

## Newsletter 2015/16

Networking internationally in a global world has always been at the centre for IUC-Europe, has been in focus since its origin in the 70s, and during reconstructions in 2000 and in 2013. Long before anyone in DK was interested in political and intercultural youth work cross borders, it was our main purpose; over the years we have built up extensive international networks, useful and beneficiary to our project activities in DK and abroad.

In 2015/16 we will of course continue this line of work in many ways as usual, at a time when international organisations are highly needed in order to address rising Euroscepticism, right wing nationalism and crises in our part of the world and at our doorsteps. So few politicians have visions for the development and integration of the EU, but instead focus on national agendas, often helped by populist media. IUC and partners will do its utmost to establish a progressive European agenda, discuss scenarios for the future and create links between civil society organisations and the political establishment.

IUC flagship projects in 2013 and 2015 were e.g. the Waves of Democracy seminars and the setting up of a Summer Academy in Sønderborg, DK, at Alsiø, which houses the University of Southern Denmark, Centre for Culture/Concert Hall and a cluster of businesses. Here young Europeans from many countries met to address topics on the European agenda, find solutions by working together in innovative and inspiring ways. We already started the Waves projects in 2007 in Rhodes and DK, developed them in Novi Sad and Belgrade in 2010/11, and at present have a firm basis in DK. Centre for Culture/The Municipality of Sønderborg, SDU, and business companies Mærsk and Danfoss have supported the project generously. We are grateful for their valuable assistance.

Apart from carrying out project/activities in DK and abroad an important part of IUC's work is to network, make alliances and act as consultants all over Europe. Below please

find examples of some of our most important networks.

**EYCA /European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance <http://ey2013-alliance.eu/>**

The European Year of Citizens 2013 was proposed from the EU to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the European Union Citizenship under the Maastricht Treaty. Major European civil society organizations and networks joined their forces and created the EY2013 Alliance to put forward proposals aimed at placing European citizenship at the heart of the EU political agenda. National alliances in most of the 28 EU states were set up, and met in Brussels and elsewhere to exchange experiences and establish a common platform for European activities in 2013 and beyond.

In DK IUC- Europe and New Europe invited civil society organizations to meet to form a national alliance in close cooperation with the European Movement DK. The EYCA network presented its recommendations in Brussels and has continued its important work to highlight the important task of including citizens and promote active citizenship at a time when many Europeans face difficulties and have low respect for the political establishment.

**EUNET/European Network for Education and Training ([www.european-net.org](http://www.european-net.org))**

We have always been a very active member of this European network of more than 60 Europe Houses/Academies. We have been represented at board level, been president of the organisation and active in the Committee on Content and Methodology. In order to revitalise the organisation, key members of EUNET and Head of the Secretariat Thomas Heckeberg set up a working committee at Bad Marienberg some years ago for a new and efficient structure to be established. EUNET members have e.g. started projects in the Balkans and in relation to the European Parliament election for young

first time voters. For the Waves projects IUC has found most of its partners from this network. In April our news editor will take part in a very interesting seminar set up in Sweden by the Youth Committee, where youth projects and how to engage youth in new and innovative ways will be discussed e.g.

Please read more about EUNET and its projects at the website. The recent EUNET General Assembly was held in Salzburg, Austria. Next one is in October 2016.

### **MEP BSR ([www.mepbsr.org](http://www.mepbsr.org) )**

IUC acts as administrative coordinator to this network, which consists of educational schools/institutions in the Baltic Sea Region, who host youth parliaments twice a year. It has grown into a very influential network in the Nordic/Baltic region and now comprises 11 countries. In 2015 sessions have been held in Helsinki and Oslo. The 2016 sessions will take place in Riga (tbc) in the spring and Kaliningrad in the autumn. The conferences are important training ground for future young leaders and for students taking an interest in discussing current issues in the region. MEP BSR is represented in the international MEP organization, seated in Madrid, Spain. The international session will take place in Copenhagen in Oct. 2016 with delegates from 30 countries.

### **Baltic Development Forum ([www.bdforum.org](http://www.bdforum.org))**

A network for business, media, academia and politics, established by former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann Jensen as a Nordic World Economic Forum and rapidly becoming one of the most important and influential networks in Northern Europe. MEP BSR students have kindly been invited to the Summits in Copenhagen, Stockholm , Vilnius and participated actively in the conference in Gdansk a few years ago After a short break we will hopefully continue our cooperation with this important

network, whose new chairperson is Ms. Lene Espersen, formerly Foreign Minister to DK. Former director Mr. Hans Brask is now the Danish Ambassador to Latvia and has paved the way for us in Riga in relation to the conference we plan to set up there in the spring of 2016.

### **Global Citizen ([www.globalcitizen.net](http://www.globalcitizen.net) )**

The head of GC, Mr. Søren W. Lundby, is a longtime partner and colleague of IUC, especially in his former job at New Europe. He has recently quit this job (see the interview with him on the news page) and is now heading GB – whose mission is to co-develop an informal, global participatory infrastructure. Facilitating major, regular, face-to-face meetings for thousands of global citizens e.g. Revolving round the key question of our time. How do we create one sustainable world for everyone in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? A question IUC is also very interested in and has lately worked with at the Waves workshop on energy and infrastructure.

### **Heading towards 2016 and new horizons?**

In the spring (May 2016) IUC will be hosting a vision seminar for partners, colleagues and guests to further discuss and develop our activities. The seminar will be set up with and by key IUC people: Andreas Guidi, Christin Knüpfer, Ifor Molenhuis, Tyler Adkins, and Leise Sandemann in cooperation with staff members. The seminar will provide important inputs for working with European integration, discussing innovative and stimulating methods and ways of continuing the ongoing and necessary debate about Europe.

The seminar will be discussing the development of our organization and the work with young people, who are at the core of our activities.

For further information about IUC and its projects, activities and networks please take



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a look at our website, or contact us directly. We are looking forward to an interesting and rewarding year as always with partners, colleagues and friends. Stay in touch!  
Happy New Year!

Nina Nørgaard

Executive Director,  
Copenhagen, January 2016