

28th CIF Conference 3rd-8th August 2009
Kiljava, Finland

ABSTRACTS FOR WORKSHOPS

E. Memory Club – Generations in dialogue: The CIF experience during six decades and visions for the future

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In this workshop we look back on the decades in which hundreds of professionals in human services participated in the programs of CIP and CIF since the 1950ties and look forward to the next decade. Participants will find a mixture of phases in which they get information and phases in which they take an active role. There will be amongst others a short comment of the representative of the US Embassy in Finland following two lectures of the workshop leaders.

Susanne Holmström, member of CIF Finland and participant of the CIP-program in 1990-91, is social worker by profession working with rehabilitation. She will talk about her study „The experience of CIP in a Finnish perspective during five decades (1957-1993)” based on a survey/ questionnaire. In this study she analysed the answers of 98 Finnish social workers who had participated in the CIP program between 1957 and 1993. The overall impression is that the experience had a huge impact on the participants_ professional and personal lives.

Elke Kruse, member of CIF Germany and participant of the Italian and Slovenien CIF Program in 2005, is social worker and professor of social work focused on theory and history of social work at the Alice Salomon Hochschule (University of Applied Sciences) in Berlin. She will talk about the research project she is currently conducting about the developments, experiences and impacts of international exchange programs for professionals in social work using the example of CIF (and CIP). Aim is on one hand to follow the development of the CIF and on the other hand to analyse the impacts of exchange programs on the personal and professional development of the participants as well as on social work in their home country. The research results will be published - including already existing studies and others still in progress - and made available by next year. Participants of the workshop will get an idea of of the first steps and the different parts of the project (e.g. a questionnaire for former participants).

During the phases of „active memory work“ the participants of the workshop will discuss

in small groups different aspects of their own CIP/CIF-experience. This should allow them to relate their personal memories to the experiences (of on one hand participants belonging to their own generation and on the other hand of those belonging to other generations) and find some common special issues which might have been and/or will be relevant for social work. Together we will look back to the decades of international exchange beginning in the 1950s, point out some trends, changes, commonalities and differences (which might be specific and typical for the generations), summarize them in an overview of the decades and try find an outlook on the future.

Commentary presented by a Representative of the Embassy of the United States of America