



International association of social educators
Association internationale des éducateurs sociaux
Asociación internacional de educadores sociales



Co-ordinated by: Jordi Usurriaga(Catalunya-Spain)
JUSURRIAGASA@ceesc.es

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AIEJI

The meeting of the Executive Board of AIEJI, met in the middle of November in Montevideo (Uruguay), to take advantage of the celebration of the VI Meeting of Educators and Social Educators in that country. We wanted also to support our colleagues from Uruguay in their hard work for the organization of the next World Congress, in 2005. We had our work sessions and also attended the events of the Meeting.

As is usual, the different Board committees continued their review of the by-laws, the ethics code and the recruitment of new members a couple of days before the full Board meeting.

In most of the meetings we were joined by members from the three organizations organizing the Congress. We were honored with the presence and contributions of trainers from the Centro de Formación y Estudios del INAME and members of the two associations of educators: Grupo de Trabajo del Sur and Asociación de Educadores Sociales (ADESU).

We were visited by Licenciado Manuel Marzano, President of the Instituto Nacional del Menor (INAME); we were received by the heads of the Foreign Ministry; at the Montevideo City Hall, we exchanged opinions with the heads of the Educating Cities; and we visited the UNICEF headquarters. We also held a formal meeting with the students of social education and attended the opening of the VI Meeting of Educators and Social Educators where our President, Arlin Ness, participated in the opening speeches. Also we took advantage of our stay in order to visit the potential placements of the next World Congress.

From the dense and long work sessions of the Executive Board, we highlight the main issues:

In General business, the Secretary General explained the construction of a modern and up-to-date database of all members. The treasurer accounted for the financial status and explained the budget for next year. Some funds will be devoted to members of the Board coming from disadvantaged countries, so that they can attend at least one meeting per year. Also the director of the Latin-American office will be provided with specific funds for the follow-up of contacts and the development of the next World Congress.

By-laws: A new version of the by-laws of our organization is ready. It is being sent to all members, and they will be discussed at the Extraordinary General Assembly which will take place on May 24th in Copenhagen. The enclosed proposal is a recommendation of the Executive Board. If members wish to make alternate contributions for their inclusion and discussion in this Assembly, this should be sent to the Secretary General, Lars Steinov steinov@enghaven.dk for their inclusion in the agenda.

World Congress Organization: The Latin-American representative, Jorge Camors, provided an account of the works being done. The central issue of the Congress will be "Participation and Social Integration". He provided details of the steps taken before different private and public entities, and informed the Board of the establishment of information, communication and participation networks all over Latin-America, having as final aim the celebration of the event. We also discussed the best dates for the celebration of the Congress. After evaluating several possibilities, it was decided that

the best dates would be, yet to be confirmed, in the middle of November, during austral springtime.

We thank our Latin-American colleagues for the large task they are undertaking. Also we commit our support taking into account that the social and economic tensions that are in the region are not the best trip mates for the organization of a meeting of this nature.

Reports of the regional offices:

The director of the European Office, Toni Julià, provided the report of the activities performed according to the Work Plan for the year 2002. We must pinpoint the intention to celebrate in 2003 a European meeting of professional associations. Lars Steinov, on behalf of our representative in Palestine, Walid el Sali who excused his attendance because of several reasons, explained the construction of a project with international initiative to serve the children affected by the Middle East conflict, addressed both to Palestine and Israeli children. It was unanimously approved to support this project.

Ethics code:

The person responsible for this group, Emmanuel Grupper, presented a project of the Ethics Code that is being sent to the members.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

New membership

We would like to welcome a new association of Social Educators that has become a member of our organization at the beginning of this year: the Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers.

FRANCE-AFRICA

Gustavo Velastegui

Since February 2000, the association Recherche et Formation pour le Travail Social et les Techniques Educatives, management body of the Ecole d'Éducateurs Sociales de Lille, has taken part in the creation of two centers for the training of social educators in the regions of Great Lakes, one in GOMA and one in BIKAVU, towns placed in the border of Rwanda and Burundi, at the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The goals of this project are:

The training of social educators who can take care of young soldiers demobilized from the army in application of the international agreements on not using children in armed conflicts;

To take into account the adaptation and marginalization phenomena regarding street children, cult children, prostitution and children trade;

The community development, taking into account the family, cultural and religious issues.

The authorities of the region agree on the promotion of this private initiative of the Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) working with children needing special measures of protection, within a catastrophic area because of the volcanic eruption of the one side,

and because of the armed conflict, the ethnic genocide and the pillaging of wealth on the other side.

At this moment we are in the early stage of training trainers; a group which subsequently will be in charge to build the pedagogical project of the center, taking exclusively into account their own local values, principles, ethics, culture, etc.

A sensitizing action was done with the educators working within the NGOs; also a training for supervision of the NGOs has been done for the officials of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the two provinces in order that the relationships between NGOs and State are coherent with the development of the profession and of the social educator.

The main founders are UNICEF, European Union, the NGO Save the Children and BICE.

URUGUAY

From the 13th to the 15th of November, Montevideo hosted the *VI Encuentro Nacional de Educadores y Educadores Sociales*, within the activities developed that week by the Social Forum of Uruguay. For first time, two associations joined together professionals of Social Education - Grupo de Trabajo del Sur and la Asociación de Educadores Sociales de Uruguay (ADESU)- took care of the organization of this event.

There were about 600 attendants to this event where, under the slogan "Social Education: ethical, technical and political challenges," several workshops, communications and accounts of experiences took place. Several members of the Executive Board of AIEJI took part as speakers in some activities.

USA

The organization Alliance for Children and Families has a web page including a number of issues related to children and families, from articles to books that will surely widen our visions and will complete the lifelong training needed by all professionals in the social field. You are welcome to visit it at: <http://www.alliance1.org>

SPAIN

Toni Julià, Manuel Gil, Jordi Usurriaga

A new professional college

In the last newsletter, we announced the creation of the Professional College of Social Educators of the autonomous region of Galicia. In this one we communicate the creation of the Professional College of the autonomous region of Balearic Islands. Professional Colleges are bodies that can only be established by a law approved by the Parliament, which means a political, social and administrative recognition is very important for the profession of the Social Educator.

At this moment, there are several Professional Colleges whose creation by law is going through Parliament. Perhaps in the next newsletter we can announce their approval and establishment. It was difficult to have the first College approved, now we are already with the third and we already foresee the possibility to create the College Federation of a higher body representing the profession in the whole country.

Virtual Magazine of Social Education

The professional association (ASEDES) grouping all associations and professional colleges existing in Spain, has edited a virtual magazine on issues of professional interest for Social Educators.

You can access through their web page www.eduso.es or directly through www.eduso.es/res.

The first issue is devoted to the Professional Colleges and the dynamics generated by their creation in the professional collective of social educators.

Collaboration agreement

At the beginning of 2003 a collaboration agreement has been finalized and signed between the two professional organizations of Uruguay - Grupo de Trabajo del Sur y Asociación de Educadores Sociales de Uruguay (ADESU)- and Colegio de Educadoras y Educadores Sociales de Catalunya (CEESC). The purpose of the agreement is to promote the social educator profession in these two countries having as an objective the AIEJI World Congress that will take place in Montevideo (Uruguay) in 2005.

ITALY

Toni Julià, Director of the European Bureau of AIEJI

Meeting of the Association of Italian Social Educators. ANEP.

Last November a meeting took place in Bologna (Italy), the *Convegno L'educatore professionale i diritti di una professione i doveri delle istituzioni*.

This meeting celebrated 10 years of the foundation of ANEP. Fundamental issues for the development of the Social Educator profession in the country were discussed; essentially those related with the university training, the working condition, the professional status, and the dynamics of the professional association movement.

It was a dynamic meeting because of the significance of the history of the association, and it was full of projects for the near future of ANEP.

PORTUGAL

Toni Julià, Director of the European Bureau of AIEJI

Forum of the Portuguese Educators. CNES.

In the third consecutive year, last November 16th, the *III Forum Nacional de Educação Social* took place in the town of Vilanova de Famalicao, close to Porto. This meeting organized by the *Conselho Nacional d'Educação Social (CNS)*, Portuguese association of social educators, took place in a social context where the educator profession walks with firm steps towards their consolidation in the work market and with the need to encourage the debate within the profession.

During the last years, the definition of the training has shown the significance of the profession that the professional collective wants to promote as much as possible with

the realization of good professional practices. With this intention a big number of Portuguese social educators have met this year at the III Forum Nacional.

AGENDA

- Extraordinary General Assembly of AIEJI, 24th May 2003 in Copenhagen (call to the assembly is attached).
- Copenhagen, Social Work 2003 , May 26th to 29th, 2003.
- I Symposium of European Professional Associations of Social Educators (dates to be confirmed)

IMPORTANT:

In order to keep updated the data of all members, please notify all change of postal or electronic address to: steinov@enghaven.dk or JUSURRIAGASA@ceesc.es



General Secretary

Lars Steinov

steinov@enghaven.dk

tlf. +45-33257844

fax+45-33259844

Announcement.

According to the present By-Laws, Articles 16 and 36, the Board has decided to call for a special General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, the 24th of May 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

All members will receive a special invitation to participate.

The agenda will be :

1. Parliamentary procedure.
2. President's report.
3. By-Laws proposal.
4. Ethical guidelines
5. Miscellaneous.

Lars Steinov
General Secretary.