

ACTIVE

SOBRIETY
FRIENDSHIP
PEACE

Newsletter June 10

ACTIVE consists of 33 member organisations from all over Europe gathered in sobriety, friendship and peace. The newsletter is issued once a month. If you have any contributions, feel free to send them to: office@activeeurope.org

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1. State of the art

+++ Free ice creams in Norway!

For now, 330 participants have been registered to the Active summer camp, congress and IOGT world congress. The webpage of camp and congress is worth to visit - download the congress documents or check out the participants list to know who will be there with you. If you are not registered yet, there is no better time than now: we have a good possibility to make

Norway to run out of ice creams as one of the organisers of summer camp, Petter Holstad has promised to give an ice cream to everyone who signs up for Experience 2010 from the date of May 13th. For more information, join the "Petter's Ice Cream Experience 2010 Campaign" in facebook.

+++ Fake Free Sweden

Are you also sick and tired of seeing how alcohol is being constantly glamorized and portrayed as the drink of happiness? Are you bugged by people using alcohol as an excuse "sorry, but I was drunk...". Well, so are we, and it's time to make a change! It's time for Fake Free! A great gathering with representatives from 10 Active member organisations, plus Sri Lanka and Kenya took place in Örebro on the 11-13 of June

2010 in Fake Free project. Fake Free is a project run by UNF Sweden that aims at finding new ways to work with alcohol prevention. The idea is to create fun and innovative campaigns that focus on de-glamorizing alcohol to show that most of the positive effects people associate with alcohol is just a fake. During the seminar we were digging deeper into relevant research, and planned upcoming campaigns. If you want to know more - please contact any of the Fake Free staff, you can find at www.unf.se under "kontakt" -> "kanslipersonal".

+++ Black sheep spreading the word

It should be everyone's basic right to grow up in alcohol free environment, live in a family where alcohol consumption is not hin-

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dering basic rights for safe childhood, free time activities or in general, everyone has the right to live in sober society. For that reason, Active has a project going on, called as Black Sheep including a seminar in Örebro, where representatives from Moldova, Germany, Ukraine, Turkey, Latvia, Estonia, Macedonia, Slovakia, Sweden and Norway were gathered to plan how to act and do something about the basic rights young people have.

The goal is to design a campaign running in all 10 countries mentioned above and together raise awareness about huge need to create and offer alcohol free environment for youth and children. More information will be available from the representatives and from the webpage that is in the progress.

+++ Alcohol policy program – a need for update

The Congress 2008 gave us a task to update our alcohol policy program. Right! Active as the only sober European youth organisation must be the leading voice in shaping the alcohol policy in Europe and have impact on the alcohol policy in the world. We asked young people from our member organisations who deal with alcohol policy issues on daily basis to help us to create the best alcohol policy programme possible and we have the result. The working group met two times for very intensive and long days and the outcome "Draft alcohol policy programme" is available on our webpage and will be discussed at the Congress in Fredrikstad. We would like to thank Adrian Farner Rogne, Maik Duennbier, Nils

Johan Garnes for their work and Andrea Lavesson for her feedback and comments. We are looking forward to the discussions at the Congress.

2. Activities

+++ New board, the same island, many stickers.

Two years have passed and for Juvente Germany it was about time to elect a new board. This was done at Juvente's annual congress which took place during the Easter holidays in Wedel near Hamburg. Three old and two new members were elected into the board: Frédéric Mauss is the new president, Ole Stein is keeping the position as treasurer, Rosi Siedelberg continues as secretary and Peter Kloke and Katharina Balmes complete the

team. Since having been elected, the new board with a lot of support from Max Vollmer, has focussed mainly on working through Juvente's marketing strategy. Juvente had a Facebook ad promoting summer camp and created stickers and other print material for street actions.

"Juvente also managed to gather 38 young people on the beautiful Dutch island of Schiermonnikoog around the Whitsun weekend. Even though the weather was not supportive from the first day on, most participants managed to get their traditional sunburn in the end and nobody left the island without a wound butt from riding only medium-comfortable dutch bicycles through nature all day long. Other activities included eating tons of liquid pudding called Vla, playing

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pool and air hockey, winning the football match against the "oldies", taking a bath in the Northern sea, playing Kubb and lounging in the sun chatting with friends.

So, what's next? Planning a canoe trip in Sweden prior to "Experience 2010" in Norway this summer, everybody's welcome to join.

+++ Young people from Faroe Islands in Sweden

Three members of UAE from Faroe Islands visited the Swedish organisation UNF for a one week study trip in April. The aim for this NORDGU-coordinated trip was to give an insight to Faroese organisation how UNF have been working with recruitment. The successful district UNF Kro-noberg (which has grown from 150 to 700 members

in two-three years) was visited along with stops at the central office in Stockholm and the annual meeting for UNF Uppsala. Unpredicted volcanic activities put a halt to return trip, which prolonged the journey for another whole week allowing time to visit the ACTIVE-office in Örebro as well.

+++ 0% walking, shooting, camping.

Islenskir Ungtemplarar (IUT) in Iceland has got a new name! From now on they are called 0% that means 0% alcohol. 0% has been meeting once a week on Tuesdays to plan their mainly out-door oriented activities. On the 3rd of June took place the first activity – walking in the famous cave Raufarholshellir. During the next activity, the participants are going to learn how to shoot from a

rifle that is followed up by camping from 25th to 27th of June. Good luck with all your summer activities in Iceland!

3. Newsflash

+++ Social network has a huge influence on drinking habits.

People who are directly connected to a person, who drinks heavily, are 50% more likely to drink heavily and people, who are directly connected to abstained person, are 29% more likely to abstain from drinking than others. Those, who were surrounded by heavy drinkers increased their alcohol consumption by about 70% compared with those who weren't connected to any heavy drinkers. Conversely, those surrounded by non-drinkers decreased their al-

cohol consumption by half. The data is based on the study "The spread of alcohol consumption behaviour in a large social network" that included 12,067 people, who were followed for 32 years to explore quantitatively whether alcohol consumption behaviour spreads from person to person in a large social network of friends, co-workers, siblings, spouses, and neighbours, had very clear results.

Effects on drinking were also dependent on the relationship. In case of having heavy drinking wife, husband's likelihood of drinking heavily is increased by 196%, while the wife, who has a heavy drinking husband has 126% increased chances for drinking heavily. The study found that the influence of friends and people one has con-

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nections with can affect health just as much as the family history or your genetic background.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Psychiatry/Addictions/19402>

+++ A Global Alcohol Strategy is adopted

On the 20th of May, the World Health Assembly adopted a global Alcohol Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol that is a very important decision for public health and welfare. The Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) considers it to be a "historic decision" and an important first step to reduce the global alcohol problems. The strategy has particular importance for the developing world regarding to the fact that drunken behaviour is closely linked to several critical development issues such as poverty, gender based violence and

HIV/AIDS. The strategy highlights the effectiveness of focusing on policies regarding pricing, availability and marketing of alcohol. A brief presentation of the strategy can be found:

<http://www.add-resources.org>.

The draft of the Alcohol Strategy can be found:

<http://www.who.int>

(ADD Bulletin 3/2010)

4. Member organisation of the month: REACT

In this spring, a number of activities have been in the to-do list of a Macedonian organization, REACT. In April, they participated in the "Development of the Civil Sector" training, organized by the city of Skopje. That was followed by the application to the Youth Cultural Centre for a free usage of their facilities to get their first office

space. REACT evaluated also the NGOs in Macedonia to include the results to the second part of the "Black sheep" project.

REACT has been working on several follow-up ideas after the seminar in Bratislava. In the end of May took place a "REACT weekend" with the guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina organization, LINK - Emina Nuspahic and Emir Nuhanovic, whose input was very valuable. There was held General Assembly and a two-day programme in a canyon Matka for bonding REACT members and talking about topics as ACTIVE principles of alcohol policy and further activities. REACT has been working on the postcards campaign and blog and the Swedish volunteer, Emma Oskarsson has created her own campaign as well, called

SecretSoberSociety - with the idea of making movies and videos.

Spring time ...REACT just loves it! But they also love summer, 21 of them have already signed up and are looking forward to this year's summer camp Experience 2010!

Subscription

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