



IFS Europe Office: Report 2014

In 2014 the IFS Europe Office continued its work on the establishment and development of IFS Europe and fulfilled the substantive aspects of the "Action Plan 2014". The working fields of the office were: Communication and Coordination, Exchange of Knowledge, Exchange, Policy Making.

Communication and Coordination

The IFS Europe Office sees itself as a service point for IFS members in Europe and wants to bring them closer together. Therefore, the office continued working with the tools "Spotlight On" and "Call for Participation" to spread information about ongoing projects and promote the communication of best practices among European member organizations. The following projects were successfully advertised through the IFS Europe office: "The MAYBE project" (Fritidsforum, Sweden), "European Partnership building" (Fédération de Seine-Saint-Denis, France), "Professional Days of Global Animation" (Fédération des Centres Sociaux et Socioculturels de France). Furthermore the office created its own IFS Europe Website (<http://ifseurope.wordpress.com>), where members and interested persons can find continually updated information about IFS Europe and references to its past and future projects and events.

The IFS Europe Office hosted the IFS Europe Committee Meeting in March in Berlin. The committee discussed about goals and activities for 2014 and approved the "Action Plan 2014". It also took part in the IFS Europe Meeting in Vancouver where the committee decided that the IFS Europe Office will stay in Berlin until the End of 2016.

The third IFS Europe Meeting took place in November in Cardiff and was related to the annual Locality '14 convention. Key issues included the IFS Board Meeting 2015 in Hungary and the IFS Conference 2016 in Berlin (for detailed information about the Committee Meeting see the minutes annexed to the report).

During the year more than 50 visitors from all over the world had come to the ufafabrik and were welcomed by the IFS Europe Office. The office organized different programs and supported them by planning their stays in Berlin, if help was needed. Within the visits at ufafabrik the office represented its international work as well as the IFS and its movement and vision. It informed potential new members about IFS Europe as to enlarge the network within Europe.

Exchange

From May 5th to May 9th 2014 the IFS Europe Office hosted a week-long gathering of the youth workers who had participated in a skill exchange in Berlin (August 2013). Eleven professionals from Germany visited Vancouver and the annual IFS Conference "Inspire 2014". The office applied for the funding and organized the whole stay for the German participants. The exchange is documented by a detailed report and daily posts on Facebook.

Policy Making

The IFS Europe office represented IFS, IFS Europe and its work on the German Congress for Youth Services in Berlin and got a very nice gift: A great visual summary of IFS Europe.



Currently the office is planning a project about human trafficking and human rights.

Exchange of knowledge

The IFS Europe office published newsletters about activities within the network and used IFS Europe Facebook page to share knowledge and information within the network. It informed the IFS Europe members about news from the European Union, the UNHCR, the UN and about general socio-political issues.

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