



# IS Newsletter – January 2007

The SCI - IS Newsletter is prepared as an insight into both the work and personal experiences of the people working in the International Secretariat. Nearly every activist within SCI will come into contact with the IS workers in some form or another, though rarely face to face. This newsletter tells you a bit about the real lives of the real people behind all those emails.

In this edition you can find reflections from the ICM, Memorial to Idy Hegnauer and the PVP seminar and ideas for volunteer management.

## **Enjoy the Reading!**

What you can find inside...

What is SCI About? - by Johan Westra

In Memory of Idy - by Nico Verzijden

Calendar of Events

Volunteering... - by Adina Basarim

The Pleasures of PVP - by Morgana Jolin - Thomas

# Exercise: What is SCI About?

Being open..  
Stimulate mutual understanding..  
Stepping out of the box..  
Cooperation..  
Having fun..  
Working for social justice..  
Being simple in a complicated way...

The wall of the SCI Nepal office in Panauti gives its own answers. Every SCI branch gives its own answer and the same for every work camp.

In the seminar on Peace Voluntary Workcamps in Bulgaria it took the participants, as I later heard from Morgana, Adina and Neelam, a long time to get a deeper understanding of the content of such kinds of work camps.

Sitting at the press conference of SCI Nepal on Tuesday 12 December, it took us (SCI Nepal and SCI International Executives) many sentences, as Gerbina later concluded, to formulate what SCI is about. It had to do with peace as a process, with civil society building, about giving everybody the chance to shape her or his environment..

At the International Committee Meeting, participants had different views on different topics, but the differences were not large as I experienced in similar meetings previously. Branches seemed to be quite aligned on quite some topics. To my understanding, the new Exchange Advisory Team should firstly focus on partner issues, secondly on exchange policy things, thirdly perform an exchange helpdesk function.

Developing 'tools' for volunteer management in SCI is also important, branches said, however we should be more clear how we would like to apply that within our branches and internationally. Everybody was also quite agreeing that fundraising and external representation have a lot to do with the image SCI has and the image it wants to create.

This month of December, Nico at the International Secretariat (and at home), had been very busy explaining in our grant applications to the YOUTH department of the European Union, what SCI has to do with youth, with citizenship, with intercultural understanding, with social inclusion, with...

But one thing is sure, and even not that:

SCI is SCI is SCI,  
Already for more than eight decades.

Johan Westra,  
International Coordinator,  
Bahktapur



*Johan ponders the meaning of SCI*

# In Memory of Idy



*Nico Verzijden, SCI Insurance officer reflects on the life of one of SCI's oldest activists...*

This November I planned a very short (two-day) holiday in Switzerland to meet friends and enjoy late autumn in the mountains, always special for a flatlander like me. My journey coincided with the memorial of Idy Hegnauer and it goes without saying that I attended this day of remembering the life of one of our veteran volunteers. Her family, her friends and some SCI volunteers (among whom Thedy von Fellenberg, Heinz Seiler Emmi Ott and Philipp Rodriguez) met, first in church, later in a restaurant, to talk about her life and to share memories about her.

Idy started her voluntary service with SCI in the Civil War in Spain in the 1930's, when many Swiss went to Spain to work in the relief of refugees and children. She was in her twenties and was looking for adventure. This is what she wrote in a book about her life that was published some years ago. It must have been an adventure, life and the world were so different then. And this combination of adventure, traveling and volunteering for the benefit of the world took her in for the rest of her life. She volunteered in India, managed an SCI orphanage in Algeria and worked in the relief work after the second World War in Yugoslavia. Her later life she spent in Switzerland, married to Ralph Hegnauer. More information about her can be found in SCI's Archives (that cannot be honoured enough - and that were and are supported to a great extent by the Hegnauers):

<http://www.service-civil-international.org/archives/resources/photos/veterans/ihegnauer.htm>.

## Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Place	Organiser
Distribution PVP Brochure	January	From Bulgaria	CVS Bulgaria
Selection of new LTV in Asian Office	January/February	New Delhi, India	IEC
Technical European Meeting (TEM) Prep meeting	13 - 14 <sup>th</sup> January	IS, Antwerpen	IS, Prep Team
Final GATE Audit	February - Results expected in March		IS
PVP Follow up Meeting	3 - 4 <sup>th</sup> February	IS, Antwerpen	IS, Prep Team
New EVS project in Kosovo	1 March	Kosovo	IS, Balkan Sunflowers, SAVA
YTNF Group Leadership Training	2 - 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	Chisinau, Moldova	AVI Moldva
Technical European Meeting (TEM)	3 - 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	Croatia	IS, VCZ

# Volunteering...

*Adina Basarim, Project LTV talks about volunteering - from her personal experience to broader management strategies.*

Happy New Year !!!

I have started this year with quite a lot of positive energy!! That's good!! We, Romanians, and probably not only us, have this strange idea that if the first day of the year starts in a positive way, than the rest goes smoothly ... I'm confident that it will go like this.

The last year brought a lot of action to me, here you have my brief personal report for 2006:

- a lot of new experiences
- I learned a lot
- I got my fist four white strands (a sign of wisdom, in my culture )...
- I've been in the prep team of two great seminars (Summer University 2- Scotland and PVP - Bulgaria) together with amazing people
- International Volunteer Management Meeting in October - Spain
- Dutch courses - really happy about it!!

These are in big lines the positive things that happened to me in 2006.

In relation to my work in SCI, one of the subjects that occupied my mind lately is the International Volunteer Management. It is a sensitive subject as everyone admits that a good strategy is very much needed, but no one really knows how to start or how to do it in the best way. Creating a "magical pattern" for all the branches is not a solution, as the social reality is different from country to country. What we, most probably, can do is to create some guidelines and "golden rules" that each branch can adapt to its needs.

The necessity of having a volunteer management strategy was considered as being one of the top priorities of our movement in the SCI Strategic Plan for 2004 - 2009.

You can find the result of our work on the official web site at [www.sciint.org](http://www.sciint.org)

This text was presented at the ICM in Nepal and the delegates made comments and formulated opinions. As I do not have yet any concrete feedback from the meeting on this topic I can not give here clear information, but for sure it will come in the next newsletter. For more

information on this you can ask the representatives of your branch that attended this meeting.

In my opinion a good volunteer management work should start in the same time on branch level and international level. I think that the branches should offer more time to this subject as our volunteers and our projects (see the PVP part of the Strategic Plan) make us what we are and we should focus more and more on it.

If some of us would like to comment the content of the document (positives, negatives, how to make it better, examples of good practice in branches, etc.) I think that we can already start using the forum, available on the new website.



*New Years Day by the Schelde, after a good long night of partying*

# The Pleasures of PVP

*Morgana Jolin - Thomas, Office Support LTV tells her tales of being on the prep team for the PVP Seminar in Bulgaria.*

Shortly after being thrown head first into the deep end of the international SCI world in June last year, I started to hear the phrase 'PVP seminar' floating around. At first I had no idea what this meant, and as I was still struggling with learning what was the IS, IC, ICM, IEC, IIC amongst MIDI, SAVA, ABYA YALA and the EYF, EC I didn't really pay much attention. But once I'd got my head round these terms I stuck out my feelers for the next challenge, and PVP seemed to fall in my lap. Members for the prep team were being sought after, so I applied. And I was accepted. And then I had to learn what PVP meant.

PVP = Pacifist Voluntary Project. At first this seemed confusing as I thought all SCI workcamps should fit this description, but with more research and conversation I discovered that the phrase PVP was referring to camps with a direct and specific pacifist focus. PVP camps should meet a few criteria - I'll paraphrase them here for you - why not hey?!

The project work should be either **pro-active peace work** or have an **extensive study part**, The participants should learn about **conflict resolution** and become empowered, The project should reach the **public** to create an impact beyond the participants themselves and The **project partner** should support the pacifist content.

I worked together with the other prep team members (Wilbert from the Netherlands, Adina from Romania but currently LTV in the IS and sitting at the desk opposite me, Ela from Poland and Maja from Sweden) to develop the aims and objectives of the seminar, advertise for and select participants and trainers and to organise the programme and other logistics of the seminar.

Our objectives for the seminar were to gather SCI activists to train them about the PVP concept and criteria so they could promote it to their branches, to evaluate the existing criteria, to develop quality standards and evaluation methods and to provide a place for activists to share experiences of PVP's.

I'll admit that when I arrived in Bulgaria two days before the seminar was to begin, I was pretty nervous. I know I can be a perfectionist and my mind was filled with nightmare scenarios of the participants hating each other or me forgetting to put my clothes on before speaking to the group. But you will be very glad to know all this fear was unfounded. The participants were amazing, a great group of many diverse characters, all of them open and fun, a great group dynamic formed instantly. And I was very well dressed every single day.

We worked really hard, the participants and the prep team and the trainers (Danijela Juric and Emese Bokos). We stayed up way too late, sometimes dancing, sometimes painstakingly preparing the next days activities. It was an amazing experience to be part of this prep team and to work with Danijela and Emese. They were a great team and great trainers and their talent and humour was extraordinarily inspiring. Working in a team was, as always, challenging but incredibly beneficial. I learnt a lot about my own weaknesses, but also managed to dig out some strengths that I had forgotten about.

I feel the seminar was a huge success, and am proud of the outcomes. We now have 28 PVP ambassadors who can explain and promote the concept to their home branches. I have faith that next year there will be many more camps labeled PVP. A PVP brochure has been developed that also helps to explain why it is so important for SCI to operate strategically and revive its roots. And that's what it's all about - peace activism - acting for peace. At the seminar in Bulgaria there were 28 individuals who believe in peace, who choose to live their life thoughtfully and purposefully, working to create a better world, starting with their own environment. Nothing can be more inspiring than that.

*Morgana sits on a train, going somewhere...*

