

**-THE INTERNATIONAL PALESTINIAN YOUTH LEAGUE-**  
**SUMMARY REPORT OF IPYL's ACTIVITIES**  
**1997 – 2002**



## About IPYL

### What is IPYL?

**The International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)** was established in May 1997 as an independent non-governmental organisation registered at the Ministry of the Interior (HB 304/ CU). Internationally, IPYL is a founding member of the Mediterranean Youth Forum (MYF), a member of Youth Action for Peace-Brussels (YAP), *INFOYOUTH-UNESCO-Paris*, the Palestinian Youth Associations' Network and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS). IPYL also works in partnership with Service Civil Internationale (SCI) and the International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE). **IPYL** works under a broad remit aimed at the comprehensive development of the youth sector in southern Palestine (Hebron district).

The primary objectives of **IPYL** are:

- ✓ To imbue young people with a spirit of independence and creativity in the cultural and political spheres, and to encourage their active community involvement.
- ✓ To assist Palestinian society's underprivileged sectors, through the provision of training services, educational opportunities, and suitable employment.
- ✓ To promote an end to discrimination including xenophobia, sexism and racism, and to encourage equal opportunities in all social sectors.
- ✓ To instil in young people the importance of democracy, and to enhance their awareness of human rights principles, as elucidated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related international covenants and agreements.
- ✓ To encourage young people to recognise cultural diversity, and work with young people in neighbouring countries to achieve a real peace based on mutual respect, justice and equality.

Since 1997 **IPYL** has initiated, organised and participated in more than 200 activities, both local and international, in the furtherance of the objectives stated above. These have included:

- ✓ Training seminars (leadership, voluntarism, and conflict resolution)
- ✓ Voluntary work initiatives (local and international)
- ✓ Intercultural exchanges (with a range of European partners)
- ✓ Capacity building initiatives
- ✓ Study-trips
- ✓ Language courses

IPYL's work is steered by a seven member Executive Committee that is responsible for interpreting the League's objectives, and ensuring that it acts within its guidelines. IPYL's activities are set by a General Assembly, composed of all League members, which meets once a year. The League's Executive Committee, consisting of a secretary general and six other members, carries out the directives of the General Assembly, and implements the policies that it establishes.

### **Local partners**

IPYL cooperates with many local and national institutions, in both the public and NGO sectors. Through these contacts, IPYL implements projects and activities. This relationship is built on mutual respect and cooperation, taking into account the interest of the young people as IPYL's top priority.

### **IPYL's headquarters and contact details**

<b>December 2002</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Jaffa Street- Al-Isra'a Building, 5th floor P.O. Box 618 - Hebron - Palestine
<b>Telephone number</b>	(+ 972) -2- 2229131
<b>Fax number</b>	(+972) -2- 2215586
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:info@ipyl.org">info@ipyl.org</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.ipyl.org">http://www.ipyl.org</a>

### Executive Committee members

The current Executive Committee represents the third elected round. Their mandate began in June 2000 and finishes in June 2003.

Position	2000	2001	2002
<b>Secretary General</b>	Adli Daana	Adli Daana	Adli Daana
<b>Treasurer</b>	Georgette Habashi	Georgette Habashi	Georgette Habashi
<b>Elected member</b>	Mazen Al Jabari	Mazen Al Jabari	Mazen Al Jabari
<b>Elected member</b>	Wassim Khazmo	Wassim Khazmo	Wassim Khazmo
<b>Elected member</b>	Ossama Abu Ketteh	Ossama Abu Ketteh	Ossama Abu Ketteh*
<b>Elected member</b>	Naim Daour	Naim Daour **	***Imad Hamdan
<b>Elected member</b>	Yehya Natcheh	Yehya Natcheh	Yehya Natcheh

\* Ossama Abu Ketteh is currently living in the USA.

\*\* Naim resigned from the Executive Committee for personal reasons.

\*\*\* Imad Hamdan was appointed by the board to replace Mr. Naim Daour.

### IPYL's members and beneficiaries

	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1999	Dec. 2000	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2002
<b>Members</b>	50	55	60	75	100	100
<b>Beneficiaries*</b>	400	800	1,000	2,000	2,500	2,500

\* Estimate of participants in workcamps, organised seminars, study trips, local activities, summer camps, training courses, language courses, internet services, and consultancies.

## **Activity report**

### **1997**

#### **Peace Chances in the World**

A series of seminars, lectures and workshops organised and financed by the Japanese Peace Boat Organisation-Cruise, on boat meetings and discussions. It aimed to deliver peace messages for conflict zones. The cruise toured 60 countries in 3 months, and IPYL's involvement was in the Rome-Athens-Jerusalem route during **February**.

#### **Short Term Youth Exchanges**

Seminar organised by The International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE), aiming to provide participants with the necessary information, training and methodologies to fundraise for short-term exchanges, and develop skills for running and organising such projects in the future. Supported by The European Commission - DGXXII, in **Yachranka/Poland, 21-30 March**.

#### **Coping with Violence & Terror**

Workshop organised by The Harry Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace (Hebrew University) and the Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre (WI'AM). It taught participants how to address the grief of the "Other" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. **Bethlehem, 20-21 June**.

#### **First International Workcamp in Hebron**

A workcamp organised by IPYL in coordination with the Community Work department of Birzeit University. The camp included restoration work in Hebron's old city, building gardens at Hebron University, and cleaning different parts of the city. There were 100 local and international volunteers, from **5-8 August**.

#### **Young Leadership Training**

Seminar organised by IPYL, supported by the Quaker's Youth Programme. The issues covered included management, team work, Human Rights, democracy, networking and communications. **Hebron, 14-17 August**.

### **International Youth Cultural Camp**

This was the continuation of a conference organised by "Interkultural Centrum" in Gaming/Austria in 1996. It was a preparatory meeting to organise future Youth Exchanges in the Mediterranean region. Mondotondo organised the event with the support of the European Commission. **Turin/Italy, 20-25 August.**

### **Living together- joining hands with Gypsy communities striving for cultural diversity in Europe**

Youth leaders' meeting organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP), supported by the European Youth Foundation. Took place in **Debrecen/ Hungary, 7-12 October.**

### **The First Palestinian Teens and Youth Conference**

Conference discussed current and future challenges facing Palestinian Youth. Organised by the Youth Programme- Quakers, and supported by the French Consulate, Norwegian People Aid, UNDP, UNICEF and the Quakers. Took place in **Ramallah, 23-24 October.**

### **The Alliance Conference**

Organised by the Alliance Organisation to discuss workcamps and volunteers, with different organizations that deal with international workcamps. Took place in **Mary le Roi/Paris/France. 1-6 November.**

### **Voluntary Service & Conscientious Objection Study Session**

Study session that provided an exchange between conscientious objection and voluntary service organisations. Organised by EBCO, at the European Youth Centre- Strasbourg with the support of the Council of Europe. **Strasbourg / France, 16-23 November.**

### **Women Students in Arab Countries: Equal Participation in Higher Education Conference**

Awareness raising activity organised by the National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB). **Lausanne/ Switzerland- Vienna/ Austria, 3-11 November.**

## **1998**

### **United We Stand- Divided we fall**

Study session organised by Service Civil International (SCI), International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE), the Alliance, and Youth Action for Peace (YAP) in cooperation with the European Youth Foundation. Session aimed at strengthening the influence of voluntary service organisations at the European level. Involved the development of a coordinated strategy for external presentations, and empowerment training for representatives. Took place in **Strasbourg/France, 11-18 January**.

### **International Youth Leaders Meeting**

Youth Perspectives 2000 - The role of youth exchanges and voluntary service in shaping a better future. Organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP), aimed at defining and updating the motivations of participants and youth leaders in international youth exchange and voluntary service activities. Supported by the European Youth Foundation, in **Brussels/Belgium, 17-22 February**.

### **Mediterranean Network seminar**

This meeting was organised by the Coordination Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), to study the possibilities of more active cooperation among youth organisations in the Mediterranean region and the establishment of a network that could act as a coordinating body for future activities. The purpose was to avoid duplication and unnecessary repetition of activities, and provide different organisations with assistance needed to fundraise for future activities. Took place in **Santa Severa/ Italy, financed by CCIVS, 1-3 March**.

### **A new Richness Seminar**

Seminar organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP- Italy Branch). Aimed at putting actors involved in intercultural youth exchanges in contact with participants in a non-European cultural context. Took place in **Bolsena/Italy, 21-29 March**.

### **Training Seminar for Youth Leaders**

Working for peace and tolerance with multicultural groups - methodology and contents of international youth work. This study session aimed at raising the awareness of young people about the cultural diversity on our planet and the need for tolerance. Organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP) with the support of the European Youth Centre. **Budapest, 5-12 April**.

### **Work camps Leaders Training Seminar**

This training seminar aimed to provide leaders of IPYL's international work camps with the necessary skills to animate and organise the camps. The seminar was organised by the IPYL and the Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre (WI'AM). It covered issues such as management and conflict resolution. Financed by the Micro Projects - Arab Studies Society, it took place in **Bethlehem, 30 April - 3 May**.

### **Mediterranean Youth Forum**

Seminar organised and supported by the European Youth Forum to re-emphasise the importance of the Barcelona Process, concentrating on the third chapter that concerns "Partnership in Social, Cultural and Human Affairs: Developing Human Resources, Promoting Understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies, as well as the launching of the Mediterranean Youth Forum". Took place in **Valetta/Malta, 13-17 May**.

### **Electrical Communications training seminar**

Training seminar organised by YAP to provide the participants with the necessary technological training. Aimed at enabling electronic communication in YAP's different branches, and giving them the necessary skills to design the YAP website. Took place in **Frankfurt/Germany, 2-7 June**.

### **Youth in Solidarity - A chance for Peace**

Seminar organised by YAP, the main goal of this seminar was to foster the links between youth in the Middle East and Europe, and to create a network to plan and implement multilateral projects. Held with the support of the European Commission DG XXII, **Brussels/Belgium, 24-29 June**.

### **Organising International Work camps**

Training seminar organised by the European Youth Council-Strasbourg, with the support of the Council of Europe. It aimed at providing participants with the necessary skills to enable them to run, animate and organise international workcamps. **Strasbourg/France, 21 June - 4 July**.

### **International Voluntary Workcamps**

The IPYL planned and implemented a series of International Workcamps. The total number was 4 camps in different areas of Palestine. These workcamps included:

1. **5\7\98-25\7\98** (Bethlehem City/ 18 foreigners/ 13 locals)
2. **2\8\98-22\8\98** (Bethlehem City/ 23 foreigners/ 12 locals)
3. **31\8\98-19\9\98** (Bethlehem/ Hebron/ Nablus/ 24 foreigners/ 12 local)
4. **18\12\98-3\1\99** (Bethlehem/ Beit-Jala/ 29 foreigners/ 9 locals)

Each workcamp consisted of two parts, the physical part and a study part aimed at raising awareness of about Palestinian cultural life and living conditions. The volunteers worked in local community projects.

### **Youth Exchange with YMCA Sweden**

In this activity, a number of Palestinian young men and women from IPYL hosted 12 Swedish youth in April 1998 as the second part of a two-year exchange between IPYL and YMCA Sweden. The visit of 12 Palestinian men and women to Sweden took place from **12-14 of August**. The two visits aimed to raise the awareness of young people from both communities about the current problems facing youth. IPYL and YMCA Sweden organised this exchange, with the latter covering the costs.

### **Study trip of the Kacholik School of Berlin**

Study trip organised by IPYL for 35 students from this university, mainly from the Social Work Department, to introduce this college to Palestinian culture and their human rights situation. The group visited cities in the West Bank and Gaza, and met with young people from different backgrounds. As a result of this trip, IPYL, Bethlehem University and the Kacholik school of Berlin signed an agreement which enables the school to send interns from their college to do their practical training with Palestinian institutions. IPYL will select and contact the local NGOs to allocate the interns and assist in their logistical and technical arrangements, while Bethlehem University will be in charge of the interns' academic supervision. In February 99, IPYL organised places for two interns, one in the Palestinian Union for the handicapped and one in the General Union for disabled sports. The visit took place between **14-25 October**.

### **Preparation Team: Our Contribution to the Human Beings**

This project was proposed by Die Falken organization. IPYL was chosen to be in the preparation team for this activity which took place in the summer. The main theme of this project was to expose young people to new methods, through workshops, study trips and lectures, about anti discrimination, anti fascism, and how the youth should reject prejudice and discrimination. This first preparation meeting took place between **2-18 November, in Potsdam/ Berlin/ Germany**.

### **Training Seminar for Workcamp Leaders**

Organised by IPYL in **Bethlehem** from **13-20 November**. The main goal of this training was to provide IPYL members with the necessary skills to run an international workcamp, in terms of management, finance, teamwork, democracy and conflict resolution. The training was financed and supported by **ALERT-Holland**.

### **International Congress for Voluntary Service**

IPYL participated in this general congress on international voluntary service. The conference included workshops and study groups about topics such as the European Voluntary Service and Mediterranean Cooperation. It took place in **Barcelona, Spain** between **9-14 December**. The congress was supported by the Government of Catalunya and the European Commission DG XXII.

### **Human Rights 1948-1998: 50 years of progress?**

Training seminar organised by the Norwegian Youth Council in **Oslo/Norway**, between **5-16 December**. It aimed at educating young people from the Middle East about the Human Rights situation in the region. The seminar was prepared, planned and hosted by LNU (Norwegian Youth Council).

## **1999**

### **Preparation Team for the European Voluntary Service program**

IPYL was invited to assist in the preparation of the Youth Action for Peace seminar on European Voluntary Service programmes. The meeting took place in **Brussels** from **30 January - 4 February**.

### **European Voluntary Service (EVS) Training Seminar**

Organised by Youth Action for Peace. The objective of this seminar was to train representatives of different youth organisations in hosting EVS volunteers in the Middle East. Sponsored by the European Commission, this seminar took place in **Bolsena, Italy**, from **17- 22 February**.

### **Committee of Directorate of Youth Action for Peace**

During the YAP CD which took place in **Italy** from **26-28 February**, IPYL was given the status of full branch partner of YAP. This new status made IPYL YAP's first full branch member in Palestine.

### **Alliance Technical Meeting**

IPYL participated in the annual meeting of the Alliance again. It took place in **Turkey**, from **5-10 March**. IPYL's work camps were advertised and discussed with Alliance's members, who promised to send volunteers to IPYL's 1999 work camps.

### **National Coordinator for EVS Program in Palestine**

The IPYL hosted 8 long-term European volunteers who are working with five different NGOs to develop programs be exposed to Palestinian culture. This program lasted for six months, from **March to August**. Sponsored by the European Commission's European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme.

### **Implementing and Fostering EVS in the Mediterranean Countries Seminar**

The aim of this seminar was to train parties hosting international EVS, by providing an overview of EVS management. ICYE European Association organised this seminar. It took place in **Bouznika/Morocco** from **17-23 April**.

### **Working for peace and tolerance with multicultural groups**

This training seminar provided participants with the necessary skills to evaluate international youth work activities. Organised at the European Youth Council (EYC) **Budapest**, from **5-12 April**.

### **Preparatory Team Meeting for Women's Issues**

IPYL was invited to participate in this preparatory meeting by Youth Action for Peace. The seminar was held in **Cluj/Romania** in **October**. It covered different issues related to women's empowerment. The activity was supported by the European Commission.

### **Workcamp Leaders Training Seminar**

Organised by IPYL in cooperation with First Ramallah Group. The aim was to train young leaders involved in IPYL's 1999 workcamps. The seminar included an introduction to voluntary service, group management, finances, conflict resolution, team work, cultural life inside the camp and the distribution of work. IPYL financed and prepared the seminar. It took place in **Ramallah** on the **21st May**.

### **Youth Exchange Training Session**

The IPYL participated in this international activity in **Amman/Jordan** to increase awareness of the importance of youth exchanges in enhancing young peoples' abilities. Organised by the Norwegian Youth Council, this session was held from **7-18 July**.

### **International Eco-peace seminar**

The IPYL participated in this activity which was organised by the International Eco-peace Village in Cyprus. The objective was to set up different bases for an Eco-peace village. The activity was carried out on in **larnaca/Cyprus** between **31 July – 8 August**.

### **International Voluntary Work camps**

IPYL organised a series of International Voluntary Work Camps as follows:

**Jerusalem Old City (1-15/7/99)** in cooperation with Al-Quds University, Islamic Waqf and the African Palestinian centre. 15 international and 15 Palestinian volunteers participated in the camp. The work included renovation of an old Turkish bath and Islamic cemetery, and painting inside the Aqsa Mosque yards.

**Hebron Work Camp (18-31/7/1999)** in cooperation with the Old City Renovation Committee and the Mennonite School. The work included cleaning, renovation and painting of areas in the old city, and surrounding schools. 25 international and 20 Palestinian volunteers participated in this camp.

**Ramallah Work Camp (3-18/8/1999)** in partnership with the First Ramallah Group and the Municipality of Ramallah. The work included painting of sidewalks, renovation and cleaning. The program also included visits to a variety of institutions in Ramallah and other cities. IPYL hosted about 100 participants, both Palestinians and internationals.

**Nablus Camp (9-22/8/1999)** in cooperation with The Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The work included renovation of a historical tourist site in the old city, painting of schools and cleaning of public parks. 17 international and 35 Palestinian participants volunteered at the camp.

**Bethlehem Camp (6-25/9/1999)** in cooperation with Artas Folklore Centre. The work included renovation of old sites in the village and a tourist path, and painting and cleaning public schools in the village. With 19 international volunteers and 10 Palestinians.

### **Training course on Euro-Med Cooperation**

The objective of this course was to train young leaders on fundraising for projects as part on the Euro-Med exchange programs. The session was held in **Ankara/Turkey** from **10-22 August**.

### **Study Trip to the Scandinavian Countries**

Organised by Youth Action for Peace, with the objective of examining youths' situation in these countries. The trip also examined possibilities for new partners from youth organizations, to carry out future joint projects. This study trip included **Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland** and took place between **6-17 September**.

### **Youth Information Centres Study Trip**

Organised by BIJ and CIDJ in Belgium. The purpose was to train youth organisation leaders on mechanisms for collecting information, and introduce these to young people. The trip took place in **Brussels and other cities**, between **19-30 September**.

### **Women in Eastern and Western Societies Seminar**

IPYL participated actively in this seminar, which covered women's issues in fields such as education, health, and the socio-economic situation of women from in different societies. Organised by Youth Action for Peace, this seminar took place in **Cluj/ Romania**, from **2-9 October**.

### **Committee of Directors for Youth Action for Peace**

The YAP CD meeting is held twice a year, where the different branches of YAP meet to discuss different issues related to the organisation as a whole. IPYL participated in this meeting and helped plan YAP's policies for 2000. The meeting was held in the city of **Oradea/Romania** from **8-11 October**.

### **Aqaba Seminar on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation**

This seminar was organised by YAP (Youth Action for Peace), in cooperation with Hasan Youth Award and IPYL. It dealt with future cooperation between Europe and the Middle East, and implementation of joint voluntary activities between the two regions. Took place in **Aqaba/Jordan**, from **12-21 November**.

### **Meeting for New Partnerships Seminar**

This activity was organised by the Spanish organization "Trebol De Cuatro Hijas". The objective was to establish new contacts and partnerships between participating organisations and countries. IPYL participated actively in this seminar, and there will be future projects as an outcome of this activity. It took place in **Leon/Spain**, between **25-29 November**.

### **EVS Training Seminar**

International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) organised this activity, where people from Europe and the Middle East gathered to share ideas and experiences and to develop joint projects in the framework of the European Voluntary Service (EVS) program, sponsored by the European Union. It took place in **Cairo/Egypt**, between **4-12 December**.

## **2000**

### **Pedagogical tools in non-formal education and training in the Mediterranean area**

The main goal of this training seminar was to devise new methodologies in training that target Mediterranean youth. More than 15 youth organisations participated in this activity. It took place in **Bouznika/Morocco** between **15-23 January**, organised by International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE), financed by the EC.

### **Towards a United Strategy**

This study session was organised by YAP, ICYE and SCI. This study session worked towards a new strategy for cooperation between youth organisations. The session gave participants first hand training in fundraising, communications, and lobbying. Financed by the European Council, this session took place at the European Youth Centre (EYC) **Strasbourg/France** between **23-29 January**.

### **Preparatory meeting for the “Minorities Seminar”**

Organised by Youth Action for Peace, to help prepare for their April 2000 seminar. The first draft of the program and the methodology of the seminar was planned during this meeting. It took place at the European Youth Centre, **Strasbourg/France**, between **30-31 January**. This meeting was financed by the European Council.

### **Training course for young leaders from Palestine**

Continuation of the training seminar organised by the French National Youth Council (CNAJEP). It aimed at giving practical application to the theoretical section that took place previously in Ramallah. The training included visits to different youth organisations, donor organisations, and development of leaders' skills in fundraising and networking. Took place in **Paris/France** between **5-13 February**. Financed by the French Ministry of Youth.

### **Preparatory meeting for the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation Seminar**

IPYL participated in a preparatory meeting that took place in **Rome/Italy** between 10-14/12/99. It was decided that the seminar would take place between **9-14 February**. The participants decided that the seminar should focus on future projects between the two regions, and was organised by SCI, and financed by the European Commission.

### **Preparatory meeting for “Water in the Desert Seminar”**

Organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP) to prepare for their seminar in Egypt in April, 2000. The main goal of this meeting was to plan for the activity, in terms of methodology, finance, and logistics and follow up. It took place in **Paris/France** between **13-15 February**. Financed by the European Commission.

### **Committee Directorate of Youth Action for Peace**

As an official branch for YAP, IPYL participated in the CD (General Assembly) meeting of YAP in **Barcelona/Catalunya**, between **18-20 February**. Financed by IPYL.

### **EVS Partner finding Seminar “Bridging the Gap”**

This meeting aimed at assisting participating organisations in finding partners to cooperate on EVS projects, which included the exchange of long term volunteers through the European Voluntary Service programme. It took place in **Aix-En-Provence/France** between **19-24 February**, was organised by Service Civil International (SCI), and financed by the European Commission

### **Conscientious Objection seminar**

Organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP), it aimed at studying the possibilities of replacing the military service for young people with civil service. Issues discussed included the methods for undertaking such a mission, and the potential lobbying of governments towards such a goal. The seminar took place in **Barcelona/Catalunya**, between **21-27 February**, and was financed by the European Commission.

### **EVS Outgoing**

IPYL sent three long term volunteers to work in youth projects in France. Two men and one woman took up projects in three regions of France: **Le Creneau–Montcombroux**, **Beaumott Centre de Beaumotte in Beaumotte-Aubertrans** and le **Faï or Vaunières near Lyon**. Their mission lasted for 6 months from **1 March to 1 September**. Organized by Solidarite Jeunesses, Paris, France.

### **Alliance Technical Meeting**

For the third year in a row, IPYL participated in the technical meeting of the Alliance, which aims to disseminate the workcamps of the 90 largest international youth organisations. Delegations were present from Europe, America, Asia and Africa. IPYL advertised its seven work camps for the season of 2000. It took place in **Clermont-Ferrand/France** between **9-13 March**, and was financed by IPYL.

### **Study visit to Germany**

Organised by Kurve Wustrow in Germany, this study trip aimed at raising Palestinian leaders' awareness of youth issues, mainly in conflict resolution. A delegation of 7 Palestinians visited different youth organisations, such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International, and anti-nuclear proliferation organisations, as well the German Parliament. The trip covered three cities in Germany, **Wustrow, Hamburg and Berlin**, and took place from **1-14 April**. Financed by the European Commission.

### **Social Inclusion-Working with Minorities**

Training seminar organised by Youth Action for Peace. It aimed at giving participants first hand training in dealing with minorities' issues and rights. The seminar included training in developing the managerial skills for young leaders. It took place at the European Youth Centre, **Strasbourg/France**, from **2-9 April**. Financed by the Council of Europe.

### **Incoming EVS**

IPYL received three long-term volunteers as part of the European Voluntary Service programme. The volunteers were placed in the IPYL main office, the Children's Art Centre, and the Old City Rehabilitation Committee. The volunteers spent the period from **4 April to 4 October** in these organisations. The project was financed by the European Commission, in cooperation with Youth Action for Peace.

### **Conflict Resolution Techniques**

Organised by the Falkons, this seminar aimed at giving participants the necessary skills on dealing with conflict in a non-violent way. It took place at the European Youth Centre in **Strasbourg/France**, from **10-13 April**. Financed by the Council of Europe and the Falkons.

### **EVS Training Session**

The International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) organised this activity in **Ankara/Turkey**. IPYL participated actively in this session and took part in running the session. Participants were trained to carry out EVS projects in their own countries. The session took place between **14-21 May**.

### **Romanian Youth Organisations' Delegation**

IPYL hosted a group of 9 young leaders, all representatives of different Romanian youth organisations. This visit explored possibilities of joint projects, co-operation and networking with similar organisations in Palestine. The visit included meetings with many youth and childrens' organisations in Palestine. This visit was carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth in Romania. It took place between **21-28 May**.

### **Study Trip: Water in the desert, marine life and water pollution in Egypt**

This environmental study trip was organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP) in Egypt, and examined the environmental situation in Egypt, comparing it with different nations' conditions. The activity included visits to different NGOs working on environmental issues. IPYL had representation in the prep team. The trip took place in **Cairo and Sharm Al-sheikh in Egypt** between **19-27 April**.

### **Iraq fact finding visit**

The objective of this visit was to look for partner organisations in **Iraq**, mainly youth organisations for future cooperation and the joint development of projects. The fact-finding included meetings with different organisational representatives. This trip also prepared a study tour organised by Youth Action for Peace in 2001. This visit took place between **23-29 April**.

### **International Voluntary Work Camps Leadership Training Seminar**

One day intensive training for new IPYL members and potential leaders of the International Voluntary workcamps that IPYL organises each year. Different topics were covered in the training, including management, conflict resolution, communication and leadership. The training took place in **Hebron**, on **23<sup>rd</sup> of June**, and 25 trainees benefited from the training.

### **Tele-service study trip**

A group of 8 young Belgians from the Tele-service organisation were hosted by IPYL. The group collected toys in Belgium, and distributed them to Palestinian children in different refugee camps in different areas on Palestine. The visit took place between **5-17 July**.

### **MYF Advisory Board Meeting**

A 3 day meeting in **Nicosia/Cyprus** was held to discuss possibilities available to mobilise and activate the Forum. This meeting was sponsored by the European Commission, and took place between **21-23 July**.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Youth Leaders Workshop**

For the second successive year, IPYL participate in this workshop, organised by the International Eco-peace Village in Cyprus. The objective of this activity was to provide training for youth leaders, and to increase their leadership skills. The workshop took place in **Nicosia/Cyprus** between **19-27 August**.

## **Italy for Palestine Week**

During this week, dozens of different activities took place in different locations in Palestine. The IPYL and other NGOs were responsible for implementing activities that aimed at promoting peace and solidarity with the Palestinian people. Activities included artistic and entertainment workshops, mainly for the children in major cities, rural areas, and refugee camps, between **1-9 September**.

## **SCI Study Trip**

Service Civil International organised this trip to **Lebanon and Palestine**. The objective of the activity was to look for partner organisations in both countries, and included meetings to a large number of NGOs specialised in fields such as Human Rights, Youth, and Women, and meetings with officials in both countries. The study trip took place between **5-20 September**.

## **Salzburg Seminar**

“Youth and civic participation: models of engagement”, this study session held in **Salzburg** aimed at discussing youth concerns, and ways to incorporate them into civic society activities. The session took place between **6-13 September**.

## **Peace Tools: Limits of Non-Violence and Tools for Resistance**

As YAP’s Palestinian branch, IPYL hosted this study session in **Bethlehem**. The aim of the session was to reflect on the values of Youth Action for Peace, and their impact as YAP moves towards building a non-violent society. The session took place from **30 September - 9 October**.

## **Committee of Directors of YAP**

This meeting takes place twice a year, and IPYL hosted this meeting in Palestine. The delegates from the different branches met to discuss the different projects the movement is planning, and to report on their activities to the rest of the branches. The CD was held for 3 days between **13-15 October in Bethlehem**.

## **Youth and War**

This study session was organised by the Youth Exchange Network (YEN), and was held in **Portugal**. The aim of the session was to bring young people together from different areas of conflict, to see the impact of such realities on their daily lives. IPYL was represented by 2 delegates, who participated actively in the discussions. The seminar took place from **4-12 November**.

## **The Civil Forum**

This forum was held to stimulate recommendations to the European Ministerial Meeting that took place few days afterwards. IPYL participated in the youth discussions, and was invited to take part by the French Youth Council. The meeting took place in **Marseilles/France**, from **8-12 November**.

## **Economy- Seminar**

A study session organised by Youth Action for Peace in **Boivosoun/France** with the support of the Youth for Europe programme. The main goal of this seminar was to discuss the ethics of fundraising, sponsorship and finances for youth organisations. In addition to that, it discussed potential donors for youth projects and mechanisms of fundraising. It took place between **13-19 November**.

## **International Day of Volunteers**

On the occasion of the International Day of Volunteers, **5 December**, IPYL organised a voluntary work day in the city of **Hebron**. The work included planting trees, painting curbs, and cleaning an entrance to a major hospital. A total of 35 volunteers participated in this activity.

## **International Voluntary Work Camps in the Year 2000**

IPYL organised during summer and fall 2000 seven international workcamps. The camps took place according to the following program:

**IPYL 014-** took place in the old city in **Jerusalem**. This camp was organised in cooperation with the De Lassale Club. The work included helping 300 children to attend a summer camp at the club. 20 international volunteers and 10 locals took place in this work camp. It took place between **25 June to 9 July**.

**IPYL 015-** took place in the city of **Bethlehem** at the De Frers School. The work included renovations and garden construction, as well as fences for kindergartens at Aida and Duheisheh Refugee camps. 12 international volunteers and 12 locals took part in the camp, which took place between **2-16 July**.

**IPYL 016-** took place in **Jenin**, in cooperation with the Agricultural Relief Committees in the North. The work included planting of trees, construction of their new building and fixing deserted lands. 24 international volunteers and 20 locals participated in this camp. Took place between **23 July -6 August**.

**IPYL 017-** took place in **Ramallah**, in cooperation with Friends without Borders Organisation. The work included restoration of old buildings near Birzeit town, the old city of Ramallah and construction of a public garden in cooperation with the municipality. 26 international volunteers and 20 locals participated in this camp. Took place between **10-24 July**.

**IPYL 18-** took place in **Hebron**, in cooperation with the municipality and the Polytechnic University, Hebron University and the Old City Rehabilitation Committee. The work included constructing gardens at the Universities, renovating buildings in the old city, and painting curbs in several city neighbourhoods. 21 international volunteers and 20 locals participated in this camp, which took place between **20 August - 3 September**.

**IPYL 19-** was supposed to take place in **Jericho** between **12-26 November**, but was cancelled because of security reasons.

**IPYL 20-** took place in **Bethlehem**, in cooperation with Ibda'a Children Organization at Duheisheh Refugee cam, and the Lage'e (refugee) youth organisation in Aida Refugee Camp. The work included the building of fences, cleaning dust from the camp streets and painting curbs in the surrounding area. 23 international volunteers and 12 locals participated in this camp, which took place between **20 December 2000 – 4 January 2001**.

## **2001**

### **YAP Committee of Directors meeting**

YAP's branch partner in Palestine, IPYL took part in this CD which is held twice a year, the first in February, the second in October. During the CDs, the branches discussed projects carried out in the different countries, ways to enhance cooperation between YAP members and also to vote on topics related to the movement. The meeting was organised in **Germany** between **23-25 February**. Supported by the Euro Med Youth Action Program of the European Commission.

### **YAP and the Voluntary Service, Reflection on our action and practices**

Training seminar organised by Youth Action for Peace (YAP). The participants evaluated experiences of the European Voluntary Service programme, and had time to reflect on the different projects carried on during the last 4 years. The activity was held near **Frankfurt/ Germany** between **26 February – 4 March**.

### **Organisational management and Fundraising seminar**

IPYL had representation at the preparatory team of this activity. YAP organised this in cooperation with the European Youth Centre. The objective of this study session was to enable participants to gain basic knowledge about organisational management and fundraising. The session was run by the European Youth Centre of the European Commission in **Strasbourg/ France** between **1-8 April**.

### **Making Contacts for the Future**

The seminar was organised by the Turkish organization "GSM". The objective was to enhance and build contacts between youth organisation represented in the seminar. The project was funded by the European Commission and took place in **Ankara** between **24-29 June**.

### **The World Youth Festival**

IPYL represented Palestine in this large festival, where 6500 young people from all over the world met to share ideas and experiences. The festival was sponsored by the Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC) and the Panamanian Government. The festival was held in **Panama City** between **21-29 July**.

### **Democracy and Citizenship Summer Camp**

This was an intensive training camp for 64 young Palestinians on democracy, active citizenship and civil society values. Funded by the Tamkeen (USAID Palestine NGOs Empowerment Project), Civil Society and Democracy Strengthening Project. Most of the participants were from the southern region, and the focus was on youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as refugees and youth from rural areas. The activity was carried in **Hebron** from **1-14 August**.

### **A Cultural Youth Exchange (Open Tent Town)**

This exchange was organised by Katholische Jugendwerke, so youth from different countries could meet to discuss differences and similarities and increase understanding between cultures. The exchange took place beside **Leverkusen/Germany** between **3-19 August**.

### **Sustaining our Cultural Heritage**

This seminar was carried out under the supervision of the Maltese National Coordinator of the Euro-Med Youth Action Program. Participants discussed the role of youth organisations in conserving the cultural heritage of the different countries represented. The seminar was funded by Euro-Med, and was held in **Malta** between **4-13 September**.

### **Eastern Europe Study Trip**

An activity organised by YAP with the objective of finding, fostering and empowering contacts in Eastern European countries. The visit was to the **former Yugoslavia**, took place between **5-11 September**.

### **Prince's Trust European Meeting**

IPYL received an invitation to attend this meeting to enhance relations between the organisation and different European partners. The objective was to establish new contacts between the represented organisations. The meeting was in **London** between **4-11 September**.

### **From the grassroots: active citizenship from Middle East to Europe**

This training session was a follow-up activity designed after a study trip the year before to Palestine and Lebanon by SCI-Italy. The objective was to provide intensive training to participants from Palestine, Lebanon Belgium and Italy. The project was funded by the Euro-Med Youth Action Program and was carried out by Service Civil International (SCI), Italian Branch. Took place in **Rome and Orvieto/Italy**, in between **24 October – 24 November**.

### **Colonial Heritage**

A seminar funded by the Euro-Med Youth Action Program and organised by Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna organization. The objective was to teach participants to search and look for ways to preserve heritage structures from the colonial period in their respective countries. The meeting was held in **Malta** between **28 October – 4 November**.

### **Euro-Med Training Session**

The objective was to invite delegations from different Euro-Mediterranean countries to meet, learn and discuss ways to improve and enhance cooperation in the Mediterranean regions, and find partners for future projects. The training session took place in **Molina/ Malaga/Spain** from **10-16 November**.

### **Solidarity with Youth in Conflict**

IPYL organised a two-week youth exchange for 16 Palestinians and 16 Europeans, aimed at raising awareness of European youth on the origins of the Middle East conflict. It also aimed at expressing solidarity with Palestinian youth. The exchange included workshops on conflict resolution, peace building, peace education, lectures and presentations by specialists and Civil Society Syndicates. Financed by the Euro Med Youth Action Program of the European Commission (Action 1). The Exchange took place in **Bethlehem** between **20 December – 4 January 2002**.

### **Long Term Voluntary Service Placement**

IPYL acted as a hosting and a sending organisation for long-term volunteers. Seven young European volunteers were placed in different local cultural, children and development organisations in the southern region of the **West Bank**. Also, five Palestinian volunteers were sent to carry on long-term voluntary service in **France** and **Germany**. Most of these placements were funded by the European Voluntary Service Program (EVS).

### **International Voluntary Work Camps**

The 2001 workcamp year was a success, as IPYL organised and carried out 5 camps in different Palestinian cities. The camps were self-financed, and the volunteers carried out physical work activities in the mornings and cultural ones in the afternoon. The camps took place according to the following program:

**IPYL 023-** took place in **Hebron**. This camp was organised in cooperation with the University of Graduate Union. The work included renovation and construction. 8 international volunteers and 6 locals participated in this work camp. It took place between **21 July and 3 August**.

**IPYL 025-** took place in **Bethlehem**. The work included renovation and construction work inside buildings inside Bethlehem's Aida Refugee Camp. 23 international volunteers and 7 locals participated. Took place between **5-19 August**.

**IPYL 026-** took place in the Old City of **Jerusalem**. This camp was organised in direct coordination with the Youth Development Department of the Orient House- Jerusalem, as part of their Campaign to promote Voluntarism in the occupied City of East Jerusalem. The work included the construction of gardens in Bourj Al Laqlaq community centre. 13 international volunteers and 11 locals participated. Took place between **11-24 August**.

**IPYL 027-** took place in the city of **Hebron**, organised with the cooperation of the Hebron Municipality and the Hebron University. The work included renovation of old houses, garden construction, and tree planting on Hebron University's main campus. 10 international volunteers and 8 locals participated. Took place between **15-30 September**.

**IPYL 029-** took place in the city of **Hebron**. The work included tree and flower planting in different gardens inside the city. 19 international volunteers and 9 locals participated. Took place between **20 December and 4 January 2002**.

## 2002

### **The Mediterranean: a dream or a reality?**

This seminar dealt with new partnerships between the European and Mediterranean youth NGOs, and ways to strengthen existing ones. The meeting was supported by the Euro-Med Youth Action Program, organised by the International Secretary of YAP. In addition to participating in the seminar, IPYL had two members in the prep team. Took place in **Vienna/Austria** between **9-15 February**.

### **Youth Action for Peace Congress**

This meeting is held once every 3 years, where all member organisations, associated groups and partners of YAP meet to set up policies and priorities of the movement for the next 3 years. As a branch of YAP, IPYL participated actively in the meeting, and contributed to the congress's outcome. The meeting was held in **Sopron/Hungary** between **16-21 February**.

### **Committee of Directors meeting of YAP**

Directly after the congress, the YAP delegations of different branches, associated groups and partners met, and discussed internal and external issues related to the movement. These included evaluation of previous activities, planned multilateral and bilateral projects, and ways to enhance relations within the movement. It was held in **Sopron/Hungary** on **22-24 February**.

### **CAFO Conference**

International Conference held by the "Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations" under the title "Asian Dialogue with the World". The conference established contacts between Asian NGOs and others in different parts of world. IPYL was invited to present a paper on the "Civil Society Movement in the Arab World". The conference was held in **Okinawa/ Japan** between **26-28/03/ 2002**.

### **Euro-Med Civil Forum**

A meeting held prior to the Ministerial Meeting of the Euro-Med countries to discuss and evaluate partnerships since the Barcelona Process. The forum consisted of 11 workshops, including Human Rights, Women, Environment and Youth in which IPYL participated. The different workshops came out with recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting that took place a few days after the Forum. Took place in **Valencia/Spain**, between **12- 14/04/ 2002**.

### **International Voluntary Work Camps Leadership Training**

This activity was in cooperation with Service Civil International (SCI) - France. One Palestinian leader attended training for international workcamp leadership, and assisted in volunteer preparation for those

going to camps and other activities in the Middle East and Northern Africa. The project was financed by the French Consulate General in Jerusalem, and lasted between **10 June – 30 July**.

### **Multipliers Training**

A delegation of 8 trainers representing different European branches of SCI attended a training organised by IPYL. These trainers were responsible for training volunteers coming to Palestine for short-term and long-term activities. The training lasted for 10 days, between **20-30 June**, and was held in **Hebron and Bethlehem**.

### **Non-Violence workcamp**

Three weeks training session financed and organised by NDF, which aimed at providing training to young Palestinian volunteers and leaders on the basis of non-violence. It also included a speaking tour on the issue of “Justice for Palestine as the key to Peace for Israel” at several international workcamps in Germany. It took place in **Hannover between 7-27 July**.

### **Children Exchange with Fundacion Araganey**

A three-week exchange with the Arabic community in **San Diego/Galicia in Spain**. The community hosted 15 children and three supervisors from Al Fawar Refugee Camp near Hebron. The project was financed and organised by “**Foundacion Palestine Araganey**” and included visits to the parliament, municipality, fun parks, and press conferences on the Palestinian situation. IPYL was in charge of the project’s preparations. The visit took place between **20 July – 14 August**.

### **Democracy and citizenship summer camp 2002**

This was a four-month project that provided 80 teenagers from Hebron district with basic training on the concepts and practices surrounding democracy and citizenship. It included two weeks of lectures, presentations, workshops, field visits, mock elections, retreat and training that were successfully implemented at Al Amaneh Hotel in **Hebron between 1-14 August**, and financed by TAMKEEN. This project, which was the first of its kind in the Hebron district, became a landmark for IPYL’s innovative and creative work.

Bringing together 80 young school children from twelve different regions in Hebron district (Halhoul, Beit Ommar, Bet Kahel, Alaroub Refugee camp, Alfawwar Refugee camp, Idna, Sourif, Kharas, Doura, Aldahreieh, Nuba and Hebron city) was a great challenge. The objective of the summer camp was to empower Hebronite district to take active control of their lives, and to play a participatory and positive role in the development of their society.

### **Schools across Borders**

**Since August 2001**, and in light of the complicated political and security situation in Palestine (especially in **Hebron**), IPYL launched its “Schools across Borders” project. This self-financed project targeted school children from the occupied part of Hebron city. The central idea of the project was to create contact between eight childrens’ schools in the Old City of Hebron (4 boys’ schools and 4 girl’s schools) and others in Ireland. Through this project, the children were able to express and share their thoughts and ideas with children of the same age in Ireland.

The overall goal of the project was to make young people aware of universal values and to give expression to these values in ways. This project aimed at promoting universal values in order to underpin a more responsible-minded education anticipating both the society it is in, and the wider world beyond it. “Schools across Borders” is an ongoing project.

### **SCI Reverse Study Trip**

Study trip organised by Service Civil International (Italian Branch), a continuation of two previous study trips. The study trip aimed at educating young leaders from the Middle East together with European young leaders on issues of conflict resolution and peace education. The study trip included conflict resolution, simulation and meetings with NGOs working on conflict issues. The trip was attended by participants from Germany, Palestine, Lebanon, Italy, Belgium and Ireland. The tour included visits to **Italy, Belgium and Ireland**. Supported by the Youth program of the European Commission, from **10-30/9/2002**.

### **Intercultural Youth Dialogue: Post September 11th.**

Youth exchange organised by Baladna- Arab Youth Association. Aimed at discussing the reasons for the growing anti-Islam and anti-Arab phenomena in the West and North after September 11<sup>th</sup>. It also aimed at establishing dialogue among different cultures, based on respect and tolerance. Supported by the Euro Med Youth Action Program of the European Commission and took place in **Nazareth** between **25-29 September 2002**.

### **Paper Recycling Seminar**

Training session for workcamp leaders, focusing on paper recycling methods and aimed at encouraging voluntary work organisations to run workcamps including volunteers with special needs. Organised by Service Civil International (French Branch) and financed by the French Consulate in East Jerusalem, the seminar took place in **France** between **9-16 October**.

### **Partnership Building and Training Seminar on Long-Term Volunteer Exchanges**

Organised by AVSO (Association for Voluntary Service Organizations). Training session aimed at equipping workers at voluntary work organisations with new methods and modules for building

partnerships, especially in long term voluntary projects. Took place in **Prague/Czech Republic** between **16-20 October**.

### **International Day of Volunteers**

On the occasion of the International Day of Volunteers (December 5<sup>th</sup>) IPYL organised in cooperation with the United Nations Volunteers, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, and the Palestinian Child Home Club an open day in the yards of the PCHC on the the second day of Eid Al Fiter. Over 500 youth gathered, played, danced, sang and paint their faces on this occasion. Took place on **6 December**.

### **Contact making seminar Ankara- Turkey**

Seminar aimed at giving European and Mediterranean youth organisations the possibility of new contact in order to improve the quality of future partnerships and projects within the framework of the Euro Med Youth Action Program of the European Union. Supported by the European Commission and organised by the Euro Med National Coordinator at GSM-Youth Services Centre in **Ankara/ Turkey** between **12-17 December**.

### **Long Term Voluntary Placement**

Eight young European volunteers were placed in different local cultural and development organisations in **Jerusalem, Hebron** and **Haifa** for a period of 6 months from **January to June**. Also, 4 Palestinian volunteers were sent to carry on long term voluntary service in France and Germany through the networks IPYL co-operates with. Most of these placements were funded by the European Voluntary Service Program (EVS).

### **International Voluntary Work Camps**

In 2002, IPYL organised and carried out three camps in different cities in Palestine. The camps were self-financed, and the volunteers carried out work activities in the morning and cultural ones in the afternoons. The camps took place according to the following program:

**IPYL 031-** took place in the Old city of **Jerusalem** in the Bourj Al Laqlaq centre. The Volunteers worked together in tree planting and gardening work inside the association, as well as minor maintenance work. Cultural activities were based on intercultural learning between different cultures, as well as visits organized to different cities in the West Bank. A number of 30 volunteers participated on it. It took place between **2-16 August**.

**IPYL 033-** It took place in **Jericho**. This camp was organised in cooperation with the Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee (PARC). The volunteers were helping the PARC in some construction work (building fences around their projects), as well as agricultural work, which was

mainly helping PARC in preparing lands for planting. 20 volunteers participated in this work camp, which took place between **1-15 November**.

**IPYL 034-** It was the fourth year that IPYL organised a Christmas camp in the city of **Bethlehem**. The work was in direct coordination with the three different municipalities in the area, together with local institutions in the area. This project was carried out in cooperation with Ibda'a Child Cultural Centre located in Dheisheh Refugee camp. The work included renovation, and the painting of buildings. The cultural program consisted of visits to different development projects, a historical overview of the Palestinian Refugee issue, lectures and presentations by local officials and researchers, and attendance of Christmas Mass at the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. 23 volunteers participated, and it took place between **20 December and 4 of January**.

#### **Visiting groups 1997 - 2002**

During the reporting period, IPYL hosted over **one hundred visiting groups** from different countries and different backgrounds, mainly from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, USA, Switzerland, Belgium and the United Kingdom. Such groups come to raise awareness in the international community of young peoples' situation in Palestine, and to discuss the possibilities of future coordination in youth issues between IPYL and these organisations.

For more information on IPYL work:

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