



Hemispheres seminar
11th and 12th December 2009
Paris

Friday, the 11 th of November	Saturday, the 12 th of November
<p>9.30</p> <p>Introduction of the seminar</p> <p>Round table : presentation of the organisations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BREAK</p> <p>Presentation of the pedagogical dynamic of the training + evolutions</p>	<p>9.30</p> <p>Conditions to enhance the implementation of the local events. (Heterogeneous small groups)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BREAK</p> <p>Restitution and conclusions on the local event</p>
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<p>2.30</p> <p><u>Work in small groups according to the position in Hemispheres programme:</u></p> <p>Southern partners : exchanges on practises (as trainers on Hemispheres), on situations experienced during the training ...</p> <p>Northern partners: exchanges on practises (recruitment, follow-up of the youngsters ..)</p> <p>Youngsters : what blocked or facilitated the implementation of your local event ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BREAK</p> <p><u>Restitution in plenary of the youngsters groups:</u></p> <p>Local event : what blocks ? What facilitates ?</p>	<p>2.30</p> <p>(opened to other southern partners and some members of FdH)</p> <p>Reinforcement of southern and northern organisations (based on the work of the day before)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BREAK</p> <p>Perspectives and conclusions</p>

Before all, we must inform here about Marina's disappearance three days ago because of a cancer. Marina was one of the first session participant; she was full of dynamism and generosity. This new affected all the ones who had the chance to know her and as a matter of fact all the participants of the seminar.

Introduction of the seminar :

Yves Altazin, Frères des Hommes director

In the opening of this seminar that comes after a year of experience of the Hemispheres program, I would like to come back to the specific challenges of this project for our association Frères des Hommes.

To approach the challenges of this program for our association, we can look at it from different angles:

1 – First, we can base ourselves on the mission of Frères des Hommes.

Our mission is formulated in 3 principal points:

- To contribute to the **reinforcing of agents** of civil societies who strive for the development of the poorest populations. Reinforcing the organizations of the civil society/strength the commitment in collective action are two main ideas of our actions.
- To contribute to a better sensitization of the public opinion in France and in Europe on the Northern/Southern issues through information and training.
- To promote **exchanges of partners** of the association in the North as in the South.

2 – We can also approach these challenges by integrating the evolution of partnerships of our association:

- In the Southern countries, the partner organizations of Frères des Hommes have developed strong abilities in organization, mobilization, concrete actions; in advocacy, resistance, propositions that contribute to pushing back poverty and promoting a society of justice and peace.

This capacity, this skill of agents of change in the South is wealth. It is important for us that this assertive energy is communicated, and can also come to **reinforce the dynamics in our European countries**.

- In France and in Europe many associative agents in the domains of the assistance of youth, in the struggle against poverty, in the field of local solidarities represent a reality of citizen vitality that is by nature to give light to the consciousness of the organizations of the Southern countries on the initiatives of European citizens.

3 – We can also consider this program from the point of view of the youth:

- Frères des Hommes was created 45 years ago, from the will to allow the youth to commit into actions contributing to the reduction of poverty and with the objective of allowing the **youth to open up and to understand** the interdependence of our societies on an international scale.

- Today in a French and European society where individualism, liberalism and every man for himself ideal seems to dominate, Frères des Hommes hopes to continue to bring the youth a space, a place of **training of international citizenship**, a place of expression and of a **commitment of solidarity**.

4 – To approach this first year of the program of the “Hemispheres” training, we can also refer to the objectives and expected results as they were presented to the European Union and who have been the object of its approval through the attribution of its financing.

First the general objective: To sensitize populations untouched by development education actions in mobilization in favor of more egalitarian development between the North and the South to bring an effective and long-lasting solution to the challenges caused by globalization.

Three axes for this objective:

1. Present the links and interdependences between Northern and Southern countries,
2. Establish awareness in the identification of the similarities that exist between situations in Europe as well as in the South
3. Strengthen abilities of the civil society organizations so that they can integrate a North-South dimension into their engagement as citizens.

A specific objective: Train, equip, and support 180 European youth – and through them their sending organizations as well as others – to be agents of sensitization and appealing to those in their respective environments.

Three expected results:

1. The trained youth will be capable of carrying out development education actions (the local events).
2. The partner organizations will have strengthened their capacities in raising awareness of international solidarity
3. New expressions of mobilization and expressions of citizens in favor of development will have been promoted and passed on.

We see there that the challenges for Frères des Hommes in “Hemispheres” are important:

- **Promote the experience** of the partner organizations of the South in the training of a European audience
- Develop a **renewed form of partnership** between organizations of the North and the South, beyond the role of financial support that Frères des Hommes is doing.
- Offer a space of **commitment for the European youth**.
- Create innovative forms of **sensitization** of the general public to the issues of international solidarity and of North/South development.

We would like to take the time that we have set aside for ourselves in this seminar to exchange:

- On the **conditions of our participation** in this program, as a European partner, as a Southern speaker, or as a young participant.
- On the conditions of **implementing and improving these events** of raising awareness towards the public
- On the contributions of this program in terms of **reinforcing our organizations**.

Presentation of these 2 days:

Regarding the main general objective: to sensitize populations untouched by development education actions in favour of more egalitarian development between North and South, this seminar aims at:

- evaluating the whole programme
- exchanging on practises and experiences

So, two different levels of work and at least three kind of involvement in the programme:

- some recruit participants and follow them up in the implementation of the local events;
- some are speakers and may have discovered for the 1st time this specific public: young European people;

- some participants (and you are a lot being here which means something regarding the evaluation) who attended the training but have a less clear idea on the partnerships challenges.

Well, you have different positions and interests in Hemispheres and your views are also the results of it. So it was necessary first to give a more global view.

We propose you methods to enable you to share experiences and practises and in parallel to have a more global view. That's why there will be some small groups by peers and some mixed small groups. These workshops will be accompanied by general assembly for restitution.

Saturday afternoon, the seminar will be opened to other participants: other southern partners and some volunteers/members from FdH.

This morning, after the partners' presentation, we will present you the training dynamics and some issues raised after these 3 sessions.

This afternoon will be dedicated to the local events, the core of the programme. But the first part of this afternoon will be a bit different for all organisations because you will have the opportunity to exchange on your practises and have a more global view of what your peers experienced in the programme. After some local events presentation, participants will exchange on what blocks and what facilitates the implementation of the local event, but we will explain more precisely this afternoon.

Presentation of the pedagogical dynamic of the training + evolutions:

Alexandra, Frères des Hommes

Hemispheres ... a three years action-training which aims at :

- proving/demonstrating the links and interdependences between Northern and Southern hemispheres
- reinforcing the abilities in sensitising civil society in the fight against poverty and exclusion.

In this process, the first mean is the action-training organised three times a year during three years in order to train, to equip and to accompany 180 young European people and their organisations to become development education actors.

Each training has at least three formal aims :

- clarifying some of the mechanisms that generate poverty and exclusion both in North and South hemispheres
- discovering some positive mobilisation that shake things up
- creating tools that aim at raising awareness about the specific issue tackled during the training.

So, three action-training have been implemented this year. The first one tackled the issues of access to the land and food sovereignty, the second one was about working conditions and the last one about information as a tool to fight against poverty and exclusion.

Following the power point, these are some key elements about the training dynamics:
<http://blog.fdh.org/hemispheres/>

In fact, some elements follow the same dynamic at each training :

The first week is dedicated to the issue/the content; the two other weeks are dedicated to the local events with other inputs related to the issues but more in a northern dimension.

First week: A general overview of the situation related to the topic on the first day and then comes the specific situation in the countries represented by our partners. Some comparisons with the northern hemispheres are made as well. Finally come examples of solutions and mobilisations.

The second and third weeks are dedicated to the form of the local event. Two challenges are emphasized the first on the way to use public spaces, on the ability to work with all kind of public and the second on the way to pass a message without giving a lesson.

In general, we must say that the diverse backgrounds, the different levels of knowledge, the diversity of the participants bring us to propose several methods, only way to adapt to such a diversity. (for more details, please watch the power point)

Some figures about the participants and the local events:

57 young people have been trained this year (two young boys have left before the end because they were not prepared to such kind of training and one girl cancelled her participation at the last minute for personal reasons).

The average age is 24 years old and a little more than 50 % were girls (54 %). 8 Estonians, 6 Lithuanians, 6 Irish, 8 Italians, 8 Spanish, 21 French. The majority was French because two organisations send participants.

Above these 57 participants, 47 actions or ideas of action have been created and 12 have been implemented. We could say a bit more than 12 because some participants have carried out unexpected actions related to Hemispheres, taking the opportunity of a festival or other kind of gathering in which a sending organisation was involved.

Some qualitative feed backs from the training sessions:

Most of the time, the participants are able to formulate some mechanisms that generate poverty and exclusion at the end of the training. As some participants' quotes say, they are most of the time very impressed by some mobilisations which gave them energy and desire to involve themselves. For sure, this week with the southern partners is really relevant! For the last objective about the local events - hardest element to assess - we will talk about that during the whole seminar.

There are some other impacts which are linked to the participants' representations and stereotypes on "Others", this is directly linked to the capacity to put into question certainties and have some tools to criticize and take some distance from the society we are in.

Of course, there are some more negative elements in the training and we have formulated them in 3 main questions:

- The transition between the content and the form of the local event (1st and last weeks) which requires an intellectual exercise hard to accompany
- The diversity of rhythms, of knowledge and background hence the difficulty to find a right structure to fit everybody's needs (this is also the strength of the training)
- The length of the training hence the capacity to deal with the diversity of interests and motivations over three weeks (some have finished their local events before the others; the students, the workers have taken a lot of time beside their current activities and it starts being hard to deal with both; the tiredness starts being very hard at the end because of the intensity of the beginning, etc ..)

According to the observations made this year on the training, we have decided that 2010 action-training schedules would be shortened from 3 weeks to 2 weeks and a half.

During the first week, the participants want/need to do everything at the same time: meet the other participants, enjoy the southern partners, visit (and party) Paris; hence a lot of energy is required this first week and it has impacts on the others. In the new dynamic, the three first days would be dedicated to:

- sensitization about the specific topic
- group dynamic building activities (getting to know each other)
- first step for the local event

The southern partners would come during the second week and the third week would be dedicated to the local event.

Some audience's reactions and suggestions:

1. Related to the participants preparation:

- Why not having precise questions on the application form to do some researches on the local context? This way the topic would be less vague and participants would know what to look for. The sending organisation could help in this process (with a short training?) ...
- Why not having a guideline explaining the content of the training before the session?

2. During the training:

- Why not emphasizing more on the European levels (mobilisations on and views of the subject in Europe)?

3. Focused on the local events:

- Why not asking the migrants to participate in the local events? They can be the accurate persons to talk about the realities of both "hemispheres".
- It is necessary to talk about the topic according to the local reality. Try to find what really preoccupies the local people because they must first understand their own way of life to make links with what happens in the South, then it is easier to find the best way to tackle the problem in the frame of the local events.

LUNCH

Work in small groups according to position in Hemispheres program (by peers):

Southern partners: exchanges on practises (as trainers on Hemispheres), on situations experienced during the training ...

Northern partners: exchanges on practises (recruitment, follow-up of the youngsters ...)

→ These small groups have not been reported during the seminar. Key elements of the workshops are below.

Participants:

1. Presentation of some local events that have been implemented and not
2. What blocked or facilitated the implementation of your local event?

Small groups/workshops: key elements of restitution:

I. Workshop:

Northern partners: exchanges on practises (recruitment, follow-up of the youngsters ...)

This small group after having exchanged on practises agreed on some elements for the next sessions:

- to keep the diversity of the profiles as they are the strength of the program
- to better prepare the participants on the topic of the training before their arrival : have a better knowledge of the realities in their country (or area) regarding the topic and have some material on the way the training is going to be implemented
- to try and invite other European speakers (not only French)

Southern Partners: exchanges on practises (as trainers on Hemispheres), on situations experienced during the training ...

Among the points of view:

- very heterogeneous group : adaptation was always required
- surprised by the low level of knowledge (and anticipated research) about southern hemisphere and the young's own country situation
- importance of the pedagogical team (preparation and daily evaluation)
- first possibility to have a more serious exchange with young European people
- lack of time to re adapt the preparation they had made with FdH's team
- necessity to prepare several pedagogical tools (power points, pictures, role play etc..)
- opportunity to exchange with an other southern organisation
- necessity to make come other northern activists (for the participants but also for the trainers !)
- the best way to help southern hemisphere is to contribute to the transformation of the northern situations. In that sense, to be a partner of "Hemispheres" is part of the southern organisations' job !
- they feel engaged in "Hemispheres", hence it is important to devote some time to the enhance the program

General Assembly: Participants report

Presentation of some local events :

In Lithuania:

The two projects presented here were carried out by four persons in the frame of Kaunas Biennial, an international artistic event implemented by KASF in Kaunas.

One created a workshop with the youth using used materials to create new objects. The young people were interested in the project and they decided to implement a sustainable day in school to be celebrated every year. And now, they want to implement other workshops of that kind in the future.

Another created a big event in one of the main street of her city. The people were interested, looked at the exhibition and answered the questions. Especially young people were interested in it. According to her, there were nicely surprised.

In Estonia:

One group implemented a word carrier in a park then a freeze mob in a commercial center; they were amazed because the people came and asked them why they were doing it? Why did they care?

Another did some drawings/caricatures to publish them in a newspaper. He says that it was easy to do the drawings but difficult to write the articles because special shapes are required. The themes must be related to local issues, and then be developed, to go onto the international impact. The newspaper also did not want too heavy and difficult kind of information hence he has still some work to do to adapt the newspaper's structure. In parallel, he created a blog (<http://pimptheplanet.blogspot.com/>)

In Ireland:

The organisation decided to wait until Halloween 2010 to implement all the local events together. The event will be based on social issues in their area. It will be a celebration, people will have to be creative

and use music. They are also thinking on creating a cartoon on how to survive in Hemispheres in Paris (!). Some participants wanted to work with children. But in their local context, the process is really long and difficult.

In France:

One implemented several actions in the frame of an international workcamp. After having sensitised the volunteers to the links between lifestyle and its consequences, they watched “story of stuff” and finished by questions to the audience. For instance :

- How often you buy something only because it's discounted?
- What was the last pointless thing you bought?

Then, taking the opportunity of a festival in Pau, the whole group organised a word carrier with the following question: Could we consume less and how ?

For some participants, the local events are important because they empower the mobilisations in Europe.

A participant explained why she did not implement her local event: “I could not find enough human resources or time and I found it hard to call my friends for help. All this created a lack of motivation”. She wanted to organise a cultural dinner in her village with games and a quizz to discover where the food comes from. Because of this lack of human resources and thus motivation, she tried to set up a stall at a concert but it was not a good place to implement such an event. The people were passing by but not stopping so it was not an accurate place.

Factors which block the local event implementation:

Timing: what season? If it is in university, what time of year? Cold...

Being alone: how to motivate other people to help? How to deal with a lack of human resources?

Getting the permission for outdoor activities: from city council or university

Not having enough practical skills, project not adapted to personal skills

The difficulty to transmit knowledge (which is an other skill then acquiring them “We had a lot of knowledge during the seminar, how to spread the word ? How to transmit them ?” To understand is one thing, to transmit it is an other ...)

Not enough money for huge events

Lack of material, videos and picture.

Time issue, too many things to do.../ time management when you have other things to do ...

Factors which facilitate the local event implementation:

Link the local event to the sending organisation activities or bigger event. Integrate local event in political strategy of the sending organisation (or a local area)

If some one does not feel self confidence enough to tackle a specific subject, invite a speaker to do so ..

Share the project with other participants

A lot of motivation

Choose your target group, if they are already interested in the subject, it is easier

Use previous connections, skills or knowledge: use art to make it attractive;

Use existing (or ready made) methods such as freeze mob or use already known methods (such as the ones experienced during the training) .. It is less scary

Promote the local event: friends, organisation, media etc ...

Then some partners briefly explained why they joined on the Hemispheres training action program.

UGPM (Senegal) : After the session I contributed to, we had a training about how to deal with the food crisis in Senegal. They decided to try and use European pattern such as the one that creates direct

links from the producer to the consumer, hence they launched a reflection on a short food supply chain. But they are still facing some transportation issues.

One northern partner said that the activities discovered and implemented by the participants can be used for other purposes and in other environments.

SATURDAY

Conditions to enhance the implementation of the local events

In 4 mix groups, two questions were asked:

- Conditions to enhance the impacts of the local event regarding the challenges of interdependences between North and South issues.
- Conditions to enhance the implementation of the local events

Here are the answers ordered in moments/spaces/frames where we can act :

Before the training :

Know about the participants' expectations because it helps for the feed-backs dynamic.

Create a network of participants in each sending organisation (which is already done for some)

Have concrete ideas before arriving

During the training:

Create only one event or tool that can be used by all the participants. Controversial idea because the realities of the countries are different, hence the methods implemented can't necessarily be the same.

Work on a stronger link between the content and the tool

Approach the subject going from the concrete to the abstract level (ask the southern partners to rework on some examples)

Ask the southern partners to be here during two weeks (which can't be financially supported by Hemispheres)

Have a European activist who is involved in concrete struggles in Europe

Enter the subject in different ways (such as role plays)

After the training:

Create a network of participants in each sending organisation (which is already done for some)

About the local event:

Adaptation/connection to each participants' skills

Local partners or local activists for the local event

To be clear with what we want to do, knowledge of the target public

LUNCH

In the beginning of the afternoon, the Hemispheres participants are asked to tell about their experiences on "Hemispheres" to the guests of the seminar: other FdH southern partners and some French members of the association. Then they answered the audience's questions.

Simultaneously, southern and northern hemispheres partners have gathered to exchange about the way the program reinforced (or not) their own organisation.

After this small group session, everybody was gathered in the same room. Laurent, one of the first session participants read a text he wrote on Marina's memory.

We watched then a short movie of this first session realised by Aura.

Reinforcement of the organisation: some feed back:

As a matter of fact, for the Northern partners, it can be hard to distinguish the effects of Hemispheres on the participants of the ones on the sending organisation. One is composed of the others.

Here are some elements of each organisation's answers.

COCAT (Spain) : the program empowered them because they are creating a specific group of people who participated in "Hemispheres" in order to develop local actions. It is one of the biggest interest for Cocat : sustain the voluntary service with people who are more engaged. In fact, it is a perfect opportunity to do so ... especially because they already have a North-South group.

CONCORDIA (France): the project is relevant because it is a way to propose to their volunteers - strongly interested in more humanitarian projects – to get involved here. Furthermore, it gives them some clues to do so.

LUNARIA (Italy): Hemispheres brought some ideas of projects to be implemented inside the organisation about the links between North and South, such as the project " migration and development" with Cape Verde. They are thinking also of bringing development education in their activities because EU is stressing on long life learning education. They are also wondering about implementing EVS with southern countries.

EST YES (Estonia): Hemispheres brings some new ideas and thoughts in young people's mind. Some of them don't have any point of view on global issues (such as migration which is a new topic for Estonian people). When the young people come back from their workcamps, they want to go abroad and not necessarily be involved locally. Hemispheres gives sense to that local involvement and makes them search things inside Estonia. In the meantime, it allows EstYes to open partnerships locally.

KASF (Lithuania): Hemispheres creates links in the community (KASF is a small organisation) thanks to the events in public space. It encourages their participants to launch their carriers in social arts, and helps to deepen their skills in the field of "engaged art".

FGU (Ireland): Hemispheres benefits especially to their young participants, it is a personal and emotional challenge for them and is part of their on going process. Participating in the program developed personal self confidence and when they are back to Fatima Mansions, they are not on their own, they know their public and will have a specific place and moment to put into action their local event. As an organisation, FGU is preoccupied by local issues since 25 years and reached the point to spread their knowledge and experience with other communities; hence there is also an interest in developing bi-national actions.

MST (Brazil): The most visible and positive point is : opening the dialogue with European young people and society because this strengthens solidarity and the worldwide network. For MST, the best way to work for the South is to be involved in the North in favour of northern struggles "any victory here is a victory over there". If half of the participants go back home thinking they can fight for global justice, it is a victory for all.

Pergerakan (Indonesia): Hemispheres strengthens as well the worldwide contacts network and this empowers the movement. Also meeting other organisations can open to other kind of actions.

FEDINA (India): At the beginning, Fedina accepted to intervene because FdH had helped them. In fact, now FEDINA can see better how important it is for much wider than FdH : discovering a new public (young European people with western and eastern backgrounds) really obliged them to re-define and refine their thoughts and methods, which is a very good opportunity also for their local context.

UGPM (Senegal) : They learnt from the youngsters but also from the European speakers especially about distribution chains which is a good opportunity for them because they are actually working on

local consumption (as a pillar in favour of peasant agriculture development). For them, there is no other option than working with the North to struggle in a more effective way.

APEF (Democratic Republic of Congo): Being a speaker in the framework of Hemispheres brought some new ideas for APEF's strategy especially on the work they do about restitution. When they organise trainings towards women, these women have to transmit the new knowledge to their family. Here, listening to the different interpretation of each young participant gave ideas on that dimension. Also, creating events can have a relevant reality for APEF.

THANKS AND CONCLUSION