comments and suggestions on their hypotheses, methodologies, field work, findings and conclusions with the aim to help in finalizing their research project.

Selected papers, presentations and research projects will address at least one of the following themes:

- 1) Policy implications of child poverty from a child rights perspective with a focus on:
 - a) income deprivation and/or
 - b) education deprivation and/or
 - c) health deprivation and/or
 - d) nutrition deprivation and/or
 - e) deprivation of social protection and/or
 - f) deprivation of social support systems for children at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation
- 2) Child and adolescent participation in research and development to achieve child rights

Structure of the conference

The conference is planned to have the following components: 1) Presentations of selected *research papers, poster presentations and post-graduate feedback sessions*; 2) discussion on *child rights and well-being indicators* and their importance for monitoring the situation of children; 3) *essay competition by Egyptian secondary school students* on the perception of poverty from a child's and adolescent's perspective. Furthermore, as part of the IDSC Think Tank conference, a selected number of observatories for child rights will exchange experiences and discuss the role of these child rights focused think tanks.

Language

The conference provides simultaneous interpretation for both English and Arabic. Presentations of selected papers, research projects as well as poster presentations at the conference can be either in English or Arabic. However, proposals (abstracts) and final papers must be submitted in English.

Financial assistance

There is no conference registration fee. Small grants covering accommodation can be provided to scholars and students from developing countries that have been selected to present their papers or projects. Grants will be provided in the form of free accommodation and daily subsistence allowance. Individuals who wish to be considered for grants need to specify this in the *Proposal Submission Form*. Please note that funding is limited, so grants are subject to fund availability.

Calendar of events

NEW 16 November, 2008 – Deadline for abstracts: Please submit a one-page abstract on paper, poster presentation or research project of no more than 400 words in English and accompanied by a CV by e-mail to egyptchildpovertyconference@unicef.org.

Please use the *Proposal Submission Form that is attached below (at the bottom of this page) for your convenience*.

30 November, 2008 – Selection of papers, poster presentations and research projects: Selection will be done by a review board composed of renowned Egyptian scholars based on specified selection criteria.

15 December, 2008 – Deadline for final paper, poster and research project submissions: All papers should be submitted in .pdf or .doc format to egyptchildpovertyconference@unicef.org. Papers can be in a provisional version, but must contain a clear presentation of the results obtained and a complete reference list in order to be considered by the review board.

The first page of the paper should include: i) submission title and affiliation; ii) author(s)' name(s); iii) abstract and keywords; and iv) contact information (name, surname, e-mail address) of the author in charge of the communication. Final papers and poster presentations should be in English.

Mid-January, 2009 – Conference: There is no registration fee and both English and Arabic simultaneous interpretation will be available.

CONTACT:

For more information on *Think Tanks conference*, please contact:

Nesreen Khaled El Molla

International Cooperation Specialist

IDSC Egypt

nselmolla@idsc.net.org.

For more information on the *Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice* conference, please contact:

Dennis Arends

Chief, Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Egypt

egyptchildpovertyconference@unicef.org

26. - 29. APRIL 2009



www.rathanea.hr/ensact

Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?

Introduction

The Dubrovnik 2009 Conference is one of the first initiatives of the European Network of Social Action, ENSACT. ENSACT is a joint initiative of:

- EASSW: the European Association of Schools of Social Work
- FESET: Formation d'Educateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educator Training
- IFSW: the International Federation of Social Workers European Region
- ICSW: the International Council on Social Welfare European Region
- FICE: the Federation Internationale des Communauté Educatives
- AIEJI: the International Association of Social Educators

ENSACT is an umbrella network for the social domain in Europe and embraces representatives of professional associations, faculties/schools of social work and social pedagogy, and national councils of social provision and welfare. It includes social professionals, lecturers, researchers, policymakers and social service providers in Europe.

The main activities of ENSACT are:

- promoting the quality of social services;
- voicing its members concerns and interests on the European level;
- organising joint conferences and expert meetings;
- providing information on relevant issues.

The 2009 ENSACT Conference **Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?** presents an opportunity for social professionals, lecturers, researchers, students, policymakers, service providers and service users to share and exchange valuable knowledge, to debate upon current challenges and to discuss ways forward in the field of social practice, education, policy and provision.

VISIT ENSACT at www.ensact.eu

24-26 MAY 2009

Family Centred Care

Edmonton, Canada

Conference themes include:

- Listening to the voices: children, youth and families
- Finding the strength: empowering families
- Partnerships and working alliances
- Meeting the transition challenge
- Implementing fcc: successes and challenges
- Multicultural practices and intercultural understanding

FURTHER INFORMATION: Conference website - <http://www.fcc-conference.ca>

17 – 19 JUNE 2009



ICCFR's 56th annual international conference

“Training, education and support for professionals and all those working with and on behalf of families”

Details of this conference and how to register will be available on the ICCFR website www.iccfr.org at the end of 2008 but look out on the website for information during the autumn period.

If you are interested in offering a workshop in the topic area, or if you want further information or have questions please contact one of those identified below as soon as possible (deadline for workshop proposals is 30 September 2008).

Jacques Lizée, ONAF President:

jacques.lizee@carrefourmunicipal.qc.ca

Paul-André Tremblay:

patremblay@cofaq.qc.ca

Terry Prendergast, Chair ICCFR

terry@marriagecare.org.uk

00442073711341



Claire Missen, Vice Chair ICCFR

cmissen@eircom.net



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COUPLE AND FAMILY RELATIONS

56th International Conference

**In collaboration with North American Family
Organization (NAFO)**

**Policy and Practice - developing and
implementing training and education
programmes for all who work with couples
and families.**

Québec, Canada

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations ICCFR

The Commission was established in 1953 by the International Union of Family Organisations (IUFO/WFO). Its annual international conferences are dedicated to making an innovative and contemporary contribution which addresses the issues and challenges couples and families face throughout the world. Its extensive international membership includes organisations and

**“Policy and Practice - developing and
implementing training and education
programmes for all who work with couples
and families.”**

International Conference

Sherbrooke 16th – 19th June 2009

To compare existing training programmes in Quebec, in Canada and around the globe, to research results and effectiveness, to consider how they can be improved in the best interest of families.

There is great concern throughout the world about the problems that couples and families have to contend with. This concern is shared between Governments and those whose task it is to provide the levels of support for those who need help.

This conference will therefore have a focus on those who provide that help. The training and continuing professional development that workers in this field require has become more complex over the decades. It is our hope that the Conference will provide a forum for sharing best practice and new initiatives so that workers are well equipped to deal with the complex matters they face.

A range of keynote presentations from different parts of the world, backed up by workshops that will allow participants to discuss, learn and share experience and skills. Training cannot be an end in itself, but ignoring it as part of the solution in family support is short-sighted and unhelpful.

individuals involved in couple and family therapy, relationship education, social work, mediation, psychology and psychiatry, research, social policy, family courts and the law, and family organisations. As a result the Commission sustains a groundbreaking interdisciplinary dialogue about couple and family relations and the support provided for them by the professions.

ICCFR Mission Statement

ICCFR-CIRCF believes that stable flourishing communities are based on thriving couple and family relations. The Commission dedicates itself to the advancement and world-wide dissemination of knowledge about those relationships, and to activities promoting their well-being. It provides an international forum in which individuals and organisations can engage in dialogue about the issues and challenges couple and family relations face, and about the means by which the related professions can collaborate in responding to them.

Conference programme

- keynote presentations by internationally recognised experts
- Among the sub-topics to be addressed will be:
 - Family mediation
 - Training, education and support for those who lead youth on their summer holidays or free time
 - Training, education and support for parents
- workshops offering the chance to explore topics in more depth
- study group sessions developing international, multidisciplinary perspectives on conference topics and participants' interests
- The conference language will be French & English; interpretation will be provided in the plenary sessions and facilitation in some of the workshops
- A mixture of cultural events and informal entertainment will make up the social

Pre Conference Day

In addition, as a request from Sherbrooke University, a scientific day will be held exploring the Conference theme on the 16 June 2009. Members and non-members of the ICCFR will be welcome.

Conference Venue

The 2009 ICCFR conference will be held at Sherbrooke University campus. The city of Sherbrooke is situated on the south east of

Quebec province very near to the US border and 150 kilometres from Montreal. Sherbrooke University is very well known with 36000 students.

We appreciate their partnership with our organisation.

www.usherbooke.ca

www.ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca

The 56th international ICCFR conference is jointly organised with North American Family Organization (NAFO).

North American Family Organization (NAFO)

Participation

Individuals and organisations involved in couple and family counselling and therapy, family organisations, research, social policy, family-related legislation and legal processes, relationship education, and the provision of welfare services are invited to participate in the conference.

NGO Committee on the Family

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Report on Family Issues dealt with by some member organizations

For the Full Committee Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family to be held on 17 November 2008 at the UN in Vienna and

For "Families International" next Issue

From NCW New Zealand

NCW NZ is working towards a better understanding of the family in society. "Being a parent takes being able to multi task to a whole new level. It's a job for life and raising children is probably the most important thing you'll ever do".

Children are our future and look to us to set an example, to teach what is right and wrong, to love, to encourage, to nurture, to be keep safe and to be respected and listened to. Sadly many children do not have this love in their lives and some parents need help to teach parenting skills to be able to parent their child. Many succeed in making the transition and should be deservedly proud of turning their lives around in order to raise their children successfully.

Many grandparents, having already raised one family, are raising grandchildren and struggling with day to day issues to do this. They have put their retirements on hold, given up plans they once had, gone back to work, sold their homes and have sacrificed their immediate future to parent a second time through no fault of their own. They have put their grandchildren before their own wishes and desires and should be supported in making this sacrifice for the future of their grandchildren.

To truly celebrate Families Day an announcement from the Government giving the starting date to grant grandparents who are raising grandchildren the equivalent of the Foster Parent allowance would truly be proof that the Government means to honour the promise they made three years ago and honour the celebration of being part of a family in New Zealand. (from The Circular, newsletter of NCW NZ)

NCW New Zealand is also working on a Discussion Document on Income Splitting.

From NCW Australia

Report on Early Childhood Developments

New Initiatives in Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia

Funds have been allocated to provide universal access to 15 hours of preschool education per week over 40 weeks for all four-year-olds throughout Australia.

Agreement to develop a National Quality Standards Framework for early childhood education and care and an Early Years Learning Framework (0-5years).

Queensland reports on a mobile teacher concept over five regions in Queensland, as a precursor to planned universal access to early education for all four-year-olds.

Research carried out at Edith Cowan University in WA found that children from loving homes are stressed when placed in poor quality child care centres, whilst children from disadvantaged families are better off, even if the quality of care is rated as only satisfactory.

A study in the Journal of Paediatrics found that watching DVDs such as Baby Einstein and Brainy Baby is a waste of time and may even slow down language development.

As for Indigenous Child Abuse and Neglect and Family Support Initiative

Developing national out-of-home care standards that reflect cultural and spiritual needs.

Developing healing and family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to prevent child abuse and bring removed children home.

The Australian Early Childhood Development Index

The Australian government is currently collecting a measure of the development of all Australian children in their first year of formal schooling. Teachers complete a checklist of 100 questions on each child, after observing their holistic development. The AEDI checklist measures the five areas of child development of physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills and communication skills and general knowledge.

Report from NCW Indonesia (KOWANI)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

Absence of witness protection

Domestic violence is still considered a taboo.

Violence rate against children increase every year which 52% were sexual related violence.

TRAFFICKING AND VAW AND CHILDREN

Prostitutes do not realize that their physical and human rights have been abused and violated, then could become a permanent psychological trauma.

Special Service Counter at police stations in various provinces,

PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED

Debt Bondage (Usually victims are in debt and therefore fall in debt bondage; Wanting a better life)

Poverty has resulted in children being handled as an asset of commodity.

- Divorce in marriage provoked violence acts against children (and) as a result become street children prone to drugs, sexual exploitation and children trafficking.
- Limited protection for children as victims of national disasters result in children not having access to education.
- Tourist destinations, plantations and mining areas become increasing areas of sexual trafficking or sexual exploitations.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- Education for all;
- To strengthen the implementation of Laws related to the promotion and protection of the Rights of Women and Children as they deserves the right to legal protection from all types of violence including sexual exploitation, child trafficking, drugs, psychopathic and other addictive elements.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kowani (NCW Indonesia) continually conducted work on the elimination of illiteracy (2007-2008) in 12 provinces.
Kowani established Early Childhood Education
- Conduct a mobile kindergarten for children from less fortunate families in cooperation with the University of Jakarta and "Rukun Wanita Indonesia"
- "Friendly Home" in cooperation with group of NGOs for street children so they do not become beggars and prone to drugs.
- Through the implementation of the law on the Rights of The Child and Child protection, KOWANI has succeeded in developing a project "Empowerment of Street Children" by giving skill training, scholarship, mobile library, health services.

Vienna, 16.11.2008
ICW Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna

Eleonore Hauer-Rona

Introducing



THE INTERNATIONAL KOLPING SOCIETY

The International Kolping Society is a Catholic organization which is present in 61 countries and which has one focus of its activities on the family.

The Program of the International Kolping Society states: "The Kolping Society regards marriage and family as the most important prerequisites for the personal development of the individual and thus also for the evolution of a moral society." That, as a nucleus of every human community, the family be preserved and strengthened through the appropriate assistance from legislators is one of the basic demands of the Kolping Society.

It is not without reason that the local associations are called Kolping Family: They indeed form family-like communities, in which the members – whether alone or with the natural families – experience solidarity and community. A Kolping Family consists of members of all age groups.

In the face of extremely rapid societal changes, the family in particular finds itself under constantly increasing pressure. The Kolping Society responds to this challenge in its educational programs. Marriage preparation courses, marriage and family support programs, assistance for parents, for example in child-rearing, are offered to support and strengthen the members and their families. For single parents or for families in which both parents have to work to provide life's necessities, the Kolping Society offers programs that compliment the family, such as day care for children.

Homepage address: www.kolping.net

Generations learn together: Sustainability

The relation of generations is changing. Whereas in the past children were taught almost all aspects of life by the older generation, young people in modern industrial societies today outclass the previous generation in many areas of knowledge. Even living side-by-side in the family has changed considerably. There are hardly households encompassing three generations any more; in return already half of all households in big cities are single-person households.

Facing this situation there is an increasing demand for facilities of encounter outside the family in order to counteract societal isolation. Contacts overlapping ages are not only of vital importance for the individual, they are also indispensable for the further development of a solidarity-based society which is affable towards life. Also the UN Decade "Education for sustainable development" (2005 to 2014) is compelled to handle this task, whereby according to the UNESCO not only ecological issues are to be treated but in particular the justice between the generations. In the sense of a comprehensive solidarity of generations it is vital to find new possibilities by way of applying intergenerational learning, together with older and young people. These possibilities are to "satisfy the needs of the present without running the risk that future generations fail to satisfy their own needs" (Brundtland Committee).

The Kolping Society of Germany has participated in the elaboration of course models, e.g. on how to realize intergenerational learning partnerships in the sense of mentoring programs and the creation of discussion platforms on the topic "Just allocation of resources and sustainable development". The elaborated course models are to be newly introduced into the work of the organization.

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Cologne

50 years of personal cooperation in development within the Kolping Society

In 1958 the first eight development aid workers from the ranks of the Kolping Society were trained and sent to Ethiopia to build up a leprosy station there. This anniversary was an opportunity for the Board of the Social and Development Aid of the Kolping Society Assoc. (SEK e. V.) to issue a declaration on June 9, 2008. In it the continuing importance of development aid at personal level was stressed and it was made clear that within the field of development cooperation it is not alone a matter of passing on expertise, but also a matter of being a bridge-builder between the cultures. Against this background the SEK e.V. is demanding by these states the financing of development aid workers who come from the countries of the South. "The personal cooperation in development aid must not remain a one-way-street", General Secretary Hubert Tintelott demanded.

Apart from long-term assignments of the development aid workers the Kolping Society is also demanding and supporting voluntary services of several weeks or months of duration. Also this way of personal cooperation is a means of mutual understanding between the cultures and for the promotion of international solidarity.

Albania

Clean potable water for schools and 30 families

For many people, the supply with clean potable water is a major problem and many diseases have their cause in contaminated water. Having said this, it becomes more understandable how a drilling of a well for the supply of potable water for thirty families and a school became an event which was welcomed by the whole population of the village enthusiastically. In mid-June the well which was drilled on the initiative of the Kolping Family and with the support of the Kolping Society Albania and KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and the respective water conduit were inaugurated in Shelquet. The Kolping Family thus proved that it not only cares for its own members, but also is putting out actual initiatives for the solution of problems concerning society.

Poland

Partnership for Peace

From June 13 to 15, 2008 the third German-Polish partnership meeting took place. The partnership meetings are designed to deepen the contacts between the Kolping Society of Poland and the diocesan organization of Essen, which have established a partnership. In view of the changeful history full of tensions between Germany and Poland, time and again subjects take center stage which can help reduce the existing frictions and open up ways for a peaceful and truthful cooperation. At this year's meeting the subject of peace took center stage and the foundations for a peaceful coexistence and ways of education for peace were discussed intensively. Part of the agenda was also a retrospective into history and an overview of the partner relations between the Kolping Societies of both countries and the partner relations between the German and Polish cities. The meeting was not only an enriching educational experience, but for 34 participants from the diocesan organization of Essen and for more than 100 participants from Poland, it also meant that by deepening the personal relations the work in partnership could be strengthened further.

Romania

Episcopal Conference gets information on the Kolping Society

Three representatives of the Kolping Society in Romania were invited to attend the meeting of the Romanian Bishops' Conference in Sibiu on May 15, 2008 in order to provide information on the work of the Romanian Kolping Society. For more than 30 minutes, the representatives of the Kolping Society were given the opportunity to present the work of the Kolping Society and its new development after the political changes in 1989. The illustration of activities in the field of vocational training found special interest. On the basis of the given information two bishops in whose dioceses the Kolping Society is not yet active have issued an invitation to the Kolping Society to start building up Kolping Families there and have reiterated their active support.

Romania

First Hike for Peace by the Kolping Society Romania

This hike was inspired by the International Kolping Hike - which was initiated after World War II - to link the individuals of antagonized peoples and to find ways for peaceful cooperation. From May 1 to 3, 2008, the Kolping Society of Romania in cooperation with the diocesan organization of Alba organized the First Hike for Peace for all Kolping Families of the country. 206 members from 20 different Kolping Families took part in this First Hike for Peace. In Luke 10:5 it says what Jesus told **his selected disciples**: “**When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house'.**“ It was the intention of the organizers to reiterate this assignment.“ In Romania – seen from the outside – there is peace, but in the hearts of the people – in their individual “own small world“, there is merely just conflict, tension and negative feelings which often affect the outside and often enough affect the community“, as Diocesan Praeses Barciz Lajos, one of the organizers stressed in his speech. On the one hand, the Kolping Families are characterized by different historical and cultural traditions, but on the other hand there are also differences caused by ethnos and rite. Jesus Christ alone can give true and lasting peace and reconciliation, which is only facilitating cooperation between the many different people and communities. This was something that was a shared view by all the participants. The Hike for Peace led through the pilgrimage site of Sumuleu Ciuc, through the cities Miercurea Ciuc and Odorheiu Secuiesc as well as the Harghita mountain range. In the Kolping Recreational Center of Ivo further church services were held, as well as meditations, singing at the campfire and a joyous final evening and many talks among the members took place.

Due to the good response, the Second Hike for Peace of the Kolping Society of Romania will be organized in 2009. It will be hosted by the regional organization of Moldava in 2009.

Switzerland

Work with senior citizens has to become a part of our profile

“The Kolping Society as a community encompassing several generations with a future – also actively shaped by the Generation 60 Plus“ – this theme took center stage as regards to content in this year’s central conference of the Kolping Society of Switzerland in Gossau on June 7, 2008. In view of the fact that 72 % of the members of the Swiss organisation are over 60 years of age, the delegates posed themselves the question of how the society can be actively shaped in future in view of this structure of members. A consensus was quickly reached that the people above sixty years of age do still have a great potential and even more spare time in comparison to employed persons and that this also means special chances for their actual commitment. The Kolping Society of Switzerland will therefore increase its work with senior citizens and make offers to elderly members, how they can keep fit both mentally and physically and how they can remain open for new insights through an increase in education. Especially in a time where the generation of employed workers has to retire from many areas of the commitment of civil society due to the dual burden of work and family, working actively with senior citizens gives a chance for the assumption of activities in society. The goal would have to be: Not to retire but to retire, not to back out but only to change tyres.

Uganda

KEDEP opens up its own office in Mityana On May 31, 2008 KEDEP (Kolping Entrepreneurs Development Program) opened up its branch in Mityana and the house was inaugurated solemnly by National Praeses Peter Isingoma. KEDEP is the financial institute of the Kolping Society of Uganda for the promotion of small enterprises and it issues credits for entrepreneurial activities. KEDEP was officially founded in 2002 and has at present a capital base of 450 million Ugandan Shillings and about 750 clients. Due to its limited resources KEDEP is concentrating its activities within the dioceses of Hoima and Mityana. By opening an office in Mityana KEDEP now has a branch in both towns and has nine members of staff.

As another financial institution apart from KEDEP the Kolping Society of Uganda has established savings and credit groups in all Kolping Families. These savings and credit activities are exclusively at the disposal of the members while KEDEP is active beyond the boundaries of the Kolping Society. The Kolping Society of Uganda at present has 239 Kolping Families with 7384 members and thus is the strongest national organization in terms of members in Africa.

Particulars

High Decoration for members of staff of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL on June 19, 2008 the Auxiliary Bishop Manfred Melzer was able to honor two members of staff with a Papal Order in the Kolping House International/Cologne. General Secretary Hubert Tintelott received the Order of St. Gregory. In his speech Auxiliary Bishop Melzer paid homage to the great and tireless commitment of Hubert Tintelott, who has been the General Secretary of the International Kolping Society for 35 years and for more than thirty years also the deputy chairman of the Social and Development Aid of the Kolping Society Assoc. (SEK e. V.). The

strong international development of the Kolping Society is one of the results of his work. Apart from his activities at KOLPING INTERNATIONAL, the General Secretary of the International Kolping Society is committed in many more areas of Church and society. He is the chairman of the AGEH, he is a member of the German Commission for Justice and Peace, and he is a member of the Action Committee of Renovabis or else he is a counsellor at the Episcopal action Adveniat. The Auxiliary Bishop especially pointed to his membership on the Central Committee of German Catholics, where Tintelott has been a member since 1974 and where at present he is a spokesman for European questions. Here his work for an increased commitment of the lay within the Church and society was especially obvious.

For the late Bernhard Hennecke his wife Brigitte accepted the Order of St. Sylvester. The Auxiliary Bishop stressed that just like Hubert Tintelott, Bernhard Hennecke was characterized by a profound devoutness and a great faith in the intercession of Blessed Adolph Kolping. In his work as National Secretary of the German Kolping Society and honorary Executive Director of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL he had always pleaded for the veneration of Adolph Kolping and the spreading of his ideas. Mr. Hennecke was especially committed in the world of work and in this context he had been called to work as an honorary judge at the Federal Labor Court in Erfurt. This was a special appraisal of his commitment in this field and a valuation of his expertise.

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Germany

4000 members attend Bavarian Kolping Day

From July 4th to 6th 2008 the Bavarian Kolping Day took place in Augsburg. More than 4000 participants from all Bavarian dioceses but also from partner countries in Europe and even from South Africa and India set off in order to pray discuss and celebrate together. The Kolping Day was held under the headline: „Life as an inflammable matter“. With this motto the organizers wanted to make clear that faith is the fuel for life, which values and a strong community can be a trigger for the individual and that Kolping has an explosive force for one's personal life as well as for the community.

The Kolping Day showed that with Kolping you can achieve something with regard to more humanity and more solidarity. The participants in the Kolping Day enjoyed a varied program. In the four main focuses of attention: „The world of work and politics, cooperation of the generations, international work and the Kolping Youth – here something's ablaze“, several forums and discussion rounds were offered where the participants were able to deal with current questions on the respective subject. Moreover, downtown there was a so-called Kolping-Zone where Kolping Families and diocesan organisations were able to put their work in partnership and special initiatives within the International Kolping Society on display. An evening revue on Saturday and a solemn church service with Bishop Mixa/Augsburg rounded off the Bavarian Kolping Day which will fuel the future work of the Kolping Families in Bavaria.

Cologne

The number of visitor's groups in the Church of the Minorites is pleasing

The burial site of Adolph Kolping in the Church of the Minorites in Cologne is a popular pilgrimage destination for many Kolping Families and Kolping Institutions. At least two groups of pilgrims a week visit the Church of the Minorites, celebrate mass at the burial site of Adolph Kolping and pray there for his canonization. For many groups also a visit of the Kolping birth house in Kerpen is part on their agenda. The composition of the groups of visitors is quite diverse. Sometimes it is a group of about 50 persons from a Kolping Family who came by coach and who celebrate their anniversary and who in the context of their anniversary also make a pilgrimage to the burial site of their founder.

Sometimes there are groups who come in a chartered train - just like the around 500 members from the bishopric of Münster who came in the first half of 2008 or 300 Kolping members from the diocesan organization of Essen, which celebrates its anniversary as well. Sometimes it is also the members of a Kolping Educational Training Center who make a pilgrimage to the initial places of activity of Adolph Kolping and at times there is a whole bicycle group which is on a bicycle tour to Cologne. The pilgrims do not only come from Germany, Austria, Switzerland or South Tyrol, in July for the first time a group of pilgrims came from South Africa. Apart from those many groups again and again also individual pilgrims come who trust in

the intercession of Adolph Kolping. In total more than 3,000 pilgrims came to the Kolping burial site in the first half of 2008.

Germany

Breakfast for Singles

A look at the society in Germany shows that especially older people live by themselves and that this often leads to a great loneliness. The reasons for the reclusion are on the one hand the death of a marriage partner but on the other hand also the strong mobility which leads to the children living and working far away from their parents. In view of this societal situation the Kolping Family Eslohe was prompted to invite single persons for breakfast on every first Saturday of the month. At first this offer was accepted hesitantly but with time this possibility of these mutual encounters found more and more interest and gained acceptance. In the meantime the joint breakfasts have become a firm and regular item on the agenda of the work of the Kolping Family and it shows that in these get-togethers new contacts are established that go beyond the monthly meetings and which have become a way out of their loneliness.

South Tyrol

A personal testimonial for peace

From 26 to 29 June, 2008, more than 280 participants took part in the 41st International Hike for Peace of the Kolping Society in Meran. Fortunately, every year the participants become more and more international and thus after the fall of the Iron Curtain almost twenty years ago also Kolping members from Central and Eastern Europe and even from Albania have joined in the circle of participants. This opening to Central and Eastern Europe also becomes clear due to the fact that the Kolping Society of Romania will host the next Hike for Peace in 2009.

The Kolping Society of South Tyrol had given this year's Hike for Peace the motto: "What everyone of us can contribute to spreading greater peace". It was not only about the peace among the peoples but peace within the family, in the neighborhood and in other interpersonal areas. On the occasion of the Hike for Peace, the provincial president of South Tyrol, Mr. Luis Durnwalder stressed the importance of European Integration for peace in Europe in his speech. He referred to the fact that political integration has to be borne and supported by the people and that therefore such international encounters, such as the Kolping Hike for Peace are an important contribution so that Europe can grow from the foundation as an opus of peace.

Paraguay

Kolping has its own radio program

Since the beginning of July the Kolping Society of Paraguay has a two-hour radio program which airs every Friday under the title: "Kolping – a center for development". It is planned to deal with a variety of different subjects within a two-hour program, as for example, education, preservation of Creation, health care, organic agriculture as well as subjects resulting from the day-to-day work of the Kolping Society of Paraguay. The Kolping Society of Paraguay does not only expect to gain more publicity in the country and therefore also a growth of the Society, but decidedly intends to render a service to its listeners and support them in coping with their daily duties and responsibilities.

Uganda

Kolping meets on the occasion of the Feast for the Ugandan martyrs

The Catholic Church of Uganda commemorated the Ugandan martyrs with a solemn church service that was attended by more than a million pilgrims on June 3, 2008. This Memorial Day which is a public holiday in Uganda at the suggestion of Mr. Vincent Kirabokyamaria – who was the first chairman of the Kolping Society of Uganda – is not only observed in Uganda but every year more and more pilgrims come from the neighbouring countries of East Africa. Also for Kolping in East Africa this day is more and more a day for international encounters. In this year 120 members of the Kolping Society of Kenya had come and 22 members from Rwanda. The Kolping friends from the neighboring countries received a warm welcome by the members of the Kolping Society in Kampala and in the evening of June 3 they got together for a joint farewell evening during which the international contacts were strengthened and arrangements for the coming year were already made for the pilgrimage to the Ugandan martyrs.

Rwanda

Another Kolping Family founded at University

The Kolping Society of Rwanda has become the spearhead when it comes to founding new Kolping Families at universities. After a Kolping Family was successfully founded at the National University of Rwanda in 2004 and the students started an ambitious program for the implementation of the ideas of Adolph Kolping, another Kolping Family was founded in the area of a university namely at the Kigali Institute of Sciences and Technology comprising 17 members on June 22, 2008. With the foundation of this Kolping Family the number of Kolping Families in Rwanda rose to 20 and the number of its members rose to 571. Apart from the work with the students the Kolping Society of Rwanda puts a special focus on the work with peasants and at present is conducting courses for organic agriculture with great success.

Malawi

First Kolping Families founded in Malawi

Since 1997 the Kolping Family Riesenbeck from the diocese of Münster/Germany has established contacts with various Catholic parishes in Malawi and supports quite a variety of projects there. The supported projects range from assistant measures in the field of agriculture to projects caring for AIDS orphans to small loans programs. During the course of all these years, representatives of the Kolping family from Germany passed on information as to the person Adolph Kolping and as to the Kolping Society during their visits to Malawi and these seeds fell on fertile grounds. In the Diocese of Mzuzu the first three Kolping Families were founded with the support of the bishop. After the official gathering in February 2008 marked the founding, the Kolping Families received the official recognition by KOLPING INTERNATIONAL at the beginning of July and their Charters of Foundation. With the foundation of the Kolping Society of Malawi the number of countries where the Kolping Society is present has now grown to 61.

Myanmar

The Kolping Society in Myanmar continues to grow

The Kolping Society of Myanmar shows a slow but steady growth. After the foundation of the first Kolping Family in 2005 in Thandwe in the diocese Pyay, six more Kolping Families could be founded there, and another Kolping Family was founded in Yangon. All Kolping families show a lively and diverse program. The programs range from religious lectures to pilgrimages and days for reflection to educational activities like sewing courses and computer literacy to the point of offering recreational activities. For the future it is also thought about offering English language courses and of erecting residential accommodation for girls for which there is urgent demand. Lately the members have been dealing with eliminating the damage caused by the devastating Cyclone „Nargis“ which only caused material damage to the Kolping Families in the region, like for example the destruction of rooftops, but which has affected many families who have relatives in the area of the delta. In spite of the complicated economic and political situation, the Kolping members are committed to pushing for the resolution of their social problems in their surrounding area. Also information as to the person Adolph Kolping and the prayer for his canonization are a regular part of the schedule of the Kolping Families' activities.

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Poland

Kolping ties a net for the job market

Within the framework of an EU-Project the Kolping Society of Poland has the possibility of building up a nationwide network of non-governmental-organizations across the country, that are dealing with the problems of the job market and above all help the jobless to re-enter the job market. The aim is to conjoin the existing initiatives of the smaller NGOs and to broaden the room for manoeuvre. In total it is planned to build up eight regional networks in which each of these regional networks will be run by a Kolping Family. Within the project the 120 representatives of the NGOs involved will receive training in Fundraising, in

Management and in the elaboration of applications for projects. Moreover, a joint Internet homepage will be created and the communication between the existing NGOs will be reinforced.

Poland

Adolescents on their way into Journalism

In September the Kolping Society of Poland will begin an extraordinary program for the training of young journalists. In line with the program 360 children and adolescents from 12 Kolping Families are to gain an insight into the work of a journalist and also learn to write journalistic pieces by themselves in a sophisticated recreational and education program. The program is especially addressed to children and adolescents coming from poorer families which in compensation and in order to increase their chances take part in additional German and English courses and who also go through a very diverse cultural and recreational program. It is a special aim however to develop journalistic competences with the young people and in a special way direct their interest to social problems. Within the formation as a journalist they will learn to handle the computer, will visit the editorial office of newspapers, magazines and radio stations and take part in a workshop lead by trained journalists. The best articles of the adolescents taking part will later be published in Polish children's and adolescent's magazines.

Croatia

New Kolping House on the island of Mali Losinj opened

Already on June 25, 2008 a new Kolping House was opened on the island of Mali Losinj. This Kolping House is managed by the Kolping Family Zagreb which celebrated its 150th anniversary on June 25, 2008. The inauguration day was explicitly set to coincide with the day the Kolping Family was founded. 50 members of the Kolping Family Zagreb took part in the opening ceremony and the house was blessed by their Praeses. The new Kolping House is named after Blessed Ivan Merz who in his lifetime was a great friend of the Kolping Society in Croatia and who often visited the old Kolping House. The newly inaugurated Kolping House is open as for the members of the Kolping Family Zagreb as for all member of the international Kolping Society. Moreover, it is planned to use the house in an intensive way for carrying out vocational training and other educational measures.

Brazil

Preparatory Project for job-starters successful

At present the Kolping Society of Northeast Brazil realizes a project together with the EU which is aimed at preparing disadvantaged adolescents aged 14 to 17 years for the world of work and if possible to open actual ways into the world of work.

Within the scope of the project the adolescents receive additional training complementing their educational formation and are systematically introduced to the world of work and above all by the procurement of internships and they also learn the establishment of a business plan as a prerequisite for the possible start of one's own small business. The project started on January 1, 2006 and the EU now presented an evaluation for the first two years which makes it clear that in total 1019 adolescents participated in the program 97 % of whom permanently took part in further training measures. After the vocational training which lasted for ten months 402 adolescents immediately received an employment contract and 322 adolescents operate their own small businesses. In its evaluation the EU puts special emphasis on the support of the Kolping Families which contributed greatly to addressing the adolescents and to motivate them to continuously take part in the courses.

Dominican Republic

Expansion of vocational training and of ecological commitment

In the last months the Kolping Society in the Dominican Republic was able to expand markedly its offers in the field of vocational training in the past months. In doing so the association aimed at offering such educational measures that are especially sought by the job-market and for which after the apprenticeship also a high direct placement rate could be attained. The emphasis of these courses was in the field of accounting, computer sciences, and formation to be able to repair computing hardware, basic courses in electric installation and courses for baking bread. What was also decisive for the successes in getting a position was the build-up of a micro finance system that about 200 persons were participating in. Some graduates were able to set up their own business by means of a credit.

A further focal point of the work is the field of environmental protection. All 35 Kolping Families of the country have taken on an actual task in the area of environmental protection. Part of it is for example the cleaning of a reach or cleaning the road sides from garbage. In these measures the Kolping Families and Kolping

members are increasingly successful in involving additional persons from the neighborhood. The number of members of the Kolping Society in the Dominican Republic in the meantime has surpassed the number of one thousand members.

Ecuador

Special vocational training courses for the disabled

In Ecuador live about 250,000 people with a physical disability who are not only met with incomprehension and with a lack of comprehension in public, but also very rarely get the chance to get a job. The Kolping Society of Ecuador in its vocational training centre in Santo Domingo started offering special vocational training courses for people with a disability. A 60-hour basic apprenticeship in the field of the work of an electrician and in bicycle repair is offered. Up to 40 persons may take part in these courses that thereafter either get a placement or are assisted in setting up their own business. The Kolping Society of Ecuador sees in its initiative also a contribution as a Christian association to point to the dignity of disabled persons and would like to achieve a greater sensibility for disabled persons in public by carrying out conferences and making public statements.

Mexico

With Economía Solidaria on the road to success

In Latin America more and more groups and individuals search for alternative ways for marketing their goods in order to make a decent livelihood. Within the globalized markets with its larger structures on the side of the producers as well as on the side of those marketing their goods, smaller producers often do not stand the ghost of a chance to sell their products at a fair price. Therefore in more and more countries structures of a so-called Economía Solidaria (Solidarity-based Economy) are being established, a concept which puts man in the center of the world of work also in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. Also the Kolping Society of Mexico supports with great success the build-up of such groups that are similar to a cooperative in the Kolping Families who bring in their goods into the system of Economía Solidaria and sell them. Apart from consulting such groups and of individual members the Kolping Society of Mexico also supports those groups in marketing their goods through trade fairs or by building up a network with other groups. In the meantime 30 groups from local Kolping Families have joined in this system. The array of products goes from natural medicines, to coffee and fruits up to handicrafts products. The income situation markedly increased for all of those participating in the system.

Africa/Tanzania

How effective is the work in projects of the Kolping Society in Africa

From 7 to 12 July 2008 a seminar took place in Bukoba for the monitoring of effects of the projects. The aim of the seminar, which was attended by 25 project coordinators from the different national organizations of the Kolping Society in Africa, was to develop standards and criteria how the effects of the actual projects could be measured. Not always can an improvement of income of the current life situation be ascertained. For the limited financial resources to be used as efficiently as possible criteria for the success of project work have to be found which measure for example an increase in social cohesion at one place, or the development of a personality towards acting autonomously after a training measure. The training measure was carried out by scientists from the University of Morogo and included also practical exercises apart from the procurement of theoretical know-ledge as for example in actual projects of the Kolping Society of Tanzania.

India

Social security for the members of staff of the Kolping Society

Decent work is not only a claim that the Kolping Society is making worldwide, but it should also be a criterion for the members of staff of the Kolping Society. Part of the concept of "Decent work" as defined by the ILO is also a minimum of social security for the risks of the day-to-day life, such as illnesses. The Kolping Society of India therefore insured its members of staff in the national office but also the coordinators at diocesan level and thus markedly increased the social security of its staff members.

India

Yearly membership renewed

The Kolping Society of India has the tradition that the membership in the Society has to be renewed every year. On June 30, 2008, 1275 Kolping Families with a total of 22,674 members have renewed their membership and will receive new membership cards. 18,830 of the members are women. This equals a share of women of 83 % in the Society. The high share of women is also mirrored in the election order for the positions of the Executive Board where a certain percentage rate of the positions has to be occupied by women.

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Germany

A Book of Gospels is sent around on display

In the summer of 2009 the Kolping Society's diocesan organization of Paderborn celebrates its 150th anniversary. For the spiritual preparation the diocesan organization has started an action which should animate the Kolping Families and members to study the Bible more intensively and therefore lead to an intensification of their Faith. In the summer of 2007 the Diocesan Praeses has sent out a Book of Gospels which is to be put on display within the Kolping Families, and which is to be sent back to him in time for the celebration of the anniversary. What makes this Book of Gospels which has a marvellously designed book cover so special is the fact that the pages on the inside are completely empty. It is the task of the Kolping Families to search for a Bible passage and to deal with this passage within the educational work of their Kolping Family and then insert this Bible text in an art form that appeals to the readers into the Book of Gospels. The Book of Gospels is now on its way through the 278 Kolping Families for over a year and many Kolping Families have inserted themselves into it. The handover of the Book of Gospels from one Kolping Family to the next is done in a small spiritual celebration. The hope remains that in dealing with a Text from the Bible the Kolping Families will be compelled to once again deal with the Bible and its testimony in their educational work.

Germany

Kolping Center of Technology in Bamberg won the First Price in a school competition

The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development had invited to tender for a nation-wide school competition dealing with development politics under the motto: „All for one world – One world for all“. The pupils from the Kolping Centre of Technology in Bamberg dealt with the subjects of health care, poverty, HIV and the Millennium Development Goals within their vocational training. Within the scope of their classes they then created a Globe by which they pointed to the specific problems of the individual countries in relation to the subjects mentioned. On the specific subjects there are certain elements which can be taken out of the Globe where the ones interested can get some more background information. For their concept of this art project „Globe“ the Kolping Center of Technology received the first price worth 2000 € from the hands of the German Federal President Horst Köhler and the Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Heidemarie Wiecezorek-Zeul. The Globe will remain a permanent art exhibit in the Berlin Federal Office Building.

Albania

Kolping Center opened in Kallmeth

On September 13, 2008 a Kolping House could be opened in Kallmeth in the presence of the Member of Parliament of the local region, Mr. Aldo Bunci, as well as representatives of the national organization. This small center which was built with a large amount of personal contribution is to be a central venue for the meetings of the Kolping Family and an educational centre for the whole parish. In recent times the Kolping Society of Albania has broadened its educational activities to a large extend. Apart from dealing with the subject of environmental protection which is combined with actions of cleaning up the landscape, the Kolping Society offers above all seminars on the subjects of Marriage and Family and regarding the central role of the family for each society. The Kolping Society does not abstain from picking up such a fastidious subject such as blood vengeance and include it in its educational work which is still being carried out in many parts of Albania and still claims victims time and again. With this educational work the Kolping Society of Albania gets in line with the many organizations which are fighting against the further practice of vendetta.

Argentina

First sales exhibit of the Kolping artisans in Argentina

On September 13 and 14, 2008 the Kolping artisans made a first exhibit to sell their goods in Puerto Rico/Misiones in Argentina. 50 small entrepreneurs offered their goods within the scope of this selling event and more than 1000 visitors came to look at the exhibition. Within the inauguration of this exhibit representatives of the State and the National Kolping Organization pointed to the importance of small enterprises for a sound economic development of the country. Since the large industrial companies are

concentrated in the urban centres of the towns, small entrepreneurs played an important role especially in the rural areas for offering jobs and locally required services. In spite of the large economical and social bearing of small businesses, they are often lacking the markets and the ability of opening up of new sales markets. The sales exhibit organized by the Kolping Society was designed to enhance them in their efforts. Moreover, the artisans and small entrepreneurs who participated were able to forge links among each other and agree on cooperation in producing and marketing their goods. Apart from the organization of this sales exhibit Kolping Argentina supports small entrepreneurs through small loans and qualified vocational training measures.

Chile

Kolping starts a new attempt for the founding of a national artisan association

At the beginning of the 1990's upon an initiative by the Kolping Society of Chile a Chilean artisan association was founded which in 1993 also introduced the blueprint of a law for the protection and the promotion of handicrafts into parliament. This blueprint was not discussed further by the government and the parliamentary bodies. Now a regional meeting of 14 handicrafts organizations with around 100 participants took place in La Serena. From there came the impetus to start the build-up of a national association of the handicraftsmen in Chile anew and to also make an attempt to implement a law for the protection of handicraftsmen and small businessmen. During the meeting in La Serena the Executive Director of the Kolping Society of Chile Mr. Sáez Pandeco informed the delegates of the crafts on the work and the goals of the Kolping Society and also reported on the support that the Kolping Society of Chile had rendered in the build-up and in the work of the national handicrafts association.

Chile

Bishop supports Kolping artisans

The Archbishop of La Serena, Msgr. Manuel Donoso, has given his permission to the Kolping artisans to build their stalls on the forecourt of the Cathedral so that they can offer their goods that they produced themselves. The forecourt of the Cathedral is passed by many passers-by every day, so that the products in 25 stalls are well recognized and there are also buyers for their products. The stalls of the artisans all look the same and on each of the stalls there is a Kolping quote which can be clearly read. Thus the Kolping Family not only highlights its work but with the Kolping quotes they also remind passers-by of their responsibility as Christians. Not only because of the proximity to the Cathedral, but also out of their Christian understanding of Faith, the artisans start the day with a joint prayer even before the stands are opened.

Burundi

Kolping Society takes part in the reconciliation process after the civil war

The Kolping Society in Burundi with its seven Kolping Families and 223 members participates actively in the reconciliation process after the civil war of recent years. Therein the Kolping Families seize on the initiative which was set by the diocesan synod of the diocese of Gitega and whose aim it is to support the efforts carried out in various villages for the introduction and the implementation of a process of reconciliation between the different ethnic groups and to champion justice and truth. Apart from these activities the Kolping Families are also committed in the field of agriculture and livestock breeding in order to improve the income situation of their members. Thus as a new initiative, the planting of the medicinal plant Arkemisia was supported which serves to gain medicine against Malaria from. The planting of the medicinal plant means a regular income October 2008 | Page 3 of 3 for the peasants who are taking part. On top of that two Kolping Families have started a project in the area of environmental protection and planted many new trees.

Kenya

The rise in food prices and the consequences for the people

From September 1 to 4, 2008 KOLPING INTERNATIONAL held a technical seminar in cooperation with the Africa Kolping Association (AKA) which was attended by 50 persons from 12 countries. The participants from the individual National Kolping Organizations who were assembled there reported on their experiences with rising food prices and spoke about the consequences this had on the members of the Kolping Society but also for the population in general. The reason for the rising food **prices was seen in the growth of the** world's population, but also the rising costs for fertilizers and for energy and the competition in planting agricultural products between foodstuffs and raw materials for the production of bio energy. The technical seminar attracted wide interest with the participants, but also with the public, a fact that also became clear by the presence of the Kenyan Minister for Agriculture, Mr. James Orengo. The participants of the seminar all agreed that also the Kolping Society in Africa is challenged to cooperate in finding a solution to the problems

related to the rise in prices and that this could be done by increasing the agricultural production. In the process the Kolping Society is counting on an increase in the possibilities for production of the small peasants which would lead to an increase of the amount of agricultural products as well as offering possibilities for processing these products and thus enables the creation of additional jobs.

Congo

General Praeses visits the Kolping Families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

At the end of August 2008 General Praeses Msgr. Axel Werner visited the Kolping Society in the Congo and thus a representative of the International Kolping Society paid a visit to this country. The founding of the presently 13 Kolping Families in the Diocese Inongo goes back to an initiative by Bishop Msgr. Leon Lesambo Ndamwize who had got to know the Kolping Society during a visit to Germany and who valued it and who pressed ahead with the founding of Kolping Families in his diocese. The General Praeses showed himself impressed with the excitement for Kolping that he was able to feel during his visit, but at the same time he was appalled by the poverty which he experienced. Since despite the fact that the Congo is rich in natural resources and has fertile grounds the development of the Congo shows a backlog in relation to the development of its neighboring countries. The civil wars that continue to break out did not necessarily promote the development of the country. KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is required to also cooperate with these very poor Kolping members on the basis of solidarity and to help them in coping with the problems of their daily life.

Vietnam

Kolping official meets representatives of the Ministry of Ecclesial Affairs

On August 14, 2008 the Initiator of the Kolping Society of Vietnam Diocesan Praeses Robert Henrich/Germany and representatives of the Kolping Society of Vietnam had the opportunity for an in-depth exchange of information with officials from the Ministry for Ecclesial Affairs. For the ministry Mr. Dang Tai Tinh of the department for international contacts took part in this conversation as well as the official for contacts with the Catholic Church, Mr. Nguyen Duc Thinh. The representatives of the Kolping Society informed in detail on the actual activities in the country and on the basic programme of the association. The work of the Kolping Families in Vietnam was praised by the official from the Ministry. For the representatives of the Vietnamese Kolping Society these statements were a clear encouragement, the more so as only a few months ago, the Society received its official recognition as a Catholic organization by the Ministry.

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